

IN DAMP WEATHER.

Curious Effect That Has Been Noticed on the Goddess of Liberty on Capitol Dome.

"Have you ever noticed the goddess of liberty on the dome of the capitol building on a damp day?" an employe of the District government asked a group of friends. None of the party remembered whether they had noticed the figure or not, says the Washington Star. "Well," he said, "every time I look at the figure on a damp day it reminds me of a miller I rescued from a possible watery grave on the outskirts of a Pennsylvania village about 30 years ago. I was driving a team near a mill dam at the time, when my attention was attracted to the miller, who was a man of more than middle age. He was raking out the accumulation of brush from the rack, when he suddenly lost his balance and fell overboard.

"Well, to make matters short, I fished him out, and we sat chatting for over an hour, and when I prepared to make my departure his clothes had dried and I noticed that the meal made a white streak around and on both shoulders, and if you cast your eyes up at the figure on the capitol dome on a damp day you will notice the same effect on the shoulders of the goddess, and it makes me think of the old miller every time I notice her. I have often wondered why congress has not provided an appropriation to be used for the purpose of gilding the figure."

THE HORSE IN SCOUTING.

Must Possess Certain Qualities to Fit It for the Laborious Service.

The horse, like the man, in scouting, must be exceptional. The first essential is "bottom." A scout's horse must have endurance, as his work is continuous and laborious, so it is the duty of the man to husband the strength of the animal as much as possible, as his safety may depend upon it. He should be of a neutral color to avoid detection. Dyeing him khaki would be an improvement. The gray horses of the Austrian batteries were dyed during the recent maneuvers, and the color lasted a month. The experiment was considered a success, says the United Service.

The horse should be trained to stand quietly and to lie down and stay down. The Boers have a way of tying a horse's head to his foreleg in such a manner that he can graze in comfort, but cannot stand with head erect without raising his foreleg, and finds running away very inconvenient. He should be perfectly trained, and his rider should be able to place every confidence in him. A horse that continually needs watching or urging is a source of distraction to his rider, and so renders him unfit for scouting work. Neighing and fretful horses are worse than useless. Every opportunity should be taken advantage of to allow the horse to graze; a few mouthfuls of grass eaten at every little halt saves a horse tremendously.

INTELLIGENT ROBINS.

Remarkable Performance of Three of the Birds to Save One of Their Young.

The following incident seems too remarkable to be true, and yet it is vouched for by a writer whose word

should not be doubted, says the Minneapolis Journal: "Two robins were trying to teach their little one to fly. It attempted to cover too great a distance and fell to the ground. My little boy caught it and I told him to put it on the roof of our side porch. Then he and I watched to see what the old birds would do. They fluttered about the yard for awhile and then flew off. We waited for them to return, but they did not, and I had just made up my mind that they had deserted the young one when I saw them coming, accompanied by a third old one. They flew directly to the roof of the porch, and I saw that one of them had a piece of twine in its bill. And what do you suppose they did next? If I had not seen it I never would have believed it. Two of them caught hold of the twine, one at each end, and the little one caught the middle of it in his bill. Then they flew off the porch, the third robin flying under the little one and supporting it on its back."

FRANCE PAID THE FIDDLER.

Germany Was Fully Reimbursed for the Cost of the War of 1871.

Up to March 31 last Great Britain had spent \$1,145,500,000 in conducting the war in South Africa. This sum is largely in excess of the cost to Germany of the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, for which, however, the nation was fully reimbursed by the vanquished nation. France paid as war indemnity about \$30,000,000 less than the British expenditure in the Boer conflict. Strictly speaking, that indemnity only amounted to 5,000,000,000 francs, or \$1,000,000,000, but Germany received about \$115,000,000 more from her vanquished foes in the form of a special contribution from the city of Paris, special taxes in France, and interest on the chief indemnity. Out of this all the expenses of the war were repaid. Some \$140,000,000 went to establish a pension fund for old soldiers, \$80,000,000 was spent on army reorganization, about \$90,000,000 on fortresses, \$42,500,000 on strategic railways, while \$30,000,000 were stored in gold as an imperial war chest in case of emergencies, and this immense treasure is still lying dead in the vaults of the Julius tower in the fortress of Spandau. But the interesting thing is that the Boer war has cost Great Britain far more than their final war of unification cost the Germans.

Effete Slang.

The worst use of slang is not when it is fresh and piquant, but when it becomes stale and passes into the regular vocabulary of the people, to the exclusion of good English, says the Toronto (Ont.) Globe. Such expressions as "I can see his finish," when they are first uttered, are often used with considerable humorous effect. But the language is impoverished and vulgarized by the habitual use of "turn down" for reject, "call down" for a mild rebuke, "roast" for a severe one, etc. After these expressions have been used for a certain time they ought to be taken out of circulation, along with the ragged banknotes.

A Touching Eulogy.

The following brief but touching eulogy was recently pronounced by a sergeant over the tomb of a soldier in the cemetery at La Haye: "Comrades, the deceased, a friend of us all, had a clean sheet. He looked after his boots, which rarely required mending, and he always had some money to draw from his pay. Imitate his example, comrades."

? Great Irrigated Valleys

ARKANSAS VALLEY, COLORADO. Altitude 3,400 to 4,600 feet; beet sugar factories, thousands of acres of alfalfa; millions of cantaloupes, extensive orchards, flocks of sheep; largest irrigated section in the U. S. Extensive cattle feeding and dairy interests; population doubled in five years.

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SALT RIVER VALLEY, ARIZONA. Altitude 1,000 feet; 60 miles long and 20 miles wide; special industries—early oranges, live stock, vegetables, small fruits, alfalfa, bee culture.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA. Altitude 50 to 400 feet; 250 miles long, 50 miles wide; wheat raising, live stock, oil wells, alfalfa, raisin and wine grapes, olives, figs, citrus and deciduous fruits, almonds, walnuts; lumbering and mines in mountains.

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