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His Collateral Good.

Tom Fitch, of Nevada, was a bright fellow and one of the best writers and stump speakers of the West, but he was thriftless, and when he got hard up would resort to almost any means to get a stake. One day he wrote a scathing speech denouncing Sharon, then President of the Bank of California, and afterward United States Senator from Nevada. In it he charged Sharon with almost every crime known to the decalogue or the statutes. He put the manuscript in a large envelope and walked into the Bank of California.

"Here," he said to the cashier, handing the package through the window; "here are some securities which I offer as collateral on a loan. Please hand them to Mr. Sharon in person, and I will wait for his answer."

Mr. Sharon was in his private office. Breaking the seal of the envelope, he found the speech, and read it through, together with a note from Fitch, informing him that unless he was paid $5000 he would deliver that speech in every town in the State. In a few minutes the cashier, on Mr. Sharon's order, reported that the collateral was all right, and paid the happy Fitch the desired amount.

Three months afterward, having gone through the money in speculation and dissipation, Mr. Fitch made his appearance with another speech, this time of a very complimentary character, which he promised to deliver at every convenient opportunity, for the same amount. That, too, proved good collateral, and the story would have never come to light if Fitch had not, in a moment of drunken frankness, told it himself.—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

Columbus's Landing Place.

Dr. Rudolph Croneau, from the University of Leipzig, called at the Navy Department, to urge that one of the vessels of the navy, about to visit the West Indies this winter, be assigned to the work of surveying Watling's Island, the first landing place of Columbus on the continent. There is a difference of opinion between Lieutenant Murdock, of our own navy, and Captain Becker, of the British navy, both of whom have made surveys, as to the exact spot on Watling's Island where Columbus landed, and while Mr. Croneau's investigations appear to bear out Lieutenant Murdock's theory, it is desirable that all doubt be set at rest by a thorough naval survey. The department has taken the request under advisement.—Washington Star.

Australia's Native Dog.

Dingo is the name given to the native dog of Australia, which is found both in a wild and domestic state. Those that have been tamed are much smaller than the former. The wild dingo is found in all parts of Australia.—New York Dispatch.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant, of London, cannot retire into private life. Since the Empire affair she has been the most written about social reformer in England, and now her toy image is being sold about the streets. The toy consists of a bladder, with a woman's face, which when blown out flourishes a little red umbrella, shrieks and shakes its head and finally collapses.

REV. DR. TALMAGE.

The Eminent Brooklyn Divine's Sunday Sermon.

Subject: "Ceylon, the Isle of Palms."

TEXT: "The ships of Tarshish first."—Isaiah lx., 9.

The Tarshish of my text by many commentators is supposed to be the island of Ceylon, upon which the seventh sermon of the round the world series lands us. Ceylon was called by the Romans Tapobrane. John Milton calls it "Golden Chersonese." Moderns have called Ceylon "the isle of palms," "the isle of flowers," "the pearl drop on the brow of India," "the isle of jewels," "the island of spice," "the show place of the universe," "the land of turquoise and ruby." In my eyes, for scenery, it appeared to be a mixture of Yosemite and Yellowstone Park. All Christian people want to know more of Ceylon, for they have a long while been contributing for its evangelization. As our ship from Australia approached this island there hovered over it clouds thick and black as the superstitions which have hovered here for centuries, but the morning sun was breaking through like the gospel light which is to scatter the last cloud of moral gloom. The sea lay along the coast calm as the eternal purposes of God toward all islands and continents. We swing into the harbor of Colombo, which is made by a breakwater built at vast expense. As we floated into it the water is black with boats of all sizes and manned by people of all colors, but chiefly Tamils and Cingalese.

There are two things I want most to see on this island: A heathen temple with its devotees in idolatrous worship and an audience of Cingalese addressed by a Christian missionary. The entomologist may have his capture of brilliant insects, and the sportsman his tent adorned with antler of red deer and tooth of wild boar, and the painter his portfolio of gorge 3000 feet down and of days dying on evening pillows of purple cloud etched with fire, and the botanist his cump full of orchids and crowfoots and gentians and valerian and lotus. I want most to find out the moral and religious triumphs, how many wounds have been healed, how many sorrows comforted, how many entombed nations resurrected. Sir William Baker, the famous explorer and geographer, did well for Ceylon after his eight years' residence in this island, and Professor Ernst Heckel, the professor from Jena, did well when he swept these waters and rummaged these hills and took home for future inspection the insects of this tropical clime. And forever honored be such work, but let all that is sweet in rhythm and graphic on canvas and imposing in monument and immortal in memory be brought to tell the deeds of those who were heroes and heroines for Christ's sake.

Many scholars have supposed that this island of Ceylon was the original garden of Eden where the snake first appeared on reptilian mission. There are reasons for belief that this was the site where the first homestead was opened and destroyed. It is so near the equator that there are not more than twelve degrees of Fahrenheit difference all the year round. Perpetual foliage, perpetual fruit and all styles of animal life in deep and dense luxuriance and abundance and superabundance of life! What styles of plumage do not the birds sport! What styles of song do not the groves have in their libretto!

Here on the roadside and clear out on the beach of the sea stands the cocoanut tree saying: "Take my leaves for shade. Take the juices of my fruit for delectable drink. Take my saccharine for sugar. Take my fiber for the cordage of your ships. Take my oil to burn in your lamps. Take my wood to fashion your cups and pitchers. Take my leaves to thatch your roofs. Take my smooth surface on which to print your books. Take my 30,000,000 trees covering 500,000 acres and with the exportation enrich the world. I will wave in your fans and spread abroad in your umbrellas. I will vibrate in your musical instruments. I will be the scrubbing brushes on your floors."

Here also stands the palm tree saying: "I am at your disposal. With these arms I fed your ancestors 150 years ago, and with these same arms I will feed your descendants 150 years from now. I defy the centuries!"

Here also stands the nutmeg tree saying: "I am ready to spice your beverages and enrich your puddings and with my sweet dust make fragrant things palatable."

Here also stands the coffee plant saying: "With the liquid boiled from my berry I stimulate the nations morning by morning."

Here also stands the tea plant saying: "With the liquid boiled from my leaf I soothe the world's nerves and stimulate the world's conversation evening by evening."

Here stands the cinchona saying: "I am the foe of malaria. In all climates my bitterness is the slaughter of fevers."

What miracles of productiveness on these islands! Enough sugar to sweeten all the world's beverages, enough bananas to gild all the world's fruit baskets, enough rice to mix all the world's puddings, enough cocoanut to powder all the world's cakes, enough flowers to garland all the world's beauty.

But in the evening, riding through a cinnamon grove, I first tasted the leaves and bark of that ornament so valuable and delicate that transported on ships the aroma of the cinnamon is dispelled if placed near a foul hark. Of all its great value is the cinnamon shrub that years ago those who injured it in Ceylon were put to death. But that without price was a single cinnamon is now a park of gentlemen's residences. The long, white dwelling houses are bounded with this shrub, and several other styles of growth congregated there make a botanical garden. Doves called cinnamon doves hop among the branches, and crows, more poetically styled ravens, which never could sing, but think they can, fly across the road giving full test of their vocables. Birds which turned into gems vanting under the very leaves of heaven overpower all with their grand march of the tropics. The hibiscus dappies the scene with its scarlet custers. All shades of brown and emerald and saffron and brilliance; melons, limes, magnosteens, custard apples, guavas, pinapples, jasmine so laden with aroma that the very boys