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LUCK — AND HONESTY

In the summer of 1960 an elderly American was staying with a Lucerne family. Over lunch he mentioned that he had unfortunate recollections of Lucerne, as one day in September of the previous year he had absent-mindedly left his field glasses on a bench by the quayside. On being asked whether he had reported the loss, he replied briefly that in his experience such enquiries are always fruitless. To test this theory, his host phoned up Lucerne's Lost Property Office, and — wonder of wonders! — a pair of field glasses corresponding exactly to the guest's description had indeed been handed in at about that time. The very polite and obliging official said, however, that the glasses had been returned to the finder at the end of the prescribed period; nevertheless, he would telephone this person, and — provided the latter still possessed the glasses — would ask him to deliver them to the house where the American was staying.

How astonished everybody was when in the evening a man arrived with his small daughter, bringing the field glasses which he had found! The American guest was practically overcome with amazement at recovering his lost property after almost a year, warmly thanked the finder for his honesty and put a particularly handsome reward into the little girl's money box. This done, father and daughter departed amidst general rejoicing and thankfulness.

The much-travelled American was greatly affected

by the incident, which also goes to show that, to-day as always, honesty pays in the long run.

H. Lengweiler.

CRONACA DI NATALE

Alla testa di un esercito di cinquemila pacchetti, che contenevano con i doni, la candida, spontanea, fanciullesca meraviglia nata dal mistero e dall'attesa, San Nicolao è arrivato lunedì, 5 dicembre alle ore 17.30 sul piazzale della Stazione FFS di Bellinzona. A quell'ora erano pure disponibili i cortesi suonatori del Concertino, che diedero fiato musico-ufficiale alla cerimonia.

Altro fiato di smania, di curiosità e di emozione venne dato dai ragazzi che accalcati, non stavano nelle mani di nessuno, nemmeno dei genitori. A duecento di loro (dei ragazzi naturalmente) venne consegnato un palloncino illuminato così che potevano fare ghirlanda attorno a S. Nicolao, al sacco e all'asino. Il corteo scese poi per il Viale della Stazione per sfociare in Piazza Indipendenza, dove San Nicolao volle dire ai bambini parole che venivano dal cuore.

In seguito l'augusto vegliardo, rimontato sul suo asinello e col suo sacco in spalla partì per fare visite in città agli asili, le scuole, al Ricovero Paganini-Re, all'Istituto Von Mentlen, all'Ospedale di San Giovanni Battista e perfino ai bambini in collina a Medoscio.

A tutto gli assidui lettori di "Cronaca Nostrana" augura Buon Natale

Poncione di Vespero.

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