

# Kings By Their Own Decree

French Professors of Lebaudy Who Won and Lost Empires Abroad—Comte Boulbon Struck for Mexico, Mayrera Field Annam Border and Bonaventure Founded the Occanian Realm—All Proved Dismal Failures.

It appears from the researches of Paris reporters that the remarkable adventure upon which M. Jacques Lebaudy is now engaged, in trying to found a Sennar empire on the west coast of Africa, is by no means so unique as has been supposed. He has had three or four predecessors in the hard task of empire-founding, all of them French, and each of them destined to a gloomy, unsuccessful and fatal end.

Comte Raoussset Boulbon, the most famous of these, was born in the late '30s of last century. He was an adventurous spirit from the start. Having lost his fortune recklessly about the time he ought to have been in school, he spent a few wild years in Algiers and then set out for California, not to discover gold, but to gather together as many unsuccessful French gold hunters as he could find, make a descent on Mexico and form an independent kingdom for himself before the United States should sweep down upon that country and put an end to its political existence.

That was about 1847. The big province of Sonora tempted him (there has been nothing small about the ideas

raphy, for his choice for his empire fell on the very spot of earth where at that time he had the best chances to succeed. With a small force of less than 400 men he went to the border between Siam and Annam and tried to persuade the natives to join him in large numbers. He managed to get a tribe about him which elected him chief and later proclaimed him king under the name of "Marie I."

The Paris newspapers of that time were gorged with accounts of the undertaking, much as they are at present with the Lebaudy enterprise; and the population at home found enormous amusement in the idea itself. In 1855 Marie was crowned and formed his court; then he remained unheard of for several years until the news of his death came from Singapore, where he had taken refuge after being dethroned because he could not work the miracles he promised. He left his fortune behind him.

Then there was Antoine-Orelle I., emperor of Patagonia; or, in private life, M. Thoumens, modest lawyer of Perigueux, France. He seems to have had nothing of sovereignty but a gold crown (some people swore it was brass) and the name, but he lived down there in his "kingdom" until fever killed him in a Buenos Ayres hospital. There are few or no details to be found about him.

The worst of them all was Charles Bonaventure of Breil, who said his real name was the Viscount de Roys and Marquis de Caulain, neither of which titles, however, exists in the Almanach de Gotha. Bonaventure suddenly disappeared from his favorite Paris clubs one day and as suddenly reappeared four years after. He said he had been made ruler of the province of Port-Breton in Oceania, and that he had come back to place on the Paris bourse valuable amounts of stock and shares he had gained in the prosperity out there.

What he was really speculating in was human credulity of the peculiar French variety. Nevertheless, he persuaded a lot of people to invest large sums of money in farm lands, in mining shares, distilleries and sugar fields. At a certain day he was to meet 500 emigrants from Holland and France at Havre, whence the party would sail on a specially chartered steamer for the paradise at Port Breton. The emigrants came, the boats were there, but the ruler of the distant land was behind time and the boat sailed without him.

When the emigrants arrived in Oceania to take possession of their various properties they discovered that they had been duped. There were but barren lands, destitute of the first necessities of life. Many of the wretches died there of starvation; there was no use in their going back to France to ridicule and poverty. Those who did return finally effected the arrest of Bonaventure in Spain, where he had led a luxurious life, giving dinners to royalty and gambling on a tremendous scale. He was given five years of solitary imprisonment.



M. JACQUES LEBAUDY.  
(Rich Frenchman Who Calls Himself Emperor of Sennar.)

and ambitions of French empire-founders from Napoleon down) and thither he went with 200 infantry, to dignify them by that name, 40 cavalry and two old cannons. With their aid he killed 200 Mexicans defending the town of Hermosilla, sacked the place and occupied it. But not for long; the Mexican authorities, after a series of romantic chases and discomfures, got hold of him and shot him in spite of his promise to return to Paris and no longer aspire to empire.

Less than 30 years after this attempt came that of Count de Mayrera. He had money, like Lebaudy, to such an extent that he knew not how to spend it, so his thoughts naturally turned to adventure, thence to nation-making and the crown of sovereignty. He had a military training, for he had fought in the war of 1875, and he knew something of foreign geog-

graphy, for his choice for his empire fell on the very spot of earth where at that time he had the best chances to succeed. With a small force of less than 400 men he went to the border between Siam and Annam and tried to persuade the natives to join him in large numbers. He managed to get a tribe about him which elected him chief and later proclaimed him king under the name of "Marie I."

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Mrs. Pontifax's health steadily improved and after three years of breaking and gaiting saddle horses she bought a livery stable at Laporte. Four years later she moved to Chicago and remained there four years in business. She then returned to Laporte and has owned a training stable in that city for the last two years.

At the barn Mrs. Pontifax does her share of the work, helping to feed and clean the horses. And everything is scrupulously clean. The floors look like those of a house; the horse blankets are spotless and the straw in the stalls is fresh and sweet. Frequently Mrs. Pontifax is left unexpectedly without help and is compelled to do all the work. On one occasion when she was alone she cared for 16 head of horses. On Saturdays and holidays, when large numbers of farmers come to town, she has her barn full of teams, sometimes feeding as many as 230 horses a day.

Yet in spite of all this manual labor Mrs. Pontifax is very feminine. Her office has dainty white curtains at the windows, easy chairs about the room and a small, rather womanish-looking writing desk. Mrs. Pontifax does not wear the dress of the "new woman." She is fond of the little frills and tucks and trimmings that women love. She does not believe that jockeying is woman's work. "No," she said, "this horse business is not woman's work. It is too hard. I just drifted naturally into it and now it is my business. I like it—yes—and I love a good horse, but there are many disagreeable things about the business. Still, I suppose there are in all kinds of work."

## SHE TRAINS HORSES.

Mrs. Cora Pontifax, of Indiana, Unique Among Her Sex.

Recently Drove Trotter at County Fair and Won the Race—Has Broken Many Colts to Saddle and Harness.

Indiana, the state of geniuses, prodigies and people who do extraordinary things, has as its latest novelty a woman jockey. Doubtless many women, especially in the western states, might claim this title because of their proficiency in horsemanship, but only one woman, Mrs. Cora Pontifax, of Laporte, actually breaks colts to the saddle and harness and then trains and conditions them for the track.

Mrs. Pontifax came into notice recently when she drove Tucker, the Chicago matinee horse formerly owned by George B. Dryden, and won in the gentlemen's driving class at the Laporte county fair. The strange spectacle of seeing a woman drive attracted an unusually large crowd to the races. As Mrs. Pontifax entered in a speed cart, attired unostentatiously in a neat dark skirt and shirt waist, the 10,000 spectators watching her cheered enthusiastically. She drove a quarter to "warm up" and then the race was on. In the first heat it looked for awhile as if she were going to get in a "pocket," but she held doggedly to her course and at the end went under the wire first. In the second heat she had the lead from the quarter turn. The third heat was hers from the start. Each time as she came in the crowd gave her an ovation and when it was all over they kept on applauding and cheering till she was out of sight.

"It was my first race," said Mrs. Pontifax to a correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle, "and when I drove in on the track I felt so nervous that I almost wished I hadn't started. But when the race began I forgot everything except my horse. The experience, however, is

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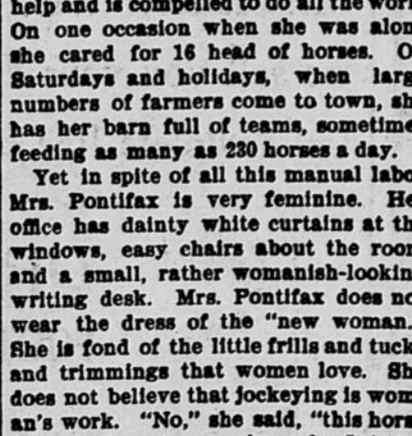
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JUDGE GEORGE GRAY.  
(Maryland Jurist Who May Be Nominated for President.)

and Porto Rico to the United States. He was a member of the joint high commission at Quebec in 1893, and in 1900 was appointed a member of the international commission of arbitration under The Hague convention. Whether he becomes a factor in national politics or not, as an eminent peacemaker his fame is secure.

Where Coral Comes From.

The red coral, which is used in jewelry, and which is known as precious coral, is mostly obtained in the Mediterranean, the Barbary coast furnishing the dark red, Sardinia the yellow or salmon color, and the coast of Italy the rose-plink. It is also found in the Red sea.

## WILLIAM S. GILBERT.

Famous Librettist, It Is Said, Will Come Out of His Retirement in Near Future.

William S. Gilbert, of London, the greatest of comic opera librettists, is about to come out of his retirement and is again to take an interest in theatrical affairs. That such a writer, one whose mere manner gave a new word to the language, and whose phrases are quoted almost like those of Shakespeare, should prefer to remain silent so long, has been generally regretted.

The music of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan, his collaborator, was most charming, but equally refreshing and amusing were the librettos written by Mr. Gilbert. Sir Arthur Sullivan, without Mr. Gilbert, was a failure. It now remains to be seen whether the latter will be able

to find a suitable composer to set his amusing lyrics to music.

That there are plenty of good music composers in London, but poor librettists, has been made apparent the last few seasons, in "Florodora," "The Toreador" and other English musical productions. Therefore it seems quite possible that with the appearance again of Mr. Gilbert in the field, we may expect, in the next few years, a revival of the charming comic operas which for so many years held the boards undisputed.

It is 45 years since Mr. Gilbert's name first became familiar to playgoers. His first libretto to Sir Arthur Sullivan's music was produced in 1874, "H. M. S. Pinafore." This was followed, in rapid succession and in the order named, by "The Pirates of Penzance," "Patience" and "The Mikado." But since the production of "The Grand Duke," his last collaboration with Mr. Sullivan, eight or nine years ago, Mr. Gilbert has given the stage nothing whatever.

Mr. Gilbert, who resides at present at Harrow Weald, near London, is practically the last remaining member of an interesting trio of theatrical men. Sir Arthur Sullivan, his collaborator, died last year, and D'Oyly Carte, who built the Savoy theater in London, expressly to produce the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, has been dead several years.

Mr. Gilbert's librettos were suggested in all sorts of ways. "The Mikado," one of his most popular, for example, came into his mind one day as he examined a Japanese sword that hung on the wall in his study. He wrote most of his plays, laid them away for a fortnight, and then rewrote them without referring to his original copy. He then compared the two, taking the best of each. Sometimes this process was repeated a number of times. His work has left him an independent fortune.



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HON. FRANK HANLEY.  
(Indiana Republican Who Seeks gubernatorial Nomination.)

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## NORTH DAKOTA NEWS

The Old Roosevelt Ranch, Made Famous as the Ranch Established by President Theodore Roosevelt when He Was a Bad Lands Cattleman, Has Been Sold by the Northern Pacific to Ferris Brothers of Medora.

The ranch is a relic of the olden times in the cattle country, when the broad acres of both the government and the railroad were unsurveyed and the only right recognized was "squatters' right." The intending cattle king located at a convenient watering place, erected his ranch house and barns and remained secure in his possessions as though he had the patent of governments to reinforce his claim.

The ranch was established by Mr. Roosevelt in 1881, soon after his first trip west on a buffalo hunting expedition. It was stocked with range cattle bought by the future executive, and was for years his headquarters in the west. The Ferris brothers were the managers for Roosevelt in his cattle venture, and the property they have bought embraces about 3,000 acres of grazing and pasture land.

Assaulted a Teacher.

Justin Stoddard has been arrested on a charge of assault upon the person of Miss Schneberger, teacher of the kindergarten in the Fairmount schools. She had been shopping in the evening and started for the home of a friend about one mile from town. She was accompanied by Professor Baker, principal of the schools, and when about half way to their destination they were accosted by Stoddard, who drew a revolver and ordered Professor Baker to leave.

Baker is a small man and Stoddard above the average in size. Baker retreated a few yards and Miss Schneberger was immediately grabbed by Stoddard.

As soon as Stoddard's intention was confined in his attack, Baker pounced upon him and he was disarmed and later arrested and bound over. He has been employed as a farm hand near Fairmount.

Old Times.

Twenty years ago 130 tons of buffalo bones were shipped from North Dakota to be ground up and used for fertilizers. Then the praries were dotted with the whitened skulls of their monarchs of the plains and many a settler got his winter's fuel by collecting buffalo bones and selling them at as high as \$8 a ton. The bones were to be seen everywhere, mute evidence of the enormous number of bison which used to thrive on the rich grasses of the plains. Now not a bone is to be seen and a skull or horn to be found at a farm or ranch is a curiosity. Plans are being laid in South Dakota for the last buffalo hunt in the history of the United States, some of the animals in a herd having become old and ugly. "Buffalo Bill" and others may be there to enlighten the hunt, the specimens killed to be preserved by taxidermists.

May Build College.

The annual session of the Presbyterian synod of North Dakota was held at Grand Forks during which reports of standing committees were submitted. The idea of a Presbyterian college was indorsed and a committee of twelve was appointed and a field worker was named later.

The Fargo presbytery recommended the division of that presbytery and the formation of a sixth presbytery in North Dakota.

The new presbytery will be known as the Liabon or the LaMoure presbytery, and will embrace the counties of Richland, Ransom, Sargent, LaMoure, Dickey, Logan and McIntosh.

The Fargo presbytery will consist of the counties of Cass, Traill, Barnes, Steele, Stutsman, Griggs, and portions of Foster and Eddy counties.

Wrecked His Office.

One of the most dastardly outrages ever perpetrated in the state occurred at Kensal when a gang of lawless characters entered the office of the Kensal Journal and, after demolishing the fixtures took all the type and threw it in the street.

Much of the type went into mud holes and cannot be recovered. The loss amounts to \$400.

Editor Allen has been making a war on blindpiggers and other crooks and the gang tried to force him out of business by starting another newspaper. He continued to publish his paper with the support of those in favor of the law and order, and the hard cases decided it would require a bolder effort to cause his removal.

News Notes.

The Great Northern will dig a well and plant a lot of trees at the Wheelock town site.

A new flat house has been built at Glenburn, and it is doing a flourishing business already.

Incorporation is being talked of at Bottineau.

A man named Johnson was sentenced at Medora to a year in the penitentiary for shooting a horse.

The Wilton mine is turning out nearly 1,000 tons of coal a day from the old shaft, and this quantity will be exceeded as soon as enough men can be obtained.

There is a good deal of interest in the territory adjacent to the Fort Totten reservation in the meeting which is to be held for the purpose of discussing the opening of the reservation. The date of the meeting is not set, but this will be arranged soon.

The Grain Growers' macaroni wheat committee has received word from a firm in the east that they are ready to contract for 10,000 barrels of macaroni flour.

Blind piggers and gamblers have quietly left Harvey on a hint that their presence was no longer desired, and slot machines are idle.

Wrecked His Office.

One of the most dastardly outrages ever perpetrated in the state occurred at Kensal when a gang of lawless characters entered the office of the Kensal Journal and, after demolishing the fixtures took all the type and threw it in the street.

Much of the type went into mud holes and cannot be recovered. The loss amounts to \$400.

Editor Allen has been making a war on blindpiggers and other crooks and the gang tried to force him out of business by starting another newspaper. He continued to publish his paper with the support of those in favor of the law and order, and the hard cases decided it would require a bolder effort to cause his removal.

News Notes.

The Great Northern will dig a well and plant a lot of trees at the Wheelock town site.

A new flat house has been built at Glenburn, and it is doing a flourishing business already.

Incorporation is being talked of at Bottineau.

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## THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending October 17.

The United States supreme court has convened for the October term.

John Alexander Dowie and his invading host from Zion City arrived in New York.

The British bark Loch Long was wrecked off Chatham island and 24 lives were lost.

Dr. Francis Landley Patton has been inaugurated president of Princeton (N. J.) college.

Bob Fitzsimmons failed to knock out Joe Grim in the scheduled six rounds at Philadelphia.

A crusade against gambling by clerks and bookkeepers has been begun by Chicago business houses.

Henry L. Mitchell, governor of Florida from 1893 to 1897, died in Tampa, aged 70 years.

A new record for 5 1/2 furlongs was set at the Worth track in Chicago by Golden Rule, in 1:06 1-5.

J. W. Butman, a retired capitalist, dropped dead in Decatur, Ill., from heart disease. He was 80 years old.

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, of New York, has been reelected president of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

Complete unofficial returns give Holtzman, democratic candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, a plurality of 938.

The convention of Indiana Baptist churches at Bloomington passed resolutions denouncing Senator Smoot, of Utah.

Dairymen and bakers of St. Louis are forming a combine with a capital stock of \$5,500,000 to purchase the smaller concerns.

The Panama canal route has not been abandoned by President Roosevelt, who believes Colombia will agree to new proposals.

The fourth world's Sunday school convention will be held in the city of Jerusalem, Palestine, April 18, 19 and 20, 1904.

Heads of unions have been notified by railroads that 100,000 employes must be laid off if demands for higher wages are enforced.

During a storm in Lafayette, Ind., lightning killed Mrs. James Van Meter and five other persons were seriously injured.

Dependent because of continued ill health, Bernard Schultz and his wife committed suicide in Milwaukee by inhaling gas.

The transport Sheridan arrived in San Francisco from Manila with 600 men of the First, Fifth and Sixth cavalry and 200 marines.

The cost of living has increased 15 per cent. since 1898, according to a supplemental report of the United States labor bureau.

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Word has been received at the white house from Gov. Taft that he will be ready to assume his new duties as secretary of war in January.

Miss Annie Ball has the distinction of being the first woman in Chicago to pass the examination for stationary engineers and to get a license.

Marshall Field, the Chicago merchant, says Chamberlain's tariff policy will be adopted by England, thereby inflicting a serious blow on America.

Johnson Chase Hull, the oldest letter carrier in the country, fell dead while standing beside the coffin containing the body of his brother in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Hetzler summer resort hotel at Cedar Lake, Ind., was burned and William Potter and wife perished in the flames. The couple had just been married.

The receipts at 50 of the largest post offices in the country during September were \$5,569,422, a gain of nearly nine per cent. over the same month last year.

Gen. Ian Hamilton, of the British army, was presented to President Roosevelt, and he accompanied the president and Mrs. Roosevelt on a horseback ride.

The arbitration treaty between Great Britain and France has been signed in London by Foreign Secretary Lansdowne and the French ambassador, M. Cambon.

## ONE-WHEELED WAGON.

Its Inventor Would Like to See It Introduced on All Rural Delivery Routes.

A marvelous vehicle, which is a cross between a sedan chair and a wheelbarrow has been designed by an Illinois inventor to meet the purpose of the rural mail route delivery. The special qualification of the design is the fact that it is calculated for service over the meanest and roughest of roads. Having a single



WAGON LIKE WHEELBARROW.  
(Intended for Use on Rural Mail Delivery Routes.)

wheel it can be drawn through thick mud with little effort on the part of the motive force, which may be one or two horses to suit the demands, although the inventor claims that one animal is entirely sufficient for all purposes. The wheel is flat and spokeless to preclude the carrying of excessive quantities of mud. The sustaining frame comprises a pair of rods, which extend one on each side of the wheel and connect with the journal thereof. The rods are coiled to form springs and they extend beneath the box or body of the vehicle, and they terminate in shafts. The body has a door to admit the driver. Lugs are formed on the lower front corners of the body of the vehicle, and bolts secure sustaining rods to the lugs. The sustaining rods are used to hold the body upright while hitching the horse or horses into shafts, and afterward they are swung up alongside the body entirely out of the way.

Leather in a Cow's Hide.

The hide of a cow produces about 35 pounds of leather; that of a horse about 18 pounds.

## JUDGE GEORGE GRAY.

Delaware Jur