

MR. DOOLEY ON "SIR ALECK"



INCIDENTS IN THE EARLY LIFE OF SIR ALECK.

"Mr Dooley" has in the "San Francisco Bulletin" an amusing skit on the episode between Admiral Davis of the U.S. Navy, and Sir A. Sweetenham, the Governor of Jamaica, on the occasion of the Kingston trouble. The illustrations are peculiarly American and distinctly laughable.

"Well, sir," said Mr Dooley, "a hand across th' sea has been extended to us again. We rayceived it nder th' ear.

"Did ye read about it? Ye didn't? Well, 'twas this way: Our fellow Anglo-Saxons own an island somewhere beyant Cuba, where they raise rum, molasses, ginger an' naygurs fr th' export trade. 'Tis fr'm there we get th' sturdy blacks that may be seen any day smoking cigareets an' playin' cards while diggin' th' Pannyma Canal. It's a vallyable little Pearl iv th' Ant-Hills, and if England had a few more iv thim she'd be broke. Well, th' other day an earthquake come along an' shook it up. It must've been a good deal iv a jolt, fr almost as many people were kilt be it as die in this counthry anny cold day fr'm not havin' good enough shoes. It was pretty bad, an' we're a good hearted people at heart, d'ye mind, an' ivvrybody, even thim unhappy people that can't be sure they are Anglo-Saxons on account iv their parentage were in favor iv doin' somethin' fr th' poor creatures.

"Us Anglo-Saxons looked on it another way. 'Twas not to nurse th' injured nor feed th' hungry that we called on th' President to send ships to Kingston, but 'twas to bind up th' wounds in wan iv th' extremities iv our Mother Country. Th' Anglo-Saxon union invited contributions through its Chairman, th' Hon. Isaac Guggenheim. Th' President with tears in his eyes ordered Bob Evans to send somebody else to Jamaica to help our cousins an' prove again that blood is stickier than water. He did not think 'twas wise to send Bob Evans himself to soon after th' earthquake. Bob Evans picked out a lad be th' name iv Davis, an' he got together our warships an' rushed off to Kingston.

"'Twas all right. If there was an Englishman in throuble in th' next house I'd try to forget what his folks done to mine, an' no wan wud be quicker to his bedside thim this Anglo-Saxon. What I'd do to him after he got out iv th' hospital might be different. I have gr-rout feelin' fr human sufferin', an' I don't know that I don't feel sorrier fr an Englishman in throuble thim fr annywan else. I've got to keep fr'm laughin'.

"Well, away went Admiral Davis an' steamed into Kingston Harbour, an' as a first aid to th' injured made a searchlight display an' fired th' customary salute iv four hundred an' eight guns. It was arly in th' evenin', an' th' Gov'nor havin' issued proclamations relievin' distress until bedtime, was enjoyin' a well-earned slumber. But he got up at want an' myrturned th' compliment in th' most gracious terms. He wrote a note to th' Admiral as follows: 'Shut up y'er darn guns an' get out iv here. Ye make my head ache.'

"Th' Admiral, bein' an Anglo-Saxon fr'm Boston, where Jawmy Fitz is Mayor, was much moved at this delicate compliment, an' havin' been another salute iv two hundred an' four guns fr th' Gov'nor's secrecy an' instructed th' band to play 'Gawd Save th' King,' he went ashore.

"Th' Admiral went to make an official call on th' Gov'nor. Th' reception was

characteristic iv that old-fashioned good cheer that commerce an' th' greed iv Americans is destroyin'. Th' Admiral was allowed to stand in th' outside office fr as long a time as he wanted. Thim a ruddy, janial face appeared at th' dure an' says: 'James, tell him I've gone away to stay till nineteen hundhrd an' eight.'

"Here, Hinnessy, I'd like to read ye a sketch iv this gr-rout man that has done so much to bind two sister nations in a perfect knot an' to show that though blood may be thicker thim water heads are thicker still. Sir Aleck Sweetingham was born in Fotheringham Court Road in th' year eighteen thirty-four. He was a member iv an illustrious family that had not been out iv th' parish fr four cinchries. Arly in life he showed traits that marked him fr a diplomatic career. No wan cud get along with him. At six he kicked a maiden lady who offered him gingerbread; at nine he bit th' parson who tried to make him a present iv a drum. Such traits cud not be lightly pushed aside. It was clear that he was destined be nature to rule over th' swarthy tribes upa whom alone the sun iv England sets, an' sets hard.

"While still a mere youth, he was dispatched to th' island of Boooloojo, in th' Indian Sea, where he soon made a name fr himself be formin' th' native Rajahs into a Church iv England Defiance League. His rise was rapid. First appointed in thirty-four, in sixty-six he was promoted to th' Gov'norship iv th' popylous Island of Gazip, in th' Gulf iv Daf; population, 1800, two whites, five myllion blacks; salary, two myllion pice (£50). In dulin' this difficult province he made a gr-rout repytation, which extended as far as th' borders iv Swat. A man iv iron, cold an' hard, he intrajuced hansom cabs drawn be natives instead iv th' old-fashioned rickshaw, induced th' Rajah to throw away his pagan turban an' adopt th' more seemly stovepipe hat, started a muffin bakery, an' took steps to abolish plural marriages.

"Fourteen years later a still more important honor was lavished on him. When th' Gov'norship iv Plaguestown, on th' East Coast, was made vacant th' last name that occurred to th' Colonial Office was Aleck Sweetingham, an' he was appointed. Aft'er survivin' fr eleven years in this arjous post he

was again promoted at th' request iv th' only other white man in th' colony, an' rayceived th' important post iv Gov'nor iv Jamaica, an honor which few achieve an' still fewer desire. This completes th' career iv th' gr-rout man, which may soon be r-rounded out be his bein' fired. Irvywhere he went he made frinds where he'd been before. In all th' countries where he ruled he left a repytation fr janiality an' repose. At last, he never had it with him when he showed up at th' new job.

"It was this mighty statesman that our humble Admiral tried to meet. Admiral Davis was overcome by his rayception. We don't expect our dear cousins to gush over us. They ar-re more self-contained thim we ar-re. Behind their rugged chests beat warm an' gin-rous hearts, but they find it hard to say annything pleasant without chokin', an' Admiral Davis was surprised as well as charmed by Aleck's greetings. He said he had never met so polite an Englishman. In his gratichood he landed throops to drive naygur prisoners back into jail, put up awnings on stores, an' hitch th' horses to th' street cars in th' annihilated city. He was amazed to receive almost instantly an effusive dispatch in th' followin' language: 'Get out iv here or I'll leave arf a brick at ye.' Th' Admiral replied: 'Gawd bless ye fr ye're kind wurruds. It is a happiness to me to meet ye'er Excellency's approval. It shows that we ar-re bound together be ties iv common brotherhood an' th' common language iv Shakespeare an' others. I have th' honour to rayport that th' fleet audher my command has put up a tent, started two grocers in business and proteted a safe fr'm bein' robbed.'

"To which Aleck replied heartily: 'I don't know what th' divvle ye mane be a common language, but if ye'er not out iv here be noon ye'll hear some language that's commoner thim anny iver used be Shakespeare, whiover he may be. Get out, I say. Chase ye'erself. Beat it to th' deep sea. If ye don't hurry I'll send a naygur policeman to run ye in. If anny safe was took ye stole it ye'erself and have it hid now in wan iv ye'er scows. I've a good mind to go aboard an' search ye. Mis'rable Yankee, fly,' says he. 'Take th' eastern channel,' he says. 'There are rocks there an' some sharks.'

"Admiral Davis could not thrust himself to a reply in writing. He went at want to call on th' gallant an' courteous ripresentive iv his Majesty. What passed between the two envoys iv th' wuruld's powers will never be known. It was too sacred to be repeated. It is enough to say that when Admiral Davis come fr'm th' mansion th' Gov'nor's right eye was black with grief an' he carried a large an' vallyable axe which he was thryin' to present to th' Admiral. Th' Constitution 'fbids our officers acceptin' presents fr doin' their jooty simply an' well. That night, havin' completed their errand iv mercy, th' fleet sailed away, an' so sthrong was th' feelin' aboard th' ships in th' harbour that not a sound issued fr'm thim. Admiral Davis was highly pleased with th' epyisode. Those who heard his comments say he is splendidly qualified to fill Bob Evans' place in th' hearts iv th' American Navy.

"An' there ye ar-re, Hinnessy; another link forged in th' chain that hooks us up to our Motherland. It is such occurrences that makes us know that though a sturdy Briton may be slow in speech, he still cherishes th' proper feelin' to'rd this country. Bether th' bluff kick in th' eye thim th' soft answer that turneth away our wrath an' th' kick in th' eye atherwards. Aleck has cleared up a good many doubts in my mind iv where we stand. If we'er cousins at all, Jake Schiff and Prisdinb Hadley an' I belong to an infeeryor branch iv th' family an' ought to be treated as such. Besides knowin' how relations act to'rd each other, if I've got to be anny kind iv relation let it be as distant as possible. I'm sorry they're goin' to fire Aleck. He's a good man who's done somethin' fr the wuruld. I'm sorry fr thim if they fire him, fr they'll have to take him home. If they want to punish him they ought to make him perpetchool Gov'nor iv Jamaica."

"What did they want to send th' navy fr, annyhow?" asked Mr. Hinnessy. "Maybe ye'er right," said Mr. Dooley, "I think mesif this navy iv ours is gettin' into th' habit iv runnin' to free. It's all right to rescue people fr'm a burmin' buildin', but I think I'd wait till I was asked. Maybe th' man wud rather be burned to death thim have a cousin rescue him an' have it th' talk iv th' family fr thim years."



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