

PRINCIPALS IN MYSTERY WHICH HAS MANY PUZZLING FEATURES



KENT J. LOOMIS

WILLIAM H. ELLIS

Kent J. Loomis and William H. Ellis are two men whose affairs have become of international importance. Mr. Loomis is the brother of Assistant Secretary of State Loomis, and was on his way to Abyssinia to deliver a commercial treaty to Emperor Menelik when he disappeared on the night of June 19 from the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm II at Bremen. When passengers landed at Plymouth next day Loomis was not seen, and nothing has been heard of him since. Mr. Ellis sailed from Marseilles Sunday, bearing the treaty that Mr. Loomis should have carried. Ellis was in Abyssinia last year with the Consul Skinner expedition, had previously visited the country and is said to exert a mysterious power over Menelik. He also is alleged to possess a desire to become king of that country. Ellis has been a railway president and company promoter, and from his office in New York controls the affairs of the American-Mexico-West Indies and Porto Rico Company. He told friends recently that he expected within two years to have command of \$150,000,000 and

the resources of the richest country in Europe. A rumor from Hamburg to the effect that Mr. Loomis' body had been washed ashore at Cherbourg, France, has been received, but it cannot be confirmed. Assistant Secretary Loomis denies the reports that his brother had trouble with Ellis. The latter, it is said, offered to remain in France to assist in the search.

LIKED THE MAPLE SIRUP.

Lord Roberts Pleased with Present from American Relative. One of the places to be visited by Lord Roberts when he comes to this country will be the maple sugar district around East Dorset, Vt. A far distant relative of "Bobs" sent him a can of genuine maple sugar some time ago and received this letter of thanks: "Dear Sir: I beg you will accept best thanks from Lady Roberts and myself for the delicious maple sirup you so kindly sent to us. It arrived safely a day or two ago and is thoroughly appreciated by us all. Please tell your boy how much obliged I am to him for thinking of us and suggesting the present of the sirup. I am forwarding by this post for your kind acceptance a copy of my 'Forty-One Years in India.' Believe me, yours very sincerely, Roberts. C. H. Roberts, Esq., East Dorset, Vt."

Caddie Was Deliberate.

Beerbohm Tree has revised an old saying and gives this reading: "A man is never a hero to his golf caddie." While out on a Scottish link some time ago he had a particularly silent and stupid-looking caddie, who followed close at his heels without saying a word. But since silence sometimes speaks louder than words the actor was nervous, and after a particularly bad drive which seemed to demand an apology, exclaimed: "Did you ever see a worse player on these links?" The caddie said nothing. A still worse drive from the next tee called forth the same query. The caddie stared silently for a few moments. "I heard what ye said right enough," he at last slowly replied. "I'm just theenking."

German Emperor in Paris.

A book recently published in Paris abounds in hitherto unpublished details regarding the German emperor's life. It is declared that he visits Paris every year, choosing a different title for each visit, and that he is carefully watched by French detectives, for should he be recognized he would be almost sure to suffer insult. Two years ago he was recognized by a newspaper man while in a railway station. The reporter politely asked a question, addressing him as "Your majesty." Suddenly four men surrounded the inquisitive journalist and hurried him from the station. They were detectives who had been assigned to guard the distinguished traveler.

Hard Work Never Harmful.

Florence Nightingale's celebration of her eighty-fourth birthday last month is another proof added to the list of facts which go to show that there is nothing more conducive to longevity than plenty of work, mental and physical. Miss Nightingale's life has been one of continued effort. Her year's work during the Crimean war was enough to have broken down a strong man, and she was a delicate woman. Miss Nightingale always said that she never had time to think of the hardships and was consequently not affected by them.

LIPTON NEVER AN IDLER.

Business Habits, Acquired Early. Cling to Him Still. Sir Thomas Lipton still has the exact business habits acquired in Glasgow during his days of strenuous labor when he slept below the counter of his shop at times, so as to have the window "dressed" for the early customers. Not long ago he had to tell his shareholders in London for the sixth time or so that his yachting recreation was never allowed to interfere with business. There was a touch of impatience in the "Glasgow accent" that still lingers about his speech as he rebuked the overreacting questioner. At a former meeting he sat heavily on a shareholder who demanded to know why he took so many holidays. "You can go away to the country for as long as you like and not a soul is any the wiser," said Sir Thomas pointedly, "but if I leave London all the world knows of it through the newspapers." The shareholder did not pursue the question.

Chinese Child a Genius.

Soung-Pao-Kis is the son of the Chinese ambassador in Paris. His father is justly proud of him, for he is a little fellow of accomplishments and is already more talked about than his distinguished progenitor. He is known as "the Chinese wonder child." Only 5 years old, he speaks French fluently and has 2,500 Chinese characters at his command. This indicates a memory such as even "geniuses" seldom possess, for each stroke of these characters has a separate significance all its own and is so difficult to acquire that a knowledge of a thousand of these characters is the mark of a highly educated Chinese gentleman.

Athletic Girl Foiled Footpad.

Again the athletic American girl has demonstrated the value of muscle in her sex. Miss E. K. Aymar of Philadelphia is a guest at her uncle's cottage in Newport. She was sitting on the piazza in the darkness when a tall man suddenly appeared, seized her by the wrist and demanded money. Miss Aymar wrenched herself free and swinging the chair on which she had been sitting, brought it down on the fellow's upturned arm. With a cry of pain he fled, the girl following, but he escaped. Miss Aymar shines in tennis, basket ball, rowing and other athletic amusements.

Revealed Secrets of Trousseau.

Philadelphia is still shuddering over a certain display made in connection with the recent wedding of Miss Elsie Whelen to Robert Golet. Several rooms at the bride's home were given up to showing gifts showered upon the young couple. Among them were a number of articles which made men grin and brought blushes to the more modest female cheeks. They were articles without which no trousseau is complete, but no other bride had ever been known to show them thus publicly. Ever since the wedding the matrons and maids of the quaker city have been discussing "what Elsie did."

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.



FOOLISH FIDO.

My duty is to drive out tramps, But one came overnight; The snow had covered everything, And even he was white. I boldly ran and loudly barked; He didn't make a sound— But just stood there and wouldn't budge, Nor even once look round. I did my duty like a dog; His clothes were strangely damp; But still he never moved a step— This cold, unfeeling tramp. I don't know what to think of him; It's made me rather blue. I never saw his like before— Now what am I to do? —Annie Willis McCullough, in St. Nicholas.

HOME OF THE SEAL.

Although the seal spends its life in and under the water, it is an air-breathing animal and cannot live for any great length of time without air. As winter spreads sheets of ice over the fast-freezing Arctic Sea, the seal breaks a hole in the ice over the water where it lives. This hole it is very careful to keep open all winter long, breaking away each new crust as it forms, so that, no matter how thick the ice becomes, the animal always finds there a breathing place and a passage to the surface of the ice above, where it can get fresh air and take a nap, for it does not sleep in the water. Then, again, although the seal can exist for a time out of the water, it has to seek its food in the sea; so that without both land (or ice) and water it could not survive the arctic winter. How, after once leaving its breathing hole in search of the fish upon which it feeds, the seal can find its way in the dark under the ice, a yard in thickness, and spreading over many miles, back again to its hole no one knows; but it is not the less certain that when

that it will shake hands with the man who cares for it, as its predecessor in the pool would do, but it is a very intelligent seal, and it is learning, and it already does one little trick that is very pleasing.

Babe, as they call the new seal, will take food from the hand, and it comes up on the platform at the end of its pool to get it, and there, at the word of command, it will turn around on the platform, one, two, three times before being fed. But it is in doing this little turning around act when it is in the water that the seal is most attractive. Like all seals, Babe is very fond of killies, and they give it a few killies occasionally, for the seal's gratification, and to vary its diet a little. Wonderfully agile swimmer as it is, the big seal can capture the swift-darting little killies with perfect ease and facility.

When the man comes along with a pan of killies Babe stands up on its flippers in the middle of the water, resembling, then, somewhat, a penguin in attitude and appearance, and suggesting, also, a baseball player in the field, looking for fly balls and ready to turn in any direction to catch them; and the seal is ready, as it stands there, to turn in any direction and swim for the killies as they are thrown into the water. And the man says then to the seal:

"Now, then, Babe. Once!" Round turns the seal, standing upright on its hind flippers in the water, like a boy spinning around on his heels, and back it comes, with its eyes to the front, on the man and the pan of killies, and "Twice!" says the man, and 'round spins the seal again; and "Three times!" says the man, and 'round spins the seal once more, and

PICTURE PUZZLE.



WHERE IS THE PRINCESS?

It needs air it swims as straight to its breathing place as a bird could fly through the air to its nest.

When the seal is about to build her house, she first makes the breathing hole larger, and then, by means of her strong claws and flippers, or forepaws, scoops out the snow, taking it down with her through the ice until she has made a dome-like apartment of the same shape, though not the same size, as that built by the Eskimo. Unlike the huts built by man, however, it cannot be seen from without, for above it stretches the long slope of untrodden snow, and the baby seal for whose comfort the house was built, and its mother, are safe from any foe that cannot find where the house is by the sense of smell.

The house, however, is sometimes discovered by the great polar bear who, when his nose has told him that he is upon the top of the seal house, leaps in the air, and bringing his feet together, comes down with all his great weight, breaking through the roof and catching the baby seal before it can get away. Hooking one of his sharp claws in its little flipper, the bear then does a very cruel thing. He lets the cub down the breathing hole, so as to lead the anxious mother to come to it as it struggles in the water. When she does so, he slowly draws it up again, and, as she follows it, strikes and seizes her with the claws of his other foot.

Very few of these seal houses are found out, however, either by men or beasts of prey; and they last until the feeble arctic summer partly melts the snow that covered and concealed them. Of course by this time the baby seal has grown large and strong enough to take care of itself, and lives a great way from its place of birth.—St. Nicholas.

BRIGHT SEAL IS BABE.

The new seal at the New York Aquarium—it has been there now for some months, but new they still call it, to distinguish it from that old Aquarium favorite Nellie, the seal that was there for so many years—has not yet got so

then the man tosses a killie into the water, which the seal dashes after and snaps up in a minute, to come back then and stand at attention, on its tall flippers in the middle of the pool, as before, with its graceful and alert head just above the water, and its big eyes fastened on the man, ready for the next killie thrown into the pool.

A bright seal is Babe.—New York Sun.

Electric Arc Light Cheapest.

The electric arc is by a very perceptible amount the cheapest all-around illuminant. While cheap gas in mantle burners is superior to the incandescent lamp, candle for candle, in mere cost, it cannot meet the arc on even terms, and if the consumer is deaf to all arguments based on hygiene and color blind to boot, the central station still holds the trump card in the arc.—Electrical World.

Gigantic Boring Scheme.

The Chamber of Commerce, at Denver, Col., is considering a proposition to bore one and an eighth miles into the earth at a point fourteen miles east of the city, in search of natural gas, oil and coal. The cost is estimated at \$20,000, but the plan is considered feasible by experts who have investigated the geological formations.

Welding Cast Iron.

Machinists and iron workers are greatly interested in the discovery of the art of welding cast iron, which W. S. and L. R. Schupp, of Loveland, Colo., claim to have made. They declare that the compound which they have invented also will bring aluminum, as successful as borax will bronze steel.

Special Room For Manuscripts.

Warned by the great destruction of literary treasures in the Turin fire, the Italian Minister of Public Instruction has ordered that in the new national library at Florence all important manuscripts shall be placed in a special room.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS LESSON

LESSON TWO—JULY 10.

Golden Text.—Keep yourselves from idols.—1 John 5:21.

God's people, sundered by Rehoboam's pride and selfishness into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, had a double history till the exile. We follow first the story of Israel under Jeroboam.

1. The Temptation to Idolatry.—Vs. 25-27. Jeroboam began his reign energetically and wisely, taking measures for the security and defense of his kingdom.

25. "Then Jeroboam built Shechem." The city, destroyed by Abimelech (Judg. 9: 45), had been restored, and served as the meeting-place of the council described in the last lesson. "In mount Ephraim" (R. V., "the hill country of Ephraim"). "And dwelt therein," removing afterward (1 Kings 14: 17; 15: 21, 33) to Tirzah. "And went out from thence." Having established his capital, he transferred his workmen to another scene of operations. "And built." Strengthened and enlarged; Gideon had destroyed his fort (Judg. 8: 17). "Penneh." The name, which means "face of God," was given it because here Jacob wrestled with the angel of God (Gen. 32: 24-32).

Jeroboam's Great Opportunity. He was inspired by the knowledge that God had chosen him to rule (1 Kings 11: 29-31).

He was the free choice of his people, and thoroughly understood their needs and character.

He was a man of ability and energy, proved under Solomon and now.

He was ruler of a large and rich nation, whose people were strong and active, though somewhat turbulent.

He had made a good beginning of his reign.

But all of these advantages he, threw away by scorning the one condition of permanence on which God had given him the kingdom, that he should walk in God's ways (1 Kings 11: 38).

26. "And Jeroboam said in his heart." He recognized the real reason for his advocacy of idolatry, but he was ashamed to give it to the people (v. 28).

27. "If this people go up" (to Jerusalem) "to do sacrifice." The law (Deut. 16: 16) commanded this journey three times a year for all males—at the Passover (April), Pentecost (June), and the Feast of Tabernacles (October).

28. "Whereupon the king took counsel." With men like-minded with himself, the tribal leaders who had helped him to his throne. "And made two calves of gold." The ox-symbol of God was most natural for an agricultural people, for whom the great animal, so powerful yet so docile, was the breadwinner, a material embodiment of the divine strength and beneficence. "Of gold." Not solid, but "a wooden core overlaid with gold."—Hastings' Bible Dictionary.

First Pretext.—"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem." The probable meaning is, as given in R. V. margin, "Ye have gone up long enough."

Second Pretext.—"Behold thy gods . . . which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." That the Israelites originally regarded these images as symbols of Jehovah can scarcely be questioned.—Kent. "Gods," therefore, might be translated "God."

Third Pretext.—29. "And he set the one in Beth-el." Beth-el ("house of El"—of God) was regarded as a sacred city. It would be a convenient sanctuary for Jeroboam's southern tribes, and would intercept any who might lie on their way to Jerusalem. "And the other put he in Dan." This was the most northern point in the kingdom; hence, the proverbial phrase, "from Dan to Beersheba."

III. Downward in Idolatry.—Vs. 29-33. Build the wall slightly around at the base, and it will be ruinously slant a few yards higher. Jeroboam soon found that breaking one commandment led to the breaking of others.

30. "And this thing became a sin." It was a sin because (1) in itself, it broke the second commandment, against graven images; (2) it led to idolatry, breaking the first commandment; (3) the idolatry involved obscene rites, breaking the spirit of the seventh commandment; (4) sometimes, as in Moloch-worship, it involved murder, human sacrifice, breaking the sixth commandment; (5) it perpetuated the division of the kingdoms, thus weakening God's people; (6) it degraded the service of God, the pure worship which God had introduced for an example to the nations. "For the people," following the lead of their sinful king, "went to worship before the one" (R. V. margin, "before each of them") "even unto Dan."

31. "He made an house" (R. V., "houses"), a sanctuary, one "at each of the cities where the calves were set up."—Cook. "Of high places." Before the building of the temple the

pure worship of Jehovah was often carried on at these local shrines (1 Kings 3:24), but after the temple was built they became wholly identified with idolatry.

"And made priests of the lowest of the people." The literal rendering of the Hebrew is, "from the end of the people," that is, "from all ranks of the people" (R. V., "from among all the people"), and not, as heretofore, from the Levites alone. "Which were not the sons of Levi," the priestly tribe. Doubtless Jeroboam would gladly have retained their services, but they refused to celebrate idolatrous rites, and went south to Rehoboam (II. Chron. 11: 13-15).

The next step downward in idolatry, the establishment of new feast days, was speedily taken. Josephus (Ant. VIII., 8, 4) says this whole idea of a new religion was suggested to Jeroboam by the approach of the Feast of Tabernacles, the joyous harvest festival, to attend which great numbers of the people went yearly to Jerusalem. Jeroboam felt it necessary to hold his subjects by a counter attraction.

Therefore, (32) "Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month" (November). The law expressly fixed the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month (Lev. 23: 34). On the fifteenth day of the month. "The day was retained because, the months being lunar, the fifteenth was the day of the full moon."—Pulpit Commentary.

"He offered upon the altar." R. V., "He went up unto the altar"; ascended it, by steps or by an inclined plane (Ex. 20: 26). Like Solomon at the dedication of the temple, the king himself officiated at the inauguration of the new worship. "So did he in Beth-el."

"The more distant Dan, perhaps, was inaugurated by some of the newly made priests."—Cambridge Bible. "And he placed in Beth-el." Dan already having its priesthood—descendants of Moses (Judg. 18: 30).

33. "So he offered," etc. This verse recapitulates what has gone before. "Which he had devised of his own heart." "The entire system of Jeroboam receives its condemnation in these words. His main fault was that he left a ritual and a worship where all was divinely authorized for ceremonies and services which were wholly of his own devising."—Cook.

34. "Warning against Idolatry.—1 Kings 13: 1-34. Of this chapter Maurice says: "There is none which a timid, distrustful reader of the Bible would be more ready to pass over, and few which throw more real light upon its moral and method." It is the story of how Jeroboam, while sacrificing upon his altar at Beth-el, was solemnly warned by a "man of God" whom Jehovah had sent out of Judah. "The altar shall be rent," he cried, "and its ashes poured out." Then, as the enraged king called on his guards to seize the prophet, and put out his own hand to lay hold on him, the hand was withered, and an earthquake rent the altar. Jeroboam entreated the man of God to restore his hand, and this was done through the prophet's prayer. The honest historian goes on to relate how the heroic man of God himself fell on his way home, being tempted to disobedience by one of the unfaithful prophets of Beth-el. But "apparently the witness which the man of God bore, and the death which he died, were in vain."—Maurice. Jeroboam "returned not from his evil way."

Y. Idolatry Punished.—1 Kings 14: 1-20. The disasters and ruin that all idolatry causes came soon upon Jeroboam and his kingdom.

His son Abijah fell sick and died, though the queen made a pilgrimage to Shiloh and begged the old prophet Abijah to intercede with God on her boy's behalf. Jeroboam won for himself an evil repute in history. Twenty-three times in the books of Kings he is pilloried as the one "who made Israel to sin." Jeroboam's kingly line was short, ending with his son.

With the Levites, the most God-fearing inhabitants of the northern kingdom, left it (2 Chron. 11: 13-17), and greatly strengthened the kingdom of Rehoboam, both in material resources and in character, while Jeroboam's kingdom was correspondingly reduced.

Illustration.—It is said that a number of the best German officers of the army which conquered France were the descendants of the Huguenots, the best and most Christian Blood of France, who were driven from their country by the Roman Catholic leaders on account of their religion. Saint Bartholomew's day was avenged.

Irreligion and idolatry and immorality prevailed in the northern kingdom, and sowed the seed for the harvest of ruin.

The final result was the destruction of the nation one hundred years before the captivity of Judah. See 1 Kings 17: 6-23. All this was foretold long before, and Jeroboam might have studied it if he would. See Lev. 26: 14-15; Deut. 8: 1-20; 28: 15-48.

Necessity of Labor. Labor is the world's legal tender. "The gods sell everything for toll" is true as the copybook excerpt. "Labor conquers all things." Power, fame, the wealth of the earth, the stored wisdom of the ages, and, greater than all, Christian character, are in the market, and the coinage of the price is free to all.