

### An Interesting Episode.

It is told of a famous captain that going ashore at a port off which his ship was lying, he found his sailors fraternizing with some French seamen and as jolly as sandboys together. The times were critical and war was threatened between the two nations. His Britannic Majesty's (it was when George the Fourth was King) representative expressed his surprise, when up spake a rare old sea dog: "Sorry, sir, but we haint at war now, but when we are, won't we fight?" An incident in the recent Samoa disaster recalls the story. When the storm was raging the fiercest H. M. S. Calliope was lifted bodily on the crest of a huge wave and pitched down into the valley below with her prow right on the U. S. war ship the Vandalia. They were dangerously near a reef, to get on which meant sure destruction to both vessels, and possible loss of every soul on board. The captain of the Calliope grasped the situation and resolved on a desperate effort. Letting go all his anchors he succeeded in swinging his ship around, and then anchorless, he crowded on all steam. For a few moments that seemed hours, the good ship stood still as if to steady herself, and then inch by inch she began to breast the fury of the gale and finally worked out of the harbor into the open sea. The crew of the U. S. ship Trenton were anxious watchers of this fight against the elements, and as the Calliope slowly passed, cheers loud and long were heard even above the howling of the wind and the angry roar of the waters, which sounded like the ravings of Fery bereth of her prey. Had not Captain Kane cast his anchors adrift and taken the heroic measure that he did, the Vandalia would have been crushed right there and then, and it was for this that the Trenton's men cheered. They knew that if the engine of the Calliope refused to work, the fire, deluged by water, refused to burn, a link of chain under the tremendous pressure snapped, or the screw failed to whirl, the Calliope and her 450 men were lost, irretrievably lost. With the abandonment of their anchors, they did indeed almost abandon hope, for even in shelter they could not have rode at peace, how then could they have offered resistance against the storm? It was an heroic and noble act and deserving of the cheers that echoed over the anger of the waves. And right heartily were they returned, for out of the awful darkness and confusion came the cry "three cheers for the Trenton and America," and then followed the sound of 500 lusty voices in unison. Who can say there is not something ennobling, something inspiring in this exchange of courtesies in the midst of danger? But, if their two nations were at war, how those gallant souls would fight!

Happily however, there appears just now little danger of any more serious calamity than that recorded in the collision of the ships of war impelled by the elements. An agreement has been arrived at whereby Germany, England, and the United States, will each only be represented at Samoa, by one ship until the matters in dispute have been settled. Thus out of the jarring of the heavens has come a more amicable feeling, a feeling, by the way, shared in by the natives, who forgetting their hatred of and quarrel with, the stranger, flocked to the beach on the occasion of the storm and gladly lent a hand to rescue the survivors from the vessels that were wrecked. Just as Providence saved great Britain from the power of the Armada in the time of good Queen Bess, so did timely intervention in the days of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria save a possible conflict between three great nations at Samoa and bring about an improved state of relationship.

### Economy in Farming.

Six months or more ago, in an article which appeared in Bradstreet's, Mr. Edward Atkinson pointed out that the tendency in America was to reduce the cost of raising wheat to a point which would absolutely forbid of foreign competition, no matter what rate of pay might be given to foreign farm laborers. Indeed, if they worked for nothing, he doubted whether their competition would be of any special value. This conclusion on his part was largely based on the results of certain farming operations carried on in California, where farming had been almost changed from an agricultural to a mechanical pursuit. Within the last few weeks this same authority has received reports from California which not only confirm what he previously said, but seem to indicate that the development of American farming in the direction of extraordinary economy is going on at a faster rate than any one could have thought possible.

One of the California farmers, who has wheat fields of several thousand acres in extent, has sent on a statement of the cost of planting and harvesting his last crop. This was all per acre, from the ploughing of the land to the sacking of the wheat, by a great and ingenious piece of mechanism, and from fruit to last—that is, ploughing, harrowing, seeding, cutting, thrashing, winnowing and bagging the wheat—the cost did not exceed eighty cents per acre. The yield of wheat in California depends upon certain climatic conditions. A reasonably wet winter and early spring give to the farmer the assurance of a bountiful harvest, while the absence of rainfalls at critical periods may greatly reduce or probably entirely destroy the crop. But assuming that the average yield is from ten to fourteen bushels to the acre, which does not seem to be an overestimate, the labor cost of producing this grain under the conditions referred to above is insignificant in the extreme. Eight cents a bushel would be so low a labor cost that the humblest ryot in India could hardly hope to hold his own against it. Mr. Atkinson has received assurances that the farming machinery which permits of such results can be readily used over a farming area which, in the state of California, alone, is equal in size to more than half of the area in the entire United States now given to wheat growing.

### Speed of Railroad Trains.

Says Prof. Hadley: "The speed of railroad trains is restricted within three theoretical limits: First, a physical limit of eighty miles an hour, beyond which it is found impossible for a train to hold the track; second, an operating limit of sixty miles an hour, which practical experience has found that trains cannot run without much damage to life; third, a commercial limit of thirty miles per hour, at which all things considered, it is found most economical to run a train."

### A Novel Idea.

A Brooklyn theatre manager has capped the climax of realism on the stage by having a genuine safe blown open by genuine burglars in the course of the production of a melodrama at his theatre last week. The gentlemen whom he has engaged for the purpose—"Spike" Hennessy and "Kid" McCoy by name—have a national reputation as artists in the safe-cracking business, and the best proof that they are experienced burglars is to be found in the fact that they have each served several terms in State prisons. Mr. Hennessy is said to be a graduate of Lafayette College, and to have come from one of the most aristocratic families in Philadelphia. He was one of the principal operators in the well-known Northampton Bank robbery. Mr. McCoy is not so well descended or educated, but he enjoys the distinction of being considered by Inspector Byrne, of New York, the most skillful man in his profession out of prison. The enterprising theatre manager who has secured their services, "at great expense," claims not only to have struck a novelty in the dramatic line, but to be doing something for his country in the way of criminal reformation. He states that Messrs. Hennessy and McCoy neither drink, smoke nor gamble, and that they attend church regularly. His undertaking seems to contain suggestions of vast and far-reaching possibilities. Why not, for instance, have all the embezzlers and defaulters now in Canada given permission to return to their native country for the purpose of appearing in their special lines on the stage?

### Should Members be Paid?

In England a discussion has been in progress on a proposal that members of Parliament should be paid. The proposal is made by a workingmen's representative, who takes the ground that it is of little good giving the great mass of the people the right to choose their representatives when the area of their choice is artificially limited and when it is as easy for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle as it is for a workman to enter the House. The objection to paying salaries to members of Parliament is that it would in England put the people to an additional expense of a million dollars a year, besides having a tendency, as one of the members of the Government said, "to cause that degradation of politics which has taken place in France and in the United States." This is not very flattering to the two Republics, but it is not going too far to say that there is ground for the reflection: "In the British Parliament the only members paid are some of the Irish Nationalists and a workingman's representative, and their salaries are not paid by the country but by the subscriptions of those whom they more especially represent. As the British Parliament sits on an aggregate about nine months in the year it is an expensive matter to be a member of it. The result is that representation is for the most part confined to the upper class. The British Parliament is about the only legislative body where representatives receive no pay for their services. Members of Congress in the United States are allowed five thousand dollars a year, and members of Parliament in Canada are allowed a thousand, in addition to which they receive mileage and a trunkful of stationery."

### Old Probs.

"Old Probs" at Washington has been so often taken to task of late for the failure of his weather predictions that it is interesting to hear what he has to say in his defence. In a recent interview with a New York reporter, Gen. Greely, the famous Arctic explorer, and now chief of the United States Weather Bureau, said:—"The public expects too much. Ten years ago the making of an occasional accurate weather prediction was a cause of much wonder. The public has come to watch the predictions very closely, and is more and more exacting. If we should now make a prediction of the kind in vogue a few years ago, the public would laugh at it. We used to offer predictions such as 'partly cloudy to cloudy,' and similar indefinite forecasts. Now we have to come out openly and declare rain or no rain. This it is impossible to do with complete accuracy. Again, we have to make our predictions for a large area, such as Eastern New York for instance, which includes a district many miles in extent. It may rain in New York and not rain in Albany. The areas of rain are irregularly distributed, while our geographical limits are fixed. Why, if you should take weather reports from different points in this district at the same moment, some might report rain and others no rain, and it would very likely be difficult to determine, with these facts before you, whether it would be the more proper to report rain or no rain for the entire district. So sometimes we predict rain for a certain area, when in many parts of that district it is likely to not rain."

### Lives Lost at Sea.

In a recent speech at the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Mr. Chamberlain quoted some remarkable statistics to show the beneficent effects that have followed the legislative efforts of Mr. Pilsnoll and others to prevent coffee ships from being sent to sea. During the last eleven years nearly 30,000 persons, or an average of over 2,700 a year, have lost their lives in British and Colonial trading and fishing vessels. In the last year for which there are returns, 1886-87, the number had fallen to 2,071. In 1881 no less than 1,414 lives were lost in missing vessels—that is, in vessels which foundered at sea. In 1886 the number thus lost was only 356. Though it might be claiming too much to attribute the whole difference to the humanitarian legislation referred to, no one can doubt that the reduction of mortality at sea is largely due to that cause, and that the number of unseaworthy vessels flying the British flag has been greatly reduced. The blessing of many that were ready to perish rests upon the head of Mr. Pilsnoll.

### Imitation

Is sometimes called the sincere form of flattery. This may account for the number of imitations of the original and only positive corn cure—Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. All such fall to possess equal merit, so when purchasing get the genuine "Putnam's." Safe, sure, and painless. All druggists.

### Manhood Suffrage.

The Newfoundland Legislature has just passed a simple manhood suffrage bill, the qualifying clause of which is as follows: "Every male British subject of the full age of twenty-one years, who for two years preceding the day of election has been a resident in this colony, who is of sound understanding, who has not within one year of the election received relief as a pauper out of the public money, and who has never been convicted in due course of any infamous crime, shall be competent to vote for the election of a member or members of the General Assembly in and for the electoral district within which he resided for one year at least immediately preceding the election. Provided that a temporary absence from the district within the year aforesaid shall not be held to disqualify an elector."

This is very similar to the qualification under the Act adopted by the New Brunswick Legislature at its present session.

### An Unhappy Family.

Perhaps the most praiseworthy proceeding in the centennial ceremony to be held at New York April 30, commemorative of the adoption of the United States constitution is contained in a proclamation just issued by President Harrison. When Washington was inaugurated in New York April 30, 1789, services were held in all the churches. Mr. Harrison wishes that pious act to be imitated in the coming celebration; and his proclamation asks that "the people of the entire country repair to their respective places of divine worship to implore the favor of God that the blessings of liberty, prosperity and peace may abide with us as a people, and that his hand may lead us in the paths of righteousness and good deeds." Representatives of all the creeds, Christian and Hebrew, have asked to have this observance a unanimity in national affairs, which accounts for much of the Union's strength.

There are some large bonnets in picturesque, old-fashioned dunstable and cottage shapes seen among the tiny toques and capotes of this spring.

"What's female beauty, but an air divine, Through which the mind's all gentler graces shine."

This may be good logic in poetry but in real life "the mind's all gentler graces shine" to better advantage when enclosed in a sound physique. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of leucorrhoea, excessive flowing, painful menstruation, unnatural suppressions, prolapsus, or falling of the womb, weak back, "female weakness," anteversion, retroversion, bearing-down sensations, chronic constipation, inflammation and ulceration of the womb, inflammation, pain and tenderness in ovaries, accompanied with "internal heat."

Watch-pockets are no longer in use; the watch is slipped in the corage.

The awe-struck audience gazed on the figure, gaunt and gray; 'Twas the murdered king or the ghost of him, And Hamlet was the play. His hour was brief, he said, He must go ere light of day, To the place of torment prepared for him, Till his sins were purged away. 'Yes, purged was the word he used, And I thought what a remedy rare, Would Pierce's Purgative Pellets prove, In his case, then and there.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets have no equal as a cathartic in derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels. Small, pleasant in action, and purely vegetable.

For spring walking dresses, gray, drab and fawn with either white or black trimmings are always in good taste.

### "The Naked Truth."

Whilst Truth was one day bathing in a limpid river, Falsehood happened to pass, and noticing the garments of Truth on the bank of the stream, conceived the idea of exchanging his clothing for that of the bather, who came to the bank and mourned the loss sustained, but, disdainful of Falsehood's garb, has since gone naked through the world. Whether the origin of the expression—"the naked truth"—is mythical or otherwise, it is universally known to be the "naked truth" that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has no equal as a curative agent for consumption (lung-sore), bronchitis, chronic nasal catarrh, asthma, and kindred diseases of the throat and lungs.

For entire costumes the favorite green is preferred in grayish shades, but for trimming white or black dresses, and for other purposes of decoration the brighter green shades are chosen.

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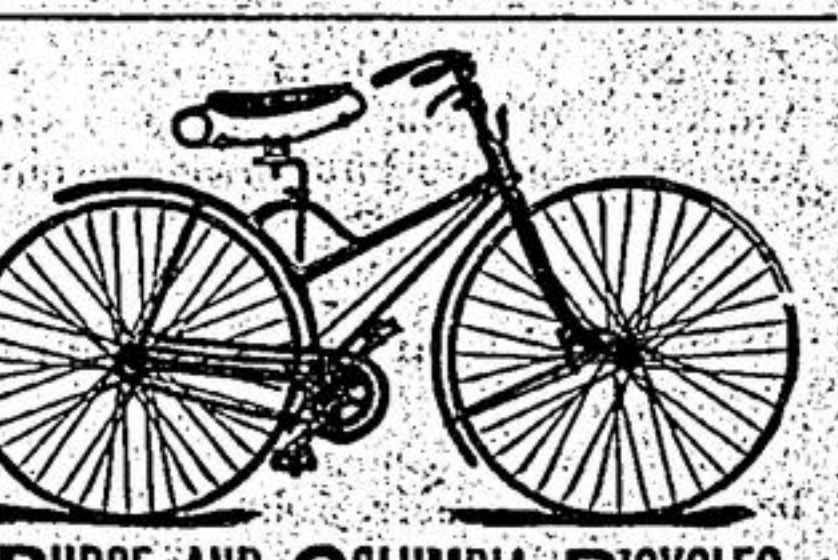
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