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SUTRO AS HE IS AND ISN'T.

A Curious Anthropological Study.

SCENE—Everywhere. TIME—Always.

JONES—I am so forgetful of names, you know. It is very strange, but I can remember faces and not names.

SMITH—Indeed! How remarkable that we should be both afflicted with the same weakness. If I see a face once I never forget it, though I'm no good to stand in the world to remember names—Society of Commonplaces.

Have Smith and Jones really such good memories for faces?

Let us see.

You have probably heard one of these two men distinguished for his memory of faces say to the other, on some frequent occurrence: "Indeed, the man who will not confess to a penchant for remembering faces is a curiosity that even Barnum never found.

It is true that we all remember faces more or less distinctly, but there is room enough for our memory of faces—and the reason is quite simple.

What we see through the visual organs becomes photographed on our brain just as we see it, and when we desire to recall a face or a scene we have only to dive into the storehouse of our memories and bring before our mental vision the mental photograph.

Sometimes mental pictures fade and grow dim with age, and sometimes they remain vivid and natural for all time, though never retouched by a second comparison with the original. Such is the case with memory.

As a rule, despite our boasted comprehension of faces, our mental photographs of most persons are weak and uncertain, and the most that can be said for them is that they are more easily recalled than names.

An exception proving this rule is found in the case of the colored gentleman who is major-domo at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Chicago.

He has charge of the hallrack connected with the dining-room. A perfect stranger enters for the first time, hands the major his hat, and passes in to dinner. An hour later the same hand is company with hats in the same saloon.

The negro has not tagged the hat, nor in any mechanical way secured it, yet he hands it back to its owner and seldom or never makes a mistake.

He does this every day in the year, and to do it he must look at the face of each man and carry by it many a rich or fine looking woolly man who for the first time are struck with the porter's rare memory for faces and hats.

Yet it is very doubtful whether this remarkable negro could describe in words the color of the crown of the hats and his hair in shape.

You may already have noticed that seldom or never do two or more men, though equally familiar with it, describe the same thing exactly alike; but you have never seen this truth more forcibly illustrated, I think, than in the two preceding personal descriptions of Adolph Sutro.

It is this inexplicable difference of description that so puzzles the detectives and courts of law when hearing testimony from many witnesses to the same thing.

And as the number of witnesses is increased the variety in their testimony becomes the more manifest.

Why is this?

Perhaps George Eliot has rarely answered the question in declaring that our favorable lenience administered as they are from habit is not enough. Men cannot give full expression in his mental images and dearest thoughts. Shakespeare's best was never caroled into words, and the truest glint of a full moon is saying what we mean.

But all this family excuses why two eyes, equally familiar with the subject and of equal intelligence, should give such varied and diverse descriptions as those herein recorded of Adolph Sutro.

Everybody knows Adolph Sutro. He is a striking, picturesque countenance, and one that would be likely to stamp itself indelibly upon the memory—especially if seen frequently.

Yet for the life of you you can't describe that countenance accurately. Men who have seen and spoken to him every day for years, even members of his own household, cannot do it.

From his private secretary to his chief cook, from his partners to his coachman, the fact is a secret description was sought, and the answers were as varied as the number of inquiries made.

One saw Sutro as a grizzly bear, one as a lion, benevolent old man, one as a wise and easy-going person and one as a tower of strength. Some saw him as a man with not a hair of his head, some no mustache, some and his whiskers were gray, others correctly and wisely, some said blue eyes, others brown. No two men described him the same, and often those who were most certain were the least accurate.

AS SUTRO IS.

Adolph Sutro is a man above the average height. He would be tall if he were not a little round-shouldered. He is stoutly built, but not corpulent, and has the appearance to-day spoken eloquently of the time when he must have been a splendid athlete.

His face is strong. David Neal, the artist, has painted it, praises it eloquently from an artistic point. Men disagree whether firmness or benevolence is more marked in it, but all agree that both are there in a most unusual extent.

It wears his whiskers after the fashion of Governor Waterman, and they are of nearly whiteness. The mustache is iron gray, almost black near the roots, and makes a striking contrast in its finer hair and skin with the heavy, coarse, and dark growth of hair of the head and with the plentiful growth, though immediately above the forehead there is a small spot, which is nearly bald. The side whiskers—or Dundrearies—are bushy, but not long, and curl rather tightly, as does the hair of the head. His eyes are dark and piercing.

His eyes are only moderately large. They are neither blue nor gray, but decidedly a cross between the two. At times they have a faint bluish cast, but no one not colorblind could ever call them blue. Nor are they entirely gray.

His hair is quite fair hair, wife of iron and almost white in color. In the last two years he has worn no other kind of hat, save the old-fashioned silk hat that he has during that time appeared once or twice in at a funeral.

When walking he invariably carries a cane, and he is very fond of walking.

He is 62 years old, and four weeks ago weighed 200 pounds.

Mr. Sutro's eyesight is excellent. He does not wear glasses, nor has he ever worn them. He reads and writes every day fluently by the naked eye, and is justly proud of it.

He wears invariably a black Prince Albert coat.

His general cast of countenance is of the Jewish type, the Semitic nose being a prominent though not displeasing feature of his face.

Pure much exercise in the saddle his face is florid, though not extremely so, as some described him.

These are the general and most striking characteristics of a man widely known for his activity and financial enterprise and universally beloved for his private and public benevolences.

AS OTHERS SEE HIM.

Only men well known in San Francisco were appealed to for descriptions of Adolph Sutro, and of these only such are quoted as conformed to knowing the individual as ruthlessly by sight, if not personally.

Several of the gentlemen interviewed declared they knew Sutro only by sight, but had seen him for several years, and for a period when he was most before the public eye, and with his appearance, his manner of dress and his chief facial characteristics.

One or two men declared they had not seen Mr. Sutro more than once or twice, but, strange to relate, their descriptions were more accurate than most of those given by men who see him frequently and are personally acquainted with him. And for this reason these descriptions are also given.

Wherever it was possible to get any kind of a description, without it I believe I can offer any suggestions as to the details of Mr. Sutro's appearance, and the reason is the result of this course many glaring details and characteristics have been entirely overlooked by those gave the description. Thus, but for this people remembered the facial complexion and but one recalled the fact that there is a mole on Mr. Sutro's face, and that mole is the most unique and almost of human adornment.

The various descriptions, given as briefly as may be, are as follows.

F. A. TABER.

F. A. Taber, the photographer, has known Adolph Sutro for many years and not long ago invited the camera at its face and bust. This is Mr. Taber's description:

"A man above the average in height, but not a large man. Rather slender and wiry in form. The hair and whiskers and mustache are very gray, almost white, in fact. He does not carry a cane. He wears a soft slouch hat. Am not certain about the color of the hair.

"His eyes are dark."

Mr. Taber was asked long ever the color of the eyes. He said dark, but on this point some six-months ventilated between dark and gray, finally deciding for the former.

Mr. Taber was wrong in regard to the cane and his color of his eyes and uncertain as to the hat.

GENERAL SHEEHAN.

John P. Sheehan, Register United States Land Office, had not seen Mr. Sutro for two or three months, he confessed, but before then had seen him quite frequently and knew him well.

He remembered him without hesitancy as

As Seen by General Sheehan.

a man with a full gray beard and gray mustache. A very tall man, though not entirely straight, with hair inclined to be gray. He usually carried a cane and always wore a large white felt hat.

Mr. Sheehan did not remember the color of the eyes.

JOHN McCOMB.

John McComb, Chief Deputy of the Citizens Registration Bureau, described Mr. Sutro as a rather handsome man, whose head had been outlined by age.

"He is not above the average man," said General McComb, "and wears a wide stooch hat. I used to see him very frequently, but of late have only met him once in a while. His hair is gray. His whiskers, which he wears in what would be the Dundreary fashion, and his mustache, are also gray.

"His eyes are dark. He carries a cane, I think."

General McComb's errors were in the color of his hair, whiskers, mustache and eyes.

POSTMASTER BACKUS.

Samuel W. Backus, Postmaster, made two mistakes in his description. He gave Mr. Sutro a white mustache and brown eyes.

"He is a man above the average height, and quite certain, but after considerable reflection credited him with brown eyes.

"A broad white soft hat, white side whiskers, white hair. Hair and whiskers thick and plentiful. A little stoop-shouldered, a keen, piercing look; altogether a fine man."

As to the cane—said Mr. Backus was not certain about that, but inclined to the belief that he did not carry a walking-stick.

JEREMIAH LYNCH.

Jeremiah Lynch, lithographer and stockbroker, remembered Mr. Sutro's "keen, dark eyes" as the most prominent feature.

"He is unmistakably under the medium height," said Mr. Lynch, "with white side whiskers and mustache and white hair. The side whiskers are bushy and thick. Hair thick and plentiful, but not long and thin quite well. He wears a light suit of clothes, a large white, soft hat and carries a cane."

LAWYER SUDEN.

"Oh, yes, I know Mr. Sutro; have seen him many times," said the unsuccessful lawyer, Otis Van Suden.

"He has extremely long side whiskers, which curl tightly and are well combed and worn. He has a white mustache. His hair

As Seen by Mr. Suden.

and whiskers are also white. He is a stout man, about the average height. He carries a cane and wears a large white hat."

THOMAS MAGEE.

Thomas Magee, the real estate man, was not able to recall Mr. Sutro's mustache, but was confident in the belief that he had none, but was not certain.

"Big bushy side whiskers, gray in color. Gray hair and dark eyes. Under the medium height, stout and well built. Sometimes he carries a cane, I think. He wears a large, soft felt white hat. Gray whiskers. A full face, with the Jewish cast of features."

MAX POPPER.

Max Popper, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, said Adolph Sutro was a handsome-looking old gentleman of decidedly the Jewish type of features.

"Very side whiskers," said Mr. Popper, "very clear cells them sponges," and the gentleman illustrated by drawing his hand in each cheek by way of distinguishing.

"Medium height, I should say. Gray hair and gray mustache. Black eyes. He carries a cane and wears a white Alpine hat."

REUBEN LLOYD.

Reuben Lloyd, the attorney, gave his description unhesitatingly.

"Gray hair, gray side whiskers, bushy, but not very long. Weighs about 200 pounds and is about 5 feet 9 inches in height. Long, prominent nose. A heavy, fleshy set man, and altogether a striking figure. He does not carry a cane. He wears a black frock coat and a flood-rimmed, light-colored soft felt hat.

"Yes; I know exactly how Adolph Sutro looks, for I see him very often. I have seen him on several times." Mr. Lloyd added when I explained the purpose of getting his description.

As in the case of his eyes Mr. Lloyd would not even venture a guess. While he was positive as to the correctness of his general appearance he could not remember anything about the hair.

W. W. STOW.

W. W. Stow, chairman of the Park Commission, was nearly correct, but he gave Mr. Sutro no cane.

"Above the medium height," he said, "gray eyes, military side whiskers and mustache, which are gray, almost white. He talks in almost wife. He wears a white stooch hat, and I think he carries a cane. A fine-looking, elderly man with a striking face."

JUDGE HUNT.

John Hunt Jr., Judge of the Superior Court, was not quite certain about Mr. Sutro's eyes, but rather inclined to the belief that they were very dark. In fact, when he came to think of his other characteristics, Judge Sanderson himself almost certain that the eyes were dark.

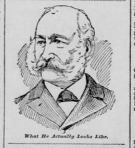
"Mr. Sutro is of average height a little. A stout, well-built man; gray side-whiskers and gray mustache. Hair gray, and I am pretty sure of dark eyes, though I should that I don't remember whether he carries a cane or not."

SHERIFF LAUMEISTER.

"I think he is a very good man," said Sheriff Charles A. Laumeister, "and I'm sure he looks it. Yes; I know him very well indeed. He is a man of about the medium height, stout build. I don't just how he wears his whiskers.

"What is the color of his hair and whiskers?" was asked.

"Well, now, do you know, when I come to think of it I don't remember that either.



What He Actually Looks Like.

No; but his eyes either, though I could have sworn that I knew him very well."

About the same that Sheriff Laumeister was more positive.

"He does not carry a cane." He wears on of time. "Yes; he wears a big white felt hat, I remember that also."

MAYOR SANDERSON.

Mayor George H. Sanderson started in by confessing to know just how Mr. Sutro looked, he had seen him many times. But when he came to the description he, too, was a little hazy, quite so, in fact, as he eventually admitted.

He remembered that Mr. Sutro looked like a white bearded elderly gentleman, was of medium height, and that he was quite stout.

"In fact, I would say he was a large man," said the Mayor, "but as to the style of his whiskers and mustache, and the color of his eyes, I could not describe the whiskers, and was not sure about the color of eyes or whether he carried a cane or not. He was not strong on the Mayor admitted.

JUDGE LAWLER.

Judge P. W. Lawler of the Superior Court, who has known Mr. Sutro for many years, was not quite sure about the color of his eyelashes that Mr. Sutro always wore.

"I think they are dark, but I'm not more than that. Above the average in height, but not a large man. Rather slender and wiry in form. Wears a large white felt hat, and does not carry a cane. He has a heavy, iron-gray mustache and evidently the Jewish cast of features."

CAPTAIN LEES.

"He wears his whiskers in the Dundreary fashion," said Captain Lees, of the Detectives. "The whiskers are large and long and not very bushy. He is of the massive in build, has a little stoop of the shoulders, is a strong, vigorous-looking man, and is quite active for his age.

"He is about 5 feet 9 inches in height, weighs about 200 pounds, wears a large white felt hat, and does not carry a cane. He has a heavy, iron-gray mustache and evidently the Jewish cast of features."

JULIUS JACOBS.

Julius Jacobs, the insurance man, is quite familiar with Mr. Sutro's appearance. He described him as a benevolent looking gentleman, of distinguished appearance and a man who would be noted among a thousand.

"Iron-gray military whiskers, like those of Governor Waterman, medium height, rather round-shouldered, and has a stoop in the head and quite heavy about the eyes. He has gray eyes and always wears a large white felt hat. He never carries a cane and wears a frock coat and a dress suit."

SENATOR STEWART.

William M. Stewart, United States Senator, was not quite certain about the first of all whether Adolph Sutro had been converted to the doctrine of free silver.

"I don't think he does—he has not always been," said the Senator, laughingly. Then he became serious and remembered that Mr. Sutro was a man of about the medium height, well built man, but beyond that he could not describe him. He could not describe it. He remembered that he was large and that was the positively all he could say.

PRINTER NEYEN.

C. W. Neyen, the printer, had little difficulty in describing the personal appearance of Adolph Sutro, but he was just a trifle off in his description.

"His whiskers and hair are white," he said. "He wears a full beard trimmed rather short and has a gray mustache. He is about 5 feet 8 inches in height, weighs about 200 pounds, and is of stout build. I don't remember the color of his eyes. He wears a big white stooch hat, and I think he carries a cane. He is a medium patient, about 2 feet 9 inches, I should say."

M. J. FERRELL.

Perhaps the best description given was that by M. J. Ferrell, ex-State Senator of Nevada. He had not seen Mr. Sutro for several years, he said, but remembered him quite well. His description is as follows:

"He is above the average in height," said Mr. Ferrell, "well built, strong and hearty. He is a man of about 60 years of age, and wore his mustache in iron-gray. His eyes are a sort of bluish-gray, and his hair and whiskers are a dark, heavy brown. He wears a white large felt hat and does not carry a cane."

LYMAN BRIDGES.

Lyman Bridges, the civil engineer, accredited Mr. Sutro with long gray whiskers and light-gray hair, the latter description made by saying that Mr. Sutro sometimes wore a wig. Mr. Bridges continued:

"I think he has a mustache," said Mr. Bridges, "but am not certain. Both his hair and whiskers are of snowy whiteness. He carries a cane. He is an intellectual looking man, and has a very pleasant face. Rather tall, I should say, and well built. Quite a lonely, vigorous old man."

C. A. MURDOCK.

"He is a tall, straight man, above the medium height," said C. A. Murdock, the painter. "His hair and whiskers are white, has two in of the same hue. His hair and whiskers are thick, and the latter quite bushy.

"His eyes are gray. He does not carry a cane. He wears a white stooch hat. His whiskers, and his whole appearance is mild looking. He wears a white vest. Fat face."

S. W. HOLLADAY.

"Mr. Sutro is above the medium height," said Samuel W. Holladay, the attorney. "His hair is white, and so are his bushy side whiskers. His mustache is not so white. His whiskers are gray.

"His hair is plentiful where it does grow, but he is quite bald on the crown. He has a bald spot on his head or some.

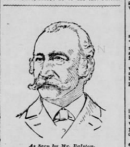
"He does not carry a cane and wears a large white felt hat.

"I can't remember the color of his eyes."

W. A. RALSTON.

William A. Ralston, the Deputy Assessor, thought Mr. Sutro was of medium height, was not stout, but rather slender, and remembered that he wore high side whiskers.

Another thing he remembered was, he said, that Mr. Sutro always wore his hat unbuttoned, except as to the last button.



As Seen by Mr. Ralston.

It was a black Prince Albert and drawn together only by the last button.

"He has a heavy head of iron gray hair and mustache (here he indicated). "He has a strong Jewish face, quite stylish, and a man of about 60 years of age. He wears a white stooch hat and carries a cane."

JOSEPH G. EASTLAND.

"He has a striking face," said Joseph G. Eastland. "He is tall, wears a full gray beard and a very handsome one.

"I remember he carries a cane. I don't remember the color of his hair, but he wears a large white hat. I remember his gray beard; it is quite handsome and becoming. I don't remember the color of his eyes, about the same color as his hair.

"He carries a cane sometimes, I think."

CHIEF CROWLEY.

Patrick Crowley, Chief of Police, said he had not seen Mr. Sutro for a year or more, and did not know he looked now.

"When I saw him last," said the Chief, "he was a man of about the medium height and a mustache. His hair was also gray. He did not carry a cane and wore a black felt hat, I remember that also.

"He is a man of fine appearance and bearing. There is a strong intellectual look about his face. He is also said a man of commanding presence."

DR. J. TOY BOYSEN.

Dr. J. Thomas Boysen had not much difficulty in recalling what he thought was a correct description of Mr. Sutro.

"He is tall, straight man, above the medium height," said C. A. Murdock, the painter. "His hair and whiskers are white, has two in of the same hue. His hair and whiskers are thick, and the latter quite bushy.

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