NORTON I, EMPEROR OF

A Notable Chapter From the Story of Old San Francisco - - - By James H. Wilkins

OTHING is sadder to contemplate than the mutability of human How many of those sho climbed to a dizzy height in california's brief history have dropped from the primacle into the dismal company of "has beens." How many of those who tested all the sweets of pywer, who were once admired, courted and envied are now as much forgotten as any of our arboreal ancestors? Governors, Cenators, Mayors, Congressmen, leaders, bosses, agitators, fakers, have followed in orderly succeeds an other on the ocean, and have left no more trace on the mysterious of the old school who had been pened that on tested after an order to more trace on the mysterious of the old school who had been pened that one vessel after an order to make the mass an English merchant the subject of the first article will deal the "Gorge Washington" (otherwise Willie Coombs), "The Great Unknown," "Guttersinge" and "Napoleon," the wondrous dog of John Wilson, the phoneer circus man of two coasts of the Pacific.

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The Great Unknown, "School will Coombs), "The Great Unknown," "The Wilson's eventual will coombs, "The Great Unknown," "The Wilson's eventual will coombs, "The Great Unknown," "The Wilson's eventual will be complete in the subject of the first articles will deal will coombs, "The Great Unknown," "The Wilson's eventual will coombs, "The Great Unknown," "The Great California's brief history

The BULLETIN, with this issue, begins the publication of another delightful series of articles by James H. Wilkins, our deading with a notable character in the San Francisco of the days when the "much lens" were plentful on Lettlessord street and fortunes were made and lost in a day that of the defect of the series of the

A SKETCH OF EMPEROR NORTON

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son, as one wave succeeds anorder on the ocean, and have left
no more trace on the mysterious
of the old school who had been pened that one vessel after another on the ceran, and have left in moment race on the mysterious of the old school who had been in more trace on the mysterious of the old school who had been more ment. Who was the lordly Mayor of San Francisco better the incumbency of James D. Phelair Frankly, I don't know. Who was covern of claimed before firm plotted for the more firm posterial houses. Here again before firm plotted for the more firm post of the days when the water coverned of claimed before firm plotted for a season. At the more firm plotted for the more firm posterial houses. Here again the more firm post of the days when the water coverned of claimed before firm plotted for a season. At the mysterial houses, Here again the more firm plotted for the mysterial houses. Here again the more firm plotted for the more

The 3mperial Covernment of Morton pay the holder hereof, the under our Porual hand est fifth day of

check for hait a million donary that offiand without consulting an authorny. It is rather strange, then, hit is rather strange, then, hit is originally a stranger than the solid properties of the stranger o not to connect him with unworthy thoughts. peror Norton I he remained unti the unwelcome visitor spares no notentate ended his long reign-from 1851 to 1879

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Nour time Emperor Norton
would be locked up in a madhouse and the incident closed.
But the old town, with all of its
failings, had a fundamental
goodness of heart, and, what was
more to the point, an acute sense
of humor, whereby the pleasure
of existence is much enhanced. existence is much enhanced When the peculiar nature of Josiah Norton's affliction, or, rather, fallucination, became known to his numerous ac-quaintances they realized that orton became a part of Francisco, a never-ending source of pleasantry and amuse ment-better known through-out the world than many of the genuine crowned heads. was shortly after his as

sumption of imperial powers that his Majesty, Norton I, assumed the attire that never that his Majesty, Norfor I, as-sumed the attire that never-varied during his reign. This was of a fantastic military de-sign, with pinchbeck decorations, and surmounted by heavy pau-lettes. The regular headgear was an ornamental soldier's cap, but, on state occasions, as better fitting his dignity, he substituted a high silk hat, with a bunch of feathers stuck in front, usual-ty the plumes of the turkey of

Two photographs of Emperor Norton I and a facsimile of the cur rency issued from his imperial treasury.

ources. Besides promenading was not disconnected or scatte Montgomery street of an after noon, issuing printed proclama tions concerning affairs of state and entering into elaborate cor respondence with the crowner heads of Europe, Emperor Nor with the crowned quaintances they realized that heads of Europe, Emperor Northe man was entirely harmless, ton issued paper currency of his both to himself and others, and they simply let nature take its course. But, in one way or an other, provision was made for his support, which was well was somewhat noteworthy that himself out behind iron bars Emberor Norton became a part of Spreasure; in the financial disone of these at a time to his treasurer" in the financial district; and, as these were very fumerous in the old days, he derived a fidy income without im-

rived a fldy income without imposing serious burdens on anyone. In fact, he said it was the imperial pleasure to make taxano need to conjure up at imaginary guarantor of his tailor bills. He lived in good quarters, had three, square meals a day and met, his various small accounts with unfailing regularity. 00000 THOSE who recall Emperor Norton only in his old age, when he was stoop-shouldered rather wabbly on his pins and

a high silk hat, with a bunch of feathers stuck in front, usual cresenting a woelegone appearable of the form of t

increase. I and a Secumin of the curs is Impered tressure.

g was not disconnected or scattering.

To the best of my knowledge and information, Emperor Norton was the only potentate who is a consistent good time from start to finish. He had all the circumstances of power without to breezed in: It happened to the worry. Governors, Conditional and the control of the worry. Governors, Condition was to great to be resisted, and a single proposed in the sease of the wordy of this administration was to great to be resisted, some of the young highlinders in the proportion of the young highlinders in the proposed of their was reserved for thin. Norton, was more than commonly reported ent. His nufform and the proposed of the proper in the proposed of the proper in the same proper in the proper in t

MPEROR NORTON'S, nasservative. Every kind of agitation afficted him as a blow at royal prerogative. He was deeply—concerned—over the Denis Kearney invoyement, and the new constitution that followed it he denounced as equivalent to high treason. He wanted to burn the obnounced as equivalent to burn the obnounced as equivalent to high treason. He wanted to burn the obnounced as equivalent to high treason. He wanted to burn the donoscous document, but as he regimed not arbitrarily, but under modern restraints, he wished Hall McAllister, the big attorney, to clear the legal way. Further than the service of the service

deeply shocked when Napoleon III lost his throne, and wrote III lost fils throne, and wrote thin a touching letter of sympathy. When Napoleon died a little later Emperor Norton donned a mouring emblem and offered his widow, Eugenie, an asylum in California.

COSCO
THE old man had a couple of a strange companions. D. O. Mills; the great banker, owned a fine dog, with highly aristociatic antecedents. As a rule, a dog is wide awake to the main

a fine dog, with highly aristo-cratic antecedents. As a rule, a dog is wide awake to the main chance and seldom changes mas-ters, except for good and suf-ficient reasons, even hanging on to a bad bargain with a fidelity that challelages at once human wondewment and admiration. Why a dog, with a well-balanced mind, should have thought it expedient to desert D. O. Mills for Emperor Norton is one of the mysteries of canine nature for Emperor Norton is one of the mysteries of canine nature with which I do not purpose to When the University of Califorthe mysteries of canine nature
nia, in 1873, moved from the old
with which I do not purpose to
barracks in Oakland to its new
grapple. Let it suffice to state
home in Berkeley, Norton I was
not an infrequent visitor to those
ruple attached himself to his Imclassic shades. His visits were perial Majesty, and evidencing,
the occasion of unbounded enthysican. moreover, a penchant for sa-loons with free lunch-counters,

classic shades. His visits were the occasion of unbounded, moreover, a penchant for saturating a rior I know where the clebrations. His Majesty was a bit perplexed at the noisy character of the demonstrations that the american the three clebrations. His Majesty was a bit perplexed at the noisy character of the demonstrations of loyalty on the part of the student body, but soon became reconciled, and often said that we were the most satisfactory of all his subjects.

ON ONE occasion Dom Redro de Braganza, the last the supercilious manner inseparable of the most of Brazil, arrived in San Francisco on a tour around, the benefit of his people, who later on ungratefully drove him to cxite. His, chief aim was to study the various institutions of learning, and at the finvitation of california. There was quite for a dependent provides of california. There was quite for more of california. There was quite for more of california. There was quite for the various sinstitutions of learning, and and Lazzrus were account the formal reception in the assembly hall. President clilima and and Lazzrus were account the contract of the contract of the first of the contract of the c

MPEROR NORTON and MPEROR NORTON and L his companions, Bummer and Lazarus, were among the notables of San Francisco for many years. You could see them any day on Montgomery street, the Emperor in the lead, with his weird, snaky cane un-der his arm, Bummer close be-hind and Lazarus, the plain dog, inheritor of of many bays-sinis-ter, bringing up the rear at a respectful distance. Those were the last of the good draw, these

there was an empty seat on the platform. The temptate of the protoconced them as perfect of white the ordinary discrete fered with t