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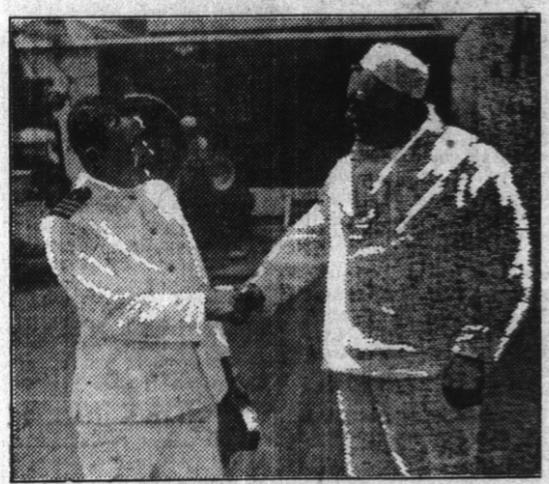
NEW YORK.—There has been a big revival of interest of late in the telling of fortunes. The study of spiritism which has swept like a tidal wave over Europe, the British Isles and this country during the past year has been, in the main, responsible for this desire to look into the future. Many seriously wish to see what the morrow has in store for them. A still greater number desire their "fortunes told," through some medium or other, just for the fun of the thing. Travelers on railroads and ocean steamships are finding fortune telling by cards a very pleasing diversion.

On the passenger steamships of the United States lines "card reading" is very popular this season. The lure of a smooth sea and the soft glow of an evening moon combine to call up that spirit of romance which makes nearly everyone want to see what lies ahead in business, in love, and in general happiness.

A young woman passenger on the President Fillmore on a recent trip from New York to Bremen showed such skill in fortune telling with cards that she was called upon constantly to read fortunes. She was asked to take part in the ship's concert, at which those with ability as singers, musicians, dancers, etc., are invited to participate and was the hit of the evening.

The next day she was requested to tell a great number of "fortunes." Knowing that the proceeds from the concert went to charities, principally those devoted to caring for injured seamen or the widows and orphans of sailors, this miss hit upon a plan to aid in enlarging the President Fillmore's contribution for the trip. She consented to read the cards for all who asked, if each person desiring to gaze into the future made an additional contribution to the concert fund. Her "patrons" gladly consented, and in gypsy garb she "read the cards" for a large number of fellow passengers, adding materially to the concert proceeds.

These concerts on United States liners are eagerly looked forward to by passengers, for they have the reputation of being worthy of the professional stage. Under the direction of the chief steward, they are carefully planned and presented the evening before the vessels reach Plymouth on their eastbound trip or New York westbound. The chief steward from a "census" of his manifest soon ascertains those on board who are professional vocal-



ists, instrumentalists, actors or dancers, and requests their appearance at the entertainment. These invitations are always gracefully accepted, and a program is arranged. The ship's orchestra rehearses the music of each "act," so that the evening of the concert the program moves in a professional manner, to the credit of the entertainers and delight of the audience.

Some of the world's foremost artists have appeared at concerts on United States liners. Very recently Tito Ruffo, famous baritone of the Metropolitan opera company, sailing for Bremen on the George Washington, was a feature of the entertainment on the vessel. Milo Plecco, also a well known baritone, while a passenger on the America a few weeks ago "headlined" at the vessel's concert.

When the Wagnerian opera festival organization, which successfully toured the east this winter, was on its way to New York aboard the President Roosevelt, its stars and chorus appeared in several scenes from famous operas. This was the first time such performances were ever given at sea.

Prior to the trip concerts on United States liners there is an unusually elaborate dinner, at which the captain of the steamship is host. Each passenger receives some dainty favor in addition to souvenir menus and concert programs. Dancing follows the concert, ending an evening's entertainment which passengers long remember.

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