

# The Islands of Malta.

ALL ABOUT ENGLAND'S GREAT FORTIFICATION  
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

(Copyright, 1907, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

**M**ALTA.—I have come from Barbary northward to the island of Malta to get a ship for Alexandria. There are no direct steamers from Tripoli to Egypt, and one must go to Malta, Sicily, Italy or Tunis to reach the Nile valley. The trip to Malta is one of 24 hours. It is made on a little Italian steamer, and it ends at the port of Valletta, under the shadow of the great English fortifications which guard this, John Bull's outpost in the mid-Mediterranean.

Malta is just about half-way between Gibraltar and Port Said. It is scarcely a fly speck on the map of the world, but it is one of the most valuable of all strategic points. It is in the center of the most traveled sea, a great station on the busiest of our commercial highways, and just where the steamers stop to take on coal. Malta is now handling about 300,000 tons of coal a year. The coal is brought here from Great Britain and retailed to the steamers. As we came in we saw several of the ocean liners taking on fuel preparatory to their start for the far east. Most of the ships which go to Australia, India and China by the Suez canal call here for fuel, and the port has a fleet of 400 lighters which are used for that purpose. Training vessels and other naval ships are now coaling in the harbor, and a great English transport which will leave for Suez tomorrow lies at the wharves. Malta is a half dozen English gunboats anchored in front of it, and the government is building a breakwater at a cost of \$3,000,000 to enlarge the harbor to accommodate the navy. The island is the chief base for the repairs and outfitting of the Mediterranean fleet, but the fleet has already outgrown its capacity, and for this reason the British are building their new docks here and at Gibraltar.

## THE MALTESE ISLANDS.

But first let me tell you something about the Maltese Islands. There are quite a number of them, but the only ones of note are Malta, Gozo and Comino, and they altogether have an area of but 117 square miles. They are mere rocks cropping out of the sea, but they are covered with a thin mold, which makes them the most thickly populated part of the globe. Malta, the biggest, and its area is just about that of the District of Columbia. It rises right up out of the water, and an one looks at it from the harbor, it seems more like a rock than a land. The slopes are precipitous, but the land is so terraced and held back by stone walls that all of it is cultivated. To you would not think it could raise anything. It seems more like a stone quarry or a stone pile than a fertile region; nevertheless everything that is planted grows, and Malta alone supports more than 200,000 people. This is over 2,000 for every square mile and more, it is said, than any other part of the globe.

## THE CITIES OF MALTA.

The two chief towns of the archipelago are Valletta and Citta Vecchia, which are both on this island, Valletta being the capital. Valletta is built on a hill, high above the water. The streets ascend at all sorts of angles, and one has to go up or down in going to any part of it. Lord Beaconsfield once said that the architecture of Valletta was equal to that of any city of Europe, but it seems to me that over the hill the buildings are much like those of Naples. The streets are

narrow, and the tall stone houses extend out over them. There are many balconies, and as there are few back yards, the family washing is generally hung out from them over the streets. It flaps to and fro in the breeze as one walks through the city, and now and then the pearly drops from a newly washed shirt or pair of unmentionables drop on one's hat or on the back of his neck as he goes through.

From the harbor the view of the city is beautiful. Great walls, which look like forts, rise up from the water, and back of these the houses mount the hills in terraces. Many of the buildings are painted in bright colors, and under the glorious sun of the Mediterranean they shine out resplendent. The city has some fine structures. It has an opera house in which Patti sang the first time she came to Malta, it was when she was still a girl, and the price she received was \$25.

Another building of note is the Church of St. John, containing the tombs of the grand masters of the Knights of Malta. This church is one of the most remarkable in Europe, and it is revered by the knights throughout the world. It is now over 300 years old, but it is still in excellent condition. The church is gloriously decorated. It has an altar magnificently carved, and fairly loaded with gold and silver. The railing in front of it is made of virgin silver, and beneath it are the keys of Jerusalem, Acre and Rhodes. Some of the paintings in the church were brought from Rhodes, and it has tapestries made in Brussels at a cost of \$20,000.

You have heard of the Cappuccini cemetery in Rome, the chapels of which are walled with the bones of dead monks. I visited a similar one a few weeks ago during a trip to Palermo, the capital of Sicily, and I find here at Malta another evidence of the gruesome taste of the pious fathers of the past. I refer to a church here known as the Church of the Monks, in which the bodies of the deceased are put away unburied. Their skeletons are wrapped in the cloaks which they wore in life, and they will, I suppose, be thus clad until the day of judgment. The place is a hideous one, and a visit to it sometimes affects people seriously. Not long ago a smart young fellow went through with his sweetheart. He thought he would have a joke upon her, and when her back was turned he slyly pinned her skirt to one of the cloaks. As she started to go the skeleton was pulled forward, and it fell upon her. The girl was terribly frightened; and it is said that the shock destroyed her reason.

## PRETTY MALTESE MAIDENS.

I like the Maltese girls. They have large, soulful eyes, beautiful features and complexions the color of the dark moss roses. They wear great black hoods over their heads with long black cloaks hanging to them, so that the most of the person is hidden and little more than the face and eyes show. As she is proud of her costume, it is called the omella. It is usually made of black silk, and the hood is bound at the front over a thin piece of whalebone, which is drawn over the head, forming an arch. The left arm is usually covered by one part of this dress, and the right is used for holding down the other side and bringing the two together.

In most respects the Maltese of better classes dress much like the people of Europe, and it is only the peasants who have costumes at all out of the way. The peasant women wear hoods. Their dresses are of a striped native cotton, and they seldom have shoes. The men wear short

trousers, which leave the legs bare to the knee, being clad about the waist by a girde of cotton or silk. Above this they have on a cotton shirt, and sometimes a vest, ornamented with rows of silver buttons made of American quinine dollars or English shillings. They seldom wear coats. Their heads are usually covered with caps of bright colors made in the shape of a bag so long that the crown of the cap hangs down to the shoulders. They sometimes carry their money and their tobacco in their caps.

The people here affect the simple life. Outside the houses are of course stone. They are usually stone huts, built of materials gathered on the ground. The doors and windows are made by the carpenters, and the village blacksmiths supply the locks and hinges. The people have little farms, on which they raise fruit and small quantities of grain. They grow oranges, figs and grapes. Many of them have bees, and raise the honey for which the island is noted. Among the chief domestic animals are goats, of which there are about 20,000. I have seen them

plendent with allegorical figures and groups. Simply as a spectacle of color and form, the irrigation pageant promises to eclipse the glory of the older American displays mentioned, and certainly will exceed in significance and gorgeousness anything of the kind ever attempted on this coast.

## WILL EXHIBIT AT SALT LAKE CITY

TUESDAY, AUG. 6.

SHOW GROUNDS: 8th South Between Main and West Temple

**FLINGLING**  
BROS  
WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
SHOWS

THE WHOLE WORLD RANSACKED FOR ITS ARENIC WONDERS  
200 Artists from Europe and America  
From Russia—Ricobono Equines, with Human Sense, The "Good Night Horse", His Wife and Family.  
From France—Alexander Patti, The Man Who Walks on His Head like others walk on their feet.  
From Hungary—The Marcellino-Marnitz Troupe, who play Musical Instruments in Apparently Impossible Acrobatic Attitudes.  
From Italy—The Bedini Family of Five Famous Riders, with their Wonderful Riding Dog, "Eurydice".  
From Persia—The Great Mirza-Golems, the Shah's own personal Acrobatic Court Entertainers.  
From Spain—The Splendid Toredors, from Sweden—The Distinguished Nocturnal Family.  
From England—The Holloway Troupe of High Wire Wonders.  
From Australia—The Famous Flying Jordans, Ten in Number.

60 Acrobats and The 12 Mirza-Golems  
60 Aerialists and the 10 Flying Jordans  
60 Riders the Bedinis and Daisy Hodgini  
50 Clowns the World's Funny Men  
375 Circus Artists  
200 of these imported from abroad

ALL KINDS OF TRAINED WILD ANIMALS AND A BIG NEW 100 CAGE 200

EVERY MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK  
The Richest, Longest, Street Parade  
EVER SEEN ON EARTH

One 50-cent Ticket Admits to Everything  
General Admission 25c, 50c, 75c, 1.00  
Box Seats 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00

Admission tickets and numbered reserved seats will be on sale show day at the store of THE SMITH DRUG CO., at exactly the same price charged in the regular ticket wagons on the show grounds.

CANADA DEMANDS OPEN SUNDAY.  
Amusements and recreation, in place of the blue laws, are demanded by Canadians, and Chevalier J. Enoch Thompson, Spanish consul at Toronto, is heading the movement.

get the authorization of the Patriarch Hilmi Pasha has, in consequence, decided to apply for a writ against the two bishops, but as the period of grace given by the Greek band has in the meantime expired, it is possible that the unfortunate hostages have been murdered by now.

As I am writing I learn that the Greek band has attacked the Vlach village of Arkata, Caza Djumaja, and have burned down the greater part of the place and murdered a number of the inhabitants.

The 3 per cent increase of customs duties comes into force here on June 24th. By way of return, however, the Turkish authorities have done next to nothing in the way of improving the customs arrangements or grappling with the evil of backsheesh.—Salonica correspondent of London Tribune.

**STIMULATION WITHOUT IRRITATION**  
That is the watchword. That is what Ordo Laxative Fruit Syrup does. Cleanses and stimulates the bowels without irritation in any form.—F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Suggests."

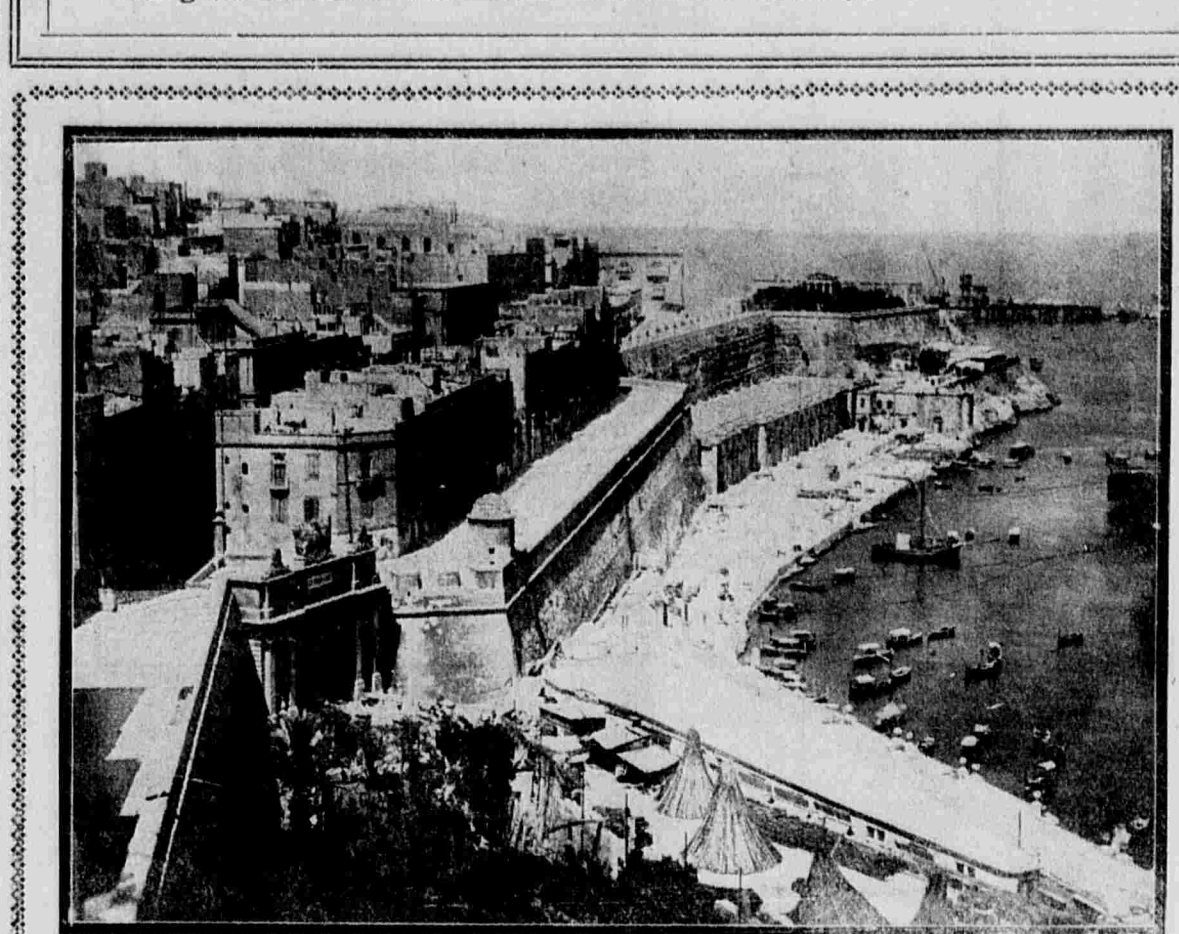
**Irrigation Past and Present.**  
The progress of irrigation from the days of antiquity to the present time, the development of forestry and the practical elements of these subjects, movements, will be represented in Sacramento in September by magnificent floats representing the allegorical figures and groups. Simply as a spectacle of color and form, the irrigation pageant promises to eclipse the glory of the older American displays mentioned, and certainly will exceed in significance and gorgeousness anything of the kind ever attempted on this coast.

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kids sucking their mothers between milking times.

Valletta and Its Harbor—Pretty Maltese Maidens—How the People Live—Maltese Goats for American Babies—Where St. Paul Lived—The Knights of Malta and Their Wonderful History.



VALLETTA FROM THE HARBOR.  
Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

Malta in history. One of the most interesting things about this island is its story in connection with the Knights of Malta, who owned and ruled it for many years. The islands are among the oldest in history. It was on Gozo that Calypso lived. She was the nymph who enchanted Ulysses and kept him for seven years, on the promise that she would give him perpetual youth and immortality if he stayed with her. In this connection, I am reminded of a talk I had with Mrs. Gen. Grant, the wife of our own great Ulysses, in which she told me that when the general steamed by these Maltese islands on his trip around the world a fair fellow passenger warned him to beware of the sirens. He replied that his Calypso was with him in the person of his wife, and there was no danger of his being enchanted by another she.

Malta once belonged to the Phoenicians, and was colonized by the Carthaginians. Before that it was owned by the Greeks, and, after the Punic wars,

to the cathedral to mass, and then on back to Valletta.

Citta Vecchia is in the center of the island and about on the top of it. It is so high up that on a clear day the houses of both Sicily and Africa may be seen from its walls.

**WHERE ST. PAUL STAYED.**  
According to tradition, St. Paul, the apostle, accompanied by St. Luke, spent three months on the island of Malta. During this time they lived not far from Citta Vecchia in a cave, over which a church was built about 200 years ago. The cave is about 35 feet in diameter and eight feet high. There is a marble statue of St. Paul in the middle of it, and lights are kept burning before this day and night. Among the relics of the church is a piece of the true cross upon which the Savior was crucified, and also relics of not less than six of the apostles and of other saints.

**THEY SPEAK MALTESE.**  
Malta has been a possession of the British since Thomas Jefferson was president of the United States. Nevertheless, the people do not speak English, and although ruling for centuries by foreigners, still they have a language of their own. There have been attempts to make Italian the national tongue, but the Maltese object, and they still speak the Maltese language, and they have in the past. There are a number of newspapers published in Maltese and Maltese is used to some extent in the schools.

The percentage of illiteracy is great. Not more than one-tenth of the people can read or write, and many of the children do not go to school. Nevertheless, the island has common schools and private schools everywhere. There is a university, a lyceum and a large school for girls. There is a public library in Valletta which contains over 60,000 volumes, and which has many books of the Knights of St. John.

In religion Malta is Roman Catholic. It has an archbishop and more than 1,000 priests and monks. There are 20 convents and five nunneries on the island, and these are conducted after the manner of the middle ages. The nuns seldom coming out of their seclusion. There are more than 100 Catholic churches and chapels, some of which are elaborately decorated. Many of the churches are rich, and that of St. Paul is said to own more than \$1,000,000 worth of statues, altar ornaments and jeweled robes.

**WAR AGAINST CONSUMPTION.**  
All nations are endeavoring to check the ravages of consumption, the "white plague" that claims so many victims each year. Foley's Honey and Tar cures coughs and colds perfectly and you are in no danger of consumption. Do not risk your health by taking some unknown preparation when Foley's Honey and Tar is safe and certain in results. The genuine is in a yellow package. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substitutes."

**Mrs. M. A. Obuchon**  
has opened at 140 E. 2nd St., St. Home cooked foods, meats, vegetables, desserts, pastries, etc., will be served or sold to family trade. Everything first class.

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**FOR MAN OR BEAST**

Stable Use.—Keep your horse's teeth dressed once a year and give one ounce of Nunn's Black Oil three times a week. Every organ of his body will be healthy. Always ready for work. Ninety per cent that died can be saved. Give it with a syringe into mouth, best way.

**FATHERS, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

Take Nunn's Black Oil Balsam—BLUE CARTONS—three times a week. Keep well, be a young man at seventy, the great secret, keep the sewer clean and flushed, its the clog that creates sickness. Read the pamphlet inside every Carton. Never grow old.

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**\$80.00** Round trip Salt Lake City to Norfolk, Va., daily, return limit 60 days, and

**\$96.00** with return limit December 15, 1907. Tickets may read one way via New York City and Boston at a slight increase in cost.

**B. P. O. E. Philadelphia**

**\$60.00** Round trip to Philadelphia, Pa., account B. P. O. E. Convention; tickets on sale July 9, 10, and 11, return limit August 15th.

For tickets and full information apply to  
C. A. WALKER,  
General Agent, C. & N. W. Ry.,  
38 West Second South St.

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