

The Great Round World and What Is Going On In It, Vol. 1, No. 16, February 25, 1897 eBook

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[Illustration: *The great round world and what is going on in it.*]

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William Beverley Harison.

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[Illustration: Pilgrims going to *Mecca*]

[Illustration: *The great round world and what is going on in it*]

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VOL. 1 FEBRUARY 25, 1897. NO. 16

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There does not seem to be any prospect of a settlement of the Turkish troubles.

The various European powers have called the Sultan to account for the massacres in Armenia, and laid out a system of reforms, which they think should be made.

But this is as far as they have got.

“You may lead a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink.” The various powers of Europe are learning that this is a very true saying.

They have decided upon the reforms that Turkey ought to make, but they are as puzzled as they can be to know how they are going to make the Sultan order these reforms.

Germany, France, Italy, Austria, England, and Russia have been discussing the matter for weeks.

They have been saying among themselves, “What on earth are we going to do if Turkey flatly refuses to make any reforms at all?”

This is the European conundrum.

The consequence is, that the full list of reforms has not yet been given to the Sultan.

All the powers are feeling that it is of no use to tell him what they insist shall be done, until these same powers have made up their minds what they are going to do, if he tells them all to go away and mind their own business.

England suggests that, if the Sultan refuses, they shall call out their soldiers and sailors, and fight him till they make him obey.

Russia is unwilling that the Sultan should be forced to do what he does not wish to do.

The Russian Minister at Constantinople says that he knows for a fact, that if the powers do anything to lower the Sultan's dignity in the eyes of Europe, all the Turks will rise and make war upon the offending country.

Russia says that to carry out the reforms that Europe asks for will take money, and she thinks it would be wiser for Europe to provide Turkey with the necessary money, and then keep an eye over her, and, through the control this loan of money would give, see that the reforms are carried out.

This seems the most sensible plan, but nothing has been decided upon.

The desired reforms deal entirely with the way the various provinces shall be governed.

Turkey is a very large empire, and the trouble with the present system of government is, that the Sultan does not have resident ministers for the various parts of it, as other countries do, but governs the whole himself, being guided entirely by the advice of the few people near him in his palace, who do not know the affairs of the empire any better than he does, but advise him according to their own whims, or prospects of making money out of the country. The result is great injustice to the people.

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Europe feels that this is not a proper way to govern a great country, and insists that he shall rule his people with law and justice.

Europe says that the Sultan must appoint ministers to govern the different parts and departments of his empire, and that he must, as other sovereigns do, ask the advice of his ministers before he makes the laws, and not be guided entirely by personal favorites and friends.

While all Europe is uneasy about him, the Sultan is keeping very quiet, not letting any one have the smallest idea what he means to say or do when these reforms are offered to him.

* * * * *

The Czar of Russia is quite ill, and every one feels sorry that he should be sick now, when his advice and assistance are so badly needed to settle the worrying Turkish question, which has so troubled Europe.

The young Czar Nicholas, who was crowned with so much pomp and glory at Moscow last August, seems unable to carry on the government of Russia.

Many people say he is too weak to govern, and that there are going to be troubles and revolts in Russia.

The truth of the matter seems to be, that the young Czar is a gentle, kind-hearted man, who will not govern Russia in the stern, cruel way that his forefathers have done, and who is therefore thought to be weak and incapable.

While he is making a part of his people love him for his goodness, by far the larger half, who have, under the old rule, been able to make money and gain great power, are furious against him.

Poor young Nicholas is not only hated by the people who were most friendly to his father, but by the Nihilists, who look upon him as their natural enemy, and, between the two parties, it is said that the Czar goes about in constant fear of his life.

Nicholas never wanted to be a ruler. Those who know him say that he has become grave and sad in the few months since he came to the throne.

It is said that he is of too gentle a disposition to be able to keep his ministers in order, and that they quarrel fiercely in his presence, and show very little respect for him.

According to all accounts, his health is giving way under the constant worry, and it is reported that he received a shock a few weeks ago, which so completely upset him, that it brought on his present illness.

He was walking in his gardens, and wishing to speak to one of the men who was at work, he signalled to him to come to him. The gardener, proud of his sovereign's notice, ran towards him at full speed. But a sentry, who had not noticed the Czar's signal, fearing that the man was going to harm the Emperor, fired his gun at him, and he fell dead at the Czar's feet.

Nicholas was terribly overcome by the dreadful mistake.

Some people say that his present illness is due to anxiety about the Czarina, who is also ill, and again others say that the wound which Nicholas received when he was travelling in Japan is the cause.

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He was struck by a crazy Japanese, and would have been killed, had not Prince George of Greece, the son of the present King of Greece, who was with him, warded off the blow. As it was, the blow was heavy enough to form a lump on the young man's skull, which has caused him great pain, and which some people declare is troubling him now.

Whatever the cause, the Czar is ill, and in no state to attend to anything but his own affairs. It is a sad pity just at this moment, when Europe needs him so badly.

* * * * *

There is a little flurry in Siam.

Siam is in Asia, just below China, and next door to Burmah.

Some weeks ago a report came from Bangkok, the capital of Siam, that some Siamese soldiers had fired upon and wounded our American Vice-Consul, Mr. Kellett.

Our minister there protested, and sent word of the outrage to the King.

But the King of Siam did not take the slightest notice of the protest.

Then word was sent to Washington, with the request that an American gunboat be sent to Bangkok, to teach the Siamese to respect United States citizens.

The gunboat was despatched, and has duly arrived off Bangkok, but still the King of Siam does not give any reason for the brutality of his soldiers.

It is said that an American named Cheek, who owned some very valuable property in Siam, died a short while ago, and named Mr. Kellett in his will as the man who was to settle his property for him.

No sooner was Mr. Cheek dead, than the Siamese government tried to prevent Mr. Kellett from settling his affairs, and did their best to stop the sale of Mr. Cheek's property.

It is reported that Mr. Kellett would not submit to this interference, but did his duty very thoroughly, and tried to make the Siamese government behave honorably, too.

This enraged the Siamese, so the story goes, and they tried to kill Mr. Kellett to get him out of the way.

The captain of the gunboat, Commander Reiter, has orders from Washington to look into the whole affair, and if he finds that the story we have heard is true, and that Siam is in the wrong, he is to insist that the King makes proper amends.

The Siamese, having wounded the Consul of one country, soon after had trouble with the representative of another.

The German Minister to Siam was attacked in the streets, not by soldiers, as was Mr. Kellett, but by a mob.

The dispatches say that an American named Bennett put himself at the head of the police, beat back the mob, and saved the German Minister's life.

The reasons for this last outrage have not been given, but in this case the Siamese government has behaved very well.

An apology has been sent to the German Minister, and the King has decorated him with some Siamese order.

Of course this makes us feel all the more surprised that the King does not take any notice of the wounding of Mr. Kellett, but our gunboat is at Bangkok, and if the King owes us an apology, he will be made to give it.

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* * * * *

The long-talked-of treaty between England and Venezuela has been signed. These countries agree to settle the question of the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana by arbitration.

In *no. 9 of the great round world* you will find a full account of the quarrel between England and Venezuela. It was said that England claimed more land than belonged to her.

You will see, if you look at *no. 9*, how the United States stepped in, and helped to adjust matters.

The signing of this treaty brings a quarrel to an end that has been going on for upwards of a century.

The boundary line which has been so much disputed has been surveyed several times, but no two surveyors have agreed, and so all the troubles have come about.

The treaty says that the arbitrators are to find out just how much land belonged to the colony of British Guiana at the time it became the property of England, and that they are to work from that point.

The Committee of Arbitration is to meet in Paris, and is to consist of two Englishmen, Baron Herschel, and Sir Richard Henn Collins, a Judge of the English Supreme Court; one American, Judge Brewer; and one member chosen by Venezuela, who is also an American, the Hon. Melville Weston Fuller, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

These four arbitrators are to decide among themselves who shall be the fifth man to join them in their work.

If they have not been able to agree on the fifth man in three months after they meet, our old friend, King Oscar of Sweden, is to step in and fill the vacant place.

The treaty provides that within six months after it is signed the committee must meet in Paris, and that the whole work shall, if possible, be completed within six months after the meeting.

The two copies of the treaty, as soon as they were signed by Sir Julian Pauncefote for England, and Senor Jose Andrade for Venezuela, were sent off, the one to London, the other to Caracas, to be ratified by the governments of England and Venezuela.

The ratification must be made within six months of the date of signing, and then the work of the committee will begin.

* * * * *

Very little headway has been made with our own treaty with England.

The Committee on Foreign Relations has made certain changes in it, and handed it to the Senate with a recommendation that it be accepted.

The changes made strike out the name of King Oscar of Sweden as umpire, and narrow the work of the arbitrators down to dealing solely with matters that concern Great Britain and the United States in their relations with each other.

The idea is to make it impossible for England to interfere if we wish to make a treaty with another country.

Some people think that if the treaty be ratified as first presented, we will be compelled to ask the advice and permission of England in reference to every treaty or similar arrangement we may want to make with other countries.

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It seems most important, among other things, that we should be free to make the best terms for ourselves in the matter of the Nicaragua Canal, and that we ought to be entirely free to settle all questions with our Central and South American neighbors.

From what we hear, these alterations are not pleasing to the English people.

The Times, the most important London newspaper, says that it is a pity that the treaty has been so much changed that it is really of no value at all. The paper goes on to say that if the treaty should not be ratified by the Senate, the good work done on it will not have been wasted, for it will have given a great lesson to the people of both countries, and indeed to the whole world. The first step has been taken toward the beginning of universal peace.

Meanwhile, the treaty is in the hands of the Senate, and may soon be discussed.

* * * * *

News comes from Hamburg that the strike of the dock laborers is over.

The strikers have been beaten because of their lack of money.

In *no. 7 of the great round world* you will find an account of the strike, and if you will also refer to *no. 10*, you will see that it was thought that the strikers could not hold out very much longer.

The money the strikers expected to receive from other labor unions to help them was so slow in coming that the men and their families were in want, and no man is likely to stand out for the benefit of others when his own children are suffering from cold and hunger.

The men have gone back to their old employers and asked for work. The pity of it all is, however, that during the strike others have been taken on in their places, and the employers have now no work to give them.

After holding out since the end of October, and refusing the masters' offer to give them \$1.10 a day, and let all future troubles be settled by arbitration, the strikers have had to give in without gaining a single point. It is very sad.

* * * * *

The plague in India is still raging fiercely, and every one is feeling very grave about it.

Europe is so afraid that it will spread, that the greatest care is being taken to quarantine all people who have come from India.

All letters and merchandise are carefully fumigated, and they say that in Italy the authorities are so frightened that they fumigate the people, as well as their clothes and baggage.

So serious is the situation, that the Sultan of Turkey has issued an order forbidding the yearly pilgrimage to Mecca.

The European Ambassadors in Russia and Persia are begging the rulers of those countries to forbid pilgrims to pass through their lands, or to embark from their ports.

You will understand what a very serious order this is, when you realize that the pilgrimage to Mecca is a part of the religion of every Moslem, and that about seventy thousand pilgrims go every year.

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In all religions, there is some special ceremony or service that people must attend if they wish to be considered children of God.

With the Moslems or the followers of Mohammed, it is necessary that once in their lives they make the pilgrimage, or hadj as it is called, to Mecca.

It does not matter how many thousand miles of sea or land must be crossed to reach Mecca; once in his life every Mohammedan must make the pilgrimage, if he wants to reach paradise when he dies.

The Mohammedans believe that when they have made their pilgrimage, they are forgiven their sins, and can go back to the world as free from sin as when they were born. All Mohammedans who have made this pilgrimage are given the title of Hadji.

There are about one hundred and seventy-six millions of Mohammedans who believe this, and who have been believing it, and making their pilgrimages, since and even before the year 620 A.D.

These people are scattered through Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceanica, which, as you know, is sometimes called the fifth division of the globe by geographers, and consists of Australasia and all the islands below Asia. The Philippine Islands, where Spain's second war is raging, are a part of Oceanica.

If you will take your map, and see what an enormous portion of the globe is inhabited by Mohammedans, and then find Mecca, which is in Arabia, close to the Red Sea, you will understand that the making of this pilgrimage is no easy thing to many of the Moslems, and that it must have a most serious meaning to them to make them undertake such terrible journeys.

These people must save a great deal of money, and have much difficulty in arranging their affairs, so that they can afford the time to make the journey, which their religion says must be made on foot wherever it is possible.

Forbidding the pilgrimage for one year means the disappointing of seventy thousand people, and it is thought that the Moslems may rebel against the Sultan's decree.

Even if they thought that the pilgrimage might spread the fearful plague, and kill the millions of people who do not believe in the prophet Mohammed, they would persist in going, thinking they would in that way be doing a great work for their religion.

The Sultan has therefore this very difficult matter to deal with, and while Europe is wondering what to do with him, he is showing that after all he has a great deal of courage and common sense.



The pilgrimage is made to Mecca to perform there certain religious rites, but particularly to visit the Great Mosque, or Temple, to pass around the Kaaba, and to kiss the sacred Black Stone.

The Kaaba is the most sacred shrine or altar of the Mohammedans. It was in existence before Mohammed was born, in 570 A.D., and was a place of worship even then.

In one corner of it is the sacred stone, which the Moslems believe was brought down from heaven by the angel Gabriel, and given by him to Abraham to make the corner-stone of the Kaaba.

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They believe that the stone was originally a ruby, but that the tears which the pilgrims have shed over it for their sins have turned it quite black.

The sacred black stone was broken in the year 683, and the pieces are kept together by a silver setting. The stone itself is about eight inches long, and is set into the outside wall of the Kaaba, where it can be conveniently kissed by a person of medium height.

Mohammedans always turn toward a certain point of the compass when they say their prayers, and it is toward the sacred black stone that they turn.

The gathering together of the pilgrims at Mecca has often brought plague, and nearly always brings disease in its train, and there is very little doubt but that the Bubonic Plague, which is raging in India, would be caught by the pilgrims, and spread by them over the whole of Asia and Europe.

This plague is supposed to attack only the dirty and unwashed, and as the majority of these pilgrims are filthy beyond description, it would be certain to fasten upon them.

This will be the first year, since the death of the prophet Mohammed, that there has been no general pilgrimage to Mecca.

We may hear a great deal more about it yet.

* * * * *

At last active measures are about being taken in reference to the terrible Dead Man's Curve.

Some weeks ago, it was said that it was to be done away with, and the cars run through a tunnel made under Union Square.

Nothing, however, has so far been done, and the people are getting tired of risking their lives, to oblige a cable car company.

At last the officers of the law have interfered, and the owners of the road are being prosecuted, for having their cars run in such a manner that it is a danger to citizens.

The president of the company was called before the Grand Jury, and said that it was impossible to run the cars around that curve in any other way than that which is in use at the present time.

Several engineers who understood all about cable cars were then called. They said that if the company would put a short cable on the stretch of road around the curve, there need be no more danger. They said that a gripman could stop his car or slow up

on a short cable, but that with the long cable, such as the company is now using, it is impossible for the gripman to have any control of his car while rounding the curve.

The president of the company declared that a short cable would not work. The case is to go to trial. While the worst that can be done to the company is to be fined \$500, people are looking forward to the trial, because they expect that the witnesses who give evidence will show some way of getting the car round the curve without shaking everybody who is in it, and killing or wounding all who cannot jump out of its way.

* * * * *

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Did you ever see a house move?

If you have not, you have missed a very funny sight.

Imagine driving along a country road, and meeting a three-story house making a journey along the highway to new quarters.

There is a good deal of this to be seen just now at Katonah, New York.

A year or so ago the Croton water, which is in use in New York City, was found to be impure.

A commission was appointed to go and examine the Croton Water-Shed. This meant that they were to examine the little streams, and brooks, and rivers, and lakes, which supplied the water to our aqueduct, and see what the trouble was.

They found that along the banks of these streams and lakes, in villages and out in the country, a great many dwelling-houses and shanties had been built, the occupants of which were in the habit of throwing all sorts of rubbish into the water, making it unfit for drinking.

In consequence of this, all of the houses were ordered to be torn down or moved away, and one small village of shanties was destroyed. Among others, the inhabitants of Katonah were ordered to move, that the banks of the stream might be cleared of dwellings.

Katonah has a railroad depot, and a post-office, and thinks a good deal of itself.

When the Water-Shed Commission said that it must move or be destroyed, Katonah gathered its residents together, and decided that rather than be wiped off the face of the map, it would pick up its houses and move itself.

So a new Katonah was established, about a quarter of a mile away from the old one, and just outside the Water-Shed on which it was forbidden to build, for fear of spoiling the water for New York.

For several months past there has been a procession of houses moving from old Katonah to new.

[Illustration: *House moving*]

The Sun gave an amusing account of seeing a barber's shop leading the parade; this was closely followed by a large yellow cottage, with a cat, who had refused to leave her home, still seated on the front door-step.

The way that houses are moved is very simple.

You of course understand that only frame or wooden houses can be moved any distance. Houses of stone or brick would be likely to fall to pieces, and being so heavy, the difficulty of moving them is greatly increased. They are therefore seldom moved, and only for very short distances.

Frame houses are always put on stone or brick foundations. If the wood were put right down on the earth, the damp would soon rot it, and the house would fall, so strong stone or brick foundations are first laid, and then the wooden house is built upon them.

When a house is to be moved, a carpenter puts beams across in all the weak spots, the ceilings are shored up, and all is made snug inside. Then the house is raised off the foundations on beams, and made all firm underneath, and then is made to slide off its foundations on some huge rollers that are laid in the high road.

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Ropes are then fastened to some of the heavy beams under the house, and horses are brought. The ropes are tied to the horses, and as they pull, the house slips from one roller to another.

Houses can be moved very safely, but not very quickly, and it is of course much less expensive to move an old house than to build a new one.

One of the strangest things about the moving at Katonah, is that the villagers are trying to take their shade trees with them, as well as their houses.

One of the residents had some very fine trees in his garden, and he hated to leave them behind him, so he decided to try and see if they could not be moved.

The neighbors made the greatest fun of him, but he did not care, and set to work as soon as the ground was frozen hard enough, to allow of the tree being moved without disturbing the earth around the roots.

The procession of houses is now varied by a great tree, forty feet high, which is moving down the road in the same quiet, stately way as the cat, and the barber's shop, and the yellow cottage.

GenieH. Rosenfeld.

INVENTION AND DISCOVERY.

A great sea monster has been washed ashore on the coast of Florida, and men who study natural history are much interested in it. What is left of the creature is said to weigh eight tons, and no one can tell exactly what kind of a fish it is, because it appears to have been tossed by the waves for a long time, and has been partly destroyed by them.

Those people who have seen it think that it is a kind of cuttlefish, but that the arms, or tentacles, as they are called, have been broken away from it. These arms must have been from one to two hundred feet long. It is now only a huge body without much shape to it. Photographs and careful descriptions of it have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and to Yale College, and the scientific men there expect to be able to decide what it is by comparing it with other known kinds of mollusks. Scientists study these things so carefully, that they can tell what the exact size of an animal was, and what it looked like, if but a small portion is left; we may therefore expect to hear all about this great creature ere long.

The size of this wonderful creature can be better realized, when we learn that it took four strong horses, a dozen men, and three sets of tackle to move it.

At first it seemed impossible to believe that such a terrific monster really existed. Sailors have told so many yarns for the sake of making a good story, that people are a little afraid to believe the wonderful tales of the sea, but *the great round world* took pains to find out that this eight-ton cuttlefish story was true, so we need have no doubts about it.

The cuttlefish, which supplies the bone we buy for our canaries, is a very terrible fish indeed.

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The bone, as we call it, is not really bone, but a sort of half-formed shell which the cuttlefish wears under its skin.

It has a large round body, surrounded by eight arms, which are many times the length of the body, and which it can twist or turn in any direction. The mouth is in the centre of these arms. Professor Winchell describes this ugly creature for us. He says:

“Staring out from either side of the head (the head and body are really one) is a pair of large, glassy eyes, which send a shudder over the beholder. At the bottom of the sea the creature turns its eight arms down, and walks like a huge submarine spider, thrusting its arms into the crevices of the rocks, and extracting thence the luckless crab that had thought itself secure from so bulky a foe. Each of the arms is covered with what are called suckers. Each sucker consists of a little round horny ridge, forming a little cup, which is attached to the arm by a stem. When the arm is pressed upon an object, the effort to escape from the grasp of the arm causes a suction which effectually retains the object.”

Professor Winchell goes on to tell that these cuttlefish or octopods sometimes attain a very great size, and that sailors tell wonderful stories about them. In one of these stories, the captain of a ship declared that, while sailing off the African coast, he sent three of his men over the side of the ship to scrape it. While they were at their work one of these monsters reached its long arms up from the water and drew two of them into the sea.

Professor Winchell says that while this may be only a sailor’s yarn, it is at the same time well known that these creatures do attain a fearful size.

The recent discovery of the cuttlefish in Florida may lead to some extremely interesting discoveries.

HORSELESS FIRE-ENGINE.

A monster steam fire-engine is being built for the city of Boston, and it is to be a horseless engine.

For some time past the Fire Department has been seeking for some engine powerful enough to throw water to the top of the very high buildings—the skyscrapers, as they are called.

An ordinary engine is of very little use for these tall buildings. And an engine large and powerful enough to throw the water to the necessary height would be so heavy that no horses could draw it.

The difficulty has been met by the invention of this horseless engine, which will throw a two-inch stream of water over 300 feet into the air.

The engine is propelled much in the same way as a steam engine. The driver sits on a seat in front of the engine, and steers it by means of a wheel, and the engine is moved by steam.

When it arrives at the fire, the driving arrangement is disconnected, and all the energy of the steam is turned into the apparatus for forcing up the water.

The engine is sixteen feet long, seven feet wide, and ten feet high. How terrified the horses in the roads will be when this huge monster comes rushing toward them, spouting fire, and appearing to move of its own free will.

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LIEUTENANT WISE AND HIS KITE.

We gave an account, in an earlier number, of Lieutenant Wise and his efforts to make kites strong enough to lift soldiers into the air, that they may overlook an enemy's fortifications.

He has almost succeeded. The other day he made a fresh attempt, and had himself raised forty-two feet in the air.

He sent up four kites, with a pulley and rope attached. To this rope a boatswain's chair was fastened, and when the wind was blowing steadily enough for him to make the attempt, he seated himself in the chair, and had the soldiers who were helping him draw him up toward the kites.

They succeeded in pulling him up forty-two feet, and when he was lowered again he said that he did not feel uncomfortable while in his lofty perch, and that the swinging motion was very slight.

The experiment was made on Governor's Island, New York Harbor.

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```

+---+---+---+---+---+
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
+---+---+---+---+---+

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[Transcriber's notes: In "Lieutenant Wise and His Kite" the word Lieutenant was changed from Lieuttenant in the first paragraph.]