

Two or three simple statements of fact—in a neat and—may change and enlarge the whole outlook for you.

PART TWO

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



Hand of a Most Worthy Sheep-Flayer

How the Right Hand of the Paris Hostler Became Abnormal

M. Bertillon in His Bureau at the Anthropometrical Office

The Abnormal Hand of an Honest Hostler Who Has Never Committed any Crime

ITALIANS DO NOT BECOME AMERICANS

Ambassador Criticizes His Fellow Countrymen in the United States Today.

VERY SEVERE ARRAIGNMENT

Article He Declares That Wealth Falls to Develop in Them a Spirit of Philanthropy.

LORENCE, Nov. 23.—Signor E. Mayor des Planches, Italian ambassador to Washington, is publishing in the Italian Review, Nuova Antologia, an interesting series of articles concerning his journey across the United States from Washington by the Southern Pacific route to California. Especially was he pleased with New Orleans which, he says, interests him as to Philadelphia and Boston. In that city he had a party. Rejoicing that he had met a man who, through his acquaintance with the old world named guests of the French quarter, visited the cathedral, the French market, the homes of French friends, and at a Creole club he heard a discussion of his own race.

DOES NOT MINCE WORDS

With the fairness which pervades his spirit Signor Mayor des Planches states that other complaints made against the Italians have much better foundation. It is true that in New Orleans they live under wretched conditions, and that they do not become American, and that wealth fails to develop in a spirit of philanthropy, as in other nationalities, notably the Hebrews.

AMERICAN LITERARY ASS'N.

At present, the American Literary Association is receiving much attention from Italians who are making great efforts to perfect a library system in Italy on the American plan. Signor Guido Diagi, librarian of the Laurentiana library of Florence, has written a striking article on the deficiencies of the Italian libraries. He gives an account of the American system, praises the results attained, describes the training schools for librarians and the steps they go through to become librarians, and he adds that the English library association "though children and an offshoot of the American system, is in comparison with the latter, a very inferior thing."

BOOK CLUBS STARTED

As a complement to the movement, book clubs are being started, and the publishers, authors, journalists and librarians of the Abruzzi have

begun the work of collecting every volume in existence which has been written upon that section of Italy. The Union of Italian Women, not to be outdone, have offered a prize of 1,000 lire to any woman who shall write a volume, to commemorate the centenary of Garibaldi, which shall be judged by a committee to be suitable and entertaining reading for the women of the people.

Signor Fogazzaro, the author of "The Schiavi," has begun to put some of the principles of the book into active practice. In connection with a small group of co-workers, he is engaged in founding in Italy what are known in England as Cottage Homes. The plan is to take poor children who are penniless or neglected and place them in simple homes, called "Asili-famiglia," in charge of some woman capable of caring for them as a mother. Signor Fogazzaro holds that many childless women are natural mothers, and that if he can only find the required number of these to assist him, his plan will surely succeed. At present he and his co-workers are making an experiment which he hopes may later develop into a widespread work.

Four unfortunate children are to be given into the care of one mother who will establish her little household in the country, on the economical lines of the household of a peasant. The children will assist her in the household tasks and will have for food, clothing, or what, in the south, is called soft corn bread, salads, vegetables, chestnuts and fruit, the ordinary diet of the country. The sum of 10 cents a day will be paid for the living of each child. One "Asili-famiglia" has already been established at Velo d'Astice.

SHOCK FOR THE POET.

A poet who has been attracting much attention is Fausto Salviati, winner of the prize of \$5,000 offered by the Sonzogno Publishing company for the best lyric poem. The title of his work is "Festa del Grano," and it was given to Mascegni to consider for the subject of his next musical composition. He has declined, however, on the ground that he cannot make philosophy into music. Signor Salviati himself has not found his laurels easy wearing. He was lately invited by the regular University of Milan to appear there and read his new verses, "Terra Promessa," etc. The invitation was accepted and the poet, manuscript in hand, made his bow to an audience, which to his surprise had its own before him, and all had been read by his audience.

But the Queen Mother, Margherita poured balm on his wounded feelings by summoning the author of the "Terra Promessa" before her, and congratulating for an hour and a half with him praising his conception of the poem which describes the aspirations of humanity towards the life of perfect freedom "in the birth of a Liberator. God plays no part in the scheme of salvation. He teaches that mind and work are the true liberators of humanity. The various orders of his preces are dedicated to "The Virgin, the Martyr," etc. Is it a wonder that Mascegni quailed before the weight of a libretto laden down in similar fashion?

The Family Name.

The problem of rearing children in the home is immensely simplified if in addition to wholesome environment there is an ancestry which can be pointed to with pride. Often at the critical time in the career of the boy or the girl the pride they feel in the family name and record is the only influence that serves to keep them from going wrong. On the other hand, it is not strange that many young people do go wrong when, coupled with lack of home training, there is the further handicap of a vain and irresponsible mother or scolding father. Yet in spite of such drawbacks as these the individual boy or girl should strive to attain the best for his or her own sake in the hope that in the future he or she may hand down to any children as a heritage a clear record and a good name, in comparison with which wealth and chump fame are very minor and shoddy considerations.

Scientist's Blunder Exposes Palmistry

Lombroso's Discovery of "Criminality" in the Hands of a Man Supposed to be an Assassin, but who Really was an Honest Hostler, with Palms Misshapen by the Nature of His Toil, is Declared by M. Bertillon to be a Complete Demonstration of the Absurdity of Hand-Reading.

LOMBROSO'S BLUNDER.

PARIS, Nov. 21.—Many years ago an "inventive" quiz sent Lavater the cast of a great man criminal, and in eulogistic terms expounded the favor of the Swiss savant's opinion. Lavater, who was the chief exponent of the anthropological theories of that period, promptly discovered that the great man had signs and bumps of criminality sufficient to hang a hundred jailbirds. When the joke leaked out learned Europe was convulsed with laughter at poor Lavater's expense.

The recent disclosure of Prof. Cesare Lombroso, the famous Italian, whose name stands for all that is modern and up-to-date in the theory of criminality, was, it is possible, merely the significance of the incident and to see how much light it appears to throw on the subject of palmistry, it will be worth while to give here more details of the story of Prof. Lombroso's unfortunate discovery than appeared in the press dispatches.

When a man named Solleiland was arrested last spring, charged with killing a little girl in circumstances of unpeepable horror, a Paris newspaper printed a reproduction of two hands which it declared to be those of the assassin. Months passed, but the assassin was duly tried, found guilty and sentenced to the guillotine, and the opponents of capital punishment began to bestir themselves.

HIS VERDICT.

One of the latter, in the favor of the cause, notwithstanding the conviction that in spite of all the learned observations already made science has not yet pronounced its last word on him. The right hand presents all the characteristics of a criminal's hand, and in the direct prolongation of the forearm.

"Beside, the transverse lines of his palm, instead of being oblique and two in number, are reduced to a single horizontal line, such as M. Carus and myself have observed among the lower ages and most epileptics, idiots and born criminals. There are other peculiarities. The little finger is wide apart from the others, as in the case of the apes, and the length of the middle finger is the same as that of the ring finger. The last is larger than the other is, on the contrary, perfectly normal and offers no peculiarity.

"In the only member of Solleiland's body, therefore, that I have had an opportunity of examining, asymmetry is united with the chromatic asymmetry previously noted in the iris, warrants the assumption of other asymmetries in the thorax and head, etc. To grasp the importance of these anomalies it is well to bear in mind that I have found in the born criminal an asphyxia, of which he (Solleiland) is a variety, and that the latter is a pathological foundation, finding expression especially in excessive asymmetry. It is as though several individuals had been melted down into one single individual for the misfortune of humanity. All this should make us reflect before pronouncing a final judgment on Solleiland.

THE IRONY OF THE SITUATION.

The irony of the situation was apparent directly it became known that M. Bertillon, the chief of the anthropometrical bureau and famous throughout the world over as the author of the Bertillon system of identifying criminals, was the unconscious and innocent cause of Lombroso's blunder. The latter had had the idea of asking M. Bertillon whether he had supplied the photographs of Solleiland's hands, and this is what he learned.

"You are perhaps not aware," said the chief of the anthropometrical bureau, "that it is absolutely forbidden to communicate judicial photographs to the press. The prefect of police must give his sanction before this can be done. When the prefect was full of details of Solleiland's life a reporter came and asked me for some photographs of criminal's hands to illustrate a serial story. He was without any authorization from the prefect. Perhaps he thought that in a moment of distraction I might give him Solleiland's hands.

TWO HONEST HANDS.

"This would have been difficult for Solleiland's hands never have been photographed. I gave him a print of the right hand of a worthy hostler and another of the left hand of an honest sleep-flayer—photographs which I took ten years ago to illustrate my album of physical defects or deformities of the hand. What was my astonishment next day to see my two photographs reproduced in the reporter's paper under the headlines: 'The Assassin's Hands and Anthropometry, Solleiland's Hands, &c.'

PROTEST UNHEARD.

"I protested, but my protest passed unheeded. It is a pity, for it would have prevented Prof. Lombroso from the unpleasantness of mistaking for the hands of a born criminal those of two honest workmen who were good enough to pose before my apparatus ten years ago. What the professor mistook for a sign of degeneracy is merely a professional deformity. The hostler is subject to a retraction of the flexible tendons of the hand. His little finger is stiffened and separated by the action of water and acids, which are also responsible for the straightening out of the folds of the palm."

THEY EXPLODED.

But the cap of bitterness was not yet full. It was bad enough that Prof. Lombroso's data should have played him false. It was worse still that even regarding the data as correct the deductions therefrom should be called into question and the whole criminalist edifice, the work of many years, should be ruthlessly demolished. M. J. Naville in an open letter to Prof. Lombroso attacks the statement that

THE SINGLE HORIZONTAL LINE OF THE PALM.

The single horizontal line of the palm is peculiar to lower ages and the majority of epileptics, idiots and born criminals. "If ever," he adds sarcastically, "you happen to come my way, I should be happy to show you a similar case in the two hands of a man who has reason to believe that he cannot be classed in any of those categories. This characteristic sign is repeated in four of his children. Another savant unkindly hinted that the great criminalist had discovered the stigmata of degeneracy by a process of suggestion. He had before him, as he believed, a criminal's hand, and it was quite natural that he should discover very little scientific value as indicating a bias toward criminality. One must use excessive caution on such ground.

STICKS TO HIS GUNS.

Prof. Lombroso made the best of a bad job. He replied to his adversaries that the anomalies were there even if the hands were not those of the assassin. He denied that the single horizontal fold of the palm can be caused by a man's calling. "Every savant knows that it is an ataxic phenomenon, anterior to birth. He unjustly pours out the phials of his wrath at having been led into such an egregious blunder on the devoted head of M. Bertillon, whereas he should have reserved them for the wily reporter, the cause of all the mischief. "A self-respecting man should treat very differently a man who has devoted all his life to science."

WHAT BERTILLON SAYS.

The storm now has blown over. The other day I called at the Anthropometrical office and was fortunate enough to find M. Bertillon in a communicative mood. It is easy to see that the creator of the anthropometrical system, in spite of the courteous form in which he clothes his utterances, has a boundless contempt for the pseudo-scientific theories that would brand a man on the strength of an anomalous conformation of hand, head or eye. The criminalist of the Lombroso school hardly could find favor in the sight of this cold, practical observer, trained in the school of experience, who can tell a thief, a vagabond, a criminal at a glance.

PALMISTRY DRESSED UP.

"This new-fangled criminalism," he said, "is nothing more nor less than palmistry dressed up in an imposing covering of scientific terms such as atrophy, hypotension, chronic asymmetry and the like. If the lines of the hand indicate anything at all, this can only be by the application of the law of correlation, in virtue of which to take a familiar instance, we are enabled to recognize a mile-officer by the arrangement of the hairs of his legs. If we admit as a philosophical principle that man descends from the ape, and if we find ourselves in the presence of a man with an ape's head, the believers in transformation (degenerated Darwinism) will be able to say: 'Ape's hand, ape's brain.'"

CRITICAL DISSECTION.

"Let us examine now ordinary palmistry, in criticizing ordinary palmistry,

by absolutely asserting that it is a fraud, it is clear that I deprive myself of a pleasure that is not to be measured at, for I deprive myself forever of the pleasure of taking a pretty girl's hand in mine and, under the cover of science, turning it in this way and that and scrutinizing it for 10 minutes while I tell her things that will set her with emotion—things about her past, present and future, such as I would have them be. But what correlation can there possibly be between the bifurcation of the stigmata of what palmists—modern surgeons—call—the tree of life, and let us say, suicide? I should feel much more confident in foretelling a man's suicide after a few minutes' conversation with him on the subjects which excite his ambition or exalt his religious ideal and the like.

What is the palmist's trick in order to abuse the credulity of the public? Making skeleton-key answers which are applicable to any and every event. It is possible to say in veiled terms a rich husband, but what I want to know is this: Given a hundred women who have married rich husbands, are there certain peculiarities in their hands common to all or the greater part of the hundred?

PHRENOLOGY.

It is the same with phrenology and graphology. Graphology, the new branch of occultism, plays the part of a society game, fortune telling, which by appearing to take the handwriting as the basis, really relies more or less consciously on the angel and demon which is at the bottom of all humanity, and very little scientific value as indicating many secret things which each applies to himself and thinks he has succeeded in dissimulating. With the aid of a little natural perceptivity, the graphologist ends by believing in his pretended science; the mind is once more the dupe of the heart.

"Prof. Cesare Lombroso takes characteristics which are accidental and accessory to the individual and constructs out of them the past, present and future of that individual. The anatomical characteristics on which he relies could only serve a posteriori. They have but very little scientific value as indicating a bias toward criminality. One must use excessive caution on such ground.

UGLY WOMEN.

"For instance, if you observe the batches of prisoners brought into a police station you will not fail to remark that nearly all the women arrested for theft are ugly. Why? Simply because the women of the people that are favored with good looks are seldom driven to steal. They have no need to do so; they find money more easily by other means. Ugliness is, therefore, a constant quality of female thieves. And yet you would not argue that ugliness indicates a thief.

CRIMINALS NOT CLEVER.

"Anatomy can be of very little service in determining a criminal. There are, however, exterior signs and movements and the play of the features which are well-nigh infallible. It is quite a mistake to argue that because a man has a sloping forehead or a small brain that he is destined to be a criminal. But it is a fact that criminals are those who are ill equipped in the struggle for life. Many people think that criminals are clever people and wonder why they did not turn their talent to better account. But my experience does not bear out this view. I find them deficient in ability, as is proved by the fact that they almost invariably play the same trick over and over again until they are caught. I remember one remarkable instance of this.

HAD BUT ONE TRICK.

"He was a swindler who had been a powder by trade. He would go into a shop, choose articles which his practiced eye and hand were valuable and say: 'They are for my sick mother, would them send to my hotel for her to look at.' When the jewelry arrived he would take it ostensibly to his mother's bedroom and disappear by another exit. When he was caught at last, and for some years the trick ceased. Recently it began again, and I said immediately: 'That must be 80 and 80. He must be out of prison.' And sure enough he was. But he had not the ability to invent another trick, and so he was caught again almost instantly. This is one of hundreds that I could mention.

"Yes, criminals are people who are 'wounded' badly equipped for the battle of life, but you may believe me there is no such thing as the bump of criminality." R. PHRANKLIN.

LADY MARY'S LONDON GOSSIP

Rich Americans Offer to Pay for The Remodelling of Buckingham Palace.

KING CAN'T AFFORD TO DO IT

And There Would Be a Fuss in Parliament if Application Were Made There.

LONDON, Nov. 21.—King Edward wants to remodel Buckingham palace. That is not surprising for externally at least, the London royal residence is hideously plain. It is a fact that several of the workhouses which have been recently erected in London are far more picturesque and pleasing to the eye. But to make the transformation in Buckingham palace which his majesty desires—a new facade among other things is part of the scheme—would cost something like \$500,000. That is more than the king can afford to pay himself. And an application to parliament for a grant for that purpose would meet with the strenuous opposition of the Labor party, and cause some nasty things to be said. The king is too tactful a man, and values his popularity too highly, to expose himself to criticism from that quarter.

And yet he might get the job done without costing himself or the nation a cent. Since his wishes in the matter became known several rich men have intimated their willingness to subscribe the amount required. And among the most generous of these would-be patrons of needy royalty are some American multimillionaires and multimillionairesses. They would be only too delighted if they were permitted to provide the whole sum. There are no people who put a higher cash value on royalty's favor than those who seek here what they can't get in the new world. It would be easier if Buckingham palace were to be remodelled with American money. But somehow I don't believe it will. I think the king will conclude (as all things considered, he had better do) with Buckingham palace as it is.

GRUESOME NOTION.

Mrs. Lister has never recovered from the shock of her daughter Mary's death and remains needy and depressed. Her daughters and her son-in-law, Lord Curzon, have done everything to rouse her, but with little success. She has been for some time endeavoring to buy Tulloch castle which has some of the loveliest gardens in all Scotland in order it is said that she may one day be buried there.

It is by no means an unusual custom in the Land o' Cakes, for people to decide to be buried in their own gardens. Mrs. Lister may, of course, have some of the morbid notion, but at the moment it is very much in her mind. It was suggested to her some little time ago when she happened to be visiting a well known Scotch peeress. While driving up the avenue the peeress was pointed out to her and later her husband called her attention to it as she sat at tea in the drawing room from the windows of which it was visible. The Scotch peeress said that she had a strain of melancholy run through their temperaments. Hence the gruesome notion.

QUEEN ECLIPSED.

I am told the dinner and reception at the Spanish embassy in London for the king and queen of Spain, was being organized and many of the people invited to the reception never got any supper at all—some not even a glass of wine or an egg. There were only about half a dozen Americans invited, those being people who for social and diplomatic reasons dare not be left out as yet