

A Novel Outing Scheme

Vacation In a Yacht at a Cost Merely Nominal — How to Do the Trick

LAST summer the physical director of one of the branches of the Young Men's Christian association in the city of New York put into operation a plan which he had been building for a long time. He is a devoted advocate of aquatic sports, and he had been pondering over the problem of how it could be made possible to place within the reach of young men of modest means the opportunity to take their vacation trips at a cost that would not embarrass them financially and would still provide them with the maximum of enjoyment.

Assuming that the sea had as great a fascination for most young men as it had for him, he came to the conclusion that if he could obtain a good sized yacht all the rest would be easy. He had little money and yachts do not come usually for the asking. Without dwelling too seriously on this rather discouraging truism he began to look about in search of a yacht that would serve his purpose—if the opportunity should ever come.

He spent a long time in the quest and looked over a good many yachts before he found one that suited him exactly. When he had settled on one there remained only the question of buying it. That was indeed a poser. The vessel he selected was called the Amazon. She was a veritable find, bigger, better constructed, more tastefully furnished and in every way superior and better equipped than he had hoped to find. The Amazon had been



LIFE ON BOARD THE AMAZON.

as a physical director." But he wrote the check. It did not take the happy young physician long to obtain possession of the Amazon. He found on a closer examination that it would require \$1,000 to put her in good condition. His ready speech had served him so admirably in the first instance that he resolved to try it again, this time on another man

"And now we need about \$1,000 to repair her and put her in shape," said the doctor innocently.

"Any plan for raising the money?"

"Well, yes, I had thought of asking you for that sum."

He got it and the Amazon was put into commission July 8 last year. It was late in the season to launch such an enterprise and comparatively few persons were prepared to avail themselves of the privilege within their reach, but 195 men went on these happy voyages, some for one week and some for two.

This year twelve cruises have been planned—nine of one week each and three of two weeks. For \$12 one may obtain board and lodging for seven days on the Amazon and a share in the sport of the millionaire. For a vacation trip that combines novelty with inexpensiveness and good companionship this scheme is certainly unique.

The Amazon is thoroughly equipped for thirty passengers, and they are exceedingly comfortable. She is 168 feet in length and so staunch that she could cross the ocean as safely as a liner. Thus far only men have been taken on the cruises, but it is the intention of the association managers to have a trip or two each season for members who wish to have their wives or sisters accompany them.

Thus far the cruises have been made in Long Island sound and along the New England coast, but they will be varied from time to time. Sailing on Saturday, the Amazon makes Bridgeport, Conn., or New London by night. Fishing and swimming while in harbor are in order, and during stops in shore towns baseball and tennis are played on board, and there is a good piano on the yacht as well as a library.

That these cruises are quite as enjoyable as even the clever designer of the sport anticipated is evidenced by the action of the twenty-four members, physicians, newspaper writers, clerks, students and what not, who went on a two weeks' cruise last August. On the last day of the trip they banded themselves together and arranged to take another cruise over the same ground the following year. No one had met the other until the first day of the vacation on board ship and at the close they were all warm friends.

CURTIS A. HOLMES.

A NEW SAINT.

A missionary who recently returned from South America discovered on the route to Orurotufagasta, a tribe of fetish Redskins worshipping Blamark as a god. Last year when the drought threatened their harvest they offered up prayers to their usual idols, but all to no avail. Their chief, having seen an emigrant farmer's hut the picture of the Iron Chancellor cut out from an illustrated German paper, asked the farmer to make him a present of the print, which request was willingly agreed to. Thereupon the Indians, to their temple, and, strange to say, a welcome rain watered the lands of the tribe. Since that time the duty of a chancellor, whom the Indians call Blamark, is firmly established, and all kinds of reptiles are offered up to him in sacrifice.

Some Ex-Diplomatists Who Live In New York City; Men Who Have Served Uncle Sam at Foreign Courts



JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

HERE are at least eight men now making the city of New York their place of residence who have served Uncle Sam as diplomatic representatives in leading European courts. Two of them have been at Madrid, two at Paris, one at Vienna, one at Constantinople, one served at the court of St. James and one was United States minister in both Germany and Russia. The two who were



GENERAL FRED GRANT.

five years earlier—are natives of New York city. General Frederick Dent Grant, now at the head of the department of the east, was minister to Austria during Harrison's administration. He is a native of St. Louis. Andrew D. White, who has represented the republic at two courts, the Kaiser's and the czar's, was born at Homer, N. Y. Joseph H. Choate, who succeeded John

Hay in England, was born at Salem, Mass. Oscar S. Straus, who was minister at the court of the sultan from 1897 to 1900, came originally from Georgia. Of the two men who have represented the American government in France Levi P. Morton was born at Shoreham, Vt., and General Horace Porter is a native of Huntington, Pa. Ex-Vice President Morton is the oldest



LEVI P. MORTON.

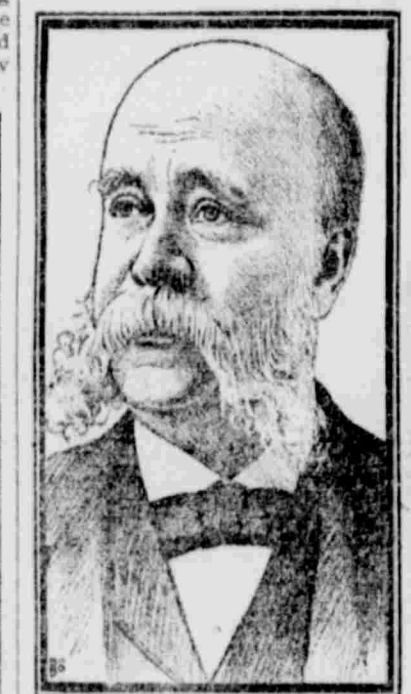
man among them all—eighty-two. Porter is sixty-nine. The distinction of being most youthful is divided between General Grant and Mr. Straus—each is

fifty-six. General Sickles is Morton's junior by about one year. He is the only one of all the former diplomatists who seems to be feeble and "out of it" so far as active life is concerned. He was a highly efficient representative of his government in his day. It was at the time of the Virginia trouble and General Grant was threatening to wipe the dots off the map. General Sickles entered into the spirit of the thing with such zest that the Spaniards were soon brought to terms. Dr. White and General Grant are not exactly New



ANDREW D. WHITE.

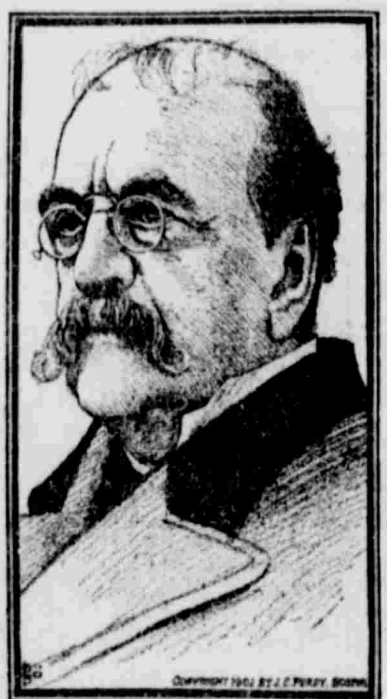
Yorkers. Dr. White spends part of the time at Ithaca, his former home, but he makes the metropolis his headquarters. General Grant lives on Governors island, in New York harbor, because he is in command of Uncle Sam's Atlantic military headquarters. He is one of the two living presidents' sons who have filled high diplomatic posts, Robert T. Lincoln being the other. General



GENERAL S. L. WOODFORD.

Woodford is a veteran of the civil war, enlisting as a private and ending with the rank of brigadier general. He is a lawyer and has always earned a

good income from his profession. As vice president of the United States and governor of New York Mr. Morton had a goodly share of public life before he



GENERAL DANIEL E. SICKLES.

was sent to the French mission. He is a self made man, the son of a poor country minister, and has achieved both fame and fortune by his own efforts. General Porter has traveled quite a different road. His father was governor of Pennsylvania, and very well to do. The general was educated with great care, going to Harvard as well as to West Point and never being obliged



GENERAL HORACE PORTER.

to worry over financial matters. He has several things to be proud of. One of these is the fact that he raised the last \$400,000 necessary to complete the Grant monument at New York. He has been a famous after dinner speaker ever since the days when, as General Grant's secretary, he responded to many toasts offered in honor of the president, who had not yet learned the art of public speaking. Joseph H. Choate is his worthy rival as a maker of felicitous postprandial remarks and as a spinner of yarns he is unequalled.

JOHN R. WALTERS.

Herbert George Wells, English Romancer and Scientist; The Novelist Who Is the Successor of Jules Verne

HERBERT GEORGE WELLS, the English romancer-scientist who has come to America recently in search of literary material, is a man who has provided mankind with a good deal to talk about. This of itself is sufficient to make him interesting. He has succeeded in making himself known the world over as a brilliantly imaginative and audaciously frank writer on matters as they are and are likely to be. He is, in fact, a personality with whom publicists and reformers on both sides of the water must reckon.

To the unthinking and unquestioning devourer of fiction Mr. Wells is known best by his earlier stories, which were of the Jules Verne type, only far more artistic in their construction and specious in their development. In most of the books his imagination carried him out of this planet into others and enabled him to see the method by which beings of another kind have lived and died. Even in these youthful flights of fancy there were to be discovered enough facts and a blending of reality with imagery to indicate that in time the mere man of letters would become a social philosopher.

Mr. Wells came to this country for the avowed purpose of making a study of American social phenomena. He has spent a long time in dreaming of a Utopia of his own construction, and he wants to see if there is any nearer approach to it in America than he has been able to find in Great Britain. He is by no means the first Englishman who has come with a similar purpose,

but he is unlike all those who have preceded him.

He is the son of a professional cricketeer. He is now about forty years of age, his birthplace being Bromley, Kent, in which county he still resides, at Sandgate. A little later he developed a passion for writing. At an early age he was apprenticed to a dry goods merchant, but his heart was elsewhere, and it proved to be drudgery of the most galling description. He endured it two years and then rebelled. After securing his release he turned to serious study and in due time was entered at the Royal College of Science at London.

There young Wells became a pupil of Huxley and other scientists of renown, and it was not long before he attracted the attention of these eminent men. In the course of time he obtained the degree in science at the University of London, with special honors in zoology and geology. It was at this time that he acquired his vigorous literary style, having Huxley for his type. He edited student periodicals all through his course and found the work congenial and instructive.

Mr. Wells is a firm believer in the value of scientific study as a preparation for literary work. Criticism, he maintains, is the essence of science, and the critical habit of mind is essential to artistic performance. He ascribes the development of his critical faculty to the study of comparative anatomy as it was taught by Huxley.

After winning his degree Mr. Wells taught biology for awhile in London, but close application so enfeebled his system that he was compelled to give up the work and go into the country.



HERBERT GEORGE WELLS.

Reduced to the necessity of finding some occupation capable of providing him with his daily bread, he began to write special articles for the London daily press. In those early days of scrambling for a foothold the young student sometimes produced 7,000 words a day, but as soon as he was relieved from the necessity of making quantity of more importance than

quality he abandoned this killing rate of production and made his net day's work not to exceed 1,000 words. For several years he has been able to afford the luxury, as he expresses it, of devoting two years to the writing of a book and of burning the manuscript if it does not suit him. "No novelist can do his best work," he says, "until he feels free to do that."

Mr. Wells came to his business of Utopia building and society remodeling with an equipment that neither Jules Verne, Lord Lytton nor Edward Bulwer-Lytton possessed. Francis Bacon seems to have been about his only literary counterpart in his thorough grounding in science, theoretical and applied, in his devotion to the betterment of human conditions from an ethical standpoint and in his singularly lucid prose style. The most competent critics admit that his work is imaginative science at its highest.

One of the most interesting things about Mr. Wells and his books is the emphasis he puts on the future. What is to come after man is to him the most fascinating question in the world. Although he is quite sure at present that death ends all, he is eager, with paradoxical solicitude, to better the life of men of future generations on this planet. It is also interesting to find him predicting that "the great synthesis of English speaking peoples" will have its head and center in the great urban region developing between Chicago and the Atlantic, which will be mainly south of the St. Lawrence.

He thinks that this section must eventually become the intellectual, political and industrial center of a permanent unification of the English speaking countries, a federation having America north of Mexico as its central mass, a federation which will "sustain a common fleet and protect or dominate most or all of the non-white states of the present British empire and in addition much of the south and

AS IT IS.

As the Dublin exhibition will take place in 1907 the executive committee of the proposed exhibition at Edinburgh have decided to postpone the project till 1908.

Germany's interest in the Abyssinian market is exemplified by the recent arrival of a representative of a German company at Harar with some 2,500 packages of goods. The com-

pany will have branches at Direddaoua, Harar and Djibuti, its center being Adis Ababa.

Wages in Porto Rico have increased threefold since the Spanish days, and 30 per cent of the children are in the public schools, which are an American innovation.

In the northern part of Madagascar is the most remarkable natural fortress

in the world. It is occupied by a wild tribe who call themselves the People of the Rocks. The fortress is a lofty and precipitous rock of enormous size, 1,000 feet high and 8 square miles in area. Its sides are so steep that it cannot be climbed without artificial means. Within it is hollow, and the only entrance is by a subterranean passage.

A shotgun recently manufactured by a Connecticut firm was a special order

for a man who uses his left eye to aim with, the right eye being sightless. The stock and lower frame of the gun were twisted so that he may shoot without discomfort. The gun is the third made for this man in the last twenty-five years.

American scientists have found that children grow little from the end of November to the end of March; grow tall, but increase little in weight, from March to August, and increase mainly

in weight and little in height from August to November.

The golden wedding is celebrated by only one out of every thousand married couples.

Suicides among school children are largely increasing in Germany, especially just before and after examinations.

The Austrian carries less weight in full kit than any other continental soldier. He carries fifty-seven pounds

as against about sixty-two by the British and sixty-eight by the Russian.

During the past three centuries more than 200 different systems of shorthand have been devised. Filman's was first published in 1840.

Seventy ships were completely wrecked along the German coasts last year, and 356 were damaged.

Rare specimens of a silver grout and a silver penny, both of Richard II,

have been dug up at High Wycombe, Bucks, England.

Twelve persons own one-quarter of Scotland. One-fourth of the acreage of England and Wales is in the hands of 710 individuals.

Two hundred and fifty guests were invited to the wedding feast of a wealthy farmer's son of Uelen, Prussia. They consumed 180 pounds of fish, two oxen, two calves, three pigs and many fowls.