



THE RECONNOISSANCE.—"IF YOU DARE TO BETRAY US, I WILL BLow THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD INTO A THOUSAND PIECES."—SEE PAGE 317.

"U. S. str. Antons,  
"Off Aranzas Pass, June 20, 1864.  
"Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of Navy:  
"Sir—I have the honor to report the capture of the schooner Rover, of Corpus Christi, with 155 bales of cotton, on the evening of the 19th inst.  
"Having reasons to suppose the rebels were erecting a sand-battery at the entrance of this Pass, I determined to discover its exact position by a careful reconnoissance. Taking my pig, I entered the Pass yesterday afternoon, confirmed my suspicions, and drew their fire upon my boat. The Rover was preparing to run out that night. I boarded her, and brought her out with me, having one man slightly wounded in the affair.  
"I send the Rover to New Orleans for adjudication.  
"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
"G. SEANTON, Lieut.-Com'd'g U. S. Navy."

...the convention concluded on March 21 of the same year between France, Austria, and Sweden, with a reference to the exercise of the guarantees of the peace of Westphalia.  
D'Eon, selected to convey these tidings to Versailles, received from Louis XV. his portrait on a valuable snuff-box, which contained, in addition, an order on the royal treasury, and a commission as Lieutenant of 1 ragoons.  
He started again immediately for St. Petersburg, where, in the interim, the Marquis D'Hopital had succeeded Chevalier Douglas. Both gentlemen concerted with the ambassador of the Empress of Austria a means to disgrace Count Bestucheff, and were perfectly successful.  
D'Eon, one of the most active agents in this revolution, returned to France in 1758, and in 1761 took part in the campaign of Germany as captain of dragoons, and aide-de-camp to Marchéchal de Broglie.  
At Ultrap he was severely wounded in the head and hip, while at Osterwyk, he charged with such impetuosity a Prussian battalion, consisting of 800 men, that he compelled it to lay down its arms.  
On the re-establishment of peace, D'Eon accompanied the Duc de Nivernois to London, as Secretary to the Embassy. He continued from that capital his secret correspondence with the king's privy council, and was the soul of the embassy. M. de Nivernois, having taken the king's first opportunity to return to France, D'Eon continued to direct affairs at London under the title of resident, and as the arrival of the new envoy was delayed he was eventually nominated minister plenipotentiary. He had already rendered himself so agreeable to the court of St. James, that George III. had selected him, though contrary to usage, to bear to France the ratification of the treaty, and on this occasion Louis XV. presented him with the cross of St. Louis. So much good fortune appears, however, to have turned the head of the young secretary.  
Guerchy, the next minister, was not at all disposed to grant D'Eon that influence he had enjoyed under his predecessor, and from the first moment of his arrival made the secretary feel his dependent position. This led D'Eon into troubles, which ended in his arrest.  
The French court recalled D'Eon, who refused to return to Paris, and published a volume of letters and memoirs, lifting the veil from many secret negotiations.  
The success of this book relieved him only for a time, and then D'Eon, driven to desperation by the loss of his place and his salary, threatened to publish the whole of his secret correspondence with Louis XV., which the monarch prevented by granting him a pension of 12,000 livres, the patent for which, entirely in the royal handwriting, was thus drawn up.  
"In consequence of the services which the Sieur D'Eon has rendered me, both in Russia and with my armies, I design to grant him an annual pension of 12,000 livres, which I will order to be paid to him punctually

every six months, in whatsoever country he may be (except during a time of war among my enemies), and will continue to do so until I think proper to give him some post whose appointments are larger than his pension.  
"At Versailles, April 1, 1760."  
"Louis."

Soon after, by order of his government, he began to dress as a woman, and the mystery began. At the commencement of the year 1770 the rumor spread from one to the other that D'Eon was a woman. Several years elapsed before anybody was willing to believe it, but before anybody could be found to contradict it.

He returned some years after to France, and Louis XVI., apparently satisfied that he was a man, ordered him to resume his female attire. This he did, but some indiscretion led to his imprisonment in Lyons. He was released in 1783, and returned to England.

The French revolution deprived him of his pension, and he fell into great poverty, supporting himself by giving fencing lessons in his female dress. In his extreme age, he was maintained by the charity of his friends.

On his death, May 21, 1810, all doubts vanished, and the man whose feminine name, countenance, and traits of character had made his sex so doubtful, that bets to immense amounts had been made from time to time, was assigned, beyond doubt, to his proper class.

Cinnamon Fields of Ceylon.

ALL know what cinnamon is, though few, perhaps, have any idea of its cultivation. A recent traveler in Ceylon writes:  
"Our morning was, as usual on our first arrival, taken up by visits. In the afternoon we drove, in Sir E. Barnes's sociable, through the famed cinnamon gardens, which covered upward of 17,000 acres of land on the coast, the largest of which are near Colombo.  
"The plant thrives best in a poor, sandy soil, in a damp atmosphere; it grows wild in the woods to the size of a large apple-tree, but when cultivated, is never allowed to grow more than ten or twelve feet in height, each plant standing separate. The leaf is something like that of the laurel in shape, but of a lighter color; when it first shoots out, it is red, and changes gradually to green. It is now out of blossom, but I am told the flower is white, and appears, when in full blossom, to cover the garden.  
"After hearing so much of the spicy gales from this island, I was much disappointed at not being able to discover any scent, at least from the plants, in passing through the gardens; there is a very fragrant-smelling flower growing under them, which at first led us into the belief that we smell,

The Chevalier D'Eon.

For years, a mystery hung over the sex of the Chevalier D'Eon, who figured both as a man and woman, and who at last assumed the female garb, retaining it till death, by orders of the king of France.  
This strange character was born on October 5, 1728, at Tomerre, in Burgundy, and received the names of Charlotte Genéviève-Louise-Anguste-Andrée-Timothée D'Eon de Beaumont. His father, who belonged to the magistracy, had him brought up as a boy, and intended him to study jurisprudence. He was sent to Paris, where he studied at the College Mazarin, and was eventually admitted to the degree of Doctor in civil and canon law.  
After being called to the bar of the parliament of Paris, he wrote several political pamphlets, which gained him the acquaintance of the Prince de Conti, then head of Louis XV.'s secret diplomatic cabinet. The prince expressed that D'Eon should accompany Chevalier Douglas, who was sent to St. Petersburg, in 1757, to effect a reconciliation between the French and Russian courts. The secret envoys contrived to form an understanding with the Vice-Chancellor, Count Woronzoff, and an intimate correspondence was set on foot between Louis XV. and the Empress, the letters passing through the hands of Woronzoff and D'Eon.  
On November 5, 1757, the Empress of Russia

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the cinnamon, but we were soon undeceived. On pulling off a leaf or twig, you perceive the spicy odor very strongly, but I was surprised to hear that the flower had little or none.  
"As cinnamon forms the only considerable export of Ceylon, it is, of course, preserved with care; by the old Dutch law, the penalty for cutting a branch was no less than the loss of a hand; at present, a fine expiates the same offense.  
"The neighborhood of Colombo is particularly favorable to its growth, being well sheltered, with a high, equal temperature, and as showers fall frequently, though a winter day's heavy rain is uncommon, the ground is never parched."

Sambo and the Cochin.

GRANDVILLE, a French artist, made a hit by his burlesque, "Animals Painted by Themselves," we think, he called his entertaining work. Yet there is, in the real study of animal life, much that escapes the general observer. The passions of animals, their friendships, sympathies, devotedness, no less than their courage, their anger, and their revenge, will, when examined, prove a source of pleasing knowledge, and lead us to more exalted views of the Creator.  
Mr. Harrison Weir, the untrusting sketched of animal life, gives an anecdote, with his peculiarity



D THE COCHINS.