

ALINARI'S photographs of the most famous works in the Dresden Gallery, to be had in all Art shops.

ECHOES FROM MOROCCO.

Raisuli redivivus! A brigand forsooth! There are no brigands in Morocco. It is only in Christian Europe that this article is to be found. To capture Musolino, one of the famous Italian bandits, the Italian Government spent two and a half million lire, and imprisoned more than fifty of his relatives. The famous Pinales in Spain, after striking terror among the well-to-do, and causing years of trouble to the troops, is still at large, while other gangs of bandits are working their will, in spite of the authorities, in "Catholic" Spain. Turkey, the Balkan States and Greece all furnish interesting and thrilling instances of brigandage and kidnapping. The *apaches* of France, and the *hooligans* of England, are a less desirable lot of ruffians to fall amongst than the ordinary brigand of the hills, and certainly far less so than any Morocco could produce.

The kidnapping by Raisuli in Morocco is a gentlemanly affair of chess-playing with an unscrupulous government which, on its part, robs those who please it not of their worldly gains, shut them up in a cruel dungeon for years, or end their days by torture. Raisuli neither robs, nor imprisons, nor murders. He *detains* a desirable personality whose liberty he plays off against a Government's promise of doing him justice by re-instating him in his possessions and position. And this, short of active armed rebellion and military measures against the Ruler of the land, is the only policy whereby the Shereefian Government can be influenced, and some measure of justice wrung from it by a subject.

It is no doubt slightly dislocating to Kaid Sir Harry Maclean's plans and purposes, to be an unwilling guest of his friend Raisuli, and during these summer days to be compelled to exchange the stifling heat of Fez for the fresh breezes of the hills, but there need be no anxiety as to his absolute safety: neither his ears nor his nose are likely to be sent to Tangier or Fez, and probably the Kaid's life is safer with Raisuli among the heights of the Khamas tribe than in his own sumptuous residence in Fez, where rumour says he has many malcontent and envious enemies. According to reports for which nobody can vouch, Raisuli demands from the Sultan reinstatement in the Fash Bashalic, a large ransom, and the guarantee of these conditions by a foreign Government, before Maclean is surrendered. The Shereef of Wazzan—whose mother is an English lady and still living in Tangier surrounded by her grandchildren—the practical Pope of Morocco, carrying far more influence among the tribes than the Sultan himself, has proceeded to the hills to negotiate for Kaid Maclean's release. If Raisuli fails to be reasonable in his demands, the tribes might favour the Shereef's terms and propositions rather than Raisuli's and then the latter's position would be serious, as, in that case, the veneration which is entertained by the tribes towards the Shereef of Wazzan, whose blessing is considered worth money, and to kiss the hem of whose garment a privilege, would decide the tribes to side with the Shereef and abandon Raisuli.

But at no time is Raisuli a *quantité négligeable* in his own country, and must be taken seriously. He is sprung from one of the most aristocratic families of Morocco, and is himself a shereef, or direct descendant of the Prophet, and of royal blood. His family mosque at Tetuan is a holy spot and a place of pilgrimage. He is a man of considerable education and culture, and of exceptional vitality and capacity. He has endured at the hands of an unscrupulous Government loss of lands, friends, liberty and well-nigh life; he has suffered cruel imprisonment; and for years carried his life in his hands; and for what? For no very great offences, and indeed for less than are committed almost daily by many a Vizier, Basha and Khalifa in the Sultan's employ. His crime, in the eyes of Europeans in Tangier, is that he is a religious zealot and a patriot, who bewails the ills afflicting Morocco through the undesirable elements of disruption and corruption which are being introduced into his country by Europe, to the demoralization of his countrymen and to the scandal of their faith. Europe, if she is a civilized and Christian Community of States, ought to respect the religious susceptibilities of the devotees to an ancient faith which is the religion of fifteen per cent of the human race, and the customs of an historic people whose contribution to European civilization in the past is unappreciated, because scarcely known and realized. What the European concert ought to endeavour to consolidate is a Morocco ruled by a Moorish Government, impregnated with European ideals and principles, as far as the conditions of the land allow such to be put into practical operation. With a Sultan shut up in his palace, and utterly powerless in the hands of unscrupulous Viziers who fritter away his Treasury, poor Morocco is in a bad way, and its conditions can only produce Raisulis; the only wonder being that not more such patriots are brought to the

active front. The late Sultan Mulai Hassan is said to have held it as a maxim that Morocco could only be ruled from horseback, by which he meant restless campaigning against a restless people. The Sultan must see and be seen by his people. If such vigour and activity were necessary years ago, under a Sultan who ruled also in virtue of his spiritual prestige, how much more necessary are these qualities now, when Morocco is more closely in contact with European methods and ideas, when the ruler has sacrificed his spiritual prestige, and forfeited the respect of his subjects, when he has allowed his Treasury to be fleeced by self-seeking ministers, to be replenished by pawning all that is dear to his people, only to be fleeced again by an unconscionable set of thieves? Until the Great Powers can insist on the Maghzen being reformed, and men of capacity and conscientious character being entrusted with the offices of State, there is little hope for Morocco, unless a Raisuli takes the matter in hand and sweeps the Fez clique off the face of the earth. Then Europe might behold a *Morocco redivivus!*

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Wednesday, July 24th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.

Thursday, July 25th. *S. James, A. and M.* 8.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.0 a.m. Matins.

Friday, July 26th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.

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POSTAL INGENUITY.

A letter has been received at Tower Bridge Police Court addressed as follows:—

"To the in Spire of
children
and honnes
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The postal officials interpreted this to mean the Inspector of Children and Homes, that is, the local representative of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the communication was delivered accordingly.

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CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter dated July 6th, from our New York correspondent.)

THE SENDING OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET TO THE PACIFIC.

Nothing was more natural than that the decision to increase the defensive strength of the United States in the Pacific by sending the Atlantic fleet into the waters on the West side of the American continent should, in view of the still prominent Japanese-American question, be generally brought into connection with that question. Not all the official and semi-official assurances that the transfer of the fleet had absolutely no political significance, nor even the statement of the United States Secretary for the Navy at San Francisco that it was only to give the San Franciscoers an opportunity for once of seeing a naval spectacle, could prevent deeper motives being sought for. But what is more natural than that the United States, who have interests in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic, should occasionally strengthen their naval forces in the former ocean? As a matter of fact, it was determined two years ago, when there was no controversy with Japan—which, in spite of all assurances that the best of understandings prevails between Japan and the United States, cannot be kept out of the sphere of political considerations—to increase the small fleet in the Pacific by sending some ships from the Atlantic coast. But even in view of the Japanese-American question the project of transferring the Atlantic fleet would not have attracted so much notice, if in certain circles in America such a stir had not been made and if the thing had not been done so secretly. The positive statement of the Secretary of President Roosevelt that the transfer of the fleet had not been planned, followed almost on the heels of the equally positive official statement that the battle-ships might eventually go to the Pacific, but solely as a cruise for exercises. There followed, in a certain degree, the contradiction of a *démenti*. Several newspapers express the view that the Secretary of the Navy, in his utterances about the despatch of the Atlantic battle-ship fleet, prematurely disclosed the plans of the Government. The sending of the fleet had been planned but, in order to avoid creating the impression that the plan had a political meaning of any kind, the intention had been not to make the plan known until the autumn and then gradually. The despatch of the ships might easily have been explained upon the ground that they were to visit the South American countries which Mr. Root, the Secretary of State, had visited in the course of his tour after the last Pan-American Congress; and once in Pacific waters, the fleet might have remained there, without attracting much attention, as long as the Government thought necessary. Under the circumstances, however, as the plan has now obtained publicity, it is natural that American and Japanese Jingoos should regard the despatch of the fleet as a rattling of the sword in its scabbard. What is more natural than that American Jingoos should voice the opinion that President Roosevelt wishes to show the Japanese the "big stick"? Under present circumstances, high political importance will be attached in some circles to the sending of the fleet, whether the Government likes it or not.

The despatch of so great an Armada would not have been entirely unnoticed at any other time, as the Americans have no adequate naval station in the Pacific for so large a fleet. But that circumstance would not have been so inflated as it is just now. The Atlantic fleet certainly has an interesting task before it. During the Spanish-American war the battle-ship "Oregon" made a rapid voyage from the Far East to the Atlantic through the Magellan Straits. That voyage has now to be accomplished in the reverse direction, by a fleet of sixteen battle-ships, four cruisers and other vessels. Those who perceive a rattling of the sword in the despatch of the fleet find a confirmation of their views in the reports that the President will recommend Congress next Session to establish a great naval station at the Philippines and to fortify the islands. In their sensation-mongering and their puffing of unimportant incidents in connection with the Japanese-American question, certain American newspapers have done no great service to their countrymen. The Japanese Jingo papers are of course equally guilty. In view of the political importance attributed to the attack on some Japanese in San Francisco, one cannot refrain from asking—

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