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FROM "FRA LIPPO LIPPI"

HOWEVER, you're my man, you've seen the world—
The beauty and the wonder and the power.
The shapes of things, their colors, lights, and shades.
Changes, surprises—and God made it all!
For what? Do you feel thankful, ay or no,
For this fair town's face, yonder river's line,
The mountains round it and the sky above,
Much more the figures of man, woman, child,
These are the frame to? What's it all about?
To be passed over, despised? or dwell upon,
Wondered at? oh, this last of course!—you say:
But why not do as well as say?

ROBERT BROWNING.
(1812-1889)

THE NEW CRUSADE

"MANY of the men now embarking had never before seen the sea." So wrote a witness of the setting out from an American port of a part of the Army of the New Crusade. Probably no Englishman, no citizen of the British Empire, can quite realize the miracle that is taking place when men from Minneapolis, Jefferson City, or Milwaukee sail forth to fight at our side in French Flanders. They had never seen the sea. How should they, working compulsion hours in a dry-goods store in Memphis or driving an express wagon in Kansas City? They had never even imagined that crowd of new voices and smells that can be most compendiously described as "Foreign Parts." Sights and smells, alas! no longer familiar to any happy tourist—the rattle of a cart echoing through twisting, narrow streets of *Paris*, the smell of hot wax-tapers and incense, or the sight of daws sailing lazily round the grey towers of a Cathedral. Of course actually half the privates in the Wilshire or the gunners in some Australian battery were equally inexperienced. But the Australian was still subconsciously a wanderer, and had always the tail of an eye to turn from his wire fence to see what might be brewing at home. The Wilshireman had never forgotten he was an islander, and that nothing changes. Minden, Waterloo, Agincourt, and Arras are somehow parts of a habit of his. But the Pittsburgher had forgotten. He lived in a busy isolation shut off from the contentions of Europe by a curtain woven in about equal parts of great distances, the Monroe Doctrine, and an admirable capacity for minding his own business.

The present war has been throughout in nothing more remarkable than in the colossal movements of population which it has involved. Every imaginable race—Turks, Celts, Finns, Saxons, Frenchmen, Poles, and Pathans—has been shaken bewilderingly in the kaleidoscope. But it has been in the last few months that the greatest wonder of all has been seen. All these people have fought, and wandered, and lost, and won, on and off, ever since the fall of Rome. Charles Martel and Sobieski fought in desperate battle for Christendom. Whole generations of French and English took the Cross and struggled for symbolic Jerusalem. For us history had only found a new music when the guns spoke in 1914.

It is curious now to think how great must soon have been the spiritual gulf between the new generation in Great Britain and the United States if the latter had remained in prosperous isolation. In five years we should have ceased to understand each other's jokes, in ten we should scarcely have spoken the same language. But now the tide is setting just as mightily towards a complete and perfect sympathy. A whole generation of Americans will have been our brothers-in-arms. Every fit American who was between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five in 1917-1918 will have fought by us in the closest comradeship. They will have become citizens of the world and heirs of the great traditions of history. We shall share with them all our new moral and intellectual experiences, the wider outlook, the deeper sense of duty, the pitifulness, that we have learnt in the furnace, and lastly, but to Anglo-Saxons it is of infinite moment, to the end of time we shall share the same family jokes and slang, bartering perhaps "Forget it" for "Not in these trousers." But in truth the possibilities of the new brotherhood are almost boundless. If anything could make us welcome the continuance of the war for another year, it would be the thought that only through such tempering can the new bond be forged and the new force come to perfection. We do not wonder at any desperate desire in the

enemy to force a conclusion before the men from Nebraska have learned that they are citizens of the world, and the United Anglo-Saxons have realized their strength.—*The Spectator*.

THE AGE OF GOLD

WITHIN the last few years the world had been flooded with gold in quantities that not long ago would have been deemed unimaginable. Before the great California discovery in 1848, the annual production of the yellow metal in the entire world did not exceed \$35,000,000. To-day it is more than \$450,000,000.

We read of vast accumulations of gold in ancient times. Those possessed by Solomon the Wise were doubtless enormous in quantity. Prodigious treasures of the precious metal were gathered at Babylon when Semiramis was queen, at Sardis by King Croesus, at Alexandria by the world conqueror after whom that city was named, and later on at Rome when the empire was at the summit of its powers. Roman generals brought home gold literally by wagon-loads as loot of successful campaigns.

CROESUS AND SOLOMON
We must remember, however, that in those times gold was not widely distributed. Princes and potentates "gobbled up" virtually all of it, and it passed out of their grasp only when others more powerful than they wrested it from them. To-day, on the contrary, banks hold large deposits of gold, and few persons are so poor that they do not own watches, rings, or other ornaments made of it.

The gold of ancient times came originally from the gravels of streams, or from surface alluvial deposits. The great accumulations of gold, however, were usually not the result of mining enterprises, but were the spoil of conquest. King Croesus was a successful warrior until he was despoiled in his turn by a Persian monarch. It was the loot of war that chiefly filled the treasury from which on a storied occasion he invited a noble Athenian to help himself to all the gold he could carry away. It is said that the beneficiary even filled his month and nearly choked himself. If the Athenian managed to carry away one hundred pounds, the value of his loot, as it would be calculated to-day, was only \$24,806. Gold is heavy stuff.

Solomon was not a military man; but his father, David, was a great soldier and had acquired large stores of gold through his conquests. Thus it was by inheritance that Solomon acquired the bulk of his treasures of yellow metal. It is recorded, however, that he engaged in a gold-mining enterprise, and with the help of his friend Hiram, King of Tyre, built many ships, which voyaged to a region called Ophir. It is now thought that that region was in Rhodesia, where mines supposed to be those anciently worked by Solomon have recently been reopened.

The great California gold discovery in 1848 was followed three years later by the finding of gold in Australia. But the Age of Gold may be said to have begun with the development of the mines of the Witwatersrand in the Transvaal, South Africa—a development made possible by the invention of the cyanide process for extracting the metal from low-grade ores.

All the gold deposits previously known in the history of the world faded into insignificance when compared with those of the Rand, which was discovered in 1885. How far that is true may be judged from the fact that the mines of the Transvaal—mainly the great Rand reef—yielded in 1915 about \$187,000,000 in gold—nearly twice as much as all the gold mines of the United States, including Alaska, yielded.

The reef in question is an ancient seabed. Perhaps fifty or sixty million years have elapsed since the waves of ocean broke upon it. But, in its day, it was much like any other seabed, of quartz sand, with an admixture of quartz pebbles. In the course of ages it turned into solid rock; the sand was transformed into quartzite and still held the pebbles scattered through it.

Rivers brought down to the ancient sea much gold, for the precious metal and the beach sand came from the disintegration of the same rock. The gold was distributed in tiny particles among the quartz grains; thus it is not found in the pebbles, but in the matrix of quartzite. The rock of the reef—dark gray in color, with whitish pebbles distributed thickly through it—looks like nut cake. No one not an expert would imagine that it contained gold. As a matter of fact, however, the gold is there, and so evenly scattered through it that the stuff yields a reasonably uniform average of fourteen dollars a ton.

Twenty-five years ago it would not have been possible to mine gold that ran only fourteen dollars a ton. But the cyanide process has so far cheapened the cost of getting the gold from the ore that the ancient seabed to-day produces about one third of the world's output of the

metal. The cyanide process has also made possible the working of the great low-grade ore deposits of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Owing to geologic causes, the ancient seabed has tilted, so that now only an edge of it is exposed, where it crops out for a distance of thirty miles. Some of the mine holes sunk in the reef are more than half a mile deep. The "ore body" continues downward indefinitely, and its richness is always about the same; but gold-bearing rock cannot be profitably mined at a depth of more than five thousand feet—a little less than a mile.

You might suppose that the war would lessen the world's output of gold, but it has not. Gold is a fighting weapon, and of special military consequence to us and our allies in view of the fact that the Central Powers have no important deposits of the metal on which to draw.

THE CYANIDE PROCESS

The British are the great gold diggers of the world. They mine for it in Australia and New Zealand and in India. Indeed there are few gold-producing regions anywhere on the globe in which English enterprise and capital are not actively engaged. In the Sahara they have reopened mines that the Egyptian Pharaohs worked thousands of years ago. The wonderful Klondike mines are, of course, in British territory. British capital largely controls the gold mines of Mexico, and many of the great gold mines of the United States are worked by English companies.

The discovery of the cyanide process, by which gold can profitably be separated from low-grade ores, dispelled the fear current twenty-five years ago that the gold obtainable from the earth was nearly exhausted. The possibility of exhaustion has not been permanently removed, however. The Rand deposits, enormous as they are, will not hold out indefinitely; in fact, experts predict that they will be used up within fifty years. Meanwhile auriferous rocks and gravels in other parts of the world are being greedily robbed of their treasures. Deposits as yet unknown will doubtless be discovered, but there must surely be a limit, and it seems not unlikely that before the end of the twentieth century the gold output of the world will show a marked decline.

Of course no one knows what may happen. Some experts believe that the Rand reef, instead of being only thirty miles long, is really twelve hundred miles long, that nearly all of it is buried beneath rocks of subsequent formation, and that it will be practicable to dig through them to the ore deposits beneath. If that theory be correct, the productive future of the Rand will, of course, be vastly extended.

HOARDS IN INDIA

Man has picked the gold that he possesses from the crust of the earth. Where, originally, did it come from? Geologists say that it came from the inside of the globe, that every bit of it was thrown up from the depths by volcanic action. Some of it was discharged together with masses of molten rock; some was carried upward in chemical solution and deposited in crevices and crannies of the tortured mountains, and thus formed veins.

The average weight of the crust of the earth is less than three times that of water, bulk for bulk. But the entire globe is five times as heavy as a ball of the same size. That means that the inside is vastly heavier than the outside, and the inference is that the interior of the globe is composed largely of metals. It seems not at all improbable that in the bowels of the planet gold exists in enormous masses mingled in a molten state with other materials.

A large part of the world's gold supply is virtually lost through being hoarded in India, whither it continually flows; it disappears there like a stream that is drunk up in the dry sand of the desert. India has very large exports and relatively small imports; in other words, it sells abroad far more than it buys from foreign lands. That means that gold in payment for the excess of exports over imports is flowing steadily into the country.

Before the British occupied India there was no adequate protection for property, and the people acquired the habit of hiding their money and valuables. That habit has become so confirmed in them that it seems doubtful whether they will ever get over it. Not only the common people, but the rajahs, who in the old days feared the incursions of rival potentates, are inveterate misers.

Several thousands of millions of dollars' worth of gold is hoarded to-day in India; most of it is in coin—much of it centuries old. Notwithstanding the direful poverty of the bulk of the population, it is said that there is scarcely a native so wretched that he does not possess some sort of hidden bank account. Not even starvation will induce him to draw upon it.

Many in that country believe that the dragon is a holy creature, of celestial origin, and thus it came about that 300,000,000 worth of British sovereigns bearing a design of St. George and the Dragon was swallowed up by the Bombay province a few years ago and wholly disappeared. The people regarded the coins as possessing a sacred significance.

For many years the maharaja of Scindia bought the British government to give back to him his ancestral fortress of Gwalior. His plea was finally granted, but it was not until some time later that his reason for being so anxious to recover the property became known. It seems that a hoard of nearly \$300,000,000, mostly in gold, was hidden beneath a corner of the fortress. A subterranean passage led to the treasure room, but it had long since been walled up. As soon as the maharaja came into possession of the fortress, he had blindfolded workmen remove the treasure to some other and at present unknown hiding place.

The richness in gold of the ancient seabed of the Rand naturally suggests the possibility that the seabeds of today are likely to contain the precious metal. That in truth is the fact; but in most beach sands the precious stuff is not present in quantity sufficient to pay for extracting it. Along the coast of Oregon there are sands moderately rich in gold, and they have been mined to some extent but the work is very difficult.

The ocean itself is full of gold. Why not? Rivers carry to the ocean incalculable quantities of disintegrated rocks that originally contained gold. In every ton of sea water there is about one grain—four cents' worth—of the precious metal. All of the gold that has ever been mined in the world would make only a very small fraction of the quantity that the ocean now holds in solution. If that gold could be taken economically from the sea water, the mining of rocks and stream gravels might perhaps be abandoned; but, unfortunately, no satisfactory process has as yet been devised. Electrolysis will do the work, but it is too expensive. It may be, however, that science will yet solve the problem.

Twenty-one years ago a company was formed in Boston for the purpose of carrying out a project of that kind. A number of business men of high reputation took part in the enterprise; they sold \$1,000,000 worth of stock at a dollar a share to persons all over New England, and built a plant at Lubec on the Maine coast.

A salt-water lagoon four acres in extent was dammed at its sea entrance; the tides which in that region rise and fall nearly twenty feet, would fill the inclosure twice every twenty-four hours. The water thus impounded at high tide was allowed at the ebb to run out through a sluiceway in which were placed one hundred and fourteen accumulators, each of which was capable of handling twenty tons of the fluid an hour. The system was said to work automatically, and the profits were to be enormous. The cost of running each accumulator was said to be a dollar and a half a week, whereas it would collect a dollar and twenty-seven cents' worth of gold a day.

To set at rest the skeptical persons' doubts of the practical value of the process considerable quantities of gold were actually taken from the accumulators in the presence of some of the business men interested in the enterprise. The bullion thus obtained was a mixture, one third gold and two thirds silver—sea water is even richer in the white metal than in gold. In March, 1898, thirteen small cone-shaped ingots derived from this source were shipped from Lubec to the government assay office in New York City, where they were found to contain \$32 worth of silver and \$599 worth of gold.

Excitement grew. Manifestly there was unlimited wealth in sight. The stock of the Electrolytic Marine Salts Company, as the operating concern called itself, found plenty of eager purchasers. Money poured into the main office of the concern in Boston, and plans were drawn for a much larger plant, with a water area of eighty acres and a capacity for handling at each tide 1,200,000 tons of the auriferous fluid. It was expected that this new outfit would yield a net profit of \$5000 a day.

Just then, however, something very unfortunate happened. Mr. Jernegan, the inventor of the process and the sole possessor of its secret, received from the company in fulfillment of his contract with them a cash payment of \$338,378. He thereupon disappeared, not to be heard of again for a number of years.

Investigators found that the gold taken from the accumulators had been supplied by the ingenious Mr. Jernegan, who visited them at night in a diving suit. He had had to buy the gold, of course, but it cost him nothing, for he charged it against the expense account of the company under the head of "operation."

Thus collapsed an ambitious enterprise, the great disappointment of a multitude of people who were already confident of becoming millionaires. The sea retains its yellow wealth, but possibly at some future day we shall find a way of drawing it from the water as from a storehouse of unlimited and inexhaustible treasure.—ROBERT WICKLIFFE WOOLLEY, in *The Youth's Companion*.

NEWS OF THE SEA

—Rio Janeiro, June 20.—The British ship *Holbein* to-day landed 42 survivors of the British steamer *Cainross*, which was sunk by a submarine off the Azores May 30. The *Cainross* encountered the submarine the night of May 29, and fought the U-boat until daylight, when she was torpedoed. There were no casualties.

—Washington, June 21.—Sinking of the American steamer *Schurz* in collision with the American steamer *Florida* off the North Carolina coast early to-day, was announced to-night by the Navy Department. One seaman was killed; but all others of the crew were saved.

The *Schurz* was the former German ship *Geier*, of 1,600 tons burden, 225 feet in length.

—Paris, June 21.—The transport *Saint Anna*, proceeding from Bizerta for Malta, was torpedoed and sunk on the night of May 10-11, according to the Havas Agency. There were on board 2,150 soldiers and native workmen, of whom 1,512 were saved.

Available shipping records give the *Saint Anna* as a French steamer of 9,350 tons gross. She was built in France in 1910 and was owned by the Fabre Line.

—The Paris *Matin* publishes some information from its special correspondent aboard an American admiral's ship regarding the *Prometheus*, formerly the *Sinper-Dreadnought Pennsylvania* and now transformed into a "mother ship." The French naval experts are now studying this remarkable vessel, with the purpose of endowing the French navy with a similar unit.

The services rendered by the *Prometheus* to the American Fleet in French waters are so important that the British naval authorities are engaged upon the transformation of a great vessel on the same lines.

This mother ship is a veritable floating dockyard for the construction of warships. She is equipped with dozens of workshops, a steel foundry, great slips, and gigantic cranes. All kinds of repairs can be effected, even to the casting of armor plates.

The *Pennsylvania* is a super-dreadnought of 31,400 tons. She was launched in 1916, and her principal armament was twelve 14-in. guns.

—Paris, June 18.—At the time the Austrian battleship *Wien* was destroyed in the harbor of Trieste, on December 9, 1917, by an Italian torpedo boat destroyer two torpedoes were launched against the Austrian cruiser *Budapest*, according to the *Tribuna*, of Rome, says a Havas Agency dispatch. Although it is not admitted by the Austrian Admiralty, it has been learned that the *Budapest* is now being used as a barracks ship, according to the *Tribuna*.

—London, June 21.—A thrilling story of heroism at sea was disclosed at presentations by the late captain of the steamship *Percision*, of Quebec, and Lloyd's, to W. S. Roberts, late chief officer of the steamship *Lord Erne*.

While traversing the Atlantic on Feb. 8 the *Lord Erne*, received a distress signal from the *Percision* that she was foundering rapidly and that lifeboats had been lost. Notwithstanding the darkness and terrible weather, the captain of the *Lord Erne* manoeuvred his vessel as rapidly as possible to the sinking ship. Roberts called for a volunteer crew, to which all hands, including the engineer and apprentice, responded. Despite the greatest difficulties, the *Percision* was boarded and the whole of the 26 members of the crew rescued.

The Admiralty authorities, in expressing appreciation of the fine seamanship and courage of all concerned, state their action is worthy of the best traditions of the British Merchant Marine.

—Washington, June 24.—Sinking of an allied transport under American charter on June 18 about 700 miles east of Delaware Cape, was reported to-day by the Navy Department.

The transport had no troops aboard and was westward bound.

The reports indicate that the submarine was not seen until after the torpedo struck the ship. The crew took to the boats, as the vessel settled and it was futile to use the guns. The U-boat appeared on the surface and fired nineteen shots into the ship.

In view of the fact that the vessel was attacked far outside of the European zone of submarine activities, some of the officials think she may have encountered a submarine heading for home after participating on the American coast.

Three boats with about sixty-seven members of the crew were missing. The crew of 148 got away from the boat. Two boats arrived by steamer at New York; one by steamer at Hampton Roads.

—Norfolk, Va., June 26.—Reports of the presence of a fast and heavily armed German raider in West Indian waters were

brought here by masters of vessels arriving from Central and South America.

The ship is said to be of the cruiser type with a rakish build and clean lines.

The raider first made her appearance 200 miles east of Hamilton, Bermuda, where she is reported to have sunk a large British steamship. Two American merchant ships were shelled, but managed to escape.

THE "VINDICTIVE" AND HER NEW BRUNSWICK SPONSOR

British subjects throughout the world were thrilled on reading of the two naval feats in which H. M. S. *Vindictive* played so important a part, at Zeebrugge and Ostend, at which latter Belgian port she ended her career by being sunk athwart the harbor entrance. The vessel, a 2nd-Class protected cruiser of 5,750 tons displacement, was completed in 1898. She was set afloat and christened by a New Brunswick lady, Lady Nicholson, nee Frances Thomson, daughter of the late George Thomson, Q. C., of St. Stephen. Her husband, Admiral Sir Harry Nicholson, at the time of the vessel's launching was in command at Sheerness. We are grateful to a reader of the *BEACON* now domiciled in England for sending us this interesting information.

MORE TROOPS ARRIVE

Ottawa, June 25.—It is officially announced through the chief censor's office that the following troops have arrived in England:

Artillery draft, Woodstock, N. B.; cavalry draft, Northwest Mounted Rifles; first tank battalion, Ottawa; infantry drafts, Toronto; nursing sister, details. Total, 2,492.

LOBSTER FISHERMEN TO CONFER

Ottawa, June 26.—The department of naval service has decided to call into conference at Halifax on August 8, representatives of all those interested in the lobster fishing industry.

During the present summer the department has been having an educational campaign carried on among the fishermen all around the coasts looking to gain their co-operation in the proper protection of their great industry, and it is felt that the wisest regulation measures can be devised by calling into conference all those interested in it.

BIG CATCH OF SARDINES

With a catch of 27 hogsheds, the local sardine fishing season opened on Tuesday with a flat rate of \$25 per hogshed the weir-owners will realize splendid profits should the sardine herring come to the local fishing area in considerable numbers and should the gear not be damaged by storm.

The catch on Tuesday was made at Sand Cove.

A considerable number of weirs are not yet completed, as the owners feared to take a risk with bad weather threatening; but with promise of continued fair weather the fishermen will soon be ready for a bumper harvest should the great schools of herring come to these waters.

The Booth factory in West St. John will start work on Wednesday next, according to announcement by General Manager S. Q. Grady, this morning. He stated that the plant would be ready for use on Monday next, but that owing to a delay in the arrival of oil, the wheels would not turn for packing until Wednesday.

The West End factory has engaged a complete force of male employees, and has secured 100 girls. There are places for 25 more girls.

Owing to the government restrictions on shad fishing and to the failure of the gaspereau season, the fishermen here are banking largely on the sardine herring as a means whereby they may make up for the heavy expenses incurred preparing for shad and gaspereau, and those conversant with the situation say that with the war prices splendid returns will be realized if the herring favor this district.—*St. John Globe*, June 26.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY

The following gifts have been received during the past week:

Mrs. Wallace \$10.
Miss May Morris \$2.
Mrs. A. McCurdy \$2.
Mrs. M. McFarlane \$1.
Miss A. Kennedy \$2.

The officers and members are very grateful for the addition to the funds of the Society.