

PRISON TELEGRAPH CODE.

By Which Convicts Communicate Through the Thickest Walls of Stone.

Every prison has its secret telegraph for it was not to be expected that cunning offenders could be long confined together, even on the "separate cell" system, without discovering a method of secret communication.

In Russia the key is not so much in the system itself as in the nihilistic method of manipulating language with a view to concealment.

Somehow or other the governor obtained the message as it had been rapped through all the walls, but he took it literally as a plot to break prison by the whole of the convicts.

MAN ROUTED DETACHMENT

Russian Spy's Encounter with Japanese Soldiers and Its Remarkable Results.

An interesting story of the adventures of a Russian spy named Volkoff appeared in the newspapers, says a St. Petersburg dispatch to the London Chronicle.

"After the battle of Wafangkow I was lying near Gen. Samsonoff's tent and heard him say to the commander of the regiment: 'We must send our scout to the Japanese and report to us.'"

"At dawn on July 20 I came to the town of Saucha. There was nobody there. The Russians had left it and the Chinese had all run away."

"I decided to sell my life dearly, for I knew it would be forfeited if I were captured. I pulled out my revolver and as the two soldiers approached I fired two shots at them."

"Then I jumped on one of the horses which had remained close by and galloped away for my life. Gen. Samsonoff promoted me to the rank of an under officer gave me the horse and saddle and sent me to the commander-in-chief, who thanked and embraced me and conferred upon me a decoration."

"Good Thing. She—Do you think there is anything in palmistry? He—Yes, for some people."

"Who, for instance? For the fellow that gets the money for looking at somebody else's hand!"

THE CZAR AND HIS MONEY

Russian Monarch Has an Income That Overtops That of Rockefeller.

The fact that the czar has just made a little contribution of \$100,000,000 from his private purse to the Russian war fund reminds us that Mr. Rockefeller is not the only rich man in the world.

Most royalties are very small potatoes financially compared with any one of several American millionaires. Mr. Rockefeller could put all the sovereigns of Europe except the czar on his payroll at their present wages without depriving himself of a single bowl of crackers and milk or ever lacking a quarter to drop into the contribution box on Sunday.

But the Russian emperor is in a different class. In the imperial budget the allowance for his household is figured at the meager rate of about \$500,000 a year, but that is merely the beginning of his resources.

Somehow or other the governor obtained the message as it had been rapped through all the walls, but he took it literally as a plot to break prison by the whole of the convicts, so he armed the whole of the warders to the teeth, taking effective measures to prevent the assembly on the morrow.

BREAKERS AND CANNIBALS.

Critical Situation of Ship's Crew Drifting Into the Clutches of Both.

At 11 o'clock at night, while the captain and myself were engaged on deck in our usual game, the second officer, Mr. McFarland, came up excitedly, and said: 'Capt. Mather, there are breakers ahead.'"

"The night was clear and the light of the moon and the stars was brilliant. The wind had almost died away, the canvas was full spread; the sails hanging idly, occasionally flapping. We soon found that a very strong current was setting us rapidly toward the breakers, and that the wind wholly failed to help us counter it."

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PECULIAR PHILIPPINE LILY.

Such a Disagreeable Smelling Plant It Is Difficult to Examine Closely.

Two American teachers in the Philippines, while walking some time since in the fields in the vicinity of Nueva Caceres, in southern Luzon, came across a peculiar specimen of the lily family of plants which has not yet apparently been noticed by scientists.

It was while passing through a dense cluster of underbrush that the gentlemen noticed a remarkably strong odor of decaying flesh which seemed to emanate from the ground close by. Suspecting the presence of some grubsome thing concealed in the bushes they commenced their search. They were assisted in this by the presence of numerous "blue-bottle" flies, which seemed to be buzzing about some object half concealed under the dense vegetation.

The plant is called by the native Bicolos "borac sa Mayo" that is, May flower. It blooms only during the month of May. It is no doubt a member of the order Liliaceae, better commonly known as the lily or tulip family. It has the large bulb, the inconspicuous calyx, the pronounced stigma and the characteristic structure of lilies in general.

After the blossom has disappeared the leaves begin to sprout from the bulb. These often grow to the height of three or four feet. Their general shape is similar to that of the leaves of the calla lily, but they are divided into an irregular number of lobes or fronds.

The corolla and the remarkably exaggerated stigma exude a clear viscid fluid which seems to be the cause of the offensive odor.

GLASS TOMBS OF HAWAII.

Blow Holes in the Lava from Volcano Honeycomb the Surrounding Country.

The home of Opunui stood at the foot of Oahu. Twice he started and turned back, vaguely wondering why a path known since childhood should prove confusing.

"Oh, you tenderfoot! make me tired!" he laughs. "Why don't you bring a feather bed? This is good enough for anybody."

"And meekly that deluded outfit submits, ashamed of being considered tenderfoot by the biggest tenderfoot of them all."

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JUNKS TO BATTLESHIPS.

How the Japanese Navy Was Built Up by United States and British Officers.

The Japanese have taken from the United States and Europe all that they have thought it worth their while to acquire in the way of civilization—a constitution, a form of government, compulsory education, free libraries, a standing army, a great navy, and much more.

Guns, ships, torpedoes and organization which here as well as in Europe had been the product of years of experiment and the sacrifice of countless lives, Japan stepped in and bought much as a prospective householder enters a dealer's and furnishes a house from garret to cellar.

It was by these simple means that the Japanese people began to plant on the old foundations a new structure, which should place them on a level with the nations of the west.

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TWO KINDS OF TENDERFOOT

One Invites Hardship While the Other Accepts It in a Philosophical Manner.

The Tough Youth always throws his blankets down on the hardest, rockiest bit of ground within reach, and then smiles a fine little smile at your efforts to rake together enough pine-needles for a good foundation.

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STAMPS OF PHILIPPINES.

People of the Islands Are Desirous of Having a Distinctive Design.

An interesting sidelight on our experience with the colonies is thrown by certain developments regarding postage stamps. The recent allegation of a small philatelic journal that a new series of stamps for the Philippines was in course of preparation has added greatly to the troubles of the bureau of engraving and printing.

Before the creation of the Philippine Islands in 1898, the stamps in use there were distinctly Philippine. While they bore an infantile likeness of the Spanish king, and were known among collectors as the "baby king stamp," the word "Filipinas" forming part of the regular design, made them distinctly local and fully as satisfactory as anything Spanish could be to the restive Filipino.

This was the only course possible at the time, except to have overprinted the Philippine stamps on hand with the words "U. S. A. Philippines." This was considered by the authorities, but because of the feeling toward Spain it was not deemed politically expedient to combine "U. S. A." and the face of the future Spanish king upon a postage stamp.

When our military forces took charge in Cuba, the Spanish-Cuban postage stamps were at once superseded by United States stamps, over-printed "Cuba," with the denomination named in Spanish.

SEA SALT FOR THE TABLE.

Thousands of Tons Made Every Year in the Basins of France and Spain.

The salt had a pale gray hue. Though fine and pure, it was just what discarded says an exchange.

"Is sea salt hard to get?" "It is, indeed. This is imported for me from France. The French name for it is 'gris'—gray salt—a tribute, you see, to its beautiful color."

"A great many countries make salt out of the sea water. Portugal makes over 200,000 tons of sea salt a year. Spain makes 325,000 tons. Italy makes nearly 200,000 tons. France makes 200,000 tons."

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RECALLS "THE MOONSTONE"

Improbable Elements of the Collins Tale Removed by Recent Occurrence.

A story which comes from Oakland, Cal., is reminiscent of Wilkie Collins' "Moonstone." After 35 years it would seem as though Collins were vindicated. There are but two improbable elements in "The Moonstone," when it is carefully considered, says the Des Moines Register.

The Oakland story is to the effect that a painter fell from a scaffold and was seriously injured. He was placed under an anesthetic and operated upon. In his unconsciousness he babbled continually of a fortune of \$100,000 which awaited him in England.

It was something like 35 years ago that Wilkie Collins used this very idea as the chief mystery of his famous story. Readers of "The Moonstone" will recall that Collins quotes scientific works in his novel to prove his theories.

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