

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

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY MARCH 23 1907 SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

Half a dozen lines of type may be the link between you and something you want.

PART TWO

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

BRIGANDAGE ON ITALIAN ROADS

The Picturesque Bandit Chief Now Gives Way to Regular Uniformed Officials.

HOLD HIM UP FOR EXTRA FARE

Imprison Him for Long Hours in Dark Tunnel and do as They Please Generally.

Special Correspondence.

LORENCE, March 13.—In Italy brigandage is again rampant. It is not, however, the picturesque bandit chief beloved of melodrama and the sensational novelist, who now lures the traveler to his undoing by misleading directions, holds him up in mountain passes, rifles his luggage, robs him of his gold and jewels, and detains him for ransom in dark places. Even in Italy the old order changeth and giveth place to the new. And the new boss bandit is simply the Italian government which in 1905 took over the Italian railways, manned them with predatory hordes and turned them loose on the traveling public, backed by all the power of a state monopoly.

GROSSLY MISMANAGED.

The gross mismanagement of the railways, the thieving and plundering which the officials carry on unchecked, the utter lack of system in the running of trains—these things have reached such a scandalous pass that all Italy is protesting in parliament and the newspapers. Especially severe is the denunciation of Commendatore Bianchi, minister of railways. No politician was ever more profane in promises of the great and beneficent things he was going to do than was Bianchi when he took hold of his department. Not only has he failed utterly to "make good," he has made things worse. But as a banquet orator he continues to shine as brilliantly as ever. If his activities could be restricted to a mere talking job he would be a brilliant success.

Signor Crespi, a Lombardy deputy, has denounced the system introduced by the government as destructive of all zeal and efficiency. He has said that the public indignation has been brought to a climax by the recital of the experiences of Signor Scartafoglio, editor of the Naples "Mattino," and husband of Matilde Serra, the novelist. His tale of woe published in his paper and copied broadcast, narrating his suffering of 36 hours in pitch darkness, in the cold, without food or water, on the road between Rome and Naples, because the snow was not removed from a long tunnel. "I saw a host of others to rush into print with complaints."

STORIES OF DELAY.

There are the old stories of coal delayed at Genoa, while Milan and Turin industries suffer, of the boxes which arrive at Genoa, while the railroads, the lack of punctuality and the direct trains—"direttissimi," they call them—running along any indirect route, and arriving at any hour except the scheduled one. But there are any number of new stories.

A prominent American resident of Florence relates how he went with his wife to Genoa. On arriving he opened their trunk to find \$75 worth of possessions vanished.

He rushed to the American consulate.

An Italian official was the only one in possession and to him the American turned.

"My trunk has been robbed," he began, and interspersed with denunciations, out came his tale of woe.

The official heard him politely. Then he smiled and spread out his hands with a bow.

"My dear sir," he said, "those poor fellows of the railroads are paid so poorly that they must steal a little for a living."

FLED TO "ADJUSTER."

The Italian American fled to the railway adjuster of wrongs.

He, also, bowed and spread out his hands.

"State the exact moment when your things disappeared," he said.

"How can I?"

"You must."

The American racked his memory. He had been with the porter in his room. He had seen the trunk put on the omnibus, he had seen the porter and seen them handed over to the station master.

"They were opened on the bus," announced the official, "that was it. They robbed you when you were inside. The railroad officials are quite honest, I assure you."

And, in spite of the American's protest that the "bus" driver was driving steadily—if steadily can be applied to Italian driving—the guilt was thrust on his shoulders and to this day nothing has been heard of the valuables though every station official promised an investigation.

FURS FROM AMERICA.

A woman ordered furs from America. They arrived at Genoa in October. It is now almost spring, a few flowers are in bloom, and her furs have not yet reached her in Florence.

A man occupied an empty first class compartment. When the car stopped at a station he stepped to the door leaving his field glasses on his seat. Only the guard was near the door. Coming back his glasses were gone and the official denied all knowledge of them.

Another traveler, buying a direct second class ticket from Verona to Florence, was changed four times in the night, made to sit from midnight until 4 in the station at Bologna and then placed in a compartment into which the guard brought a half-dozen third class passengers, dirty men who smoked continuously while she was in the train and refused to allow the window to be opened. The reason assigned was the over-crowding of the train. And this crowding of the train, by the way, makes the rush for seats a mere question of brute force, those whose physiques can best stand the punches from bags, umbrellas, shoes or shoe straps getting to spots of safety.

FLORENCE WOMAN.

A well known woman of title residing in Florence, one whose acquaintance



Special Correspondence.

LONDON, March 13.—Dr. James Gale, who has just died in his seventy-fourth year, probably was the most wonderful blind man who ever lived. The victim of a terrible and crushing physical affliction in his early youth, he triumphed over it by sheer force of mind and character, and won for himself the proud but pathetic title of the "Blind Inventor," by which he was known all over England.

That, however, conveys but a faint idea of his various claims to distinction. His many degrees included those of doctor of philosophy and master of arts. He was a fellow of the Royal Geological society and the Chemical society. He made many valuable scientific discoveries. His inventions covered a wide range, from rapid fire breech loading rifles to electrical alarm clocks. As a doctor, he once saved a millionaire's life, and was paid the biggest fee ever recorded in the annals of medicine—\$250,000. He did a score of things, any one of which would have sufficed to win distinction for a man possessed of all his faculties. His greatest achievements were those which would seem to demand good eyesight above everything. The man himself was a greater marvel far than any of the wonderful things he did.

His death was entirely unexpected. He was a sturdy, vigorous man on whom the burden of old age rested so lightly that he carried himself as straight as a pine tree. Quite recently—never dreaming that his death was so near at hand—he called upon him to obtain from his own lips some account of his wonderful and inspiring life story for American leaders. At his request I sent the report of the interview to him for revision, for he was a great stickler for accuracy. Shortly before his death was announced I received the manuscript back with some corrections and additions, which he had dictated to his amanuensis. To the world at large, therefore, it may be regarded as his last message, which lends unusual and pathetic interest to it. The photographs accompanying it, especially taken for this article, were the last for which he ever posed.

LIVED MODESTLY.

Dr. Gale lived in a modest four-story mansion in Adelaide road, Hampstead. The place is called "Galesmead," and on the door was a large brass plate, with the legend, "Dr. Gale, Consulting Electrician." On calling upon the doctor I was shown into a large back room, the table of which was covered by electrical and scientific apparatus. In a few minutes there was a quick step outside the door, and Dr. Gale came into the room. He walked over, shook hands without any hesitation or "feeling about," and then looked at me in an inquiring way. His action was so perfectly natural, his light blue eyes seemed so expressive and clear, that no outward sign gave any indication of the fact that he was totally, hopelessly blind.

"I have made it a principle all my life," he said, after I had explained my errand, "never to allow any one to assist me. From the very earliest days—I lost my sight at 15 and now am more than 70—I have done everything that was possible alone."

"My boyhood was spent in the town of Tavistock, Devonshire," Dr. Gale continued, "and I attended the local school there before I became blind. For some years I had noticed that something was wrong with my sight, but I was so sensible about this defect that for a long time I managed to conceal from my parents and teachers the nature of my trouble. I remember scheming to be placed at a certain position in the line in the class so that I could reel off from memory portions of my lesson. I could not see the print—everything was a blur to me; and I memorized word for word pages of various matter, reciting it perfectly when called upon to do so, as if reading from the book. Even in my games—such as leap-frog—I used to have to place white handkerchiefs on the backs

Most Wonderful Blind Man Got \$250,000

Came As a Fee For Saving Millionaire—Marvellous Life Story of Dr. James Gale as He Told it to the Deseret News London Correspondent Just Before His Recent Death—Contemplated Suicide.

of my playmates so as to see where to jump.

"I concealed my trouble for a long time from my parents, and then the family doctor was called in. I doubt if my sight could have been preserved even with the most skillful attention but whatever chance there was of it he destroyed by ignorant treatment. When I was taken to competent oculists in Plymouth my case was hopeless."

"What mental and physical agony I suffered during the gradual eclipse of my sight, no human tongue could convey. Once, may God forgive me, I almost made up my mind to terminate my wretched existence."

HORRIBLE TORTURES.

"The doctors had been experimenting with my eyes, and as the result of one particular experiment, I walked back to Tavistock from Plymouth enduring the most horrible tortures. Indeed, the pain was such that I more or less lost my senses, and finding myself on a lonely moor, for I had wandered from the roadway, and coming to a quiet-flowing stream, I sat down close to the bank, and the thought came to me that if I rolled over I should soon be relieved of all my torture."

"Just then I heard a voice calling me. A friend of my father's happened to be passing along in his gig, and seeing me lying so close to the bank, and as he thought, asleep, he stopped and came over to waken me to my rather perilous condition, and drove me home, little knowing then that in all probability he had saved my life."

"I was treated by many doctors, and no doubt they did their best, but I knew my case was hopeless."

"Nevertheless, when Mr. Butters, the Plymouth oculist, pronounced my ailment, I being then 16 years of age, it came as a most terrible blow, and for some minutes I could not speak; there was a great lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. Mr. Butters sought to comfort me by telling me that his own sight was failing, and that in few months' time he, like me, would be blind."

"Ah, yes, I said, bitterly; but you have seen the world. I have not, and never shall."

"IF GOD WILLS."

"I remained thinking for a minute or two, and then, summoning up all the grit I possessed, I said: 'If God wills, He knows best. What must be will be. And I added, putting my hand up to a tear that trickled down my face, 'God helping me, this is the last tear I shall ever shed for my blindness.' It was 'My father did all he could for me,' Dr. Gale went on. 'When I became blind he gave me the choice of either

having a couple of persons read to me and write for me or else of going to some institution for the blind. I decided to employ secretaries to read to me, and by this method—and by closely training my memory—I soon found that I was able to make progress in my studies. In those early days I was deeply interested in chemistry, and before many years I managed to master the subject fairly well, so far as it then went."

"On one occasion I was experimenting with some gunpowder. In order to deaden its explosive effects, I mixed with it some fine sand. To my surprise, I found that the explosive power of the powder was destroyed. In after years when I wished to invent a non-explosive form of gunpowder, I made this childish experience the basis of my experiments, and was successful in inventing a certain turning which we had passed some distance behind. Every one scoffed at the idea of me—a totally blind man—being able to know the way. But, though the sight was gone, my hearing had become so acutely trained that I could tell from the sound of the horses' hoofs on the road that they were not on the right track. Judging solely by the sound, I got out and led the horse back, putting them on the right road. By close observation I was able, after becoming blind, to cultivate my remaining faculties, and by doing most things for myself and allowing none to help me when it could be avoided, I managed to acquire an independence which not all blind people attain."

A "SLIDE" GUN.

"While speaking of my inventions I might mention that I also designed an ammunition slide gun, by means of which 144 shots per minute could be fired from a rifle, a for shell, a balloon shell and the rubber ball cartridge. I also invented various electric alarm clocks, with fire and burglar alarms. It might be interesting for you to know that I carried out the first electric light installation at Plymouth for the Horticultural society's exhibition."

In consequence of his valuable inventions Dr. Gale received flattering recognition not only from Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, but also from Napoleon III of France, the then czar of Russia and the rulers of many other countries. Besides, as already mentioned, having degrees conferred on him by many learned bodies. It was not of these things, however, that he cared to talk when interviewed by your correspondent.

"As an example of what a blind man can do," he said, "I may tell you that with a one-legged man as my partner, I once played a game of bowls, or skittles, against two men possessed of their sight—and what is more, we won it."

On another occasion I attended a shooting match, and some one asked me to try a shot. I brought down my bird, to the wonder of every one present. I may tell you, between ourselves," said the blind inventor in a stage whisper, "that the shot was purely accidental. On being asked to attempt to repeat the performance, I thought it best to decline."

"On another occasion I remember riding one night with a party along a dark country moor. The driver lost his way, and I maintained that he should have taken a certain turning which we had passed some distance behind. Every one scoffed at the idea of me—a totally blind man—being able to know the way. But, though the sight was gone, my hearing had become so acutely trained that I could tell from the sound of the horses' hoofs on the road that they were not on the right track. Judging solely by the sound, I got out and led the horse back, putting them on the right road. By close observation I was able, after becoming blind, to cultivate my remaining faculties, and by doing most things for myself and allowing none to help me when it could be avoided, I managed to acquire an independence which not all blind people attain."

"By studying all known electrical appliances," he said, "it was not long before I was able to begin a general practice and to give treatment electrically. I adopted the method of letting all currents of electricity pass through my own body. By this means I was able to tell just what sort of current my patients were receiving. By my sensitiveness of touch I was able to gauge electrical forces far better than some practitioners in the same line and it was not long before I had won a reputation among many well known doctors who used to send me their patients for treatment."

"By placing my ear over certain portions of the bodies of patients through whom I am sending charges of electricity I can hear peculiar sounds passing back and forth and it is partially by these sounds that I am able to tell whether a patient is healthy or not. I remember, on one occasion, a man was brought to me by a well known doctor. I galvanized him, listened all over his body in my customary manner, and then gave the opinion (privately of course, to his own doctor) that this patient would probably die within a few days. I was not surprised to learn that he died suddenly about a week afterward. I could not hear—on listening at various points on this man's body—the sounds to which my ear was so wonderfully attuned. I thought it best to decline."

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REMARKABLE COMPLAINTS.

"People have come to me with some very remarkable complaints," he went on. "One man came who was suffering from paralysis, the result of lead poisoning, and every doctor had given him up. I placed him in a bath, treated him electrically and in the water; and, in the course of time I managed to get white lead, oozing from the joints of the fingers and toes, to disappear. He had gangrene of the big toe and aneurism of the same leg. He was too old a man to operate on, otherwise Sir William would have taken off his foot. I took him on, believing that I might cure him by electricity and massage. Before very long I had got the bad place down to the size of a dollar, then down to a pinhead, and then, finally, he was cured, and lived several years afterward. He was so grateful that he insisted on paying me a fee that was a record breaker."

"I have done it," he said, "I have cured a man who was suffering from paralysis, the result of lead poisoning, and every doctor had given him up. I placed him in a bath, treated him electrically and in the water; and, in the course of time I managed to get white lead, oozing from the joints of the fingers and toes, to disappear. He had gangrene of the big toe and aneurism of the same leg. He was too old a man to operate on, otherwise Sir William would have taken off his foot. I took him on, believing that I might cure him by electricity and massage. Before very long I had got the bad place down to the size of a dollar, then down to a pinhead, and then, finally, he was cured, and lived several years afterward. He was so grateful that he insisted on paying me a fee that was a record breaker."

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