CURIOUS BITS OF HISTORY

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BY

A. W. MACY

Author of "Short-Cut Philosophy," etc.

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TO

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

IN MEMORY OF

THE HAPPY LONG AGO

FOREWORD

The primary object of these little historical sketches, if such they may be called, is entertainment; but it is hoped they may also prove instructive, in a modest way. And if they should lead some to make more extended excursions into the inviting fields of history it will be gratifying to the author.

A. W. M.

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CURIOUS BITS OF HISTORY

A STRENUOUS LOVER

When William of Normandy was a youth of nineteen he fell violently in love with his cousin Matilda, daughter of the Duke of Flanders. The young lady, however, did not reciprocate his affection with equal ardor, though she seems to have entertained a kindly feeling for him. She kept him waiting for seven long years, and would not give him a final answer. The suspense was very trying to one of William's impetuous temperament, and he finally decided to bring matters to a crisis. Meeting her in the street one day, in company with some of her friends, he seized her and threw her in the mud, with disastrous results to both her dignity and her fine clothes. So humiliated was she, so the story goes, that she consented to become his wife without further delay.

THE GREAT CAT HOAX

Every generation has its practical jokers. In the year 1815, shortly before the departure of Napoleon for St. Helena, some person in the city of Chester, England, caused hundreds of handbills to be scattered throughout the city, announcing that the Island of St. Helena was overrun with rats, and that an immense number of cats were wanted to ex-

terminate them. Those having cats for sale were advised to be on hand with them at a certain place on a certain day. Sixteen shillings would be paid for each full-grown tomcat, ten shillings for each full-grown tabby, and two shillings sixpence for each kitten that could feed itself. The result was astonishing. On the appointed day the city was literally crowded with people carrying cats; men, women and children from the surrounding country. A riot ensued, and about 1,000 cats were killed. The rest got away, and for a long time afterward the city and surrounding country were infested with cats of all kinds, breeds and descriptions. The perpetrator of the hoax wisely kept in the background.

AN ALBINO KING OF ENGLAND

It is quite probable that England once had an albino for a king. Edward the Confessor, who reigned from 1042 to 1066, is said to have had long hair and beard, both as white as snow. His skin was of a milky color, and his face inclined to rosiness. His hands were long and very white. An albino always has a skin of a milky hue, with hair of the same color, and eyes with deep red pupils and pink or blue iris. These peculiarities are said to be caused by a deficiency of certain coloring matter in the blood. The name albino was first given by the Portuguese to negroes they found on the African coast who were mottled with white spots. Albinos are found, however, among all races of men, and also among some of the lower animals, as mice, elephants, etc. From the descriptions of King Edward's personal appearance that have come down to us, and

which are evidently reliable, it is reasonably certain that he was an albino.

CHARLES II AND HIS DOG

Charles II, King of England, was a great lover of dogs, and always kept several of them about him as pets. On one occasion he was quite distracted by the disappearance of one of his favorites. An advertisement prepared by one of his servants was posted, but it did not have the desired effect. So Charles tried his hand, with this result:

"We must call upon you again for a Black Dog between a Greyhound and a Spaniel, no white about him only a streak on his Brest and his Tayel a little bobbed. It is His Majesties' own Dog, and doubtless was stoln, for the Dog was not born nor bred in England, and would never forsake his Master. Whosoever findes him may acquaint any at Whitehal, for the Dog was beter known at Court than those who stole him. Will they never leave robbing His Majesty? Must he not keep a Dog? This Dog's place though better than some imagine, is the only place which nobody offer to beg."

SHAYS' REBELLION

One of the most perilous times in the history of the United States was the period just after the close of the Revolutionary war and before the government had become firmly established. Every community was inclined to be a law unto itself. Even in puritanical Massachusetts there was a little re-

bellion against the state government that looked serious for a time. It is known as "Shays' Rebellion," taking its name from one of the leaders, Daniel Shays, who had been a gallant officer in the War for Independence. The grievances were the large salary paid the governor of the state, the aristocratic character of the state senate, and the burdensome taxes. The rebellion lasted from August, 1786, till the following February. Shays had a large following, and there were several conflicts with the state militia. The opposing forces, however, evidently did not get dangerously near each other, for only three men were killed during the entire "war." The leaders were tried and convicted, but were eventually pardoned. Shays lived till 1825, and in his old age was pensioned for his gallant services during the Revolution.

A REMARKABLE BATTLE

THAT was a wonderful battle which was fought at Alesia, the ancient capital of Gaul, fifty-two years before the birth of Christ. Within the city and defending it was an army of 80,000 natives of Gaul. Surrounding the city and besieging it was a great Roman army under Julius Cæsar. Encompassing this Roman army and harassing it on all sides was another army of Gauls, numbering nearly a quarter of a million. It was the Gauls' last desperate stand in defense of their country. If they lost this city they lost everything. Day after day the battle raged. The imperial legions of Cæsar fought as soldiers do who have never been defeated. The Gauls fought with a desperation born of despair. But vast num-

bers and brute force could not prevail against Roman discipline. The Gauls finally were routed with great slaughter and their stronghold captured. This victory was Cæsar's greatest military triumph, but it was also his greatest shame; for he dragged the captive leader of the Gauls, Vercengetorix, in chains to complete his triumph. Vercengetorix was a splendid soldier and a knightly man, and all the brilliant deeds of Cæsar, before or after, cannot erase this stain from his record.

AN UNCROWNED HERO

About the middle of the eighteenth century there appeared upon the streets of London one day a gentleman carrying a very strange looking apparatus. At times he would carry it by his side, and again he would spread it out and carry it aloft. He was an Englishman and a great traveler, and he had brought this curious device from far-off Persia. The like of it had never before been seen in England, and it excited a great deal of curiosity. More than that, it brought much ridicule and abuse upon the gentleman's head. Crowds of men and boys would follow him, hooting and jeering, and even pelting him with stones. But he was not dismayed, and persisted in his practice day after day. Others took it up, and he lived to see his example followed by almost the whole populace of London. The unromantic name of this uncrowned hero was Jonas Hanway, and he was the first Englishman to carry an umbrella.

A STUBBORN LITTLE KINGDOM

AMURETH II, a fifteenth century sultan of Turkey, ruled less than twenty years, yet during that time he conquered two empires, twelve kingdoms, and five hundred cities. But there was one little kingdom, lying at his very door, which gave him more trouble than all the rest combined. This was Albania. For a quarter of a century it successfully resisted and defied Turkish Mohammedanism. Under the gallant leadership of John Gratiot, whom the Turks called Scanderbeg, the Albanians repelled twenty invasions by the sultan's army. In all more than a million Turkish soldiers were sent against the little kingdom from time to time, and a very large percentage of them remained to enrich the Albanian soil with their bones. At no time could Scanderbeg muster more than twenty thousand men. The stubborn little kingdom was forced to yield at last, but not till after Scanderbeg himself had been conquered by death.

UPSETTING THE KING

SHORTLY after Rollo, ancestor of William the Conqueror, came down from the north and settled in Normandy, Charles III, king of France, also known as Charles the Simple, made him a duke and gave him his sister in marriage. It then became Rollo's duty, as an underlord, to render homage to the king; the homage consisting in kissing the king's great toe. This obsequious act, not very pleasant under favorable circumstances, was peculiarly repugnant to the proud brother-in-law. He therefore

delegated the duty to one of his vassals. But the vassal was proud also, and did not relish the privilege of serving as proxy in a matter of this kind. So, when he approached the royal presence, instead of stooping down to do the kissing act, he contemptuously seized the royal foot and raised it to the level of his mouth, thereby upsetting the king and landing him on his imperial back.

KING GEORGE THIRD'S CONFESSION OF DEFEAT

After the close of the Revolutionary war, King George the Third made a speech to his parliament in which he endeavored to explain how and why he had ended the war, and agreed to a separation of the American Colonies from the mother country. He closed his speech with these words:

"In thus admitting their separation from the crown of these kingdoms, I have sacrificed every consideration of my own, to the wishes and opinion of my people. I make it my humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that Great Britain may not feel the evils which might result from so great a dismemberment of the Empire; and, that America may be free from these calamities, which have formerly proved in the mother country how essential monarchy is to the enjoyment of constitutional liberty. Religion, language, interest, affections may, and I hope will yet prove a bond of permanent union between the two countries; to this end, neither attention nor disposition on my part shall be wanting."

PUNISHING ANIMALS AS CRIMINALS

There were some queer doings in the Middle Ages. For instance, criminal laws were sometimes enforced against offending animals. It is a matter of record that in 1266, at Fontenay, near Paris, a pig was publicly burned for having devoured a child. In 1336 a judge at Falaise condemned a sow to be mutilated in her legs and head, and then hanged, for having lacerated and killed a child. She was executed in the public square, dressed in a man's clothing. In 1389 a horse was tried at Dijon and condemned to death for having killed a man. In 1499 a bull was condemned to death at Canroy for killing a boy. In Ireland, in 1383, a cock was convicted of having laid an egg which hatched out a reptile.

A NOSE TAX

In the ninth century, when the Danes were managing things in Ireland, much to the disgust of the natives, they imposed a yearly tax of one ounce of gold on each Irish householder, the non-payment of which was to be punished by having the nose slit. Irishmen have never been noted for wealth, and gold is almost as scarce as snakes in the Emerald Isle. Consequently the tax was a great burden, and the majority of householders were unable to pay it. The delinquent tax list soon became something formidable, and it seemed as though Ireland would soon become a nation of slit-noses. The people stood it for thirteen years, and then rose in their wrath and massacred many of their op-

pressors. The others took the hint and the odious law was repealed.

THE SAD FATE OF A STINGY BISHOP

Once there was a great famine, so the story runs, in the city of Bingen, in Germany. The bishop of the city was an avaricious man, and though his castle was full of corn and flour, he would not let the starving people have any except at exorbitant prices. As most of them had no money they could not buy. At last the rats and mice of the city, unable to find even a few crumbs to nibble at, rushed to the castle in great numbers, and besieging it, captured and devoured, not only the corn and flour, but also the bishop himself. This is the legend Longfellow refers to in his poem, "The Children's Hour":

> "They almost devour me with kisses,
> Their arms about me entwine,
> Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen
> In his mouse-tower on the Rhine."

"THE FATHER OF CRUELTY"

Hakem I., ruler of Cordova, Spain, in Moorish days, did not hesitate to use drastic measures with his subjects when they displeased him. At one time, when confronted with a rebellion, he promptly sent forty thousand of them into exile. To make assurance doubly sure he razed their dwellings to the ground, thus leaving them no homes to return to. For this act he has become known in history as "The Father of Cruelty." It is recorded that when

he died he left a family of forty children; twenty boys and twenty girls.

THE PEACOCK THRONE

During the seventeenth century there stood in the audience room of the citadel of Delhi, India, what was probably the most costly and beautiful throne of modern times. It was six feet high and four feet wide, and was supported by six legs of solid gold, encrusted with gems. The body of the throne was inlaid with diamonds, emeralds and rubies. Behind the throne stood two peacocks, with wings outstretched and blazing with precious stones. On this account it was called "the peacock throne." It was valued all the way from ten to fifty million pounds; probably no one knew the exact value. In 1739 the city of Delhi was captured and sacked by the Persians, who rifled the public buildings and temples of their treasures and carried them away to their own country. Thus the rich throne and its costly ornaments fell into their hands, a prey to the fortunes of war.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPERS

The first daily paper is said to have been published in Frankfort, Germany, in 1615. The first daily in Paris was established in 1777. The first one in England appeared March 11, 1702, and was called *The Daily Courant*. The publisher was "E. Mallet," and it is very interesting to know that the "E." stood for Elizabeth, and that therefore the

publisher of the first daily paper in the English language was a woman. The paper consisted of a single page of two columns, and it contained very little except the foreign news. There was no editorial department, the publisher announcing that she "supposed other people to have sense enough to make reflections for themselves." The daily soon passed into the hands of one Samuel Buckley, who appears to have been something of a literary man, and who afterward published the *Spectator.* The first daily published in America was *The American Daily Advertiser*, published at Philadelphia in 1784.

THE KNOW NOTHING PARTY

THE American, or Know Nothing party, was organized in 1852 or 1853. It took its name from the fact that its members, when questioned, would always answer, "I know nothing at all about it." It was in fact a great secret organization, with "lodges," grips, signs, passwords, etc. Its chief aim was to exclude foreigners from participation in governmental affairs in this country. In 1856 it nominated Millard Fillmore for the presidency, but he received only eight electoral votes. The membership of the party was well distributed over the country, north as well as south. For a considerable time it grew steadily, and apparently bid fair to become one of the great political parties. As the slavery question became more and more prominent, however, becoming a political factor in spite of all efforts to prevent it, the Know Nothing party split on it, and went to pieces. Most of the northern

members probably joined the Whigs, and eventually became Republicans.

A DIABOLICAL MONSTER

AMONG the horrors of the French Revolution the diabolical doings of Jean Baptiste Carrier stand out with lurid vividness. It is said that his brother revolutionists, steeped though they were in crime and blood, shrank in horror from the extremes to which he went in cruelties. Before the revolution he was an obscure attorney, but he took such an active part that in 1793 he was put in charge of revolutionary affairs in the city of Nantes. He organized a system of wholesale drowning. Boats were arranged with flat, movable bottoms, and into these were crowded priests, women and children. The boats were then towed out into the river Loire and scuttled, drowning all on board. Twenty-five times this was done, the boat often containing 150 or more victims. After the revolution Carrier was placed on trial for his iniquities. Instead of accepting his fate like a man, he pleaded like a coward, claiming that he acted under orders from others. But he was found guilty and guillotined, which seems an easy fate for such a monster.

DIOCLETIAN AND HIS BATHS

THAT the ancient Romans, or some of them at least, kept their bodies clean is proved by the ruins of very extensive baths found at Rome. The Baths of Diocletian, for instance, the ruins of which are in evidence to-day, covered an area about one

mile in circumference, and there are others. It is said that when the Baths of Diocletian were in full operation they must have accommodated not less than three thousand bathers at a time. With some of the emperors bathing seems to have been a sort of fad, as they expended vast sums in the erection of bath houses and bathing apparatus. Diocletian, however, does not depend entirely on the baths for his place in history. He became emperor in 284, A. D., and abdicated in 305. Two years before his abdication he became very active in persecuting Christians, so much so that in the annals of martyrdom his reign is alluded to as " the Diocletian Era." It is said that the Diocletian baths were built by Christians, 40,000 of them being compelled to do the work.

BRYANT AND THE EMBARGO

During the early years of the nineteenth century England was at war with France, and sometimes had difficulty in keeping her navy supplied with the right kind of men. There were many desertions, and frequently the deserters would find service on board American ships. Whereupon the English fell into the habit of overhauling American ships and searching them for deserters. This the Americans did not like, especially when it happened, as it sometimes did, that American citizens were impressed into the English service. At the instigation of President Jefferson congress passed the Embargo act, which prohibited American vessels from trading with foreign countries. Thus England could not buy cer-

tain much needed American articles, as she had been doing. But the Embargo act was very unpopular with many Americans, and the feeling on their part against President Jefferson was very bitter. William Cullen Bryant, then a youth of thirteen, wrote a lengthy tirade against him, in the course of which he said:

> "Go, wretch, resign the presidential chair,
> Disclose thy secret measures, foul or fair;
> Go, search with curious eye for horned frogs,
> Mid the wild wastes of Louisianian bogs;
> Or, where Ohio rolls her turbid stream,
> Dig for huge bones, thy glory and thy theme,
> Go, scan, philosophist, thy . . . charms
> And sink supinely in her sable arms."

Bryant was becomingly ashamed of this when he grew up, and the poem will not be found among his collected works.

THE BELATED FUNERAL OF JOHN BROWN'S SON

Old John Brown had two sons killed at Harper's Ferry, Owen and Watson. The body of Owen was buried with others in a trench near the scene of the conflict. That of Watson was secured by some physicians from a medical college at Winchester, twenty miles away. Three years afterward, in 1862, Winchester was captured by Gen. Banks of the Union army, and Dr. J. J. Johnson, surgeon of the Twenty-seventh Indiana volunteers, was placed in charge of the medical college, which had been turned

into a hospital for southern soldiers. Dr. Johnson found the body of Watson Brown, so labeled, which had been anatomically preserved as a fine specimen of the human body. He sent the body to his home in Indiana, and preserved it there for many years. In 1882 word reached the Brown family that Dr. Johnson had Watson's body. The oldest son, John Brown, Jr., who was living at Put-in-Bay, went to Martinsville, Ind., where Dr. Johnson lived, identified the body, and took it away with him. It was buried with impressive ceremonies by the side of the father, "John Brown of Osawatomie," in the Adirondack mountains. This account is authentic, for the writer of "Curious Bits of History" is the one who "discovered" the body at Martinsville. A full account of the matter will be found in the New York *Independent* of June 20, 1895.

A BISHOP OF IRON WILL

We are accustomed to think of Oliver Cromwell and the other leaders of the great revolution in England as men of iron will and fierce determination, and so they were; but they did not have a monopoly of such traits, by any means. On the other side were many men just as stanch and as earnest in fighting for what they believed to be right. There was Matthew Wren for instance, Bishop of Ely. Because of his loyalty to the king and his devotion to the church he was thrown into the Tower and remained there a prisoner for eighteen years. Time and again he was offered his liberty by Cromwell, but refused to accept it, because to do so would be to acknowledge Cromwell's authority and accept a

favor from him. After his release, on his own terms, Charles II. begged him to be quiet and give no further trouble. He answered bluntly, "Sir, I know the way to the Tower."

HOW WASHINGTON GOT EVEN

WHEN George Washington was a young man of twenty-two, he had a dispute one day with another young gentleman, a Mr. Payne. The argument grew very warm, and finally Washington said something which gave great offense to Mr. Payne. The latter retaliated by knocking him down. According to the custom of the times, and the rules of "honor" then prevailing, Washington should have challenged his antagonist to mortal combat, and thus obtain "satisfaction." Every one expected him to do this, and was greatly surprised if not disappointed that he did not. Upon mature reflection he decided that he had been the aggressor, and that he ought to ask pardon of Mr. Payne. Accordingly he went to him the next day and extending his hand said: "To err is natural; to rectify error is honorable. I find I was wrong yesterday, and I wish to be right to-day. You have had some satisfaction. If you think that is sufficient, let us be friends." After such a speech as this there was but one thing for Mr. Payne to do. They shook hands and were good friends ever after.

A SAVAGE KING WHO BECAME CIVILIZED

THERE is one great character in Hawaiian history, King Kamehameha. He was born in 1753, a pagan. By his own personal prowess he became the

leader of his people. He conquered all the islands and was crowned their king. It is a remarkable fact that he developed from a savage into a civilized ruler. He was vigilant and strict, introducing many reforms and doing away with many heathenish practices. While he did not become a Christian, he abandoned the worship of idols, and on his death bed refused to allow the customary human sacrifices in the hope of prolonging his life. He died in 1819, the year before the arrival of the Christian missionaries from the United States. There is a fine statue of him in front of the government building in Honolulu, and his memory is held in great reverence by the native Hawaiians. In the Bishop's Museum, in Honolulu, is preserved his war coat, made of the yellow feathers of a rare bird of the islands. Nine generations are said to have been employed in making this coat, and its value is estimated at $150,000.

HOW A COWARD REDEEMED HIMSELF

Charles Callender was captain of an artillery company at the battle of Bunker Hill. There was some criticism of his deportment during the battle, and he was cashiered for alleged cowardice and disobedience. He was dismissed "from all further service in the Continental army as an officer." But he could not have been very cowardly at heart, for he determined to wipe out the stain on his record. He remained in the army as a private, faithfully performed his duties as a common soldier, and watched for his opportunity. It came at the battle of Long Island. The captain and lieutenant of his com-

pany were killed. He assumed command and fought his guns with great bravery to the last. He was about to be bayoneted by a British soldier when an English officer, admiring his courage, intervened and saved his life. He was taken captive and remained a prisoner in the hands of the British for more than a year. After his escape and return, Washington ordered his former record expunged and restored him to his command. At the close of the war he was mustered out of service "with the highest honor and reputation."

BLACKHAWK'S SOLUTION OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION

In his old age Blackhawk, the celebrated Indian chief, submitted to an interpreter his plan for handling the slavery question. At that time, about 1835 or '36, the question was giving the people of the United States a good deal of concern. Blackhawk's plan was as follows:

"Let the free states remove all the male negroes within their limits to the slave states; then let our Great Father (meaning the president of the United States) buy all the female negroes in the slave states between the ages of 12 and 20, and sell them to the people of the free states, for a term of years, say those under 15 until they are 21, and those of and over 15, for five years, and continue to buy all the females in the slave states as soon as they arrive at the age of 12, and take them to the free states and dispose of them in the same way as the first, and it will not be long before the country is clear of the black-skins, about which I am told they

have been talking for a long time, and for which they have expended a large amount of money. If the free states did not want them all for servants, we would take the balance in our nation to help our women make corn."

DUCKING FOR SCOLDING WOMEN

In other days, especially in European countries, unique measures were sometimes adopted for the discipline of scolding women. One method was ducking, a genuine cold water treatment. A chair was fastened to the end of a well sweep overhanging the well. The offending woman was placed in the chair and securely tied. Then the chair and its occupant were lowered into the well sufficiently to give the woman a thorough wetting. The process was usually repeated twice, three immersions being considered necessary to effect a cure. An English gentleman writing in 1780 says:

"In my time, when I was a boy and lived with my grandfather near Magdalen College, Cambridge, I remember to have seen a woman ducked for scolding. The chair hung by a pulley, fastened to a beam about the middle of the bridge; and the woman having been fastened in the chair, she was let under water three times successively, and then taken out. The ducking stool was constantly hanging in its place, and on the back panel of it was an engraving representing devils laying hold of scolds. Some time after a new chair was erected in the place of the old one, having the same device carved on it, and well painted and ornamented."

REMARKABLE PARALLEL BETWEEN NAPOLEON AND WELLINGTON

There is a marvelous parallel, or likeness, between the lives of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Duke of Wellington. Napoleon was born in Corsica, an island near the coast of France; Wellington was born in Ireland, an island near the coast of England. Both were born the same year, 1769. Each lost his father when he was sixteen years old. The mother of each was left with a large family of children, in poor circumstances. Each had four brothers and three sisters. Both attended military school in France at the same time. They became lieutenant-colonels within one day of each other. Both were good mathematicians, and fond of figures. Both are said to have borne a remarkable physical resemblance to Julius Cæsar, and if this is true they must have resembled each other. Each became a great soldier, and the commander of an immense army. But at Waterloo one became the victor and the other the vanquished.

HOW A BEGGAR BECAME A GENERAL

Once upon a time a Japanese beggar named Hideyoshi was sleeping over night upon a bridge. Before he arose in the morning he was roughly seized and ordered out of the way by an attendant of a young nobleman who was passing that way. Noticing that the nobleman was a mere lad, much younger than himself, the thought occurred to him, "Why should I get out of the way? He is rich and I am poor, but that makes no difference. I have

heard of the rich becoming poor and the poor becoming rich. Some day I will rise to a higher position than he has, and then I will make him tie my shoe." From that moment Hideyoshi became a different man. He made a way for himself, was advanced from time to time, and finally became general-in-chief of the Japanese armies. He was an able commander, too; for he suppressed several formidable rebellions, and conducted two successful invasions of Korea.

THE FIRST RAILROADS

The first railroad in the United States, in the modern sense of the term, was the Baltimore & Ohio. One or two little roads had been built before, but they were mere tramways, operated by force of gravity or by stationary engines. The Baltimore & Ohio was chartered in 1827, and its construction begun in 1828, the first rail being laid on July 4 of that year. The work did not go forward very fast, only thirteen miles being open for traffic in 1830. After that, however, better progress was made, and five years later 135 miles were in operation. The first railroad built in England was the Stockton & Darlington, twenty-five miles long. It was opened for traffic in 1825; hence railway transportation, in the modern meaning of the term, began with this railway. *Time's Telescope*, a sort of year book published in London at the time, said:

"The strides which steam is making in the economy of the country are more gigantic and surprising than those who are domesticated at a distance from its immediate operation imagine. The

capability of the locomotive engine to travel with ease and safety, with a weight of ninety tons in its train, at the rate of eight miles an hour, was exhibited to thousands at the late opening of the Darlington & Stockton Railway, and is a striking proof of the immense progress of this new power."

NEWSPAPERS DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary war thirty-seven newspapers were being published in the Colonies. Most of them were published in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Of the thirty-seven, twenty-three were devoted to the cause of the patriots; seven, possibly eight, favored the English, and the balance were supposed to be neutral. Of the twenty-three patriotic papers, five went over to the loyalists in the course of the war. Thus not quite one-half of the total number supported the cause of the Revolution from start to finish. Most of the editors and proprietors whose papers deserted the patriot's cause fled across the border into Canada toward the close of the war, and forgot to come back.

THE FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

There was one man connected with the American Revolution whose memory does not receive the attention it deserves. His name is Samuel Adams. He did more to bring on the war than any other man. The thirteen colonies were widely separated. There was no concerted action, and they often worked at

cross-purposes. Adams developed a system of correspondence among them, which resulted in uniting them in opposition to the tyrannies of the mother country. For twelve years, from 1764 to 1776, he kept up an unceasing agitation. He literally threw himself, body and soul, into the work of arousing the colonies. He was not a great man perhaps, but he did a great work nevertheless. He was not eloquent, but he was persistent. His mission was to put others to work, and in this he was wonderfully successful. He had a discerning eye for young men of ability, and many who became leaders in the Revolution were "discovered" and set to work by him. He has been called the father of the Revolution, and why not? As one of his biographers says, "Massachusetts led the colonies, Boston led Massachusetts, and Sam Adams led Boston." Bernard, the English governor of Massachusetts colony, used to say: "Damn that Adams. Every dip of his pen stings like a horned snake."

NEGRO SLAVERY IN NEW ENGLAND

It seems strange to think of New England as slave territory, yet such it was at one period. A good authority places the number of negro slaves in the New England colonies at the outbreak of the Revolution as follows: In New Hampshire, about 700; in Massachusetts, about 5,000; in Connecticut, about 6,000; and in Rhode Island, probably 3,000. But slavery was never popular in that section, and the opposition to it was strong. In 1784 the Connecticut legislature passed an act that no

negro or mulatto child born within that state after a certain date should be held in servitude longer than until the age of 25. A considerable number of New England citizens were vitally interested in the slave trade. In Colonial times slaves were frequently sent out from Boston and other New England seaports to the south. They would buy molasses from Jamaica, turn it into rum, trade the rum for negroes in Africa, and sell the negroes as slaves in Jamaica, taking their pay partly in molasses. Thus it was a sort of endless chain, with good profit in every link. A Colonial writer, Samuel Hopkins, says that in 1770 Rhode Island had about 150 vessels engaged in slave trade.

PAUL REVERE MORE THAN A MIDNIGHT RIDER

Every school boy knows about Paul Revere and his famous ride, "on the eighteenth of April, Seventy-five," but a great many people are not aware that he did anything else worthy of mention. He was not a great man. He was just a plain citizen, but unlike many plain citizens, he was always ready to do his public duty. He was full of energy and of a fiery temper. He was always in the thick of the fight, whatever it might be about, and was usually on the right side. By occupation he was an engraver, and he was also an artist of considerable ability. Many specimens of his work are preserved. In 1768 England's colonial secretary, Lord Hillsborough, directed the Massachusetts assembly to rescind its circular letter protesting against the

stamp act. The assembly refused to do so, by a vote of 92 to 17. In the old state house at Boston may be seen a large silver punch bowl which Paul Revere was commissioned by the Sons of Liberty to make for "the immortal 92." Nor were the 17 "rescinders" neglected, for there may still be seen a caricature of them, drawn by Revere. It represents them as being driven by devils into the mouth of hell.

PUNISHMENT BY THE PILLORY

The pillory was used as a means of punishment for many hundreds of years in European countries. It usually consisted of a wooden frame erected on a stool, with holes and moving boards for the admission of the head and hands. It was formerly used to punish those convicted of practicing frauds or shams of any kind. The offender's head and hands were inclosed in the frame, which must have been a decidedly uncomfortable position, and all who passed that way were at liberty to mock and jeer at him all they wished. It was a fine opportunity to "get even" with one's enemy. Later on the pillory came to be used for the punishment of political and religious offenders, and much gross injustice was done in this way. Sometimes those who were thus made to suffer for their opinions gloried in it, looking upon it as "persecution for righteousness sake." In cases of this kind the friends of the condemned person would gather around him and give him their sympathy. The pillory was abolished in England by act of Parliament, June 30, 1837.

NAPOLEON'S FEEBLE SON

One would suppose that the son of a man like Napoleon Bonaparte would inherit at least some of the strong qualities of his father, yet such was not the case with the Duke of Reichstadt, the only child of Napoleon and Marie Louisa. He was born at Paris March 20, 1811, and was given the proud title, "King of Rome." That Napoleon expected great things of him is evidenced by his exultant exclamation, "Now begins the proudest epoch of my reign!" Four years later the emperor left France forever. Marie Louisa took the boy and returned to Austria, and the father never saw him again. He grew up into a feeble manhood physically, and gave no evidence of possessing the genius of his illustrious parent. He was made Duke of Reichstadt, and entered the Austrian army in early youth. He reached the rank of lieutenant colonel, but this was probably by reason of birth rather than of merit. In 1832 he was seized with "quick consumption," and died July 22 of that year. Thus the boy in whose birth such great hopes were centered failed utterly to fulfill them. To his credit be it said, however, that so far as known he was a youth of good character, studious and amiable. It is said that the deprivation of the society of his boy was the heaviest cross the emperor had to bear in his exile.

GENERAL SCOTT AND THE CHOLERA

The noble character of General Winfield Scott was never illustrated to better advantage than it was during the Black Hawk war. Shortly after

hostilities began, President Jackson became impatient, and concluded the volunteers were not going to be equal to the task of subduing the Indians. So he ordered General Scott to take nine companies of regulars from Fort Monroe, Virginia, and proceed to the seat of war. At Buffalo four steamboats were chartered to carry the expedition around the lakes to Chicago. All went well till they reached Detroit, when two cases of cholera broke out on one of the boats. The disease spread rapidly, and at Fort Gratiot, north of Detroit, it became necessary to land 280 of the men. It is said that of the 280 only nine survived. Many other cases developed as the boats proceeded, and officers and men had a dreadful experience. General Scott, always thoughtful and forehanded, had taken along a good supply of medicines and appliances, and he gave personal attention to the sick and dying, attending them with every possible care. Of the 850 men who left Fort Monroe only about 200 were fit for service when they reached the seat of war. Speaking of this experience in after years General Scott said: "Sentinels were of no use in warning of the enemy's approach. We could not storm his works, nor fortify against him, nor cut our way out, nor make terms of capitulation. There was no respect for a flag of truce, and our men were falling upon all sides from an enemy in our very midst."

THE WATER-CURE MOVEMENT

In the year 1812 a thirteen-year-old boy named Vincent Priessnitz, living at Grafenberg, Austria, sprained his wrist. He wrapped a wet bandage

around it, and renewed the application frequently. In a short time the wrist was entirely well. Thereafter, when injured in any way, he would use the same treatment. By the time he was grown up he had become so convinced of the curative powers of water that he began to use it in the cure of others. At first he treated only the poor, and in a very simple way; but he gradually undertook an extended range of cases and increased the modes of application. He gave up his occupation of farming and opened a water-cure establishment in his native village. His fame spread, and patients flocked to him from all parts of Europe, and even from other countries. It is said that in twenty years no less than 7,500 persons, from all classes of society, came to Grafenberg for advice and treatment, and that only 39 of them died while there. Similar establishments sprang up in all parts of the civilized world, and the proprietors reaped rich harvests. At one time, in the '50s, the fad had a great run in this country. Priessnitz, however, did not depend entirely on water in his treatment. He insisted on the importance and value of exercise, good food, fresh air and mental repose; from which it appears he was in line with some of the best features of modern medical practice.

PECULIAR OLD-TIME PUNISHMENTS

WHEN New York, or as it was then called, New Amsterdam, was under Dutch rule, some peculiar penalties were enacted. In 1642 a defendant in an action for slander was sentenced "to throw something in the box for the poor." In 1644 Thomas

Cornel, a soldier, was tried for desertion and sentenced "to be conveyed to the place of execution, and there fastened to a stake, and a ball fired over his head, as an example to other evil doers." In 1647 Jonas Jonassen, a soldier, for robbing hen-roosts and killing a pig, was ordered "to ride a wooden horse three days, from 2 p. m. to the conclusion of the parade, with a 50-pound weight tied to each foot." In 1648 an Englishman found guilty of a grave offense was pardoned on condition that he saw firewood one year for the West India Company. In the time of the Commonwealth, in England, drunkards at Newcastle-on-Tyne were sentenced to carry about a tub, with holes in the sides for the arms to pass through. In 1754, in Scotland, David Leyes, for striking his father, was compelled to appear before the congregation at church, "bairheddit and bairfuttit," with a paper above his head inscribed with large letters, "Behold the onnaturall son, punished for putting hand on his father, and dishonoring God in him." At Salem, Mass., in the seventeenth century, John Gatshell was fined ten shillings for building a house on the town's ground, but half of the fine was to be remitted in case he would have his hair cut.

DANIEL BOONE'S LAST DAYS

The last days of Daniel Boone were full of trouble. After all his work in exploring, settling and defending the region now known as Kentucky, he was not permitted to settle down quietly and spend the evening of his tempestuous life in peace. Owing to the imperfect land laws of the state the title to

the farm he had chosen was declared defective by the courts and others got the land. At one time he was intrusted with a large sum of money to buy land for some friends, and was robbed of the whole. Other troubles came upon him and he became discouraged and disgusted with the ways of civilization. He emigrated from the land he had conquered from the Indians, and sought a new home beyond the Mississippi. He located at a point about forty-five miles west of the present site of St. Louis, the country now known as Missouri being at that time within the Spanish domain. The other settlers there were kind to him, and gave him a considerable tract of land. When the American government took possession of that territory, it generously allowed him to keep one-tenth of the land that had been given him and was rightfully his. Though past eighty he spent most of his time in hunting and trapping, and saved up the money he received for pelts. With this he went back to his old home in Kentucky and settled up some old debts he had left behind him, paying each man whatever he demanded. Tradition has it that he returned to Missouri with just fifty cents in his pocket. He died September 26, 1820, in his eighty-seventh year. Twenty-five years after his ashes were removed to Frankfort, Ky., and re-interred with great honors.

THE FIRST OMNIBUSES

In 1662 a company of prominent men in Paris organized for the purpose of providing cheap transportation for those who could not afford carriages. Pascal, the great writer, was the originator of the

scheme and one of the company. King Louis XIV issued a royal decree, in accordance with the company's desires, authorizing the establishment of a line of two-pence half-penny omnibuses, "for the benefit," so the decree ran, "of a great number of persons ill provided for, as persons then engaged in lawsuits, infirm people, and others, who have not the means to ride in chaise or carriage." The decree expressly provided that the omnibuses should run at fixed hours, full or empty, and from certain extreme quarters of the city. The service was inaugurated March 18, 1662, at seven o'clock in the morning. Great interest was taken in the matter, and it was made a festive occasion. The line was started with seven coaches, with seats for eight persons. Four started from one side of the city and three from the opposite side. Each was accompanied by a military escort, and there was much rejoicing. For a time the omnibuses were very popular. Everybody wanted to ride. The king himself tried it. Many people who had coaches of their own waited a week before they could get tickets for the new conveyances. But the novelty soon wore off, the rich rode in their own carriages as before, the poor took to walking again, and the company went out of business before the end of the year. After this failure it was a century and a half before another experiment of the kind was tried.

THE DISCOVERER OF BRIGHT'S DISEASE

It is not often that a man succeeds in giving his name to a disease, as did Dr. Richard Bright. He was not a great man, nor a great physician; yet

his career is an illustration of what may be accomplished by persistence and hard work. He was born in Bristol, England, in 1789. After graduating in medicine he set up practice in London. He was very studious, and made a thorough study of the kidneys, collecting and recording an immense amount of information relating thereto. He visited many hospitals on the continent, always observing and noting. After the battle of Waterloo he assisted in caring for the wounded in the hospitals of Brussels. He was the first to point out the nature of the disease of the kidneys, then little understood, from which so many people were dying every year. He devoted so much time to the subject, and studied the disease so carefully and minutely, that it came to be called by his name. His success was due to his diligence and to his powers of observation. As a brother physician said, "Bright could not theorize, but he could see."

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE BORN IN 1761, NOT 1776

American independence was not born in 1776, as is commonly believed. It came to manhood then, but it was born fifteen years before. Not satisfied with the ordinary processes of law in dealing with the colonists, the English government resorted to "writs of assistance," which gave the officers the right to enter and ransack any man's house. The writs were attacked in the courts, and James Otis, advocate general for the crown, was called upon to defend them. Rather than do so he resigned his lucrative position, and took the other side without pay.

When the case came to trial, in February, 1761, the lawyer for the crown opened with an elaborate plea for the writs. He was followed by Otis's fellow counsel, who made a strong argument against them, but in moderate terms. Then came Otis, with a most wonderful speech. He went beyond the particular legal question at issue, and took up the whole matter of the constitutional relations between the colonies and the mother country. At the bottom lay the ultimate question whether Americans were bound to obey laws they had no part in making. Otis met the question bravely, and answered it flatly in the negative. For five hours he held his hearers as in a trance, pouring forth a torrent of eloquence that overwhelmed the opposition like an avalanche. "Otis," said John Adams, "was a flame of fire. He hurried all before him. Every man of an immense crowded audience appeared to me to go away as I did, ready to take up arms against writs of assistance. Then and there," he adds, "the child Independence was born. In fifteen years he grew to manhood and declared himself free."

BRILLIANT INDIAN MILITARY TACTICS

At one time during the Black Hawk war a detachment of United States troops under the command of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, afterward president of the Southern Confederacy, while pursuing the Indians came up to them on the bank of the Wisconsin river. Here the Indians made a stand, and fought with such desperation that they held the troops in check. While the fighting was going on the squaws tore bark from the trees and

made little shallops, in which they floated their papooses and other belongings across to an island in the river, also swimming over their ponies. As soon as this was done half the Indian warriors plunged in and swam across, each holding his gun above his head with one hand and swimming with the other. As soon as they reached the island they turned and opened fire on the troops. Under cover of this fire the remaining warriors slipped down the bank and swam over in the same manner. "This," said Mr. Davis many years afterward, "was the most brilliant exhibition of military tactics that I ever witnessed — a feat of most consummate management and bravery, in the face of an enemy of greatly superior numbers. I never read of anything that could be compared with it. Had it been performed by white men, it would have been immortalized as one of the most splendid achievements in military history."

HOW THE DOCTOR CURED COL. PRESCOTT

Col. Prescott, the hero of Bunker Hill, was a man of strong character. He had a compelling way about him that made him a natural leader of men. He also had a temper that could make itself felt upon occasion. At one time he was prostrated by a desperate fever while in camp, and was attended by an army surgeon who grossly neglected him. He grew worse instead of better each day, and chafed sorely under the doctor's neglect. Finally, on one of the latter's infrequent visits, Prescott upbraided him for his negligence, and told him plainly what he thought of such conduct. The doc-

tor acknowledged his negligence, but frankly and brutally told the sick man that he thought it proper and best to give most of his time and attention to those patients there was some hope of saving. This made Prescott so mad that he leaped from his bed, seized his sword and made for the doctor. The latter did not stay to argue the case, but fled precipitately, thereby saving his life. Incidentally, also, he saved the life of his patient, for the violent passion and sudden exertion seemed to break the fever, and from that hour Col. Prescott continued to improve.

AN UNDIGNIFIED CHIEF JUSTICE

The Geneva tribunal of Arbitration, which settled the controversy between the United States and England concerning the Alabama claims, awarded damages to the former in the sum of $15,500,000. But the verdict was not unanimous. One of the five arbitrators, Sir Alexander Cockburn of England, submitted a dissenting opinion. For a dozen years Sir Alexander had been Lord Chief Justice of England, and one would expect him to be dignified in bearing and judicial in temperament. But all through the trial he acted more like a petty lawyer in a justice court than an arbitrator in a great international dispute. He differed from his colleagues on almost every point, great and little, and made himself generally disagreeable. In speaking of the closing session of the tribunal Caleb Cushing, one of the attorneys for the United States, said: "The instant the president finished reading the award, and before the sound of his last words had

died on the ear, Sir Alexander Cockburn snatched up his hat and, without participating in the leave-takings around him, without a word or sign of courteous recognition for any of his colleagues, rushed to the door and disappeared, in the manner of a criminal escaping from the dock, rather than of a judge separating, and that forever, from his colleagues on the bench."

THE STATE OF FRANKLIN

Many people do not know there was once a State of Franklin in the United States. It existed for four years, from 1784 to 1788. Many emigrants from North Carolina had crossed the mountains and settled in what is now known as East Tennessee. The territory belonged to North Carolina, but the state government had not been able to give it much attention. Owing to financial and other troubles North Carolina ceded the territory to the general government. The inhabitants did not relish the idea of thus being cast adrift so unceremoniously, so they organized a state and set up a government of their own. To their new commonwealth they gave the name "Franklin," after the Philadelphia philosopher. But congress declined to recognize the new state, and North Carolina raised strong objections. The latter withdrew the cession to the government, and undertook to resume control of the territory. A long quarrel ensued between the North Carolina state government and the citizens of "Franklin." The leader of the latter was "Governor" Sevier, while a Colonel Tipton represented the former. There was an immense amount of bickering and much

confusion, but very little bloodshed. It finally ended in North Carolina resuming control of the territory, and "the state of Franklin" was known no more.

A ROUGH-AND-READY MONARCH

According to the accounts of his contemporaries Henry II of England was not very prepossessing in appearance. He had a bullet-shaped head, a freckled skin and bulging eyes. In dress he was very unconventional, and he would not wear gloves. In speech he was rough-and-ready, and his manners were rude. He never courted popularity, and was unscrupulous and revengeful. Moreover, he was of a nervous temperament, and was never still. Even while hearing mass he would draw pictures to keep his restless hands employed. But he had his good points. He was strong, persistent, far-seeing and hard-working. He was constantly on the move, and kept his attendants tired out. So rapidly did he travel from place to place overseeing the affairs of his kingdom, that his officials never knew when he might drop in on them. And he was energetic to some purpose. Although his reign was turbulent, and although he was almost constantly quarreling with his barons and with the church, he was in the main just, and brought about many changes for the better. He was a great-grandson of William the Conqueror, and his greatest work for England was the combining together and welding into one nation the conquerors and the conquered. He subdued Ireland, and laid the foundation for the future great British Empire.

FUTURE GREAT MEN IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

It is remarkable how many men took part in the Black Hawk war who afterward became famous. The most illustrious name in the list is, of course, that of Abraham Lincoln. But there were many others whose names and deeds "filled the trump of fame" in after years. Zachary Taylor became the hero of the Mexican war, and the twelfth president of the United States. Winfield Scott became commander-in-chief of the United States army in 1841, and was the candidate of the Whigs for the presidency in 1852. Jefferson Davis was for some years United States senator from Mississippi, and president of the Southern Confederacy during the Civil war. Maj. Robert Anderson was in command of Fort Sumter when the attack upon it opened the Civil War. Albert Sidney Johnston, who fell at the battle of Shiloh, is regarded by many as the ablest general on the Southern side. W. S. Harney became a famous Indian fighter and a prominent Union general. Edward D. Baker became a noted orator and United States senator from Oregon, and fell mortally wounded while gallantly leading his regiment at Ball's Bluff. Joseph E. Johnston developed into one of the greatest of Confederate generals. John A. McClernand was a prominent general and aid to Grant. And Gen. George W. Jones was elected the first United States senator from Iowa, serving from 1848 to 1859. All these, in their young manhood, served in the Black Hawk war, either as regulars or volunteers.

HOW ONE FAT LORD COUNTED AS TEN

The enactment of the law of habeas corpus marks an important epoch in the progress of civil liberty in England, and is regarded as one of the great achievements of Charles the Second's reign. Charles himself did not want the law, but just at the time he was very anxious to curry favor with the people, and was afraid to oppose so popular a measure. The friends and foes of the act were pretty evenly divided in parliament, but on the final vote it was carried. The manner of its passage, however, was both comical and illegal. While the voting was going on a very fat lord arose and asked that his vote be recorded in the affirmative. In a spirit of fun the clerk announced ten votes for him, to accord with his great size. They were so recorded, and for some unexplained reason the "error" was never corrected. The strangest part of it is, the majority for the measure was less than ten; hence it would have failed of passage without the fat lord's extra votes. This is an instance where a joke was carried too far to good purpose.

NAPOLEON'S SECOND FUNERAL

In his will Napoleon expressed a desire that his body might repose "on the banks of the Seine, amid the people he had loved so well," but his wish was not complied with till twenty years after his death. In 1840 the French government requested permission of England to remove his body to France, and the request was courteously granted. Two vessels bearing a special commission sailed for

St. Helena in July, arriving there October 8. On the 15th the body was taken up and placed in a splendid ebony sarcophagus, in which it was carried to France. The funeral party arrived at Courbevoie, a suburb of Paris, on December 14. Next day the solemn procession moved to the Hotel des Invalides, beneath whose great dome the body was to find its final resting place. The magnificent funeral car of velvet and gold was twenty feet long and nearly fifty feet high, and was drawn by sixteen beautiful black horses, harnessed four abreast. Following the car were innumerable military and civic organizations in whose ranks were many veterans who had followed Napoleon to victory. The line of march was a continuous procession of flowers and gilded statues and triumphal arches. Never before or since has the world beheld so magnificent a funeral. Though the weather was intensely cold, six hundred thousand people stood in line that day and paid homage to the dead emperor.

A BROTHERHOOD OF FOOLS

One would suppose that an organization calling itself "The Order of Fools" would be entirely devoted to frivolous things, but such was not the case with the society of that name founded by Adolphus, Count of Cleves, in 1331. It was formed for humane and charitable purposes, and the membership was largely composed of noblemen and gentlemen of high rank. The insignia was the figure of a fool, embroidered in brilliant colors on the left side of the mantle or coat. They held a grand conclave at Cleves every year,

lasting an entire week. At these annual meetings the business of the organization was transacted, and plans laid for future work. But business did not absorb the entire attention of the members. Between sessions they had a general good time. All distinctions of rank were laid aside for the time being, and perfect equality reigned. The organization was kept up till well on into the sixteenth century, but the original objects were gradually lost sight of, and the order became extinct.

A CONSCIENTIOUS ADMIRAL

DURING the Boxer rebellion in China the warships of eight allied nations, England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Russia, Japan and the United States, were lying at the mouth of the Pei-Ho river, leading to Peking. On the banks of the river, and guarding its entrance, were the Taku forts, garrisoned by Chinese soldiers. At a critical juncture of the rebellion seven of the admirals united in a demand for the evacuation or surrender of the forts, the demand being accompanied by a threat to fire on them unless it was immediately complied with. But Rear Admiral Kempff, in command of the American squadron, refused to join in the demand, on the ground that he was not authorized to initiate any act of war with a nation with which his country was at peace. His instructions, he claimed, did not permit him to commit an overt act of war. The other commanders argued and insisted, but he steadfastly refused. It is a part of an admiral's business to fight, and it was no doubt a great temptation to join in

the bombardment. Had he yielded, he probably would have been sustained by public opinion at home. But he had the moral courage to stand by his conception of his duty under his instructions.

HOW EDWARD I. GOT HIS WEDDING GIFTS

When King Edward I. of England was very sick he made a solemn vow that if restored to health he would undertake another crusade. When he recovered, however, Palestine seemed a long way off, and he compromised by driving the Jews out of one of his French provinces. Pleased with his success in this, he determined to try it on a larger scale, and banish the descendants of Abraham from England. So he issued a proclamation commanding all persons of Jewish descent to leave the country before a certain date, under penalty of death. He graciously permitted them to take along a very small portion of their worldy goods, and enough money to pay their traveling expenses. The rest of their property he appropriated to his own use and that of his friends. This brutal expulsion of the Jews he doubtless considered most timely, for shortly afterward his three daughters were married, and he was able to give each of them a grand wedding, and much jewelry of fabulous value.

THE LEVELERS

There are always some who are dissatisfied with existing conditions, no matter how favorable they may be. Even though such people enjoy a large measure of liberty, they want more, and imagine

themselves abused if they do not get it. Oliver Cromwell was called the Great Commoner, yet at one time a considerable portion of his army became mutinous because they thought his government was too aristocratic. They were called "Levelers," because they clamored for a republic based on the absolute equality of all citizens. The Protector of course put them down with his iron hand. But there were "Levelers" before the time of Cromwell. In the sixteenth century a formidable party with that name arose in Germany. The leaders taught that all distinctions of rank are usurpations of the rights of humanity. The uprising assumed alarming proportions, and an army of forty thousand "Levelers" set out to put their doctrines into practice by ravaging the country. The landgrave of Hesse went against this army with his trained soldiers, and seven thousand of the "Levelers" were slain.

THE FIRST STEAMSHIP TO CROSS THE OCEAN

THE first steamship to cross the Atlantic was the "Savannah," built in New York and commanded by Captain Moses Rogers. She was a combined sail and steam vessel, "a full-rigged ship of about three hundred and fifty tons burden, with a low-pressure engine of eighty or ninety horse-power." She was a fast sailer, but could make eight knots an hour with her engine alone. She left Savannah, Georgia (where she was owned), May 25, 1819, and arrived at Liverpool twenty-two days later. When first sighted she was reported as a

ship on fire, and a vessel was sent to her relief. As she approached the city the shipping, piers, roofs of buildings and all other available spaces were crowded with excited people, anxious to get a glimpse of the wonderful ship. She remained twenty-eight days at Liverpool, during which time many people from London and elsewhere came to inspect her. She then visited Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg and other cities, everywhere exciting the wonder and admiration of thousands. From St. Petersburg she returned to Copenhagen, and then proceeded to Arendal, in Norway. From the last named place she returned to Savannah, this time requiring twenty-five days for the passage.

THREE REGICIDES IN AMERICA

When Charles I. of England was tried "for high crimes and misdemeanors," sixty-seven men sat as judges. Of these, fifty-eight signed the death warrant. After Charles II. became king, the House of Commons ordered that the regicides be brought to trial. Twenty-four of them were dead, but they were tried just the same, and condemned. Of those living, twenty-nine were tried and condemned to death, of whom ten were executed. Sixteen escaped and went into exile. Of these, three came to America and ended their days here. General William Goffe and his father-in-law, General Edward Whalley, lay in hiding at New Haven for three years. Then they went to Hadley, Massachusetts, and probably died there. Colonel John Dixwell, another regicide, came to New Haven in 1665, and lived there till his death, in 1689. Time and again the crown officers searched

for these men, but were never able to find them, owing to the vigilance of their friends. For many years a hermit living near Narragansett was believed to be one of the escaped regicides, but it was never proven.

PRESIDENT JACKSON'S KITCHEN CABINET

When Andrew Jackson was president he had a small coterie of men about him, mostly editors and office-holders, with whom he frequently consulted in private. They usually entered the White House by a rear door, in order to keep their visits secret, and on this account they were called Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet." Jackson was accused of allowing these men to do his thinking for him. He often did things with a suddenness that took the country by surprise, and it was said that in arriving at decisions he was influenced far more by his "Kitchen Cabinet" than by his regular cabinet members. The names of his "Kitchen Cabinet" were: William B. Lewis, second auditor of the treasury; Isaac Hill, second comptroller of the treasury; Amos Kendall, fourth auditor of the treasury; Duff Green, editor of the "United States Telegraph," and Francis P. Blair, Sr., editor of the Globe. Not much is known of Lewis. Hill was afterward United States senator from New Hampshire. Green was a prominent journalist, and afterward turned against Jackson and became his bitter enemy. Blair came to be a prominent man in public affairs. Kendall was the ablest man of them all, and afterward became postmaster general. He died in 1872.

A MAD QUEEN

One of the most pathetic characters in history is Juana, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. Her father was king of Aragon and her mother queen of Castile. She was the third child and the second daughter, but by the deaths of her older brother and sister she became heir to the Castile throne. She was married to Archduke Philip, son of Emperor Maximilian of Austria. In her young womanhood she became mentally unbalanced and was known as "La Loca," The Mad. Her mother died in 1504, and she became queen of Castile. Owing to her mental incapacity her husband exercised the royal power and administered the affairs of the kingdom. He died two years later, and she is said to have kept watch over his coffin for many days in the belief that he would return to life. Shortly afterward she was placed in the castle of Tordesillas, and never knew liberty again, though she survived nearly fifty years. Notwithstanding her insanity, she takes high rank as a mother queen; for two of her sons became Holy Roman emperors. One of them, Charles V., was the greatest European ruler of the sixteenth century.

FOURIER'S FOLLY

Charles Fourier, a French socialist, believed himself to be the originator of a scheme which would make all men happy. His social system was to be organized on a mathematical basis. By his plan humanity was to be divided into groups of four hundred families, and the groups into series, and the series into phalanxes. Each group would be placed

under one immense roof, and the members supplied with every appliance of industry and art. Each individual should choose the occupation for which he was best adapted, and then all work would become pleasure. Salaries would be abolished, and each worker be paid enough for his simple wants. The surplus should be used for the general good. There would be no drones, for each person would be anxious to labor for the common good. No army would be needed, and no police, for the world would become one great family, well behaved and happy. Communities for putting these ideas into practice were started in various countries. Thirty-four of them were founded in the United States, and some of them lasted four or five years. It was a beautiful dream which did not come true.

HOW THE DUTCHMEN THREW OUT THE DUKE

In 1582 the Duke of Anjou, son of Henry III. of France, was appointed sovereign of The Netherlands, without the knowledge or consent of the people he was to govern. They resented the appointment, and prepared to resist him. But the wise duke thought he knew a thing or two, and resolved to make himself master of the situation at one bold stroke, by simultaneously seizing the principal cities in which French garrisons were located. He himself took charge of the seizure of Antwerp, and on the day appointed assembled his troops in the streets as if for review. At a given signal they fell on the burghers and began to set fire to the houses. But the plan did not work. The sturdy Dutchmen did

not propose to be deprived of their liberty in this way. They put out the fires and furiously attacked the soldiers. When it was all over the duke and his men found themselves outside the city instead of in command of it.

A LUCKY STUMBLE

Once upon a time, at a dancing party at Windsor, a young Welsh soldier stumbled and fell, landing in the lap of a lady who was sitting by and looking on. Strange to say, this mishap was the beginning of a love affair between the two, which culminated in their marriage. The lady was Catherine, widow of Henry V. of England. The young soldier's name was Owen Tudor. Three children were born to them, the eldest of whom, Edmund Tudor, married Margaret Beaufort, daughter of the Duke of Somerset. A son of Edmund and Margaret became Henry VII., and, beginning with him, and including Henry VIII., Edward VI., Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, the line of Tudors ruled England for 118 years. It was a lucky stumble for the young Welsh soldier, but in view of some things the Tudors did to them, it is doubtful whether it was lucky for the people of England.

AN INVASION THAT DID NOT TAKE PLACE

In 1386 the young king of France, Charles VI., was persuaded by his uncles, of whom he had a good supply, to invade England, and an army of 40,000 men was assembled in Flanders for the purpose. Great preparations were made for the expedition.

Every soldier provided himself with a pillard, or hired man to go along and collect plunder for him. An enormous tent was constructed, which it would require seventy-two vessels to transport in sections across the channel. Just what this tent was for is not quite clear. When all was ready for the grand start it was found that the youthful king was drunk. When he sobered up he decided to wait for the arrival of one of his uncles. By the time the uncle arrived the king had changed his mind, and concluded not to make the invasion after all. The army disbanded and the stores which had been collected were plundered. The boats upon which the parts of the great tent had been loaded got away from their moorings and drifted into the mouth of the Thames. The English seized them, and found the great tent useful in a variety of ways.

RIDING THE STANG

In the north of England it was formerly the custom to punish wife-beating, hen-pecking and other frailties incident to married life, by a peculiar process known as "riding the stang." It was so called because the leader was borne on a "stang," the north country word for a chair fastened on two poles. In southern England the process is called "rough music." The offender was called upon by a company of men, women and children and treated to a loud and boisterous serenade, the instruments being cows' horns, fire shovels, tongs, frying pans, pot lids used as cymbals, tin pails, and other implements and utensils capable of producing loud and discordant noises. Along with the din the sere-

naders would keep up a constant hooting and yelling, and make many jeering remarks to the culprit. If one application was not sufficient, the performance would be repeated; sometimes, in flagrant cases, every evening for a week. This form of punishment is known to have been meted out to wife-beaters as late as 1862, and there is some ground for believing that the custom still survives among the lower classes in some parts of England. In this country newly wedded couples are sometimes treated to a serenade somewhat resembling the above ceremony, but it is always good-natured and does not carry the idea of punishment. We call it "charivari," pronounced "shiv-a-ree."

THE BATTLE OF THE KEGS

At one time during the War of the Revolution some enterprising patriots of Bordentown, N. J., fixed up a few torpedoes in the shape of kegs, and sent them floating down the river. They were filled with gunpowder, and so arranged mechanically that rubbing against another object they would explode. It was hoped that one of them might come in contact with one of the British ships lying at anchor at Philadelphia, and blow her up. This hope was not realized, but they succeeded in scaring the British in and around Philadelphia within an inch of their lives. One of the "kegs" rubbed against a block of floating ice and exploded, creating wild consternation among the British. For twenty-four hours thereafter they fired at every object seen moving on the bosom of the river. This afforded great amusement to the Americans, and Judge Francis Hopkins,

one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, wrote a ballad about the affair, in which he poked much fun at the British. The closing stanza read thus:

> "Such feats they did perform that day
> Against those wicked kegs, sir,
> That years to come, if they get home,
> They'll make their boasts and brags, sir."

A BLANKET PROCESSION

In 1817 the dissatisfied weavers of Lancashire, England, got together and resolved to march up to London and lay their grievances before the prince regent. As it was quite a way to London, each took a blanket along to wrap about him at night. About 5,000 made the start, and a curious looking parade it must have been. One eyewitness described the marchers as "a most deplorable lot, without food and without organization." Scarcely had they begun to move when they were attacked by the military and partially dispersed. Some kept on, but the desertions became more and more frequent. By the time the marching column reached the outskirts of London it had dwindled to six persons, and not one reached the presence of the prince regent.

THE FIRST POLITICAL DARK HORSE

The first "dark horse" appeared in an American political convention in 1844. His name was James K. Polk. In the national Democratic convention of that year Van Buren, who had been presi-

dent but was defeated by Harrison in 1840, was the leading candidate, with a majority of twenty-six in the convention. But the two-thirds rule held good, and that blasted Van Buren's chances. Seven ballots were taken with no result except an increase of bad feeling among the delegates. James K. Polk had been modestly mentioned for vice-president, but nobody had thought of him as a candidate for the chief place. On the eighth ballot a delegate from Pennsylvania broke away from Buchanan and voted for Polk. The Maryland delegation joined him, and a flood of oratory broke loose. On that ballot Polk received forty-four votes. On the ninth the break became a stampede, and every vote was recorded for Polk.

WILBERFORCE'S FIGHT ON SLAVERY

A GOOD example of what may be accomplished through the persistent efforts of one man or set of men is illustrated in the life of William Wilberforce. When a mere boy at school he became interested in the slavery question, and wrote an article for the local paper condemning the "iniquitous institution," and throughout a long life he never lost sight of the subject. England passed an act abolishing slavery on home soil in 1807, but it was the object of Wilberforce's life to have it abolished in all English colonies. He labored incessantly, making speeches and writing articles looking to that end. Three days before his death, which occurred July 29, 1833, word was brought to him that a bill abolishing slavery in the colonies had passed to its second reading. Nine days after his death the bill was passed.

Under its provisions 800,000 slaves in the various colonies were set free, the owners receiving £20,000,000 as compensation.

THE ORIGIN OF PINS AND PIN MONEY

For a long time after pins were invented, in the fourteenth century, they were used only by the wealthy. It cost so much to manufacture them that the poor and even the middle classes could not afford them. Each pin was made by filing one end of a wire of the proper length to a point, and then twisting a piece of finer wire about the other end. The complete process is said to have involved about thirteen different operations, requiring as many different persons. In 1797 Timothy Harris of England succeeded in making the first solid-headed pin. In 1824 an American named Wright made a great improvement over Harris's method, and in 1831 John I. Howe of New York city invented a machine for making pins as we now have them. At one period, when pins were expensive luxuries, it was customary to give a young lady a certain amount on her marriage for "pin money." The custom disappeared long ago, but the term "pin money" remains.

ANOTHER STRENUOUS ROOSEVELT

Other Roosevelts besides Theodore have been noted for strenuousness. Nicholas J. Roosevelt was one of them. He flourished in the early years of the nineteenth century, and may be called the father of steam navigation in the west. In 1811 he made a

voyage on a flatboat from Pittsburg to New Orleans, to ascertain whether steam could be used as a motive power on the Ohio and Mississippi. Everybody discouraged the idea, but on his return, with the aid of Fulton and Stevenson, he built a steamboat to try it out. The boat was called the *New Orleans*, and cost about $38,000. With his wife and a small crew he embarked at Pittsburg amid the plaudits of thousands. People said it was all right going down, but the boat could never be made to go up the river. At Cincinnati he took some people aboard for a little ride, and scared them nearly to death by letting the boat drift toward the Falls of the Ohio. Suddenly reversing the engine, he took the boat up stream three or four miles, to their great relief and delight. The voyage was a great success, and the forerunner of many more.

WHEN CHINESE WOMEN WENT TO WAR

About 1850 a Chinaman at Nanking named Hungsewtsiuen founded a society which he called "God-Worshipers," in opposition to Confucianism, the state religion. It soon came into collision with the imperial authorities, and the uprising became known as the Taiping rebellion. The most peculiar thing about it was, the women were as active as the men in the military operations. It is said that a large army of women was raised and formed into brigades of 13,000 women each, with female officers. Of each brigade 10,000 were picked women and drilled in garrison duty. The rest were compelled to do the drudgery, as building breastworks, digging trenches, erecting batteries, etc. The rebels held

the city of Nanking till 1864, with Hungsewtsiuen, called "the Heavenly King," as ruler. The rebellion was finally suppressed by the imperial authorities, and it had a tragic ending. The "Heavenly King" perished by his own hands amid the blazing ruins of the palace he had occupied for eleven years.

THREE PRESIDENTS WHO PLAYED HOOKEY

Three presidents failed to attend the inaugural ceremonies of their successors. Both the Adamses have this distinction, and likewise Andrew Johnson. John Adams was greatly disappointed at his failure to secure a second term, and felt very bitter toward his successful rival, Thomas Jefferson. On the last day of his administration he worked till midnight filling offices and signing commissions, and then slipped out of Washington in the early morning hours of the day that was to see Jefferson installed in his place. His grandson, John Quincy Adams, had a better excuse for not attending the inauguration of his successor, Andrew Jackson. Party spirit ran high in those days, and there was no love between the two, It is said, however, that Jackson came to Washington with the full intention of calling on Adams and of being friendly, but was dissuaded from doing so by his party associates. Of course this made it out of the question for Adams to attend the inaugural. Andrew Johnson had quarreled with the man who was to succeed him, General Grant, as he had with almost every one else, and neither had any use for the other. Johnson proba-

bly would have been willing to attend Grant's inaugural, but Grant peremptorily refused to ride in the same carriage with him.

THE LAST BATTLE ON BRITISH SOIL

No battle has been fought on British soil, that is, in Great Britain proper, for considerably more than a century and a half. The last one was at Culloden Moor, four miles from Inverness, in Scotland. Charles Edward Stuart, grandson of James II. of England, known in history as the "Young Pretender," came over from France and attempted to regain the throne of his ancestors. His army was badly defeated at the above named place on April 27, 1746. It was an unequal contest, for the Duke of Cumberland had 12,000 royal troops, while Charles Edward's Highlanders numbered only 5,000. In this battle all the wounded in Charles Edward's army were put to death, and for some time afterward the prisons of England bulged with Scottish prisoners of war. Many of the prisoners were afterward executed. This was the last attempt of the Stuart family to regain the throne of England, though Charles Edward survived the battle of Culloden 42 years.

JOHN ADAMS A POOR LOSER

John Adams, second president of the United States, was not a good loser. He wanted another term, and worked hard for it. None of the candidates received a majority of the electoral votes, and

the election was thrown into the house of representatives. But Adams had no chance there, for he was third in the race, and only the two having the highest number of electoral votes could be voted for. Thus the choice lay between Jefferson and Burr, and Jefferson won. Adams was very much disgruntled, and did everything in his power to make things unpleasant for his successor. He filled every vacant office he could lay his hands on, so as to leave as little patronage as possible for Jefferson. Not only so, but in the closing hours of his administration he and his party associates created twenty-three new judgeships, for which there was no necessity, and worked till the stroke of midnight on March 3, filling out and signing commissions for these "midnight judges," as they were called.

JOSEPH THE UNFORTUNATE

Joseph II., emperor of Germany, was not a very successful ruler. Half in jest, half in earnest, he suggested this as an appropriate inscription for his tombstone: "Here lies Joseph, unfortunate in all his undertakings." He was a good man, with excellent intentions; but somehow his plans almost invariably went wrong. "Be good and you will be happy" did not seem to apply in his case. The truth is, he was lacking in judgment. He was a zealous reformer, and deeply concerned for the welfare of his subjects; but he went about it in the wrong way. He tried to reform people with a hammer, and totally disregarded their feelings in the matter. Many of them did not even know they needed reforming. Joseph had about as much tact as a runaway horse in a

flower garden. He probably did not know it, but this lack of judgment was largely the cause of his being "unfortunate in all his undertakings."

PILLAR SAINTS

It is marvelous what strange things men have done in the name of religion, but none are more curious than the practices of the Stylites, sometimes called Air Martyrs, but usually known as Pillar Saints. The founder of the sect, and its most conspicuous example, was a shepherd of Cilicia named Simeon, now known in church history as St. Simeon Stylites. With the idea of gaining the favor of heaven and attaining saintship on earth he took up his residence on a pillar, or column, said to have been sixty feet high. The top of this pillar was about three feet in diameter, and was inclosed by an iron railing. It seems incredible, but he is said to have lived here for thirty years, never descending, eating very sparingly of food sent up to him, always standing or bowing in prayer, and exposed to all kinds of weather. He wore the skins of animals, and always kept an iron band about his neck. At a certain hour every day he addressed those gathered at the foot of the pillar, exhorting them to lives of holiness. He died on top of his pillar, and his body was taken to Antioch and buried with imposing ceremonies. The practice of this extreme form of Christian asceticism was taken up by others, and "Pillar Saints" became quite numerous in eastern countries. The sect did not entirely disappear till the twelfth century.

HOW A MAID SERVANT FOUNDED A GREAT HOSPITAL

Guy's Hospital, in London, is one of the largest institutions of its kind in the world. It was founded by Thomas Guy in 1721, "and thereby hangs a tale." Guy was rich and miserly, and in middle age he became engaged to marry one of his maid servants. Preparatory to the wedding he gave orders for the pavement in front of his house to be mended as far as a particular stone, which he marked. In his absence the maid to whom he was engaged was watching the workmen, and noticing a broken place they had not repaired she called their attention to it. They replied that Mr. Guy had told them to repair only so far. "Well," said she, "you mend it, and tell him I told you to. I am sure he will not be angry." But he was, so angry that he broke the engagement, renounced the idea of matrimony altogether, and resolved to spend his fortune in building a great hospital, which he did.

LORD SANDWICH AND HIS GREAT INVENTION

John Montagu is known in history as the fourth Earl of Sandwich. Americans owe his memory a debt of gratitude because as First Lord of the Admiralty he contributed materially to the success of the American cause by his poor management of the English navy. But he is also entitled to fame on other and entirely different grounds. He was an inveterate gambler and spent most of his time in a gambling house near the Admiralty offices.

Frequently he would become so fascinated with the play that he would forget to eat or drink for twenty-four hours at a time. Then he would hastily summon an attendant and order him to bring him anything that could be had to eat. Uusually it would be a slice of beef and two slices of bread. Placing the beef between the two pieces of bread he would devour them with great relish. He was so fond of this hasty luncheon, and praised it so highly, that it came to be called after his name, or rather after his title. To this day "sandwiches" continue to be an important feature of lunch counters.

A SEVEN DAYS' FISHERMAN KING

In 1647, when the kingdom of Naples was under the grinding rule of Spain, a fisherman of Sorrento was stung to madness by the indignities offered his wife by Spanish officials, because she had attempted to smuggle a few handfuls of flour. So furious was he that he tore down an edict that had just been posted by the authorities. The whole population, including women and children, rallied around him. Forty years of Spanish oppression had made them frantic. They terrified the viceroy, resisted the soldiers successfully, and killed many of the Spanish residents. They secured a revocation of many obnoxious edicts, the abolishment of oppressive taxes, and full pardon for all who engaged in the insurrection. The fisherman, whose name was Masanielo, was the leader in all this, and became the idol of the people. He ruled Naples for seven days, but his success seems to have turned his head. He became dictatorial and oppressive, and was put

to death by the populace. Hence he is called the Seven Days' King.

HOW KING HENRY IV. FOOLED THE LAWYERS

THE sixth parliament of Henry IV. of England met at Coventry in 1404. It was called the Unlearned Parliament by some, and the Illiterate Parliament by others; while by others still it was disrespectfully dubbed the Parliament of Dunces. The reason for this was that it contained no lawyers. There had been much complaint that lawyers were in the habit of securing seats in parliament, not for the public good, but to further the interests of their clients and incidentally feather their own nests. Henry himself said that members often spent more time on private suits than on public business. Availing himself of an ordinance passed under Edward III., he stipulated in the writs that no lawyers should be returned. He had the parliament meet in Coventry, so as not to be near the courts. Notwithstanding it contained no lawyers, and although it was called by derisive names as noted, it seems to have been as good as the average, and to have done some sensible things. Strange to say, though obsolete long ago, the ordinance excluding lawyers was not repealed till 1871.

THE TRAGIC FATE OF ADMIRAL BYNG

ADMIRAL JOHN BYNG of the British navy bungled a battle and was shot for it. In 1756 he was sent with his squadron to protect a British station on

the island of Minorca, in the Mediterranean. He came to an engagement with the French fleet, but managed his vessels very poorly, and the French were victorious. When news of the defeat reached England there was a great outcry. The admiral was brought home and tried by court-martial. The court found him guilty of not having done his utmost to win the battle, but acquitted him of cowardice and disaffection and recommended him to mercy on that account. But there was a stringent law at that time which prescribed death for negligence on the part of an admiral, and the king decided not to interfere with the verdict. Byng, however, was not without friends and defenders. Many people believed the government itself was at fault in not furnishing him with an adequate equipment of men and ships, and made him a scape-goat for its own shortcomings. His trial and execution made a deep impression on the public mind, and doubtless led to a modification of the law. The admiral met his death bravely, but it was needless cruelty to shoot him on a ship he had formerly commanded.

QUEEN DICK

Oliver Cromwell was a strong character, but the same cannot be said of his son, Richard. Oliver tried to train his son to be a worthy successor as Protector, but the attempt was a failure. Richard was easy-going and amiable, and more addicted to sports than to statecraft. He was the acknowledged Lord Protector from September 3, 1658, to May 25, 1659, but cut little figure as such. He

did not relish official duties, and much preferred having a good time. The Cavaliers called him "Queen Dick," and others, still less respectfully, spoke of him as "Tumble-down Dick." He was glad to quit when parliament told him to get out. After his abdication, however, he conducted himself with credit and even with dignity. He lived in quiet retirement for fifty-three years, and died July 12, 1712, at the ripe old age of ninety.

COLONEL BLOOD, CROWN STEALER

One day in 1670 a country clergyman, his wife and a nephew visited the Tower of London and were shown the usual sights by the keeper. While viewing the royal regalia the lady fell suddenly ill, and was taken to the keeper's living room, where she quickly recovered under the kindly ministrations of the keeper's wife and daughter. This was the beginning of an intimate friendship between the two families, and of a love affair between the nephew and the keeper's daughter. Some time afterward the clergyman, the nephew and a third man went to the Tower to complete arrangements for the wedding. The third man had never seen the royal regalia, so the keeper took the party to see it. As he was lifting it out of the chest he was seized and gagged by two of the men, while the third made off with the crown. The alarm was given, and the thieves were captured and the crown recovered just outside the gate. The "clergyman" proved to be Col. Thomas Blood, a noted outlaw, and the others his accomplices. It was never publicly known what Blood intended to do with the

crown, or why King Charles granted full pardon to all engaged in the robbery.

A PETTICOAT INSURRECTION

MOBILE, Ala., was founded very early in the eighteenth century. At that time almost the whole southern part of what is now the United States was under French dominion. The colony had many ups and downs, and a full quota of the experiences incident to pioneer life. At one time a ship brought over from the mother country, along with a supply of food and merchandise, "23 good and virtuous maidens, under charge of two gray nuns." It is recorded that all these maidens were well married to worthy gentlemen settlers within a month after their arrival — all but one, who could not find a man to suit her. Later on the food became scarce, and these wives rose in rebellion, and demanded that they should be given something better to eat than common Indian corn or meal. They must have pushed their demands vigorously, for it is said the rebellion greatly taxed the patience and ingenuity of the governor, Bienville. The episode is known in local annals as the Petticoat insurrection.

A STRANGE WILL

PETER THELUSSEN, a London merchant, died in 1797, leaving a fortune of £700,000. By his will £100,000 went to his wife and children. The rest of his fortune was committed to trustees, with the stipulation that it should be allowed to accumulate during the lives of the sons and

grandsons. When they were all dead, the fortune was to go to the oldest living great grandson; or if there should be no great grandson, it should go to the government and be applied on the national debt. The will was contested, but the heirs were unable to break it. The last grandson died in 1859, and the fortune was delivered to Charles Thelussen, the oldest living great grandson. At the time the will was made experts figured out that the fortune would amount to something like £1,900,000 by the time it should be turned over to the great grandson, but the expenses of litigation and administration had been so great that he received only about the amount of the original fortune, £700,000.

A MINNESOTA REGIMENT AT GETTYSBURG

At a critical juncture during the battle of Gettysburg, when the Confederates were pressing hard at a certain point, General Hancock rode up to a body of soldiers and inquired "What regiment is this?" "The First Minnesota," was the response. "Charge that line," commanded Hancock. Not all the regiment was there, only eight companies, 262 men; while the foe against whom they were to hurl themselves were many times that number. But it was theirs not to make reply or reason why, and not for one moment did they think Hancock had blundered. Into that gate of death they plunged, while artillery and musketry raked them with shot and shell. Straight to the mark they went, and they accomplished what they were sent to do: they

checked the enemy's advance and held the ground till reinforcements came up. But at the end of that awful fifteen minutes fifty of the 262 lay dead, one hundred and seventy-five were wounded, and thirty-seven held the line of battle.

A TULIP CRAZE

The world saw something new under the sun in the seventeenth century, in the way of a tulip craze. It began in Holland, and spread all over Europe. There was a marvelous demand for the bulbs, and intense rivalry in producing new varieties. Rare ones sold at fabulous prices. One man is said to have paid $5,200 for a single bulb. Sometimes the ownership of a bulb was divided into shares. People simply went wild on the subject of tulips. Bulbs were often bargained for before they came into existence, and many were sold that never did exist. Men gambled in tulips somewhat as they now speculate in wheat. Whole fortunes were invested in the plants, and many wealthy families were financially ruined by the craze. The city of Haarlem is still the principal center of production of tulip bulbs for the European and American markets, but the speculative mania has never been repeated.

LINCOLN'S ANSWER TO SEWARD

William H. Seward and his friends were sorely disappointed at his failure to secure the nomination for the presidency in 1860. Lincoln displayed both sagacity and magnanimity when he gave his defeated rival the most important place in his cabinet.

At the time Lincoln was largely an unknown quantity, while Seward was a man of much experience in public affairs. Seward's friends confidently expected him to be the strong man of the cabinet, and even to overshadow the executive. Shortly after entering upon his duties he handed Lincoln a note containing "Some Thoughts for the President's Consideration." Among other things he suggested the necessity that some one man should take the lead and grapple boldly with the situation, closing with these words: "Either the president must do it himself, or devolve it upon some member of the cabinet. . . . It is not my special province, but I neither seek to evade or assume responsibility." Lincoln answered the note the same day. On the question of leadership he simply said, "If this must be done, I must do it." The matter was dropped then and there, and with fine discretion Lincoln kept the correspondence secret.

A MUCH TRAVELED GOAT

About the year 1772 there died at Mile End, England, a well informed goat, if traveling and seeing the world would make it so. It twice circumnavigated the globe; first in the discovery ship *Dolphin*, with Captain Wallis, and afterward in the ship *Endeavorer*, commanded by the celebrated Captain Cook. The *Dolphin* sailed from England August 22, 1766, and returned May 20, 1768. It visited many lands, including numerous islands of the Pacific, on this voyage. The goat did not remain ashore very long, for the *Endeavorer* sailed from Plymouth August 25, 1768. The vessel

touched at Maderia, doubled Cape Horn, spent six months along the coast of New Zealand, and visited many other strange countries. It got back to England June 12, 1771. In the three years Cook lost thirty of his eighty-five men, but the goat returned in apparent good health. Arrangements were made to admit her to the privileges of one of the government homes for sailors, but she did not live to enjoy them. She wore a silver collar, with a Latin inscription prepared by Dr. Samuel Johnson.

ARCTIC ADVENTURE OF THE SHIP *RESOLUTE*

In 1845 Sir John Franklin went in search of a northwest passage, with two ships and 168 men. All were lost in the frozen regions of the north. Many expeditions were sent in search of the lost explorers. In 1852 Sir Edward Belcher conducted such an expedition, with five ships under his command. All five of the vessels became ice-bound, and were finally abandoned. In 1855 the captain of an American whaling vessel sighted a strange looking ship in Davis Strait. No signals were put out or answered, and no crew was visible. The strange craft was boarded, and was found to be the *Resolute*, one of the five ships that had been abandoned by Sir Edward and his crew. In some way it had escaped its icy bonds, and had drifted southward more than a thousand miles in the 474 days between its abandonment and its discovery. Some things on board had been damaged by water, otherwise the ship was in fairly good condition. By a

resolution of congress $40,000 was spent in putting the vessel in first-class shape, and it was then returned to the British government with the compliments of the American people.

FATHER MATHEW'S TEMPERANCE WORK

One hundred and fifty thousand converts to sobriety within a few months in one city is a good record. That is the result credited to the work of Father Mathew in the city of Cork about the year 1838. From Cork the movement spread all over Ireland, and even some parts of England felt its influence. Perhaps never before or since has a temperance movement assumed such proportions or been followed by such great results. The work done by Father Mathew involved great personal sacrifice, for his family owned a large distillery, from which he had been accustomed to receive large dividends each year. The crusade of which he was the head caused such a falling off in the drinking of the working classes that the distillery had to close. Father Mathew spent some time in the United States in 1850, and founded numerous total abstinence societies.

WHAT IT COST TO DISCOVER AMERICA

It is difficult to make an accurate estimate of what it cost to discover America. All the documents agree that the total expense of fitting out the three little vessels with which Columbus sailed was 1,140,000 maravedis, but the difficulty is to ascertain the value of that coin at the time. A maravedi is

a small copper coin of Spain, supposed to be worth about three mills of American money. The coins of a country usually decrease in value as the country grows older, and some authorities claim that in the time of Columbus a maravedi was equal to seven mills. If such was the case, the expense to the Spanish government was about $8,000. Of course the pay of the officers and crew should be included, but that was not excessive. The annual salary of Admiral Christopher Columbus was equal to $320 American money; of the three captains, $192 each, and of the three pilots, about $140 each. The sailors were paid at the rate of $2.75 a month. The ship's physician could not have been considered a very important personage, as his salary was equal to $38.50 per annum.

DR. FRANKLIN GOT THE MONEY

During the War of the Revolution it became very necessary for the American colonies to secure financial aid from France. Benjamin Franklin was selected as the proper man to do it. Although seventy years old and suffering from disease, he accepted the appointment and proved to be the right man. He at once adapted himself to French ways and manners, and soon became very popular. The young nobles abandoned their swords for "Franklin canes," and "Franklin dolls" were displayed for sale in the shops. Franklin took up his residence at Passay, a suburb of Paris, and lived in handsome style. John Adams, who came over later to help him, was amazed at what he termed his extravagance. He found him, he says, sur-

rounded by seven servants and a chore-woman, and spending $13,000 a year while a solicitor for the needy Americans. But Franklin evidently knew his business. At any rate he accomplished what he was sent to do.

THE DARTMOOR MASSACRE

At the close of the war of 1812, England held 6,000 Americans as prisoners, confined at Dartmoor, in Devonshire. Of these 3,500 were soldiers captured in battle, and 2,500 were seamen. The latter had been impressed by British cruisers and refused to serve on English ships, on the ground that they were American sailors. Some of them had been imprisoned for ten years or more. Peace was declared in December, 1814, but the prisoners did not hear of it till March. When the news finally reached them of course they were greatly elated, and expected to be set at liberty very shortly. As day after day passed with no sign of release they became restive. They demanded better food and better treatment, and when these were refused they showed signs of insubordination. One day the guards fired on the prisoners, killing five and wounding thirty-three. What was still more exasperating, the British government pronounced the act justifiable. When news of "the Dartmoor massacre" reached this country there was great indignation, and no wonder. John Bull probably would think twice and count a hundred before doing such a thing now.

A KINGDOM IN LAKE MICHIGAN

A KINGDOM was once set up on Beaver Island, in northern Lake Michigan, and flourished for some years. James Jesse Strang, a prominent Mormon, had quarreled with the leaders of his church, and in 1846 withdrew with a few followers to that island. Other Mormons joined the colony from time to time, and by the winter of 1848 they were sufficiently numerous to threaten control of the island. On July 8, 1850, Strang was crowned king with elaborate ceremonies. There was much controversy between the Mormons and the other inhabitants of the island, mostly fishermen. While on a visit to Detroit President Fillmore heard of this little kingdom within the domain of the United States. He sent an armed vessel to Beaver Island and King Strang was captured and tried for treason. He conducted his own defense, and made such an eloquent plea that he was acquitted. In 1856 he was assassinated, and his kingdom fell with him.

THE HUNKERS AND THE BARNBURNERS

AT one time it looked as though there were going to be two new national political parties in this country, one called the "Hunkers," the other the "Barnburners." In 1844 the southern Democrats were determined to prevent the nomination of Martin Van Buren for the presidency. To accomplish this they adopted the two-thirds rule in the convention, which destroyed Van Buren's chances. This caused a split in the Democratic party, especially in Van Buren's own state, New York. The

Van Buren faction became known as "Barnburners," taking their name, it is said, from the story of the man whose barn was infested with rats and who burned the barn in order to get rid of them. The other faction was called "Hunkers," but why is not known. The split spread to other states, conservative Democrats being known as "Hunkers," while the progressives were called "Barnburners." In 1848 both factions sent delegates from New York state to the national convention. The convention satisfied nobody by giving half the vote of the state to each faction. The "Barnburners" nominated a ticket of their own, later on. Their vote was not strong enough to carry any state, but it was sufficiently large to throw the election to the Whigs.

A CONGRESS ON WHEELS

The Continental congress which had charge of affairs during the Revolution had no fixed habitation. In September, 1774, and also in May, 1775, it met at Philadelphia. In December, 1776, came the first rumor of General Howe's approach. A panic seized on congress, and it fled precipitately to Baltimore. Howe did not come, and in March, 1777, it ventured back to Philadelphia. In September it became alarmed again and fled, bag and baggage, to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Pausing only long enough to take breath, it went on to York, in the same state. In July, 1778, it returned to Philadelphia, after the evacuation of the city by the British. It remained there several years, but in June, 1783, it went to Princeton, New Jersey.

The following November it met at Annapolis, Maryland. The next year it met at Trenton, New Jersey, and in January, 1789, it went to New York City, where it remained till the adoption and ratification of the Constitution. Although it may be called a congress on wheels, it did some very effective work in the cause of freedom.

GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

In the winter of 1811-12 there was a great earthquake, or rather a series of earthquakes, in the Mississippi Valley. The shocks began on the night of December 16, and continued at irregular intervals all that winter. Between December 16 and March 16 no less than 1,874 distinct shocks were recorded, of which eight were of the first order of intensity. The most severe ones occurred on December 16, January 23 and February 7. In some places along the banks of the Mississippi the earth would open in wide fissures, and suddenly closing again would throw mud, sand and water as high as the tree tops. "After shaking the Mississippi Valley to its center," says one writer of the time, "it vibrated along the courses of the rivers, passed the primitive mountain barriers, and died away along the shores of the Atlantic." The town of New Madrid, which seemed to be at the center of the disturbance, was practically destroyed. The *New Orleans*, the first steamboat to navigate the waters of the Ohio and the Mississippi, was then making her first voyage, and those on board were very greatly alarmed.

A KING WHO SAT ON HIS THRONE 400 YEARS

In the cathedral at Aachen, or Aix-la-Chapelle, may be seen a marble throne on which a ruler sat for nearly 400 years. He was the Emperor Charlemagne, or Charles the Great. At his death in 814 his body, clothed in imperial robes, was placed on the throne, in a sitting position. On his head was placed a crown, in his right hand a scepter, and in his lap an open copy of the Gospels. In 1001 Emperor Otto III. had the vault opened, and it is said the body was found in an excellent state of preservation. In 1215 Emperor Frederick II. had it removed from the vault and placed in a gold and silver coffin, in which it is still kept, in the treasury of the cathedral. From 1215 to 1558 this marble throne was used in the coronation ceremonies of the German emperors. After that they were crowned at Frankfort.

THE KING HELD THE STIRRUP

Pope Hadrian IV. was the only Englishman that ever sat on the papal throne. His real name was Nicholas Breakspear. His parents were poor, and he made his way in the world by his own exertions and force of character. He was elected Pope in 1154, and died in 1159. Shortly after his election to the papacy Frederick Barbarosa came to Rome at the head of a large army for the purpose of receiving the crown of Germany from the hands of the pope. Hadrian went out to meet him, and demanded that as a symbolic act of courtesy he

should hold the pope's stirrup. Frederick refused at first, and for two days they quarreled about it. English obstinacy finally won, but not until the pope had threatened to withhold the crown. This was the beginning of a long contention between the two, and this struggle between the papal authority and the Hoenstaufen dynasty was continued long after Hadrian's death, and finally ended in the destruction of the dynasty.

HOW FLIES PROMOTED AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

It seems peculiar that flies should have assisted in the signing of the Declaration of Independence, yet such was the case. The only man who signed the Declaration on the day it was passed was the president of the convention, John Hancock, who said as he signed it, "There! John Bull can see my name without spectacles!" Most of the signers affixed their signatures a month later, on August 2. While they were gathered around the desk waiting their turns to sign, the flies from a near-by livery stable swarmed into the hall through the open windows and mercilessly assailed the silk-stockinged legs of the honorable members. Handkerchiefs in hand, they lashed the flies with such vigor as they could command on a sultry summer day. Despite their efforts, the annoyance at length became well-nigh intolerable, and the members made haste to bring the momentous business to a close. The authority for this bit of history is no less a personage than the author of the Declaration, Thomas Jefferson.

A CITY LOST THROUGH SILENCE

Rome is said to have once been saved by the cackling of geese, but silence cost the people of Amyklae, an ancient Grecian city, their liberty. The report that an enemy was approaching had been spread so often, creating consternation among the inhabitants, and as often proved false, that the authorities finally passed a law forbidding any one to speak of such a thing. All went well for a time, but there came a day when an enemy did appear, a hostile Spartan army. But the citizens of Amyklae were law-abiding. They talked of the weather, of the crops, of the approaching track meet, but never a word did they speak about the approaching army. Everybody obeyed the law, and no one told the authorities of the impending danger. Thus the city fell an easy victim to the invaders through the faithful obedience of its citizens to the law.

THE WISE WOMEN OF WEINSBERG

During the wars between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, in the twelfth century, a battle was fought at Weinsberg, in which the Guelphs were victorious. Their commander, Conrad III., agreed that while he would hold the men as prisoners, the Ghibelline women might go away in peace. He further agreed that each woman might take with her as much of her personal belongings as she could carry, choosing whatever she might consider most valuable. Great was Conrad's astonishment when he saw them marching off, each woman with her husband, son or brother on her back, "her most

precious treasure." But he seems to have admired the devotion of the women, and perhaps the humor of the situation appealed to him; at any rate he let them go, bearing away their precious burdens.

THE LAST SURVIVING SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

When Charles Carroll of Carrollton affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence another signer standing by remarked, "There go a few millions." Carroll was a rich man, and few if any of the other signers risked as much by the Revolution in the way of property as he did. But the Revolution succeeded and he did not lose his wealth. When an old man he assisted in the ceremony of laying the first rail of the first railroad in the United States, the Baltimore & Ohio. In 1831 Captain Alexander, of the British army, made a tour of the United States, and visited Charles Carroll, not then "of Carrollton" but of Baltimore. In a journal describing his travels he made this record:

"At Baltimore I visited Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. I found the venerable patriarch quite alone, and seemingly musing. . . . The old gentleman, dressed in a dark purple gown, and seated in a high-backed chair, was rather short of stature, and stooped under the burden of years. His nose was aquiline, and his expression was particularly mild and engaging. The speech, sight and hearing of the veteran had not much failed him, but his memory had."

Carroll was then in his ninety-fourth year. He died November 14, 1832, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence.

A YOUNG KING'S DREAM

Never perhaps did a king enter upon his reign with more exalted ideals than did Otto III., King of Germany and Holy Roman Emperor. Never perhaps did a king fail more utterly to realize his ambition. Born in 980, he came to his throne in 995, a mere boy; yet such were his intellectual attainments that his generation called him the wonder of the world. Intensely religious, he believed himself divinely commissioned to do a great work for humanity. He had a magnificent scheme for making Rome the center of a new universal empire, with all the other kingdoms of the earth tributary to it. He reveled in the glories of the past, and it was the dream of his young life to restore them in all their magnificence. On his last journey to Rome he opened the tomb of Charlemagne, at Aix-la-Chapelle, and gazed upon the long dead monarch, sitting on his marble throne. In less than two years from that time they brought his own body back across the Alps and laid it near that of the great Emperor. He died at 22, on the very threshold of manhood, his dreams unfulfilled.

THE OLD NATIONAL ROAD

It is difficult for the present generation to realize the important part played by the "old National road" in the settlement of the central west. This

road, or "National pike," as it was often called, extends from Cumberland, Md., to Vandalia, Ill., a distance of about 1,200 miles. Across Ohio and Indiana it is almost as straight as an arrow. It was built by the United States government, under the supervision of the war department. It was projected in 1806, and was constructed in sections, the government making appropriations from time to time. The last one was made in 1838, and the total appropriations were $6,824,919.33. Toll was collected from those traveling on the road, but it was never self-supporting. For many years it was the great highway to the west, and was traveled by many thousands of people in "prairie schooners," or covered wagons, seeking homes in the new country. The road was a political factor of some importance at various times, some favoring and some opposing its construction and maintenance. At Plainfield, Ind., through which the road runs, there is an ancient elm still standing, known as "the Van Buren tree." Tradition has it that at one time when President Van Buren was going over the road on a tour of inspection, he was spilled in the mud in front of this tree, by reason of an axle that had been sawed almost in two by some political enemy.

THE FIRST BOOK PRINTED IN AMERICA

The first book printed on the American continent was issued, not in Boston, or New York, or Chicago, but in Mexico City. Jules Cromberger had a printing establishment in Seville, Spain, and in 1535 he concluded it would be a good idea to have a branch

office in the new world. Accordingly, he sent over a printing press in charge of Juan Pablos, who was to be foreman and manager of the new office. This was the first printing press in America, and next year, 1536, the first book was issued. It was a Spanish translation of a work originally written in Greek, the Spanish title being "Escala Espiritual Para al Cielo." Translated into English this means "A Spiritual Ladder for Reaching Heaven." No copy of this book is known to be now in existence. The same printing press turned out twelve other books before 1550, and eighty-five in all by the end of the century.

AN UNFORTUNATE GREAT SPEECH

AMERICA has produced no greater orator than Daniel Webster. For well nigh half a century he stood at the head of the American bar, and is still known as the great defender of the Constitution. Yet near the close of his career he made one speech that has clouded his fame; a great speech, but an unfortunate one. It was in 1850, when the compromise measure known as the Omnibus bill was before congress. Among other things it provided for strengthening the fugitive slave law. Webster was a senator from Massachusetts. He had always been regarded as an enemy to slavery, and was expected to oppose the Omnibus bill with his powerful oratory. But he surprised and angered his friends by supporting the bill in an elaborate speech. The basis of his argument was that the Constitution had recognized slavery for fifty years, and obedience to the Constitution was paramount

to every other duty. This argument, of course, did not appeal to the opponents of slavery. He was accused of sacrificing the principles of a lifetime to political expediency. A presidential election was coming on, and he wanted to be president. He was charged with supporting the fugitive slave law for the purpose of securing southern votes in the coming convention. All this he vehemently denied, but his "seventh of March speech" was never forgotten or forgiven by his former friends.

OPPOSITE OPINIONS OF A BOOK

Sir William Cavendish, known in English history as the first duke of Newcastle, was commander of King Charles the First's royal army in his contest with Cromwell. Sir William's second wife, the Duchess Margaret, wrote a life of her husband, in which she depicted him as a "Most Illustrious Prince" and in every respect the pink of perfection. The work was supposed to be entirely authentic and truthful, for Sir William himself assisted in its preparation. It was published early in 1667, and many complimentary copies were sent out, including one to the officials of St. John's College, Cambridge University. In acknowledging its receipt they wrote:

"Your Excellency's book will not only survive our university, but hold date even with time itself; and incontinently this age, by reading your book, will lose its barbarity and rudeness, being made tame by the elegance of your style and manner."

But old Samuel Pepys was not quite so favorably impressed. In his celebrated "Diary," under date of March 18, 1667, he made this entry:

"Staid at home reading the ridiculous History of my Lord Newcastle, wrote by his wife; which shows her to be a mad, conceited, ridiculous woman, and he an asse to suffer her to write what she writes to him and of him."

THE DANGER OF BEING WITTY

Sir Henry Wotton, for twenty years England's ambassador to the court of Venice, discovered to his sorrow that it is not always wise to be witty, even in so simple a matter as writing in an autograph album. Once when visiting at the house of a friend his host brought out the visitor's book and requested Sir Henry to inscribe his name in it, together with some appropriate sentiment. Willing to oblige and wishing to say something at once neat, witty and wise, he wrote the following, and appended his name to it:

"An ambassador is an honest man, sent abroad to lie for his country."

But King James the First did not appreciate the effort of his ambassador. When told about it he was very angry, and after Sir Henry's term of office at Venice expired it was five long years before he received another appointment at the royal hands.

AN INFLUENTIAL OLD DOCTOR

Galen was the most illustrious physician of antiquity. He was born 131 A. D., in Pergamus, Asia Minor, but spent a large portion of his life at Rome, where he had many great people for patients.

He was very learned, and exceedingly proud of it. He wrote many treatises, and was a great investigator; in fact, he complacently believed that he had exhausted the possibilities of investigation. He found the medical profession divided into many sects or schools. After his time there was but one, the Galenic. He was very successful in his practice, yet when tried by the standards of modern science many of his theories and methods seem crude and even childish. His influence was far-reaching, for the Galenic system dominated the medical profession for more than a thousand years after his death. Never, perhaps, have the doctrines of one man exercised so long, unbroken and tyrannical power over the minds of others as did those of Galen.

WHY AMERICA INSTEAD OF COLUMBIA?

In the latter part of April, 1507, an anxious little group stood about the first printing press set up in the old town of St. Die, Lorraine, examining the sheets of the first book it issued to the world. It was a little treatise on geography, and its author was Prof. Martin Waldseemuller. A certain page in this book had far greater significance than any of the group imagined. At the close of an account of the voyage of Amerigo Vespucci to the New World the author said: "Now that those parts have been more extensively examined and another fourth part has been discovered by Vespucci, I do not see why we should rightly refuse to name it America." This was the first time the name "America" was suggested, and the suggestion was acted upon, probably without much thought. For many years

Vespucci was blamed for having purposely robbed Columbus of the honor of furnishing a name for the new continent, but it is now conceded that he had nothing to do with the matter. "America" is a fine name, it is true; but "Columbia" would have been finer, and more fitting.

THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN AMERICA

On July 22, 1587, a colony sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh landed at Roanoke, Virginia. In this colony, it is said, were ninety-one men, seventeen women and nine children. The colony was incorporated as "The Borough of Raleigh in Virginia," and John White was chosen governor. His daughter, August Eleanor, had married one of the colonists, a young man named Dare. On August 18 Mrs. Dare gave birth to a daughter, to whom was given the name Virginia. She was the first white child born in America. Shortly after her birth Governor White returned to England for supplies. He remained longer than he had intended, and when he finally got back to Roanoke the colony had disappeared. He searched long and anxiously for the missing members, among whom were his daughter and his grandchild. But the lost colony was never found. Probably the older members were massacred by the Indians, and the children scattered among the various tribes. Thus the first white child born in America, if she grew up to womanhood, probably passed her life in savagery and remembered nothing of the ways of civilization.

JOHN HENRY'S ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE UNION

The Embargo Act, which was enacted shortly before the outbreak of the war of 1812, was very unpopular in New England, as it interfered greatly with the commerce of that section. Sir James Craig, governor of Canada, employed one John Henry, an Irishman by birth, but a naturalized American citizen, to go to Boston and ascertain whether the discontent was sufficient to make it probable that New England would care to sever its connection with the Union and line up with Canada. Henry remained in Boston three months, but as no pay for his expenses and services was forthcoming, he went to Washington and offered his documents for sale to the government authorities. The President allowed him $50,000 out of the secret service fund, and sent him to France in the employ of the government. When the documents were laid before congress they made a great sensation. England claimed, however, that Craig had acted entirely on his own responsibility, and the excitement soon died away.

THE FIRST MONEY COINED FOR AMERICA

The earliest coinage of money for America is said to have been made for Virginia in 1612. The London Company had been formed for the purpose of pushing colonization work in Virginia, and in 1609 Sir George Somers, an active promoter of the company, set out with an expedition. His vessels encountered a violent storm and were wrecked on

the coast of one of the Bermuda islands. Somers took possession of the islands in the name of Great Britain. He was forced to remain there ten months, but finally reached Virginia. The Bermudas, often since then called Somers islands, were largely colonized by people from Virginia, and the relations between the two became intimate. This accounts for Virginia's first coins being made there. They were of brass, and on one side was represented a ship under full sail, firing a gun. On the other side were the words, "Somers Island," and the figure of a hog, "in memory," as an old-time writer quaintly says, "of the abundance of hogges which the English found on their first landing."

NO PAINT FOR THE PURITANS

As is well known, the Puritans were extremely plain in their habits of living, and objected to all forms of ornamentation, not only in clothing but in architecture and other things. To a certain extent they were right, for over-ornamentation is never commendable; yet they sometimes carried their ideas of plainness to an extreme that seems ridiculous. In 1639 the Rev. Thomas Allen, a clergyman residing at Charlestown, Massachusetts, was called to account by the authorities for having his house painted. This was a serious charge, but he succeeded in convincing them that the painting had been done before the house came into his possession, and that therefore he was not responsible for it. Moreover, he assured them that he did not approve of it. The first church building erected in Boston was never painted, inside or out. In 1670 a

list of all the mechanics in the Massachusetts colony was made out by the authorities, but it did not contain the name of a single painter.

BOSTON'S FIRST FIRE

Boston had its first fire on March 16, 1631. It has had many conflagrations since then, and of far greater dimensions: but probably none that seemed more disastrous at the time, or that led to more important consequences. In this first fire two dwellings were burned to the ground. At that time the people had no lime with which to make mortar, so they constructed their chimneys of sticks, plastered over with clay. Chimneys built of such material were called "catted" chimneys. The roofs of the dwellings were made of rushes and reeds. Thus the chimneys and roofs combined to render the houses exceedingly inflammable. After this first fire wooden chimneys and thatched roofs were forbidden. Four years later a fire at New Amsterdam (New York) consumed in half an hour a building it had taken two years to erect. After that "catted" chimneys and thatched roofs were forbidden there also.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LIFE GUARD

General Washington's Life Guard was organized in the spring of 1776 and served until the close of the Revolutionary war. Its number varied at different times, from 60 to 250 men. They were soldiers in the regular service, chosen from the various regiments, and it was their special duty to pro-

tect the person, baggage and papers of the chief. They were selected with special reference to their fitness for such work, physically and mentally, and, of course, absolute loyalty to the American cause was a prime requisite. At one time, when the army was stationed at New York, the Tories formed a plot to capture General Washington and deliver him to one of the British armed ships in the harbor. They succeeded in bribing one of the Life Guards to assist them, but fortunately the plot was discovered and the traitorous guard was hanged. The last survivor of the Life Guards was Uzal Knapp of Orange county, New York. He died in 1856, and in 1860 a monument was erected over his grave, at the foot of the flag staff in front of Washington's headquarters at Newburgh on the Hudson.

BOOM TIMES AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Congress met in the city of Washington for the first time on the 22d of November, 1800. Only the north wing of the Capitol building was finished. The White House was in process of erection. There was a great deal of speculation in vacant lots, and prices soared to fabulous heights. One writer of the time, after describing the desolate condition of the grounds about the public buildings, adds: "There appears to be a confident expectation that this place will soon exceed any city in the world. . . . No stranger can be here a day, and converse with the proprietors, without conceiving himself in the company of crazy people. Their ignorance of the rest of the world, and their delusion with respect to their own prospects, are without

parallel. Immense sums have been squandered in buildings which are but partially finished, in situations which are not, and never will be, the scenes of business, while the parts near the public buildings are almost wholly unimproved. . . . Though five times as much money has been expended as was necessary, and though the private buildings are in number sufficient for all who will have occasion to reside here, yet there is nothing convenient and nothing plenty but provisions; there is no industry, society or business."

A PARTING SHOT AT WASHINGTON

When Washington retired to private life at the close of his second term as president on March 4, 1799, it was not with the universal admiration of his countrymen. The *Aurora*, an opposition paper published in Philadelphia, printed a communication said to have been written by a member of the Pennsylvania assembly, which opened thus:

"The man who is the cause of all the misfortunes of our country is this day reduced to a level with his fellow citizens, and is no longer possessed of power to multiply evils upon the United States. If ever there was a period of rejoicing, this is the moment. Every heart in unison with the freedom and happiness of the people ought to beat high with exultation that the name of Washington from this day ceases to give currency to political iniquity and to legalized corruption. A new era is now opening upon us, an era which promises much to the people, for public measures must now stand upon

their own merits, and nefarious projects can no longer be supported by a name."

THE EARLIEST AMERICAN COLLEGE

In 1616 the king of England ordered the bishop of London to collect money for a college to be founded in Virginia, and during the next three years a sum equal to $7,300 was raised and sent over for that purpose. In 1618 it was ordained that the college should be located at Henrico, and 10,000 acres of land were allotted for its endowment. This land was to be rented to settlers. One-tenth of the income was to be used in educating Indians, and nine-tenths in educating English children. The London company donated a small sum for a building and a few books to start a library. A good attendance was assured, for 1,261 children were sent over from London to be educated in the new college. It was also decided to establish a preparatory school at Charles City. But before either institution got under way the terrible Indian massacre of 1622 took place, in which one-twelfth of all the English settlers in Virginia were killed. This put an end to all thoughts except of personal safety, and it is doubtful whether any actual instruction was ever given in this earliest (prospective) American college.

MAKING THE CONSTITUTION

Making the Constitution of the United States was not an easy task. The convention sat daily in Philadelphia from May 25 to September 17, 1787. There were some very able men in it, and on some

questions there were almost as many opinions as there were members. The discussions were carried on in a dignified manner, but a great deal of compromising was necessary in order to reach an agreement. On July 10 General Washington, president of the convention, wrote Hamilton that he almost despaired of a favorable outcome, and regretted having had anything to do with the matter. When the Constitution was finally framed up and signed it was agreed to forward it to congress, which should submit it to the various legislatures, and that it should be considered adopted when ratified by the legislatures of nine states. In the state legislatures it had a rocky road to travel. The ninth state to adopt it was New Hampshire, on June 21, 1788. New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island adopted it later. In only three states, Delaware, New Jersey and Georgia, was the legislative vote to adopt it unanimous. Pennsylvania adopted it by a two-thirds majority. In Rhode Island the majority was only two. In other states the vote stood: Connecticut, 128 to 40; Massachusetts, 187 to 168; Maryland, 63 to 12; South Carolina, 149 to 73; New Hampshire, 57 to 46; Virginia, 89 to 79.

AN ENGLISHMAN WHO WAS LOYAL TO AMERICA

John Cartwright was the first English writer who openly advocated the independence of the United States of America. He had the courage of his convictions; for, though a prominent naval officer, with a fine prospect for advancement, " he re-

fused," as his epitaph says, "to draw his sword against the rising liberties of an oppressed and struggling people." Lord Howe invited him to join an expedition against the Americans. Though passionately attached to the navy and a great admirer of Howe, he answered that he could not engage in an unjust war. That refusal ended his naval career, and he turned his attention to political and social reforms. He started the movement that finally overthrew the "rotten borough" system in England. In his work for reform he made many powerful enemies, and when eighty years old he was arrested and tried for being "a malicious, seditious and evil-minded person." The jury, obeying the instructions of a political judge, found him guilty, and he was fined £100. But he did not care much for a little thing like that.

THE DIGGERS

In the years 1649-50 there arose a strange party in England called the Diggers. They might be seen in large numbers in some localities, diligently digging up and cultivating the waste lands and out-of-the-way places. They objected to the land being held by a few proud, covetous men, "to bag and barn up the treasures of the earth from others." Yet, as one of their leaders said, "they intended to meddle only with what was common and untilled, and to make it fruitful for the use of man." Gerrard Winstanley, their chief leader, urged that the poor should be settled on the common or waste lands, and that in this way the country would yield much larger crops, the hungry be fed, and times be made better

for everybody. The Diggers were very peaceable people, and not at all disposed to make trouble, but the movement was suppressed by the authorities. Nevertheless it had its influence in later years, for from 1760 to 1830 more than a thousand acts of parliament were adopted for inclosing and utilizing waste lands.

AMERICA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first newspaper in America was issued in Boston on September 25, 1690. It was "printed by R. Pierce for Benjamin Harris." In the first issue, the publisher promised that the paper "shall be furnished once a moneth (or if a Glut of Occurrences happen, oftener) with an account of such considerable things as have occurred unto our notice; to give a faithful relation of all such things, and to enlighten the public as to the occurrents of Divine Providence." It gave a summary of the important news of the time, and was quite readable if not exactly spicy. To us it would appear a very harmless sheet; but the authorities of that day were rigid in their censorship of the press, and after a few issues Mr. Harris' paper was suppressed because "it came out contrary to law, and contained reflections of a very high nature."

A LIBERTY MARTYR OF LONG AGO

On June 7, 1381, Wat Tyler was chosen leader by 50,000 men to remonstrate with Richard II. against the oppressions of the people. On June 15 he was dead. In eight days this man, of whose antecedents

and personality we know nothing, made for himself a permanent place in English history. During that time he commanded a great army; he confronted the king as an equal; he ordered the execution of the two chief ministers of the crown, and it was done; he wrested from the king a promise of social reform. But in the hour of victory he was struck down by the hand of an enemy, and the great uprising failed in its undertaking. Yet it was not altogether in vain. It stirred to life the desire for personal liberty in the laboring people, a desire that has grown to giant proportions with the passing years. This was the first time that English peasants and laborers asserted that they were men. Centuries afterward some of the seed thus sown found its way across the sea, and to-day 90,000,000 free Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the memory of Wat Tyler and his men.

THE FIRST ENGLISH AGITATOR

King Richard I. of England was much more concerned about crusading in the Holy Land than he was about governing his people. His right-hand man, Archbishop Walter, was far more interested in raising money for Richard than he was in the spiritual needs of his flock. By various obnoxious measures he collected immense sums. Government offices, earldoms and bishoprics were sold to the highest bidders. Judges bought their seats and cities bought their charters. Tenants of crown lands were forced to pay double prices for their holdings. The poor were taxed to the limit, and, as one writer said, "England was reduced to pov-

erty from one sea to the other." But a champion of the people arose in the person of William Fitzosbert. He did not belong to the laboring classes, but he had the nerve to stand up for their rights. The ruling classes hated him because he declared the king was being defrauded by financial corruption. The laboring people flocked to him in great numbers, and for a time he was too strong for the archbishop. But some of his followers became frightened at the possible results of his bold speeches and deserted him. Being pursued by the authorities he took refuge in a church tower. By order of the archbishop it was set on fire. Fitzosbert surrendered, and was condemned to die. He was stripped naked, tied to the tail of a horse and dragged over the rough stones of the streets of London. He was dead before Tyburn was reached, but the poor broken body was hanged in chains. Thus perished the first English agitator.

WHEN THE CRESCENT WENT DOWN BEFORE THE CROSS

It will soon be twelve centuries since the Cross and the Crescent met in deadly combat in the beautiful valley of the Loire, in France, and the Crescent went down in ignominous defeat. Mahomet had been dead a hundred years, but his worshipers were pressing forward with fanatical zeal, and bid fair to conquer the earth. They had invaded Persia and Syria, and had pressed into Egypt. Thence they had swarmed into Spain, laying waste its towns and cities with fire and sword. And now they were overrunning France in plundering hordes, dealing

death and destruction to the inhabitants. Against them went Charles Martel, until then a petty Frankish king. He was able to muster only a few thousand soldiers, picked up here and there; but they were made of stern stuff, and were defending their homes. For two days the battle raged — some accounts say seven days — and at its close many thousands of Saracens lay dead, while the rest were in terror-stricken flight. It was a marvelous victory, and it rolled back the tide of Moslem conquest. But for it, Mohammedanism might have overrun Europe, and set back the hands of progress a thousand years.

A REMARKABLE FAMILY OF ACTORS

In 1753 John Ward, an English theatrical manager, opposed a match between his daughter and a member of his company, not wishing her to marry an actor. He finally gave consent, however, consoling himself with the thought that the young man was not much of an actor. In this he was mistaken, for the young man, whose name was Roger Kemble, not only succeeded well in his profession, but became the founder of a family that is remarkable in the annals of the English stage. Twelve children were born to the couple, of whom eight reached maturity; and every one of the eight made some effort on the stage. The eldest child, Sarah, became the renowned Mrs. Siddons. The oldest son, John Philip, was probably the greatest actor of his day, and was known as "the great Kemble." The eleventh child, Charles, was a renowned comedian, while his daughter, Fanny Kemble, was probably the best known to the public of all the family. Her sister,

Adelaide, attained considerable popularity as a public singer. Her son married the daughter of General Grant.

STRANGE DYING REQUEST OF TWO KINGS

Edward I., king of England, and Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, were deadly enemies, and faced each other on many a hard fought battlefield; and strangely enough each left a dying request that after death his heart should be removed from his body and buried in the Holy Land. But in neither case was the request complied with. Edward's son disobeyed his father's command, and buried his body in Westminster Abbey, the heart with it. Bruce's friend, Sir James Douglas, attempted to carry out his instructions. The heart was removed from the body, embalmed, and inclosed in a silver case. This Sir James suspended from his neck and started for the Holy Land. Unfortunately he stopped in Spain to assist in a war against the Moors, and was slain in battle. His body was found, the locket recovered, and the heart returned to Scotland and buried at Melrose Abbey. Had their instructions been carried out the hearts of these two inveterate enemies might possibly have reposed side by side in the same sepulchre.

A GREAT CORSICAN PATRIOT

Napoleon was not the only great man born on the island of Corsica. Pasquale de Paoli, one of the great patriots of history, was a Corsican. For more than two and a half centuries Corsica had been

under the control of the Genoese. In 1755, under the leadership of Paoli, she threw off the Genoan yoke. For fourteen years thereafter Paoli administered the affairs of the island, and did it wisely and well. He brought about many reforms, and encouraged commerce and the arts. In 1769, having "purchased" the island from the Genoese, France landed an army of 22,000 soldiers. Paoli with a few thousand Corsicans met them boldly, but was badly defeated. With his little army reduced to 537 men and surrounded by 4,000 French, he cut his way out and escaped to England. The French conquered the island, but at a cost of more than 10,000 men, nearly half of whom were killed. Paoli remained in England twenty years. At the outbreak of the French Revolution he returned to Corsica and became military governor. He soon broke with the French, however, and returned to England, where he died in 1807. Eighty years afterward his ashes were removed to Corsica and entombed with great honors. Lamartine, the eminent French writer, said: "Corsica remains still in the place of a mere province, but Paoli assumes his place among the ranks of great men."

HOW KENTUCKY FOUGHT JOHN BULL

Seldom has there been a more one-sided battle than that of New Orleans, fought January 8, 1815. So far as numbers were concerned, the advantage was with the British; for they had 12,000 soldiers, while General Jackson could muster barely 6,000. In discipline, too, the British were far superior, for they were well trained veterans who had seen service

on the battlefields of Europe. The American soldiers, on the other hand, were for the most part raw militia, pioneers in coonskin caps and homespun clothing. But in results the one-sidedness was the other way. For three weeks Jackson had been training his raw soldiers, and when the British advanced to the attack they found the Americans strongly intrenched and well prepared to receive them. The slaughter was terrific. The British loss was about 2,600 killed and wounded, while on the American side only eight were killed and thirteen wounded. And the pity of it was, there was no need of the battle, for peace had been declared between the two countries. Among the American soldiers were many from Kentucky, and for years afterward this song was often sung in that state:

> "Jackson led to the cypress swamp:
> The ground was low and mucky;
> There stood John Bull in martial pomp,
> And here stood old Kentucky.
>
> And when so near we saw them wink,
> We thought it time to stop 'em;
> Lord! It would have done your heart good
> To see Kentuckians pop 'em."

HOW PRESCOTT FOUGHT AT BUNKER HILL

Two men were standing on Copp's Hill, in Boston, watching the opening of the battle of Bunker Hill through a field glass. One of them, observing the leader of the Americans mount the parapet and expose himself to great danger, handed the field glass

to the other and asked him if he knew the officer. "Yes," was the reply; "he is my brother-in-law." "Will he fight?" asked the first one. "I can not answer for his men," replied the other, "but he will fight you to the gates of hell." The man who asked the question was General Gage, commander of the British army. The man who answered it was Colonel Willard, who ought to have been a stanch American patriot, but who chose the Tory side. The man they were talking about was Colonel William Prescott, whose gallant fight at Bunker Hill that day enrolled his name among the immortals.

A TERRIBLE BATTLESHIP

On March 14, 1814, the congress of the United States appropriated the sum of $320,000 for the construction of a war vessel in the shape of a "floating battery," designed by Robert Fulton. This battery was intended to be a very deadly affair, for it was planned to shoot scalding water and red-hot cannon balls at the enemy. This was the first steam war vessel built by the American government. She was christened the *Demologas*, but after the designer's death her name was changed to the *Fulton*, in his honor. She was launched October 29, 1814, but her engine was not put in till the following May. By that time the war of 1812 was over, and the terrible battleship never got a chance to squirt hot water at the British navy. She was afterwards made over into a receiving ship for raw naval recruits, and finally ended her rather inglorious career by blowing up.

WHEN WASHINGTON WENT WOOING

George Washington was a hustler, even in matrimonial affairs. When a young man of twenty-six he took dinner at the house of a friend one day, and there met a good-looking young widow named Martha Custis. She must have been charming, for George spent the whole afternoon in her society, and then accepted her invitation to remain to tea. It was evidently a case of ardent love at first sight, for bright and early next morning he was again at the front door, seeking admission. Before noon that day they were engaged to be married, and married they were, shortly afterward, she " in silk and satin, laces and brocade, with pearls on her neck and in her ears," and he " in blue and silver trimmed with scarlet, and with gold buckles at his knees and on his shoes." After the wedding ceremony, which no doubt was highly impressive, they rode away to Mount Vernon, not together in the same carriage as bridal couples do now, but she in a " coach and six," and he on horseback, riding proudly alongside.

THE CRAZY PREACHER OF KENT

For twenty years John Ball, " the crazy preacher of Kent," harangued the people, in season and out, wherever he could get an audience. He had but one text, and from that he always preached:

> " When Adam delv'd and Eve span
> Who then was the gentleman? "

On this he rung the changes, but always keeping to the front the equality of men. Nothing daunted him. In spite of ridicule and prison cells and whippings, he kept on preaching. Not until Wat Tyler's rebellion collapsed and his own head was cut off, did he stop. Four hundred years later the doctrine he preached was incorporated in the American Declaration of Independence.

And there are good reasons for believing that Mary Ball Washington, the mother of the great general of the Revolution and first president of the United States, was a lineal descendant of "the mad preacher of Kent."

A KALEIDOSCOPIC ADMINISTRATION

THE ninth administration of the government of the United States had more changes of cabinet members than any other administration in the history of the country. The campaign which preceded it was known as the "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" campaign, in which General William H. Harrison was elected president and John Tyler vice-president. Harrison was inaugurated on March 4, 1841, and died just one month later. Thus the presidency devolved upon Vice-President Tyler. He retained Harrison's cabinet members in office at first, but early in his administration they all dropped out. Many of their successors also dropped out, for in the four years the country had five secretaries of state, four secretaries of the treasury, four secretaries of war, five secretaries of the navy, two postmaster generals, and two attorney generals — twenty-two cabinet officers in all. One reason for

the many changes was that Tyler completely broke with the party that elected him.

A ROOM FULL OF GOLD

Pizarro, the conqueror of Mexico, heard that in the valley of Caxamalca were immense treasures of gold and silver. So on September 24, 1532, he set out in search of them. Arriving at the town of Caxamalca, he sent for Atahualpa, chief lord among the natives. Fearing for his life, Atahualpa promised Pizarro a great quantity of gold and silver. "How much?" asked Pizarro. "I will give," replied Atahualpa, "gold enough to fill a room 22 feet long and 17 feet wide, and the height will be once and a half a man's stature." He also promised enough silver to fill a chamber twice over, besides many golden pots and jars, and to do it all in two months. He kept his promise. The precious metals came, sometimes 20,000 pesos, and sometimes 50,000 or 60,000 pesos of gold a day. Pizarro had the vessels and plate melted down and counted, and it is estimated the total value was $17,500,000 of our money. Of this Pizarro had his share of 200,000 pesos of gold and 50,000 of silver. A fifth of the whole was set apart for the Spanish king, and the rest was divided among Pizarro's friends and followers.

THE ORIGIN OF "YANKEE DOODLE"

About the middle of the eighteenth century England was exceedingly anxious to reduce the power and prestige of the French in Canada, and with

this in view had an army stationed on the bank of the Hudson, a little below the present site of the city of Albany. The American colonies were called upon for assistance, and recruits came straggling in, a motley crew, "some with long coats, some with short coats, and some with no coats at all." Their appearance was so ludicrous that a British surgeon named Shackburg composed "Yankee Doodle" in derision of the raw recruits, and passed copies of it around as a joke. But the Provincials themselves were mightily pleased with the song, and soon everybody in the camp was whistling or singing it. Little did they think that twenty years from then the strains of "Yankee Doodle" would inspire the heroes of Bunker Hill, or that in less than thirty years Cornwallis and his army would march into the American lines to the same tune.

HOW WARREN BRAVED THE BRITISH LION

It was the 5th of March, 1775. The people of Boston were gathering in Old South Church, in memory of the Boston Massacre five years before. Some British officers had publicly declared that if any man dared speak of the massacre that day his life would pay the forfeit. Joseph Warren's soul had taken fire at such a threat, and he requested that he might speak at that meeting. The church was soon filled to overflowing. British officers crowded in and occupied the aisles, the pulpit steps and even the pulpit itself. Climbing a ladder on the outside, Warren stepped in at the pulpit window. Awed by his coolness and intrepidity, the officers made way for him. An awful stillness fell upon the

multitude, and every man felt the palpitation of his own heart. Then the orator began, and there fell from his lips such a speech as it is seldom the lot of men to hear. With words that burned their way into the very soul he recounted the injustice the colonies had suffered at the hands of the mother country, and called upon the citizens to strike for liberty. He hurled defiance at the representatives of England, and denounced the Boston massacre in terrific language. The British officers said never a word. The speech ended, they quietly withdrew. They dared not make good their threat; but in three months from that time Joseph Warren lay dead on Bunker Hill.

A FIRE-FIGHTING INVENTOR

John Lofting, a citizen of London in the latter part of the eighteenth century, had a passion for fighting fires. Though never a member of the fire department, he always responded to an alarm, and was usually one of the first to arrive on the scene. He rendered efficient service, but would accept no pay. He has another and more substantial claim to distinction, however. He was a metal worker by trade, and in 1792 he invented a contrivance to protect the thumb while sewing. It was a sort of bell-shaped cup, hence it was called a thumb-bell. In the course of time this was changed into the more euphonious "thimble." The article is now worn on one of the fingers while sewing, instead of on the thumb as formerly, though sailors stick to the old custom. Lofting was granted a patent for a machine to make "thumb-bells," and he established a

factory at Islington, near London. Whether he still continued to fight fires history does not say; but he made money, and laid the foundation of a fortune which his descendants are enjoying to this day.

LINCOLN'S FIRST VISIT TO CHICAGO

At the great river and harbor convention held at Chicago in 1847 "Hon. A. Lincoln" was enrolled as one of the three delegates from Sangamon county, Illinois. In the official proceedings of the convention, published shortly afterward, it is stated in one place that "Abraham Lincoln of Illinois being called upon addressed the convention briefly." The secretary did not think his speech important enough to quote, but there was one man among the delegates who appreciated it. Horace Greeley wrote to his paper, the New York *Tribune:* "In the afternoon Hon. Abraham Lincoln, a tall specimen of an Illinoisan, just elected to congress from the only Whig district in the state, was called on and spoke briefly and happily." And the next day the Chicago *Journal* gave the young politician this send-off: "Abraham Lincoln, the only Whig representative to congress from this state, we are happy to see is in attendance upon the convention. This is his first visit to the commercial emporium of the state, and we have no doubt his visit will impress him more deeply, if possible, with its importance, and inspire a higher zeal for the great interest of river and harbor improvements. We expect much of him as a representative in congress and we have no doubt our expectations will be more than realized, for never

was reliance placed in a nobler heart and a sounder judgment. We know the banner he bears will never be soiled."

WHY ILLINOISANS ARE CALLED SUCKERS

Two or three explanations of why the people of Illinois are called "Suckers" have been given, but probably the most plausible is the one in connection with the lead mines at Galena. In the early settlement of the Mississippi valley marvelous stories were circulated concerning fortunes made at the mines, and these attracted to Galena and vicinity a great many of the Illinois farmers, especially from the lower portion of the state. It was customary for them, after putting in their spring crops, to ascend the Mississippi and labor at the mines until fall, and then return to gather their crops; thus imitating the fish called suckers, which ascend the river in spring to deposit their spawn, and return in the fall. Hence such persons were called "Suckers," and the term became general in its application to all the citizens of the state.

PATRICK HENRY AND SLAVERY

Patrick Henry, as every school boy knows, demanded liberty at the top of his voice, and his words still ring in our ears, though his tongue has been silent for a century. Yet Patrick Henry owned 20 slaves, and even at his death did not set them free, but willed them to his wife. It seems strange that so ardent an advocate of freedom for himself should deny it to others. This question of slavery

bothered a good many of the revolutionary leaders. Many of them were slave holders, and while they believed in liberty, to have freed their slaves would have been to throw away a large part of their fortunes. Possibly some of our latter-day patriots would hesitate under similar circumstances. To his credit be it said that Patrick Henry appreciated his inconsistency. Writing of slavery he said: "I believe a time will come when an opportunity will be offered to abolish this lamentable evil. . . . I am drawn along by ye general inconvenience of living without them. I will not, I can not, justify it." In his will he directed that in case his wife married again she should have no more of his estate than she could get by law. She did marry again, without waiting very long; so perhaps he might as well have freed his slaves after all.

AS WELLINGTON EXPLAINED WATERLOO

MILITARY dispatches are usually very formal, and necessarily so; for it would hardly do to allow officers to exercise great freedom of language, especially in reporting battles. At the same time the non-military reader would understand such reports better if they were couched in less formal language. Shortly after the battle of Waterloo the Duke of Wellington wrote this to a friend, and we have no difficulty in understanding what he means: "You will have heard of our battle of the 18th. Never did I see such a pounding match. Both were what the boxers call 'gluttons.' Napoleon did not maneuver at all. He just moved forward in the old style in columns, and was driven off in the old style.

The only difference was, that he mixed cavalry with his infantry, and supported both with an enormous quantity of artillery. I had the infantry for some time in squares, and I had the French cavalry walking about as if they had been our own. I never saw the British infantry behave so well."

ORIGIN OF THE SLEEPING CAR

JUST who first conceived the idea of a sleeping car for railway passengers is not clear. One "standard" encyclopedia claims the honor for Philip H. Laufman; but as it also makes him a railway manager at the age of sixteen its statements must be accepted with caution. The first sleeping cars ever designed were used on the Cumberland Valley railroad, in Pennsylvania, in 1838. In these the sleeping arrangements consisted of three tiers of shelves, two feet wide, on each side of the car, made to fold up against the sides during the day. About 1858 or '59 Webster Wagner built some sleepers for the New York Central; but they were little more than "enlarged copies of the night-bunks in the passenger boats of the Erie canal." Wagner built fine cars afterward, but to George M. Pullman belongs the chief credit for perfecting the modern sleeping car. From 1859 to 1863 he experimented, transforming some old passenger cars into fairly comfortable sleepers. They were upholstered in plush, lighted with coal oil lamps and heated with box stoves. In 1864 he perfected the "Pioneer," which was really the first sleeper of the modern type, at a cost of $18,000. This car was one of the ten which formed

Lincoln's funeral train from Chicago to Springfield.

WASHINGTON'S FIRST MONUMENT

THE magnificent shaft at the national capital, towering to a height of 555 feet, is not the first monument that was erected in honor of George Washington. In the year 1809 the citizens of Boonsboro, Maryland, built one by their own labor and entirely at their own expense. The farmers of the vicinity hauled great blocks of stone and laid the foundation, and upon this was erected a huge pile of stones. The spot chosen was the highest point of land in that part of the country, and the monument could be seen for miles around. Western Maryland was largely settled by German immigrants who had a strong desire for freedom and no ties, political or social, to bind them to Great Britain. There were very few Tories to be found in that part of the country, and some of the best fighting blood of the Revolution came from that section.

A MANLY SPEECH BY GEORGE III.

AFTER the close of the Revolutionary war John Adams was sent as the first minister of the United States to the court of St. James. When he appeared before the king it was a memorable scene. After a few words in regard to his mission, Adams expressed a hope that "the good old humor" might be restored between the branches of the Anglo-Saxon family. The king listened with respect and dignity. He was never accounted a good speaker, but there

was pathos, manliness and a touch of eloquence in his reply. With a tremor in his voice, and with long pauses between the clauses of his sentences, he said: "I wish you, sir, to believe, and that it may be understood in America, that I have done nothing in the late contest but what I thought myself indispensably bound to do by my duty to my people. I will be very frank with you. I was the last to consent to the separation; but the separation having become inevitable, I have always said, and I say now, that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power."

PLENTY OF BEER BUT NO TOBACCO

Beer and tobacco are supposed by some people to be on about the same footing, but a certain company in London 200 years ago did not seem to think so. It was the business of this company to look after the welfare of the emigrants who had gone out from the mother country to seek homes in the New World. In 1629 it sent over the good ship *Talbot*, loaded with provisions, clothing, etc., to the Massachusetts Bay colony. The "etc.," in this instance included forty-seven tuns of beer, which no doubt, was duly appreciated by the colonists. But by the same ship the company sent a long list of instructions in regard to their conduct, telling them what they should and should not do. One of the things they were forbidden to do was to cultivate and use tobacco, "unless it be some small quantitie for mere necessitie, and for phisick for the preservation of their health, and that the same be taken privately by antient men and none other."

THE OLD CAPITOL BUILDING

THE structure in Washington City known as the "Old Capitol Building" has a memorable history. It was erected in 1800, and was originally designed as a tavern, or boarding house. On account of poor management the tavern was closed after a few years. During the War of 1812 the British captured Washington and burned several of the public buildings, including the Capitol. The government then purchased this tavern building for the use of congress, and here both houses met for several years. Within its walls two presidents were inaugurated, and in it John C. Calhoun died. After the new Capitol building was completed the "Old Capitol" was abandoned by congress, and after that it was used for various purposes, hotel, boarding school, etc. In 1861 the government again took charge of it, and used it during the Civil war as a prison for captured southern soldiers.

UNFORTUNATE JOHN FITCH

To John Fitch rightfully belongs the credit for having invented the steamboat. In 1786 he built one that went eight miles an hour. A company was formed and a larger boat built next year. It was 45 feet long and had twelve paddles worked by steam. This boat made a successful trial trip on the Delaware August 22, 1787. But there were many skeptics, and much fun was poked at Fitch and his boat. His supporters could not endure the ridicule, and deserted him. He went to Paris, but could do nothing there on account of the revolu-

tion. While there he intrusted his plans to the American minister, who allowed Robert Fulton to see and study them. Fulton improved on them and built his first boat in 1803. Discouraged and heartbroken, Fitch returned to America, and committed suicide at Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1798. He left a manuscript giving the story of his life, in which he says; "The day will come when some more powerful man will get fame and riches from my invention, but nobody will believe that poor old John Fitch can do anything worthy of attention."

CRAZY EUROPEAN RULERS

During the time Napoleon was turning Europe topsy-turvy with his splendid military genius more than half the European thrones were occupied by either lunatics or half-witted persons. Emperor Paul of Russia had a feeble intellect, a scanty education, and an absurd and well-nigh insane self-conceit. Christian VII. of Denmark was so feeble and morbid that he was incapable of ruling. Queen Marie of Portugal was hopelessly insane, and had to be kept under restraint. Charles IV. of Spain was a weak ruler, hardly a shade more than half-witted. His brother, Ferdinand of Naples, was a little better, but not much. And George III. of England, intellectually sluggish and obstinate by nature, was destined to pass the last ten years of his life in hopeless insanity. Napoleon's career probably would have been shorter and less brilliant had the European thrones been occupied by vigorous monarchs.

JOSEPH FRANCIS, LIFE SAVER

In 1849 Joseph Francis, who had already won a great reputation as a builder of life-boats and life-saving apparatus, built a metallic life-boat, or life-car, and asked the co-operation of the United States government in giving it a trial. Up to that time only wood had been used in the construction of life-boats, and the government had no faith in the new-fangled idea. It refused to give him assistance of any kind, so he established and maintained the boat at his own expense on the New Jersey coast. In January, 1850, it rescued 200 of 201 emigrants from the wreck of the British ship *Ayrshire.* The only one lost was a man who insisted on riding through the surf on the outside of the car — probably wanted to see the scenery. During the next four years 2,150 lives were saved by the use of Francis' life-boats. Foreign countries loaded him with honors, and thirty-eight years afterward, in 1888, congress awarded him a gold medal "for his life-long services to humanity and to his country." He died in 1893, in his ninety-third year. Both the 1849 life-car and the gold medal may be seen in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

A ROMAN TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN

About a year after the death of President Lincoln there was found in the basement of the White House a large stone with an inscription, in Italian, of which this is a translation: "To Abraham Lincoln, President for the second time of the American Republic, citizens of Rome present this stone, from

the wall of Servius Tullius, by which the memory of each of those brave assertors of liberty may be associated." No one about the White House knew anything about the stone, or had ever heard of it. No one remembered having heard Lincoln speak of it. It seems that after his re-election these Roman patriots, wishing to show their admiration of his character and their appreciation of his work, took this stone from the wall of the wise and just old Roman emperor, had the inscription placed upon it, and sent it to him as a testimonial. It is believed that in order to avoid notoriety, and in keeping with his modest nature, he quietly placed the stone in the basement and said nothing about it to any one. It may now be seen in the custodian's room of the Lincoln monument at Springfield, where it was placed by direction of congress.

SOME WILD-CAT RAILROADING

Some remarkable railroads were built in this country — on paper — during the years 1836-1840. One of the most ambitious was "The Great Western Railroad," projected to run from New York city to Lake Erie, and thence westward to the Mississippi river, a distance of about 1,050 miles. It was to be built on piling, and the total cost was estimated at $15,000,000. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and much excitement. Lands were received for subscriptions at extravagant prices. Cities were staked out at various points along the proposed route. Some people even feared that all the land adjacent to the road would be occupied by cities and none be left for farming purposes. Numerous other

roads were projected to the north and to the south, to connect with this great trunk line, and "terminal cities" of magnificent proportions were laid out. One state legislature (Illinois) planned the construction of 1,300 miles of "state railroad," to cost over a billion dollars. More than $8,000,000 were actually appropriated for internal improvements, and when Governor Ford took office in 1842 there was hardly enough unappropriated money in the state treasury to buy a postage stamp.

BELLE BOYD'S THRILLING CAREER

Belle Boyd was born in Martinsburg, Va., in 1843. Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil war she shot and killed a Federal soldier who assailed her mother. She gave Stonewall Jackson information that enabled him to drive General Banks and his army out of the Shenandoah valley. She was captured and confined in the military prison at Washington for three months, and was then exchanged for a Union colonel. She went south, and was commissioned as captain in the Confederate service. She was again captured, taken to Washington and sentenced to be shot; but she was reprieved and again exchanged, this time for a general. She afterward sailed for England with important dispatches from the Confederate government, but was a third time captured and a second time sentenced to be shot. The sentence was finally commuted, and she was escorted to the Canadian border by a United States marshal and told never to return to this country on pain of death. She did return, though, for she died at Kilbourne, Wis., in 1890.

QUEER DOINGS AT BALTIMORE

THERE were some queer doings at Baltimore eighty years ago. Witness this from Griffith's "Annals of Baltimore," published in 1833: "December 14 (1829), thirty-seven persons are drawn by one horse, in a car, planned by Mr. Ross Winans, of New Jersey, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at the rate of about ten miles per hour, or as fast as the horse could trot or gallop; which was done in the presence and to the astonishment of a multitude of spectators, who, not having witnessed such an exhibition could scarcely realize the effect." And "Peter Parley's First Book of History," published about the same time, says: "But the most curious thing at Baltimore is the railroad. This consists of iron bars laid along the ground, and made fast so that carriages with small wheels may run along them with facility. In this way, each horse will be able to draw as much as ten horses on a common road. A part of this railroad is already done, and if you choose to take a ride upon it, you may do so. You will mount a carriage something like a stage, and then you will be drawn along by two horses at the rate of twelve miles an hour."

OUR FIRST AMERICAN ADMIRAL

AT the beginning of the American Revolution England had the most powerful navy in the world, while the Americans had none at all. The Continental congress appointed a naval committee, which purchased and fitted out eight vessels, at a total cost of $134,333. Esek Hopkins was appointed

commander-in-chief. With these eight vessels, carrying 110 guns and manned by men without naval discipline, Commodore Hopkins was sent against the English fleet of 78 men-of-war, mounting 2,078 guns. Hopkins had only 40 guns throwing shot of nine pounds or more, while the British had at least 500 18-pounders and heavier guns. With this tiny outfit the American commander was directed to "attack, take and destroy" all the enemy's naval force he could find. Hopkins probably foresaw that he was doomed to failure, and maneuvered quite a little before attacking the enemy. For this he was court-martialed and dismissed. The total armament of the American navy reached 42 vessels during the Revolution, all of which were practically destroyed before the end of the war.

CHILDREN IN COAL MINES

It seems incredible that within the last seventy-five years little children were employed in the coal mines of England and often treated no better than work-animals, yet such was the case. In 1842 a parliamentary commission reported that in many mines it was common for children to begin work under-ground at seven years old. In some they began at six, and in a few instances as early as five years old. One extreme case was reported where children were worked "as low as four years old," and "so young they had to be brought to work in their bed-gowns." In another case, the report said, "Children are sometimes brought to the pit at the age of six years, and are taken out of bed at four o'clock." The working day was from 14 to 16

hours. The ventilation in nearly all the mines was bad, and the drainage worse. The children were made to draw loads by means of a girdle and chain, going on all-fours, often "through avenues not so good as a common sewer, quite as wet, and oftentimes more contracted." The report aroused indignation and resulted not only in excluding children from mines, but in revolutionizing labor conditions generally in England.

THE CRADLE OF LIBERTY

The Fanueil family of Boston loved liberty. Their ancestors had fled from the Huguenot persecution in France, and they appreciated the blessings of freedom. They were well-to-do, and it is said that when one of them died in 1738 three thousand pairs of mourning gloves were provided for the attendants at the funeral. In 1742 Peter Fanueil built a house and gave it to the city of Boston. His main purpose was to provide a public market place, and to this the ground floor was devoted. The upper room was fitted up as a hall for public gatherings. The Sons of Liberty met here during the incipient stages of the Revolution, and from this fact the building became known as "the cradle of liberty." It burned down in 1761, some years after the donor's death, but it was immediately rebuilt by the city. In 1805 it was enlarged by the addition of another story and by making it forty feet wider. As thus rebuilt the structure remained substantially the same until 1899, when more changes were made. The market facilities have been greatly extended, and now occupy a whole square.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS ARAB

Among the illustrious patriots of history no name shines with greater luster than that of Abd-el-Kader, an Arab and a Mohammedan. His life was one long series of magnificent struggles and crushing defeats. His chosen work was to reform the political and social system of his native country, Algiers, but his hopes were cruelly frustrated. For fifteen years, at the head of the little Algierian army, he fought heroically against France, one of the great military powers of the world. He yielded only when every possible defense had failed, and was held a captive four years. Through it all he preserved an exalted character, and set a fine example for the Christian world. His closing years were spent at Damascus, in study and good works. In 1860, when a terrible Moslem outbreak occurred in that city, he helped to repress the uprising, and saved the lives of thousands of Christians. For this, and in honor of his exalted character, France conferred upon him the order of the Cross of the Legion of Honor; Russia, that of the White Eagle; Prussia, that of the Black Eagle; and Greece, that of the Savior. England sent him a magnificent gun, inlaid with gold; and the United States, a fine brace of pistols with like adornments.

HOW ONE SHIP FOUGHT A WHOLE FLEET

On August 31, 1591, a British fleet of six vessels lay quietly at anchor near the Azores. Suddenly, and almost without warning, a great Spanish armada of 53 ships bore down upon them. Consterna-

tion seized the admiral, and he fled precipitately with his flagship, commanding the others to follow. They did so — all but one, the *Revenge*. Aboard that was grim Richard Grenville, the vice-admiral. He scorned to flee, and when the Spaniards called upon him to surrender he contemptuously refused. He had but 140 men fit for fighting, but he told the Spaniards he was going to cut through their line. Glaring round upon his crew, who feared him more than they did any enemy, he ordered them to attack the Spanish ships. For fifteen hours the battle raged, Grenville alternately cheering, storming, praying and devoting the Spaniards to perdition. He yielded only when less than twenty of his men could stand up to fight and he himself was mortally wounded. When it was all over the Spaniards figured out their losses thus: Two ships sunk, fifteen more or less damaged, more than 1,000 men killed and wounded, and by one little English ship.

DR. FRANKLIN'S POLITE SARCASM

Dr. Benjamin Franklin was noted for his politeness, though he not infrequently tinged it with sarcasm. In 1774 he was dismissed by the British government from the office of surveyor general of the postoffice in America, no reason being assigned except that his majesty the king had no further need of his services. Two years later the Continental congress appointed him postmaster general of all North America; whereupon he could not resist the temptation to write the English minister that the British government need not worry any more about postal affairs in America as they had again

been placed in competent hands. Some months after the opening of the war he summed up the situation thus in a letter to a friend in England: "The English have made a campaign here, which cost two million; they have gained a mile of ground, and lost half of it back again. They have lost 1,500 men and killed 150 Yankees. Meantime we have had between 50,000 and 70,000 children born. How long will it take to conquer America?"

A HEROIC SPANISH MAIDEN

A WOMAN helped to give Napoleon his first check and to show Europe that he was not invincible. Her name was Agustina, and she is known in history as the Maid of Saragossa. In the Peninsular war the city of Saragossa was twice besieged by the French army; once in the summer of 1808 and again the following winter. The city had no fortifications but crumbling walls, behind which were a few ancient cannon; but the whole population, men women and children, rushed to its defense. Bravest of them all was Agustina. She was not a woman of quality, only a lemonade seller in the streets; but she performed mighty deeds of valor and by her example encouraged others to acts of bravery. Once when a cannoneer fell mortally wounded she snatched the fuse from his hand and herself fired the cannon. For her brave actions she was made an officer in the Spanish army, and presented with many decorations. Saragossa fell, but only after 50,000 of her citizens had perished from war and pestilence. Her heroic defense staggered Napoleon for a time, for it revealed the intrepid spirit of a people when

fighting for their homes. Agustina lived to be very old, dying in 1857.

THE FIRST GERMAN RAILROAD

The oldest railroad in Germany is one of the shortest railway lines in the world. The Ludwig railway, connecting the cities of Furth and Nuremberg, is just three and three-quarter miles long, and has never been extended. It was conceived by Johannes Scharrer, a wealthy hop merchant. The plan was first published in 1832, and as King Ludwig favored its construction it was named after him. The first locomotive was supplied by Stephenson, at a cost of $1,265. The first trip was made November 21, 1835, the train consisting of five cars, carrying 90 passengers. Time, about 12 minutes, only half the power of the locomotive being used. Two weeks later trains began running regularly, and the road has been in successful operation ever since. The company owns eight locomotives, 35 passenger cars and six baggage and freight cars. There are about 90 employés. The road carries about 4,000,000 passengers a year.

A NAPOLEONIC COLONY IN ALABAMA

The overthrow of Napoleon and the establishment of a new régime in France was followed by the banishment of many of his prominent followers and supporters. Among them were generals and other officers of high rank, and ladies who had figured prominently in court circles. One group of them came to America, with the idea of establishing a lit-

tle community of their own, but subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Congress granted them, by act of March 3, 1817, four townships of land, to be selected by them in the state of Alabama; the conditions being that they should cultivate the vine on one acre in each quarter section, and the olive on another, and at the end of 14 years pay the government $2 an acre for the land. About 400 men and women came over, under the leadership of Marshal Grouchy and General Lefebre. Most of them settled in two villages, Demopolis and Eaglesville, in what is now Marengo county. Here they lived for several years in quietness and simplicity. But the vine and the olive did not prosper, and the leaders became discouraged. The colony gradually melted away, though it is said the descendants of some of these aristocratic French settlers are still to be found in that region.

A FIGHTING PREACHER

In 1772 Rev. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg took charge of the little Lutheran church at Woodstock, Virginia, and for three years attended faithfully to his pastoral duties. During that time, however, the revolutionary rumblings became louder and louder, and the preacher became more and more interested in the burning question of independence. Finally, one Sabbath morning, he delivered an impressive discourse on patriotism, and dwelt at length on the duty of all good citizens to uphold their country in the hour of need. At the close he exclaimed in a voice like a trumpet, "There is a time for all

things; a time to preach and a time to fight, and now is the time to fight." Then throwing off his sacerdotal gown he stood before his astonished congregation in the full regimental dress of a Virginia colonel. He ordered the drums to be beaten at the church door for recruits, and on that day nearly 300 men enlisted, including almost every able-bodied man of his congregation. He was made colonel of the Eighth Virginia regiment, afterwards became a major-general, and gave proof of his bravery on many a hard-fought battlefield.

THE GREAT BATTLE OF MAUVILLE

Never was there fought a more hotly contested or bloodier battle on American soil than that of Mauville (the ancient Mobile), on October 18, 1540. On the one side was DeSoto and a few hundred followers, armed with guns and protected by armor. On the other were many thousands of Indians, armed with bows and arrows and such like primitive weapons. To the Spaniards, defeat would mean annihilation; while the Indians fought with the desperation born of a determination to drive out the invaders or perish in the attempt. All through the afternoon they fought hand to hand, the Spanish soldiers charging gallantly, the Indians rushing upon them with sublime indifference to death. But discipline and steel prevailed, and the Indians were overwhelmed by the terrific onslaughts of the Spanish cavalry. When darkness fell, the streets of the Indian village were literally piled with Indian corpses But DeSoto paid dearly for his victory, for forty-two of his devoted followers lay dead, and the sur-

vivors carried 1,700 wounds that needed a surgeon's care.

A BAND OF PLUCKY EXPLORERS

That was a plucky little band of explorers who, on May 24, 1869, under the leadership of one-armed Major Powell, plunged into the canyon of Green river, where the Union Pacific railway crosses it, determined to follow the river to its junction with the Grand, and then follow the Colorado river until it emerges on the lowlands of southern California. They knew what it meant — a perilous journey of more than a thousand miles, through dark canyons a mile or more in depth, over whirling rapids, through raging torrents and past yawning chasms, every foot of the way beset with difficulty and danger, and every moment threatening destruction. It took them over three months to make the journey, but they made it; seven of the ten explorers and four of the six boats emerging in safety. This journey, by reason of the knowledge gained and the results which followed, may be regarded as the beginning of the great conservation movement in this country.

A NAVAL VICTORY WITHOUT BLOODSHED

In 1778 Captain Rathburne, commanding a little American vessel with twenty-five men and twelve four-pound guns, swooped down upon the island of New Providence with its nest of Tories and its British garrison. With a quick dash he landed, seized the forts, raised the American flag, released some American prisoners, and captured six British ves-

sels. A privateer of sixteen guns lay at anchor in the port, and a British sloop-of-war hovered outside; but they were too surprised to do anything. The Tories armed themselves and attempted to capture Rathburne and his men, but changed their minds when he threatened to burn the town. He held the place two days, largely for the fun of it, no doubt. Then he spiked the guns, carried off the arms and ammunition, burned two of the captured ships and sailed away with the other four. Nor lost he a single man.

A VALIANT IRISH SEA CAPTAIN

On May 11, 1775, Captain Jeremiah O'Brien, owner of a little lumber sloop, chased and captured the British war schooner *Margaretta*, carrying four light guns and fourteen swivel pieces. O'Brien's crew was thirty-five landsmen, mostly Irish, armed with muskets, pistols, blunderbuses, axes and pitchforks. The schooner had more men than the sloop, and was a commissioned war vessel. She had been somewhat disabled in a squall, and a lucky shot from the lumber sloop killed the man at the wheel and cleared the quarterdeck. Another shot killed the British captain. O'Brien gave the order to board, and the schooner was captured after a hand-to-hand fight. About twenty men in all were killed and wounded. O'Brien mounted the captured guns on a stronger sloop and put out to sea. Two British cruisers were sent to capture him. By a wily stratagem he separated them, fought each in turn and took both of them prisoners.

THE FINEST TOMB IN THE WORLD

The most magnificent mausoleum in the world is at Agra, India. It was built by Emperor Shah Jehan, in the seventeenth century, in honor of his favorite queen. It is built entirely of marble and brick, and is adorned internally with exquisite mosaics of precious stones. The total cost was more than $15,000,000. But with all its grandeur and magnificence there is abundant tragedy connected with its building. Twenty-two thousand men, driven like slaves, labored for seventeen years, through tropical rains and torrid summer heat, to erect this marvelous tomb. Hundreds of them perished, but others took their places. The cost was so great that the revenues were depleted, and the people rose in rebellion. The emperor's son usurped the throne, and during the last seven years of his life the emperor looked out upon the splendid mausoleum from a prison window. He was not allowed to enter it while living, but now his body rests beneath its dome.

A DUMPING GROUND FOR JAIL-BIRDS

Prior to the revolution England used the American colonies as a dumping-ground for her undesirable citizens. It is estimated that between 1717 and 1775 not less than 50,000 convicts, of all kinds and of both sexes, were taken from the jails of Great Britain and Ireland and transported to the American colonies, where they were condemned to hard labor and hired out to the settlers. The Maryland colony suffered most from the affliction, 20,000 or

more of the jail-birds being sent there. Some of them, however, had been convicted of slight offenses, and were easily transformed into good citizens of the new world. At one time Dr. Franklin remonstrated with the British government against the practice of sending their convicts over here. The ministers urged that it was absolutely necessary. "Then," he replied, "would not the same reasoning justify us in sending all our rattlesnakes to England?"

THE MAN BEHIND COLUMBUS

Prince Henry of Portugal demonstrated to the world that a king's son may be useful as well as ornamental. He was a man of excellent character, a fine scholar, and wonderfully energetic. He had an intense desire for knowledge, and did far more than any other man of his time to dispel the imaginary terrors of the deep and open up to civilization the unknown regions of the earth. It was due to him that the great continent of Africa became known to the civilized world, and the system of continuous and systematic exploration dates from his time. He died in 1460, a third of a century before Columbus set out on his great voyage of discovery; but it was the study of the Portuguese explorations that prompted Columbus to undertake his journey. If the Portuguese could go so far southward, why should not he go as far westward? Thus it comes that this man, almost unknown except to scholars, stands back of Columbus. Without his work, Columbus might have remained a simple Genoese sailor,

and America not have been discovered for another hundred years.

A HUNGARIAN HERO

Hungary boasts of several national heroes, but none of them has a finer record for bravery than Miklos Zrinyi. He fought many a battle in behalf of his country, but the supreme hour of his life came at the close. On August 5, 1566, with 3,000 gallant followers, he took refuge in the little fortress of Sziget, and defended it against a great Turkish host, led by Suleiman the Magnificent, in person. For four weeks the siege went on, the Turks furiously assaulting the little fortress again and again, only to be beaten back each time by Zrinyi and his men. Finally, on September 7, the little Hungarian band, or what was left of it, led by Zrinyi, rushed out upon the Turkish host, determined to cut their way through or die in the attempt. They died, every man of them, Zrinyi the first of all. But it was an expensive victory to the Turks, for it cost them twenty thousand lives.

LINCOLN'S JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON

In these days of rapid railway transit it seems remarkable that it should have taken President-elect Lincoln and his party twelve days to make the journey from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington. Of course the fact that it was a speech-making trip accounts in large part for the lengthy schedule, as it does also for the circuitous route — from Springfield to Indianapolis, to Cincinnati, to Columbus,

to Pittsburg, to Cleveland, to Buffalo, to Albany, to New York, to Philadelphia, to Harrisburg, to Washington, a distance of 1,700 or 1,800 miles. Then there were no good sleeping cars in those days, and the party traveled only by day, stopping over at night in the larger cities. The presidential train was a short one: the engine, tender, one baggage car and one passenger coach. There were innumerable stops along the way, where people gathered by thousands, anxious to see and hear the man who was to guide the destinies of the nation during the next four years. At Harrisburg there was a change in programme. A plot was discovered to assassinate the president-elect while passing through Baltimore, so he returned to Philadelphia by special train, and went through Baltimore in the night, arriving at Washington ahead of time.

AMERICA'S FIRST LAWYER

About 1641 Thomas Lechford came over from England and set up for the practice of law in Boston. He made a failure of it, partly for want of clients, but mainly because the governor and magistrates violently opposed him. They had no use for lawyers, believing themselves perfectly competent to handle all controversies that might arise in the colony. The Puritan fathers in England held lawyers in abhorrence. John Rogers, the famous Puritan preacher of London, spoke of "the incredible wickedness of that profession, and their guiltiness of all manner of sins which the nation lies under." This being the opinion of the Puritan leaders in England, no wonder the brethren in Boston deter-

mined to exclude them. Up to the time of the Revolutionary war lawyers were generally looked upon in this country as unsuited to good society. Though he failed in the legal profession, Lechford wrote a good book, which he called "Plain Dealing; Or, News from New England."

THE LAND OWNER BOTH JUDGE AND JURY

Before the time of Edward I. the private land owner in England had things pretty much his own way. Not the least of his powers was that of complete jurisdiction over his own domain. He held his own court, being both judge and jury, and all within his borders were subject to his rule. The gallows for hanging men and the pit for drowning women were prominent features of every estate. In those days the right of trying criminals was one of the perquisites attached to the ownership of Baynard's castle, in London. It was owned by Sir Robert Fitzwalter, and many years after his death this right of jurisdiction was claimed by his descendants. One of his privileges which they claimed was that of drowning in the Thames all traitors caught within his territory. Little by little this power of jurisdiction was wrested from the private land owners, but it was not entirely abolished till 1745.

ENGLISH SYMPATHY FOR AMERICA

The sentiment in England against America during the Revolutionary war was not unanimous by any means. If a popular vote had been taken it is

likely that a majority would have been found favoring the American side. On June 24, 1775, the lord-mayor and aldermen of London adopted an "Address, Remonstrance and Petition" to the king, expressing their abhorrence of the tyrannical measures pursued against their fellow subjects in America, and asking him to dismiss his minister and counselors who were responsible for such an unrighteous war. Being notified of this, the king signified his willingness to receive the petition at his next levee, or public reception. The lord-mayor and aldermen refused to present it except when he was sitting on his throne. He replied that he would receive any kind of a petition, but he must be the judge as to where. Both sides were stubborn, and the petition was never officially presented. They took care, however, that a copy of it was presented to the King in private.

A SOAP REBELLION

Soap was one of the factors that contributed to the downfall of Charles I. of England. He was always in need of money, and was in the habit of granting monopolies for the manufacture and sale of various commodities, charging the monopolists good round sums for their privileges. The scheme worked well, and he realized something like £200,000 from this source. The practice aroused a great deal of opposition, however. About 1630 he granted a patent to a company of soap makers, who were to be the sole manufacturers of that useful article in England. They paid him £10,000 cash and £8 per ton for all soap produced. Then the women

rose in rebellion. They petitioned against it, complaining that the new soap burned the linen, scalded the fingers and wasted in keeping. Not being able to get at Charles himself, they clamorously besieged the lord-mayor of London, demanding that he do something for their relief. He shrank from meeting them, and was reprimanded by Charles for his cowardice.

FIFTH MONARCHY MEN

One curious by-product of the great Revolution in England was the organization known as "Fifth Monarchy Men." These people believed that only the godly are fit to govern, and that all civil authority should be lodged in the church. They believed also that a new reign was near at hand, which should be known as "The Fifth Monarchy," to succeed the Assyrian, the Persian, the Greek and the Roman, during which Christ and his saints should reign on earth a thousand years. They sought to abolish all existing laws, and substitute a simpler code based on the law of Moses. At first they supported Cromwell's government, believing it to be a preparation for the new order of things. But they soon grew tired of waiting for the fulfillment of their hopes, and began to agitate against the government and villify Cromwell. The arrest and imprisonment of several of their leaders cooled their ardor, and they remained quiet for some time. After the restoration of Charles to the throne they renewed the agitation and attempted to take possession of London. Most of them were either killed or captured, and eleven of the leaders were executed for

high treason. Thus vanished their visions of an impending millennium.

A GREAT ADMIRAL WHO DIED POOR

In these days of vast fortunes, when the struggle for wealth is so strenuous, it is refreshing to read about Admiral Blake of the British navy. Few men have had more or better opportunities to become rich than he. His career as an admiral was very brilliant. He won many victories over the Dutch, the Spaniards and the Portuguese. He swept the Mediterranean clear of pirates, and restored commerce to its normal activity. It was under his pennon that England first attained supremacy of the seas. In the battle of Santa Cruz, off the island of Teneriffe, he destroyed the Spanish fleet "amid whirlwinds of fire and iron hail," and captured, it is said, thirty-eight wagon loads of silver. Yet he never profited financially by his victories, and when he died, in 1657, his estate amounted to less than $2,500.

WHY NEW YORK IS NOT A DUTCH CITY

In 1613 Samuel Argall, captain of a small armed English vessel, sailed up the coast of Maine, ostensibly to protect the English fishermen, but in reality to destroy such French colonies as he might find up and down the coast. He attended to his business, burning and pillaging several French settlements. On his way back, by way of variety, he descended on the Dutch traders on Manhattan Island,

destroyed many of their huts, and compelled them to acknowledge the sovereignty of England. This trip of the savage old captain resulted in confining the French settlements to the St. Lawrence, subjugating the Dutch and leaving a clear field to the English. Had it not been for this expedition, New York might to-day be a Dutch city — possibly.

ELI WHITNEY'S TROUBLES

Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793. The new machine created great excitement, and before he could complete his model and secure his patents, scoundrels broke into his shop, stole his ideas, and made other machines along the same lines. Many rivals appeared, and he had to fight infringements on all sides. In 1795 his shop and all his machines and papers were burned. This misfortune threw him into bankruptcy, with a debt of $4,000 hanging over him. The first important infringement suit went against him. Several state legislatures with whom he had contracts tried to nullify them. In all he had more than sixty lawsuits, many of which were decided against him. He struggled against adverse circumstances for fifteen years, and then gave it up. It is said he did not make a dollar out of his invention, though it revolutionized the cotton industry and added a thousand million dollars to the revenues of the southern states.

THE CZAR'S AIRLINE RAILROAD

Autocratic power is well illustrated by the story of the building of the railroad connecting St. Petersburg and Moscow. Two Americans were employed,

it is said, to lay out and build the line. When the plans were all ready they laid them before Emperor Nicholas. Noticing at once that the line deviated in some places to avoid difficulties and in others to tap certain important cities and towns he shook his head and said it wouldn't do; that he wanted no such twisting railway lines in his dominions. Taking a ruler and pen, he drew a straight line between the two cities. "There," he said, "a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Make your road follow this line." Thus it comes that there is one railroad almost or quite as direct in reality as it appears on the map.

THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN AMERICA

In 1619 Sir George Yeardley arrived in Virginia with a commission as governor of the colony. Among his instructions was one that brought great joy to the colonists. It was to the effect that a general assembly should be held yearly, composed of the governor and council, and two Burgesses from each plantation, to be elected by the people. This assembly was to have power to make laws for the colony. It assembled at Jamestown, July 30, and was the first legislative body to meet on American soil. The sessions were held in the little Episcopal church which, we are told, "the governor caused to be kept passing sweet, and trimmed up with divers flowers." There were 22 elected Burghers, all citizens of a high type. The assembly remained in session only five days, yet in that time it enacted some excellent laws. Governor Hutchinson, the Tory his-

torian, tell us in his book that "In 1619 a house of Burgesses broke out at Jamestown." Similar assemblies, elected by the people, have been "breaking out" in America ever since.

TROUBLES IN LAYING THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Cyrus Field labored incessantly for twelve years and made fifty voyages across the Atlantic before he finally succeeded in accomplishing his great work of laying a cable across the ocean. The first cable was completed August 5, 1858. After a short time it ceased to work, and the friends of the enterprise were greatly disheartened. The Civil war came on, making further progress impossible for the time. But Field held on, and in 1865 the second cable was begun. After the *Great Eastern* had proceeded 1,200 miles, unwinding this second cable, the cable parted. Still Field persevered, though $6,000,000 had been sunk in the enterprise. In July, 1866, a third cable, 2,000 miles long, was coiled on the *Great Eastern* and she started once more across the Atlantic. This time the experiment was a complete success.

POSTAGE RATES IN 1824

In 1824 the U. S. government charged six cents for carrying a single letter 36 miles or less. For more than 36 and less than 80 miles it charged ten cents. From 80 to 150 miles the charge was 12 1-2 cents, and from 150 to 400 miles, 18 1-2 cents. For all distances over 400 miles the uniform rate was

25 cents. By a "single" letter was meant, so the department explained, one containing "one piece of paper." When two pieces of paper were inclosed, the charge was doubled; when three pieces, it was tripled, and so on. A charge of one cent was made for carrying each copy of a newspaper 100 miles or less, and a cent and a half for more than 100 miles. At that time there were about 80,000 miles of post office roads, and the mails were carried on stages about 21,000 miles. There were 5,240 post offices. John McLean was postmaster-general, at a salary of $4,000 a year. He had two assistants at $2,500 each; one chief clerk at $1,700, one bookkeeper at $1,300, twenty-two ordinary clerks at from $800 to $1,400 each, and two messengers, one at $700 and the other at $350.

MARY FISHER'S STRANGE EXPERIENCES

In 1656 Mary Fisher, a young English woman, landed in Boston, and was promptly taken before the court and convicted of being a Quakeress. The master of the vessel that brought her over was compelled to take her back to England. She then claimed that she was moved of the Lord to go to Turkey and warn the people of that country to flee from the wrath to come. When she reached Smyrna the English ambassador sent her back to Venice. Nothing discouraged, she set out again by land, and after traveling 600 miles she reached Adrianople, where the Grand Vizier of Turkey was encamped with a great army She managed to get word to him that she had a message "from the great God to the great Turk." He immediately gave her an

audience, listened to what she had to say, and treated her with the greatest respect. When she departed a guard was offered her, but she declined, and went on her way unaccompanied, reaching Constantinople in safety. Banished from Boston because of her religious belief, she was most courteously treated by the Mohammedans.

JEFFERSON'S GREAT UNCONSTITUTIONAL BARGAIN

In 1803 President Jefferson asked Napoleon to sell the United States a strip of land at the mouth of the Mississippi river. Napoleon replied by making the astonishing proposition to sell the whole region west of the Mississippi for $15,000,000. Jefferson was in a quandary. Here was an opportunity to secure an immense territory, vastly rich in its natural resources, at a mere fraction of its value. Yet it could not be done lawfully under the constitution, and Jefferson and his party were great sticklers for the constitution. There was no time for delay; whatever was done must be done quickly. The constitution could be amended, but that would take time, and the golden opportunity might escape forever. With the shrewd instinct of a keen business man Jefferson decided to close the bargain and trust the people to justify his act. His judgment was confirmed, not only by his own but by succeeding generations. At one stroke of the pen the area of the United States was almost doubled. It was a more momentous act than even the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

THE EXTREMES OF FORTUNE

Few careers have covered wider extremes of fortune than did that of John of Cappadocia. He was a Roman officer of very high rank under the Emperor Justinian, in the sixth century. He was a very able man, and under his direction the finances of the government flourished wonderfully. Incidentally he amassed a great fortune for himself. But he was very corrupt, and the revenues were raised "on the death of thousands, the poverty of millions, the ruins of cities, and the desolation of provinces." He lived most extravagantly, and indulged in all sorts of wicked practices. But his life of ostentatious profligacy was suddenly changed into one of abject poverty. Though guilty of many crimes, he was accused of one of which he seems to have been innocent, and was condemned to be scourged like the lowest of criminals. Nothing of his vast fortune was left him but one old ragged cloak, and it is said that for seven years he begged bread in the streets of cities that once had trembled at his name.

WHEN WASHINGTON WAS ANGRY

In 1791 Gen. Arthur St. Clair was sent with a little army of 2,000 men to break the power of the Miami Indian confederacy. His camp was surprised by a force of Indians under Little Turtle. After three hours' desperate fighting St. Clair was completely defeated, losing more than half his men. When news of the disaster reached President Washington his usually calm and benignant spirit gave way to wrath. "Here," he exclaimed in a tempest

of indignation, "on this very spot I took leave of him. 'You have your instructions,' I said, 'from the secretary of war. I will add but one word — Beware of a surprise; you know how the Indians fight us.' And yet, to suffer that army to be cut to pieces, hacked, butchered, tomahawked, by a surprise — the very thing I guarded him against! O God, O God, he's worse than a murderer! How can he answer to his country! The blood of the slain is upon him — the curse of widows and orphans — the curse of heaven." Then seating himself upon the sofa he was silent for a time; after which he rose and said to the man who had brought the message: "This must not go beyond this room. General St. Clair shall have justice. I looked hastily through the dispatches, saw the whole disaster but not the particulars. I will receive him without displeasure. I will hear him without prejudice. He shall have full justice."

WHEN LONDONERS LOVED DARKNESS

For several hundred years London sat in darkness on moonless nights. From 1416 on, however, the citizens were obliged to hang out candles on dark nights to illuminate the streets. This was enforced by act of parliament in 1661. In 1684 Edward Heming, the inventor of oil lamps, made a daring offer, which was, that for a proper consideration he would engage to place a light before every tenth door, on dark nights, from six p. m. till midnight. His proposition was accepted, and he was given the exclusive right to light the streets as indicated for a term of years. But the scheme provoked a great

uproar among the people. Some of them enthusiastically applauded it, and hailed Heming as the greatest benefactor the city ever had. Thousands of others furiously denounced him and his scheme, and demanded that the contract be cancelled. Heming held on, and in time the people became reconciled to having the streets lighted. In 1736 the city government assumed the responsibility.

THE DISCOVERER OF GOLD IN CALIFORNIA

JAMES W. MARSHALL was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, in 1812. While a young man he went west; first to Indiana, and then to Illinois. In 1840 he moved again, this time to Kansas. In 1844 he set out with an ox team for California, but changed his mind on the way and went to Oregon instead. Still he was not satisfied, and in 1845 he emigrated to California. On January 19, 1848, he picked up a nugget of gold in the bed of a stream, and this act constituted the discovery of gold in California. Since then that state has yielded $1,500,000,000 in gold. James W. Marshall drifted about for thirty-seven years, doing no good at anything, and died in his cabin, alone, in 1855, without enough money to defray his very simple funeral expenses.

HOW RUSSIA GOT SIBERIA

IN 1582 Yermak, a Cossack chieftain, with a band of warriors "chosen for their bravery rather than for their morality," set out to chastise and sub-

due a powerful Tartar tribe east of the Ural mountains. When Czar Ivan IV. heard of it he was badly frightened, for he feared to stir up the fierce Tartars. He frantically sent orders for the expedition to return. But it was too late; Yermak and his men had already crossed the mountains. When they approached the city of Sibir, the stronghold of the Tartar chief, they found an army thirty times as large as their own awaiting them. But they were far better equipped with arms and ammunition than were the Tartars, and administered to them a crushing defeat. Sibir was captured, and became the nucleus of the expansion of the Russian empire in Asia, giving its name to the new country.

WILLIAM DOCKWRA AND CHEAP POSTAGE

STRANGE as it may seem, before 1680 it was impossible to mail a letter in the city of London without taking it to the general post office, in Lombard street. In that year William Dockwra, a merchant, put into operation a scheme for collecting and delivering letters in any part of London for one penny. He established a number of receiving offices in various parts of the city. The scheme worked very well; so well, in fact, that it provoked great hostility. The porters complained that it interfered with their interests, as it no doubt did, and tore down the placards announcing the scheme to the public. Some fanatics even denounced it as a popish plot. But it succeeded so well that it came near paying expenses the first year. Our present-day method of handling mail in large cities is not much, if any, better than that of Dockwra, and in

one respect it is not as good, for he guaranteed to reimburse the sender when anything of value was lost while in the care of his employés.

LAFAYETTE'S FIVE YEARS IN PRISON

AFTER General Lafayette's gallant services in behalf of the Americans during the War of the Revolution he returned to his native country, and in the early stages of the French Revolution became involved in the factional strife. During the Reign of Terror commissioners were sent to arrest him, but he escaped out of the country. He was captured by an Austrian patrol, and delivered to the Prussian authorities. By them he was confined in a miserable dungeon at Magdeburg for a whole year, and then turned over to the Austrian government. He was taken to Olmutz and thrown into a dungeon whose walls were twelve feet thick. He was provided with a bed of rotten straw, and a part of the time was chained to the wall. In spite of the remonstrances of America, England, and liberty-loving people everywhere, he was kept a prisoner here four long years. To every appeal the Austrian government replied that his liberty was incompatible with the safety of Europe. Finally Napoleon threatened to crush the Austrian government to powder unless it released Lafayette. This had the desired effect, and he was released. When he thanked Napoleon, the latter replied, "I don't know what the devil you have done to the Austrians, but it cost them a mighty struggle to let you go."

A YANKEE'S RETORT

WHILE the northwest boundary dispute was raging between the United States and Great Britain the United States government appointed a commission to audit the expenses of a certain Indian war in Oregon and Washington The commission made an official visit to Victoria, B. C., to audit the claims of the Hudson Bay company, which had been furnishing war supplies to the United States. With the commission were several United States naval officers, and in honor of the visitors Sir James Douglas, governor of British Columbia, gave a banquet, which was also attended by various British officials and colonial dignitaries. During the banquet someone unfortunately mentioned the boundary dispute, and the discussion immediately waxed warm. An American suggested that a compromise might be effected by which England would yield her claim to a certain territory. Sir James immediately arose, and in a dignified and pompous manner, said: "The British crown, sir, never alienates the soil." Thereupon a member of the commission, a Yankee named Grover, arose and said: "You will please make an exception, sir, in favor of the United States, as we are under obligations to the British crown for most of the soil we have." "Pass the wine; pass the wine," exclaimed Sir James; "let us all take a drink.'

HIS FACE WAS HIS FORTUNE

ONE man in English history owed his success in life almost wholly to his good looks. It was George Villiers, first duke of Buckingham. James I. was

wanting a private secretary, and when young Villiers applied for the position the King was much impressed with the beauty of his person and the gracefulness of his manners. He gave him the place, and that was the beginning of a great career. From that time to the end of James' reign the history of England was in great part the personal history of George Villiers, the adventurer. First the cup-bearer; in a few weeks knighted; then made Gentleman of the Bedchamber and Knight of the Order of the Garter; then successively he was made a baron, a viscount, an earl, a marquis, and Lord High Admiral of England. All these titles and honors were showered upon him within a very few years. Of course he had some ability, especially in the way of political shrewdness; but his handsome face and his elegant bearing were his chief recommendations.

AN INTERNATIONAL PIG

A little pig was once the cause of a difficulty between the United States and Great Britain, which for a time threatened war, and was finally settled by the Emperor of Germany. In the Gulf of Georgia, north of Puget Sound, is a little island named San Juan. In early days two men lived on this island, an American and an Englishman. Each was the owner of some hogs, and one day the Englishman shot one of the American's pigs. A dispute followed, and they decided to carry the matter to court. But which court, English or American? According to the northwest boundary settlement in 1846, the forty-ninth parallel was to be followed

westward to the straits, when the channel was to be followed. But now the question rose, on which side of the island did the channel run, both routes being used? Thus the matter assumed an international aspect, and soon troops of both nations occupied the island. For a time hostilities seemed imminent, but wiser counsels prevailed, and the question was referred to the German emperor, who decided in favor of the United States.

TROUBLES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

The Bank of England, "the greatest monetary establishment in the world," has had its troubles, notwithstanding its great financial strength. It has passed through many perils. At various times its notes have been at a heavy discount, its credit has been assailed, it has been threatened with impeachment, and it has been attacked by rioters. The first "run" on the bank occurred in 1707. Other panics or runs occurred in 1745, 1797 and 1825. In 1832 the Duke of Wellington was unpopular, and four men placarded the walls of London with the words, "To stop the Duke, Go for Gold." Nobody knew exactly what it meant, but it produced a tremendous run on the bank. At one time the bank lost £320,000, or almost $1,500,000, through the forgeries of one man, and still more at another time, by the forgeries of another man.

A QUEER LITTLE ENGLISH KING

When Sir Robert Walpole awakened George Augustus, prince of Wales, out of a sound sleep to inform him that his father, George I., was dead, the

prince exclaimed: "Dot is von pig lie." Of all the monarchs who have sat upon the throne of England, George II. was perhaps the most ridiculous. He was a fat little Dutchman with a slender intellect and an overpowering sense of his own importance. Had he been a private individual he would have been looked upon with contempt. His morals were very loose—"a dull little man with low tastes," Thackeray calls him. But he had an excellent wife, who was far superior to him in every way. He did not know it, but in most things he yielded her absolute obedience. These lines were often quoted in those days:

"You may strut, dapper George, but 'twill all be in vain;
We know 'tis Queen Caroline, not you, that reign."

He had little sympathy with the English people, and was always going back to Hanover. At one time he remained away from England two whole years, but was not greatly missed.

BACHELORS RULED OUT

In 1794 the moderate Republicans of France, who wished to establish a republican form of government, held a convention and prepared a new constitution to be voted on by the people. In some respects it was very good, and much superior to any which had preceded it. It provided that the legislative powers should be committed to two bodies, as in the United States. The higher one, corresponding to the United States senate, was to be called "The Council of the Ancients." It was to consist of 250 members, each of whom was to be at least

40 years of age, and a married man or a widower. An unmarried man was not considered equal to the responsibility of being a member of this weighty body. The second or lower body was to consist of 500 members, each of whom must be at least 30 years of age. There was no restriction in regard to being married or unmarried, however. In the rapid whirl of events this constitution was soon lost sight of, along with a great many other things, and the French bachelors escaped the impending humiliation.

GENERAL PIKE'S TRAGIC DEATH

During the War of 1812 an expedition was organized by General Henry Dearborn for the capture of the British forts on Lake Ontario. The first one attacked was Fort York, where Toronto now stands. The attacking column was led by Gen. Zebulon M. Pike. The outer battery had been taken by assault and the guns of the main battery silenced. While waiting for the garrison to raise the white flag General Pike seated himself on a log and began talking with a British prisoner. Instead of running up the white flag as expected, the British commander ordered his men to retreat, and then had the powder magazine blown up. Fifty-two American soldiers were killed by the explosion, and 180 others wounded. A huge stone fell upon General Pike, breaking his back, and he died a few hours later. Thus perished one of our great explorers, the discoverer of Pike's Peak, at the early age of thirty-four.

WAS GENERAL HULL A COWARD

A GALLANT officer, taking part in nine great battles; at one time leading a desperate charge in which half his followers were killed; twice promoted for bravery; commended by his superior officers, including Washington, and publicly thanked by congress — such was the record of General William Hull at the close of the Revolutionary war. Branded as a coward; accused of being a traitor; almost universally censured; tried by court-martial and sentenced to be shot — such was his record at the close of the War of 1812. It is a sad story. As commander of the army of the Northwest he surrendered the fort at Detroit without firing a gun, when every one expected him to make a gallant defense. The indignation was intense. He claimed that the fall of the fort was inevitable, and that in surrendering it when he did he saved hundreds of lives. The president pardoned him, in consideration of his age and his past services. For many years the feeling against him was very bitter, but historians now generally agree that while he surrendered with unsoldierly alacrity, the odds were greatly against him, and the blame must rest as much with the administration as with him.

WASHINGTON A WEALTHY MAN

GENERAL WASHINGTON would accept no pay for his services in the Revolutionary war. This was very commendable, yet it was not as great a sacrifice for him as it would have been for his fellow officers. He was a very wealthy man for his day. His will, dated July 9, 1799, was accompanied by a

schedule of his property, with valuations in detail, all prepared by his own hand. According to this schedule he was the owner of more than 50,000 acres of land in various parts of the country, besides numerous city and town lots, considerable personal property and some bank stock. Of course much of the land was not very valuable at the time, yet according to his estimate his estate was worth $530,000. This probably was considerably below its real value. He came near being a millionaire; something rare in those days.

PETTY CRIMES PUNISHABLE BY DEATH

In 1806 an English writer published a list of fifty-six crimes that were punishable by death in that country. A large percentage of them were what are now considered minor offenses; yet upon conviction of the offenders the judges were obliged to pass sentence of death. At one session of the Old Bailey court, in London, the term ending September 4, 1801, the following convictions were made: Two men for entering a dwelling house in the daytime and stealing a cotton counterpane; one man for stealing a linen cloth; two men for burglary; one man for stealing a pair of stockings; another for stealing six silver spoons; another for returning from transportation; another for stealing a horse; another for stealing a blue coat; two men for stealing four teaspoons and a gold snuff box; one man for stealing a lamb, and another for stealing two lambs. It is not recorded that all these were hanged, but some of them undoubtedly were. Probably the most extraordinary case on record is that of an English boy who was sentenced to death

for polishing a six-pence and trying to pass it for a shilling.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT

In 1796 a man named Miller was incarcerated in Queen's prison, London, for a debt which it is doubtful he ever owed. Forty-seven years afterwards he was still there, being at that time seventy-six years old. In the debtor's prison at Sheffield John Howard found a cutler working at his trade who had been imprisoned for 30 cents. The costs of his trial were about $5, and this sum he had been for several years trying to earn in prison. He was confined in the same department with thieves and murderers. Imprisonment for debt was abolished in England in 1869, except in certain cases of default, etc. It was abolished in Ireland in 1872; in Scotland in 1880; in France in 1867; in Belgium in 1871; in Italy in 1877, and in Switzerland and Norway in 1874. There is now practically no such thing as imprisonment for debt in the United States.

NAPOLEON'S OPINION OF WASHINGTON

In May, 1798, a party of young Americans who were making a tour of Europe happened to be at Toulon, France, just as Napoleon was embarking with his army for his campaign in Egypt. They sought an introduction to the great general whose wonderful military exploits had already made his name known throughout the civilized world. After the customary salutations Napoleon inquired, "And how fares your countryman, the great Washing-

ton?" "He is very well," replied the spokesman for the young men. "Ah, gentlemen," rejoined Napoleon, "Washington can never be otherwise than well. The measure of his fame is full. Posterity will talk of him with reverence as the founder of a great empire when my name shall be lost in the vortex of revolutions."

A LAWYER'S SEVERE PUNISHMENT

In May, 1621, an obscure English lawyer, named Floyd, was accused of saying that the king of Bohemia had no right to his title, and that his wife ought to come home to her father. For these terrible words he was arraigned before the House of Commons, found guilty and sentenced to the pillory. King Charles told the members they had exceeded their authority in passing a censure without consulting the upper house, and anyway they ought to be attending to more important matters. But the king's interference proved unfortunate for the poor lawyer, for the House of Lords then took up his case, fined him £5,000, and sentenced him to be whipped, branded on the face and imprisoned.

THE UNFORTUNATE DOCTOR DODD

In 1776 Rev. William Dodd, LL.D., a popular minister, at one time chaplain to the king, and author of many religious books, including a commentary on the Bible, found himself in great financial straits and forged a bond for £4,200. He was detected, tried, found guilty and sentenced to death, notwithstanding he returned three-fourths

of the money and guaranteed to make good the rest. Strong efforts were made to secure his pardon, men of high standing working night and day to that end. One petition alone contained 23,000 signatures. But the authorities were obstinate and refused to yield. George III. wavered for a time, but finally declined to interfere and save the life of his old chaplain. The Doctor was confined in Old Bailey prison, and on June 6, 1778, all the other convicts being assembled in the prison chapel, he preached his own funeral sermon, taking for his text Acts xv., 23. Three weeks later he was hanged, and with him a young man who had been sentenced to death for stealing "two half-guineas and about seven shillings."

THE CITY OF SHORT BREAD

Not many people of to-day would recognize the metropolis of Missouri by the name "Pain Court," yet that name was quite generally applied to St. Louis in its early days. Leclede, who founded it in 1764, loyally called it after his French sovereign, Louis XV.; but the people of the other villages up and down the Mississippi and along the Ohio and the Wabash derisively nicknamed it "Pain Court." It appears that the French settlers of St. Louis neglected agriculture, and devoted nearly all their time to hunting and trapping and trading with the Indians. On this account, and because a considerable garrison was maintained at the fort, provisions were scarcer and higher priced than they were in the other villages. The people of the latter, who frequently came here to trade, took note of this, es-

pecially the high price and scarcity of bread, and dubbed the place "Pain Court," which in French signifies short or scant bread.

HOW BOSTON VILLAGE REGULATED WAGES

The good people of Boston village were much dissatisfied with what they considered the excessive wages demanded by workmen, so the general court decided to make an example of one Edward Palmer, a carpenter. He had been employed to erect stocks for the punishment of offenders. Having completed the machine, he sent in his bill, amounting to about $8.00. As he doubtless furnished the timber, and probably put in at least two days' labor, this charge does not seem to us unreasonable. But the court decided it was exorbitant, fined him five pounds (about $22.00), and sentenced him to spend one hour in the machine he had made. The punishment seems out of all proportion to the offense, but the Puritans had a curious way of looking at these things.

A SUCCESSFUL OLD SCHOOLMASTER

A good illustration of how a man of ordinary ability may attain success by making the most of his opportunities is found in Alcuin, an English schoolmaster of the eighth century. When returning from a visit to Rome he fell under the notice of the Emperor Charlemagne. It so happened that the emperor was looking for a principal for his royal school, and he offered Alcuin the place. Alcuin ac-

cepted, and this was the beginning of a great career, especially for a schoolmaster. It was a heavy burden Charlemagne imposed upon him — that he should make the Franks familiar with the Latin language, create schools, and do everything he could to revive learning. But he accepted the task willingly, worked faithfully, and succeeded far beyond his own expectations. His influence on the intellectual development of Europe can hardly be over-estimated. It may almost be said that the educational development of the modern world dates from him and his school. Yet all accounts agree that he was a man of only ordinary ability. He succeeded by keeping everlastingly at it.

A SURPRISE FOR GARIBALDI

After Garibaldi's great work of re-uniting Italy was accomplished, his mind turned with longing to his little island home in Caprera. He had been absent for two years, fighting the battles of his country, and he sought rest and quiet in his little cottage among the rocks. When he approached his home everything looked strange to him. He saw no object that he could recognize. Instead of the rough and tangled farm he had left, there were elegant grounds, splendid roads, lawns, gardens, flowers, shrubbery and paths everywhere. In the place of the humble cottage he had left stood a beautiful villa, all furnished spick and span within and without. He was very much astonished, and could not imagine who or what had done all this, until in one of the rooms he came upon a full-length portrait of King Victor Emmanuel. Then he understood.

JOHN KAY AND HIS FLYING SHUTTLE

In 1733 John Kay of Yorkshire, England, took out a patent for a "flying shuttle," which was the most important improvement ever made in the hand loom. This invention made it possible for the weaver to sit still and by pulling two cords alternately throw the shuttle to and fro. One man could therefore weave broadcloth instead of its requiring two as before. The other weavers of England were quick to make use of the invention, but were not so ready to pay a royalty to the inventor. They formed a "Shuttle Club," for the purpose of defending infringements of the patent, and Kay was soon involved in numerous lawsuits. At one time a mob broke into his house and destroyed nearly everything he had, he himself barely escaping with his life. He profited very little by his invention, and is said to have died in a foreign land, in poverty and obscurity.

WHERE THE SPANISH KINGS ARE BURIED

Twenty-seven miles from Madrid, on a bleak height surrounded by a sterile and gloomy wilderness, stands the Escorial, one of the most remarkable buildings in Europe. It is 786 feet long and 623 feet wide, with tall towers at the angles. It comprises at once a convent, a church, a palace and a mausoleum. On August 10, 1557, the Spaniards gained a great victory over the French at St. Quentin, and the Spanish king, Philip II., had the building erected in commemoration of the event. As the battle occurred on St. Laurence's day, he had

the building designed to resemble the famous grid-iron on which St. Laurence suffered martyrdom by being roasted to death. The work was begun in 1563, and continued for more than twenty years. The building contains a vast number of treasures — paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, etc. Among them is a life-size figure of Christ on the Cross, done in ivory by Benvenuto Cellini. As it stands to-day, the Escorial and its contents represent an outlay of more than $10,000,000. Here lie the bodies of all the Spanish kings since the Emperor Charles V., except Philip V. and Ferdinand VI.

THE RAGGED SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND

Juvenile delinquency reached its maximum in England about the middle of the last century. During the five years ending 1842 one-third of those committed for trial in the courts of England were under twenty years of age. In London alone it was estimated there were 30,000 children under sixteen who depended on thieving for their existence. In 1839 a Scotch gardener living in London concluded he would do something for these "Arabs of civilization," and set up a school, in a stable, for the purpose of reclaiming some of them if possible. The excellent results obtained attracted attention, and many other people became interested in the welfare of these outcasts. This was the beginning of the "ragged schools," which now form a prominent feature of elementary education in England. Some idea of their importance may be gained from the statement that while there are about 800,-000 children under the care of the London school

board, 150,000 others are handled by these voluntary "ragged schools."

HIS HAT WAS HIS FORTUNE

In the year 1680 William Murdock, an English millwright, was traveling along a country road one day, footsore and tired. Coming to a factory, he stopped at the door and asked for work of some kind. The proprietor was about to turn him away when he noticed that he wore an oval-shaped hat. This was something new in the way of headgear, and it excited the proprietor's curiosity. "Where did you get it?" he asked. "I just turned it on my lathe," answered Murdock. "But it's oval, not round," said the proprietor, "and lathes turn things round." "Well," answered Murdock, "I just geared the machine another gait to suit me." He had indeed invented the oval lathe and didn't know it. The proprietor saw that a man who could turn out an oval hat with a lathe was too valuable a man to lose sight of, and gave him employment. The hat proved to be the foundation of both fame and fortune. Murdock also constructed the first wheeled vehicle propelled by steam in England.

JEFFERSON'S MOUNTAIN OF SALT

While President Jefferson was negotiating with France for the purchase of Louisiana Territory he transmitted to congress one very remarkable document. It was an abstract he had prepared of certain papers relating to the territory, and pictured the country in the most glowing colors. It told

of a tribe of Indians of gigantic stature; of bluffs 300 feet high, faced with stone and carved by nature into what appeared like a multitude of antique towers; of a vast prairie country whose soil was too rich for the growth of trees. But most marvelous of all was an immense mountain of pure salt. This was said to be located about 1,000 miles north of New Orleans and near the Mississippi river, and to be 180 miles long and 45 miles wide, with no trees or shrubs on it. All glittering white it stood, and from its base issued great streams of pure salt water. Jefferson had been misled by the fairy tales of travelers. His political opponents had no end of fun with him in after years about his "salt mountain."

A FORTUNATE ACCIDENT

The wife of William East, an English paper manufacturer, helped him in the factory, and one day she accidentally let a blue bag fall into one of the vats of pulp. She told no one about it and the workmen were astonished when they saw the peculiar color of the paper from that vat. The proprietor was more than frightened, he was angry; for he thought it meant a considerable pecuniary loss. He could not discover the cause of the mishap, and the paper with a blue tinge was stored in an out-of-the-way place. Four years afterward it was taken out, and the manufacturer shipped it to his agent in London, with instructions to sell it for what he could get. Some days later he was astonished to learn that his agent had sold the paper at a considerable advance on the market price, and wanted

more of the same kind. He was at his wits' end, for he had not the secret. Then his wife came forward and told about the accident. Orders for the blue-tinted paper continued to pour in, and the factory was unable to supply the demand.

VACILLATING FRENCH NEWSPAPERS

In the year 1814 Napoleon was banished to the Isle of Elba. In a few months he escaped and returned to France. His return was hailed with great rejoicing by his friends and greatly regretted by his enemies. The Paris newspapers appear to have been very severe on him at first, but changed their attitude as he drew nearer and nearer the capital. On March 9 they announced: "The Cannibal has escaped from his den." On the 10th: "The Corsican Ogre has just landed at Cape Juan." On the 11th: "The Tiger has arrived at Gap." On the 12th: "The Monster passed the night at Grenoble." On the 13th: "The Tyrant has crossed Lyons." On the 14th: "The Usurper is directing his course toward Dijon, but the brave and loyal Burgundians have risen in a body and they surround him on all sides." On the 18th: "Bonaparte is sixty leagues from the capital; he has had skill enough to escape from the hands of his pursuers." On the 19th: "Bonaparte advances rapidly, but he will never enter Paris." On the 20th: "To-morrow Napoleon will be under our ramparts." On the 21st: "The Emperor is at Fontainebleau." On the 22d: "His Imperial Majesty last evening made his entrance into the Palace of the Tuileries, amidst

the joyous acclamations of an adoring and faithful people."

THE TREADMILL AS A PUNISHMENT

The treadmill is a Chinese invention, but in 1818 William Cubbitt of England adapted the idea in making a machine for employing prisoners usefully. It was widely adopted and extensively used for some years in the English prisons. In 1823 the Society for the Improvement of Discipline in Prisons published a book with elaborate illustrations describing the treadmill and setting forth its advantages as a medium of prison discipline. At first the prisoners were required to tread the mill nine hours a day, which meant a climb of about 12,000 feet. This was found too severe, and the hours were reduced to six and the climb to about 8,000 feet a day. The power thus generated was usually employed in grinding corn, drawing water, etc. Public opinion has gradually brought about the abandonment of the treadmill as a punishment for prisoners. In 1895 there were thirty-nine still in use in English prisons, in 1901 only thirteen, and there are none at present. This form of administering discipline to prisoners was never introduced in this country.

SOME OLD-TIME FASHIONS

In the fourteenth century it was the fashion to carry silver toothpicks suspended from the neck by a chain. About the end of the seventeenth century magnetic toothpicks were used, to prevent pain in the teeth, eyes and ears. In the latter part of the

eighteenth century the women of England wore hoop petticoats so large that a woman wearing one occupied the space of six men. At one time the custom of dotting the face with black patches shaped like suns, stars, crosses, hearts, etc., was very prevalent in England. Some of the ladies of the court of Louis XV. wore moleskin eyebrows. At one time all English doctors were supposed to carry gold-headed canes as an emblem of authority. During the reigns of William III., Anne and George I., in England, it was illegal for a tailor to make or a man to wear clothes with any other kind of buttons than brass.

BROTHER JONATHAN

THE name "Brother Jonathan" as applied to America or to American citizens was formerly in much more general use than it is now. It originated during the War of the Revolution. After Washington had been appointed commander of the army he went to Massachusetts to get matters in shape there. He found a great scarcity of ammunition and other necessities, and for a time it seemed almost impossible to devise adequate means for the public safety. Jonathan Trumbull was then governor of Connecticut, a man of perfect integrity and great common-sense. Washington had implicit confidence in Trumbull's judgment, so in his perplexity concerning the Massachusetts situation he remarked, "We must consult Brother Jonathan about this." He did so, and the governor was of great assistance to him. After that, when difficulties arose, it became common to say, "We will

consult Brother Jonathan about this," and in time "Brother Jonathan" became a synonym, so to speak, of the United States. Governor Trumbull looked the part of Uncle Sam. He was tall, gaunt, sharp-featured and long-legged, and usually wore striped lindsey-woolsey trousers a trifle too short.

THE REWARDS OF TREASON

Benedict Arnold fared well at the hands of the English after he turned traitor to the American cause. He received in return for his treason a commission as brigadier-general in the British army, and thereafter he fought against his former comrades. When he went to England he was presented with $30,000, and given a pension of $2,500 a year for his wife and one of $500 a year for each of his children. Some time later the king gave him a large grant of land in Canada. He remained in the British army until his death, twenty years after his desertion of the American cause. But not all his rewards were of a pleasant nature. Of course the American people execrated him, and even his fellow British officers despised him. In avenging some of their insults he became involved in a duel, fell into debt, lost his fortune, and ended his days in poverty. It is said that he died in the uniform of an American major-general, which he had preserved.

WHEN BENEDICT ARNOLD WAS LOYAL

In the early days of the Revolutionary war one of Washington's most trusted generals laid before him a plan to invade Canada by way of the Maine

wilderness and capture Quebec by surprise. Washington approved, the project was undertaken, and came astonishingly near succeeding. The little army was composed of about 650 poorly clad men, with barely 400 good muskets among them, and only five rounds of ammunition to each man. After a march of almost incredible hardships through 200 miles of what is to this day a mountainous wilderness, the little army climbed the cliffs and boldly demanded the surrender of the city. But it was in no condition to enforce its demand, for the place was strongly fortified and garrisoned by 1,900 men. So the little band withdrew up the river a few miles, where it encountered a detachment of British soldiers. A sharp fight ensued, during which the leader of the Americans was badly wounded. Had he been killed then and there his name would have gone down in history as that of patriot and hero. But he recovered, and his name is now the synonym for treason in this country — Benedict Arnold. Had his bold expedition succeeded, it probably would have united Canada to the thirteen colonies, and changed the whole course of the war.

THE FRENCH IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

FRANCE contributed more than 47,000 men to the American cause during the War of the Revolution, including all the officers and men of sixty-two naval vessels and thirteen regiments, who at one time or another cruised in our waters or landed on our shores. But they did not render very effective service. They came and went at their own will.

The greatest number ashore at any one time was 8,400, and they took part in only two important battles, Savannah and Yorktown. At Savannah they lost 637 men and at Yorktown, 186. Their services were more than offset by the Germans who fought with England. The latter numbered 29,867, of whom only 17,313 returned. They took part in nine important battles, and were always subject to the orders of the British commanders. In a financial way French assistance was much more valuable and effective. By the close of 1781 the French king had advanced to America the sum of 20,000,000 francs, exclusive of the cost of maintaining the French army and navy in America.

THE HATED HIRED HESSIANS

"Hired Hessians" were much despised by the Americans during the Revolutionary war. The employment of mercenaries, or foreign soldiers who fight for pay, was formerly much more common than it is now. During the American Revolution England had much difficulty in recruiting her armies, so she made arrangements with various petty German rulers by which they undertook to furnish troops, to serve under their own officers in America. For each soldier killed England agreed to pay $35, and for each one wounded, $12. She was also to pay all expenses, and in addition pay the Landgrave of Hesse $500,000 per annum and the other petty princes in proportion. This practice was looked upon by the Americans as degrading and infamous, and they took particular delight in punishing the hired soldiers whenever opportunity offered. The

total number of such troops brought over to America during the Revolution was 29,867, of whom about 1,200 were killed or mortally wounded, 6,354 died from other causes, about 5,000 deserted, and 17,-313 returned to their European homes at the end of the war.

A LEARNED KING

FREDERICK II. of Germany was a highly educated man, and unusually intelligent. He was a perfect master of six languages. He was a zoölogist and an ornithologist, understanding the structure and habits of animals and birds. He was the author of a book on falconry. He understood medicine, and was a practical surgeon. He was a liberal patron of learning, and founded the University of Naples. In addition to all this he possessed rare literary taste, and his culture and refinement mark him an exception among kings.

OUR DEBT TO SPAIN

AMERICANS sometimes forget how much we owe to Spain. Through Columbus, she discovered America. Through Balboa, she discovered the Pacific ocean. Through Magellan, she demonstrated that America is a continent. Through De Soto, she discovered the Mississippi river. Before the year 1600 England had tried to settle America, and failed. France had tried the same thing, and failed. In 1600 Spain was the only power that disputed with the red man the possession of the American continent. But after that she failed to maintain her advantage.

She had introduced the slave trade, and bigotry and intolerance characterized all her actions. More enlightened nations forged ahead, and she gradually lost her territory, her prestige, her glory and her power in the new world.

A ROMAN EMPEROR'S INHUMANITY

As an exhibition of cool and exquisite vengeance nothing in all history exceeds in horror that taken by Basil II., a Roman emperor of the eleventh century, on 15,000 captured Bulgarian soldiers. They had been guilty of nothing worse than defending their country against the invasion of his army, yet he had their eyes put out, leaving, however, a single eye to one of each hundred men, in order that he might lead his blind companions back to their Bulgarian king. It is said that when they appeared before that monarch he was so overcome by the horror of it that he died within a few days. Basil died at sixty-seven, "dismissed," says the historian, "with the blessings of the clergy and the curses of the people."

THE ORIGIN OF TAMMANY

The Society of Tammany, or Columbian Order, was formed in New York city in 1789, and has been a power in city, state and national politics ever since. Its primary object was to offset the influence of the Society of Cincinnati. The latter was formed by the surviving officers of the Revolution, and as its constitution provided that its membership should be perpetuated by the eldest sons of

members, it was regarded by many as too aristocratic in its tendencies. The Society of Tammany professed to be far more democratic in its character. It took its name from a noted chief of the Delaware Indians. Its chief founder was William Mooney, a native-born American of Irish extraction. The society is nominally a charitable association, fraternal in its nature, and quite distinct from the general committee of the Tammany Democracy. It takes a very prominent part in politics, nevertheless. It claims to have outlived fourteen national parties. Aaron Burr was a prominent member of Tammany in its earlier years.

A CITY CONQUERED BY HUNGER

THERE are few sieges in history more memorable than that of the little city of La Rochelle, France. Here the Huguenots made their last important stand. There were 28,000 inhabitants, half of them females and only half the males armed men. Yet for fifteen months they held in check the combined army and fleet of Louis XIII. When they chose Jean Guiton mayor at the beginning of the siege, he said to them: "You know not what you do in choosing me. Understand me well, that with me there is no talk of surrender. Whoever breathes a word of it I will kill him." The city was reduced, not by sudden assault, or fire, or sword, or cannon, but by slow famine. Everything was eaten, even down to leather, which was boiled. A cat sold for 45 livres. Not until half the population had perished from hunger, and scarcely 150 of the garrison

remained alive, did the survivors consent to surrender.

A COSTLY BOOK

Strolling through the Bodleian library one day, Lord Kingsborough, known in private life as Edward King, happened to notice an ancient Mexican manuscript. He became so interested in it that he resolved to devote his life to the study of Mexican antiquities. For ten years he labored faithfully, and in 1831 the results were published in a monumental work of seven immense volumes, almost two feet square. In these volumes are printed, in vivid colors, facsimiles of the ancient Mexican paintings that are preserved in the great libraries and museums of Europe. In this work he had a definite object, to prove the ancient settlement of Mexico by a branch of the Israelites. But it proved to be his undoing. He spent nearly $150,000 on it, and became heavily involved in debt. He was thrown into prison on account of this debt, and died there at the age of forty-two.

A FLEET CAPTURED BY CAVALRY

In 1794, when France was arrayed in arms against the rest of Europe, the Dutch fleet became ice-bound in the Zuyder Zee, which forms the harbor of Amsterdam. A body of French cavalry under General Pichegru surrounded it, and galloping across the ice, furiously attacked the great ships and captured them. Had the Dutch commanders been as smart as Napoleon the result might have

been otherwise. At one time when he saw his adversaries posted on a frozen lake he brought his artillery to bear and shot the ice from under them, letting them into the water.

THE STAR CHAMBER COURT

At one time the "Star Chamber" was almost all-powerful in England. It was so called because its sessions were held in a large chamber whose ceiling was decorated with stars. Its sessions were held in secret. It could settle cases without juries and inflict torture at will, though it could not impose the death penalty. This court fined the Bishop of Lincoln £5,000 for calling Archbishop Laud "the great Leviathan." It fined John Lilburn, the agitator, £500, sentenced him to the pillory, and to be whipped "from Fleet street to Westminster." The court was abolished by act of parliament in 1641. "Star Chamber" proceedings of any kind have never been popular in America.

THE BRAVEST ENGLISHMAN

At a critical moment during the battle of Waterloo the success of the allies seemed to depend upon the instantaneous closing of the gates of the village of Hougomont. They were promptly closed in the most courageous manner and in the very nick of time, by Sir James Macdonnell. In after years an English gentleman willed the sum of £500 "to the bravest man in England." The executors of the estate appealed to the Duke of Wellington, who told them the story of Sir James Macdonnell, and said,

"He is the man whom you should pay the £500." But when they went to Sir James he said, "I cannot claim all the credit for closing the gates of Hougomont. My sergeant, John Graham, seeing with me the importance of closing the gates, rushed forward to help me, and by your leave I will share the legacy with him."

A QUEEN WHO DIED OF A BROKEN HEART

On April 8, 1795, Prince George of England, afterward George IV., was married to Catherine of Brunswick, his cousin. It was not a love match, but one of convenience, arranged by the prince's father. Young George consented to the union because his debts, which were stupendous, would thereby be liquidated. He had no love for his bride, and left her at the end of a year. He tried to secure a divorce, but parliament would not grant it. Public sympathy was largely with her, as the prince was considered very much of a scapegrace. When he was crowned king, in 1821, although she had received no summons, Catherine went in state to Westminster Abbey, and demanded to be crowned with him. On being refused admission she returned home and in nine days died, it is believed, of a broken heart.

THE UNFORTUNATE MAROONS

Several centuries ago the Spaniards brought a large number of African negroes to the island of Jamaica as slaves. When the English took possession of the island, in 1665, these slaves, being deserted by their masters, fled to the mountains. Here

they lived a fierce, wild life, and became in time a terrible scourge to the English settlers. It was a vexing problem what should be done about them, and all the time they were increasing in numbers. Finally, in 1738, an agreement was made with them by which they secured their independence, and they maintained it for 140 years. But the English at last determined to get rid of them altogether, and imported 100 bloodhounds for this purpose. Hunted down like wild animals and hemmed in on every side, they were forced to submit. Only about 600 escaped death, and these were transported from the burning climate of Jamaica to the bleak shores of Nova Scotia, where they soon perished miserably.

CAPE GOOD HOPE DISCOVERED BY MISTAKE

For many centuries the need of a water route from Europe to India was keenly felt. Portuguese navigators were especially active in search of one, and in 1487, five years before Columbus set out on his voyage of discovery, Bartholomew Diaz rounded Cape of Good Hope, at the southern extremity of Africa. He did not know it at the time, being too far out at sea. When the crew discovered they were on the wrong side of the mainland they became panic-stricken, and insisted on returning at once. They carried their point, and soon caught sight of the cape. Thus it came that Diaz discovered the Cape of Good Hope while sailing homeward. If he had had a bolder crew, and had kept on sailing eastward, he might have reached India and thus solved

the problem he had in hand. Ten years later Vasco da Gama, another Portuguese navigator, also doubled the cape. His crew was likewise cowardly, and rebelled; but he evidently was a man of more force than Diaz, for he quelled the mutiny and kept on sailing eastward until he reached the shores of India.

THE GREAT EXPOUNDER OF THE CONSTITUTION

Few people fully realize the wonderful service rendered to the people of the United States by Chief Justice John Marshall. He presided over the Supreme court from 1801 till his death, in 1835. During that time 1,215 cases came before the court for decision, and in 519 of them Marshall himself delivered the opinion. Of the 1,215 cases, 62 involved questions of constitutional law, and he delivered the opinion in 36 of the 62. Not only so, but in 23 of the 36 cases there was no dissenting opinion by any of the associate Justices. For these reasons Marshall is looked upon as the great expounder of the Constitution. His record as a judge and the soundness of his opinions seem all the more wonderful when we consider the conditions of the times. The Constitution, the laws, the nation itself, were all in their infancy. The republic was an experiment, and many doubted its survival. Without precedents, one might almost say without guide or compass, Marshall delivered opinions and interpretations that have become foundation-stones of our national existence.

HUNTING A SHORT CUT TO CHINA

Cartier was not seeking a continent, but a short cut to India and China. During his second voyage he skirted the coast of Cuba for several weeks in the confident belief that he was nearing "the City of Cathay" with all its golden treasures. For more than two centuries after his death navigators sailed up and down the eastern coast of North America seeking a passage that would lead them to China. They did not realize that America was a vast continent in itself. Jacques Cartier, a French explorer, circumnavigated the Gulf of St. Lawrence three times, following the coast line, searching for a passage to the Orient. He ascended the St. Lawrence river as far as the present site of Quebec, but he little dreamed that nearly 3,000 miles of solid land yet lay west of him, and beyond that the greatest ocean on the globe. And for a hundred years after Cartier died his successors continued to search for a passage to the west in connection with the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

LINCOLN'S FUNERAL TRAIN

Magnificent was the funeral of Napoleon when they brought him back from St. Helena, 20 years after his death; but sadder and more touching was that of Lincoln when they brought him back from Washington to the little prairie city that had been his home. Twelve days were consumed in the journey. With a little variation, the route traversed was the reverse of that taken by the presidential party on its way to the inauguration, four years be-

fore — Washington to Baltimore, to Harrisburg, to Philadelphia, to New York, to Albany, to Buffalo, to Cleveland, to Columbus, to Indianapolis, to Chicago, to Springfield. There were nine cars in the funeral train when it left Washington, though only two, the funeral car and the one occupied by the family, made the entire journey. Others were dropped or added as the train passed over different lines. The funeral cortege presented an imposing spectacle as it moved from city to city, pausing at the larger ones to give the people an opportunity to see their beloved dead. Never in the history of the country has there been such universal sorrow. As one writer expressed it just after the final scenes, "The very sublimity of sorrow has attended his funeral rites, for the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, native and foreign born, white and black, old and young, have wept at his tomb."

SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS

Although the Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, a tremendous effort was put forth to make Illinois a slave state. In 1810 there were in Illinois territory 168 slaves. In 1820 the number had increased to 917. Illinois was admitted to statehood in 1818, and the Constitution provided that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall hereafter be introduced in this state." The pro-slavery men were determined to have this changed, but this could only be done by a convention called for the purpose. A convention could not be held unless a majority of the voters demanded it. After a bitter campaign lasting

eighteen months the proposition to hold a convention was defeated, August 2, 1824. The vote stood: For the convention, 4,972; against, 6,640. After that the number of slaves in the state gradually decreased until in 1830 there were only 746; in 1840, less than 300, and in 1850 practically none. It is a curious fact, however, that the "Black Laws," designed to "regulate" slavery in Illinois, were not removed from the statute books till after the close of the Civil war, in 1865.

THE DEFENSE OF GIBRALTAR

For centuries the Rock of Gibraltar has been a synonym for strength. Near it in the eighth century landed Tarik, the first Saracen invader of Spain. The Moors held it till 1462, when it was captured by the Spaniards. Charles V. fortified it, but in 1704 it was taken by combined English and Dutch forces under Sir Edward Rooke. The Spaniards and French united in besieging it, but failed. The Spaniards tried again without success in 1727. It seemed impregnable, and no further attempt was made for more than half a century. In 1779 it was again closely invested, by a combined army of Spaniards and Frenchmen. The siege lasted three years, and immense preparations were made for a final assault in 1783. The Spaniards thirsted for revenge. Many schemes of attack were proposed, and finally one was accepted which contemplated a combined attack by both land and sea, and included a stupendous array of floating batteries, which were to discharge red hot cannon balls. Thousands of spectators assembled to witness the fall of the strong-

hold, but they were disappointed. For days hundreds of cannon belched forth their shot and shell, but the little English garrison replied with such spirit that the floating batteries and many of the attacking ships were destroyed. Gibraltar proved impregnable, and remains an English possession to this day.

NONE BUT BRASS BUTTONS LEGAL

A curious law was enacted by the English parliament during the reign of William III., making it illegal for a tailor to manufacture or for an Englishman to wear clothes with any other kind of buttons than brass. This law was enacted at the behest and for the benefit of the brass button manufacturers of Birmingham. It was re-enacted during the reign of Queen Anne, and again during that of George I. It provided that whoever should make or sell garments with any but brass buttons should pay a fine of forty shillings for every dozen buttons manufactured or worn that were not made of brass. At a comparatively recent date a test case was brought into court and a man tried for violating the law. Strange to say it was upheld, notwithstanding the fact that the judge, jurymen and attorneys were all wearing buttons not made of brass.

THE DISCOVERY OF AFRICAN DIAMONDS

The children of a poor farmer who lived on the banks of the Orange river near Hopetown, in South Africa, had no artificial playthings, so they were accustomed to pick up and bring into the house the

beautifully colored pebbles they found along the edge of the river. One day in 1867 one of the children found a little white stone and brought it in and dropped it with other pebbles on the floor. It sparkled so that it attracted the attention of the mother, who mentioned it to a man named Van Niekerk. The stone was found and he offered to pay her for it. She laughed at the idea, but he had a vague notion that it might be valuable. He put it into the hands of a traveling trader named O'Reilley, who had it examined by an expert and it was found to be worth $2,000. Thus was the great Kimberly diamond field discovered.

A MODEST HERO

At one time when the cause of Italian independence seemed to be ruined, hundreds of brave men who had fought for it sought refuge in the United States. Among them was General Garibaldi. In the summer of 1850 he reached New York, where he was solicited to "accept an ovation." He modestly asked to be excused, saying that to make a public exhibition of himself was unnecessary and would not help the cause; nor would the American people, he thought, esteem him less because he veiled his sorrows in privacy. All he asked was to be allowed to earn his living by honest labor, and remain under the protection of the American flag until the time should come for renewing the fight for liberty which had been interrupted for a season. So from being a general in the patriot army of Italy Garibaldi became for a time a candle maker on Staten Island, and then resumed his old calling of mariner.

THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF WILLIAM OF ORANGE

William, Prince of Orange, was a great soldier and one of the wisest and best rulers the earth has produced. He was an indefatigable worker, and accomplished wonders. Yet his physical organization was frail, almost to the point of delicacy. From childhood he was weak and sickly. He was both asthmatic and consumptive. His slender frame was shaken by a constant hoarse cough. At one time he suffered severely from smallpox. He could not sleep unless his head was propped up by several pillows, and drawing his breath was frequently a matter of great difficulty. He was often tormented with cruel headaches. Exertion greatly fatigued him. His enemies were always hoping for and expecting his early demise, but he had a way of disappointing them. Yet while his life was one long battle with disease, the force of his mind never failed him in emergencies. The audacity of his spirit carried him through in spite of physical discouragements.

ONLY GIANTS WANTED

King Frederick William, generally known as Frederick the Great, had a consuming desire to form a brigade of giants, and his agents ransacked not Europe alone, but almost every corner of the civilized world, in search of men of extraordinary size. Any man whose head towered above the heads of the multitude was not only acceptable but earnestly desired. One big Irishman, whom an agent of Freder-

ick picked up on the streets of London, was more than seven feet tall. On account of his great stature he received a bounty amounting to more than $6,000, in addition to his regular pay. Such a soldier could not shoot any straighter or more rapidly than a small man, while he was much more likely to be hit by the balls of the enemy. Frederick did not succeed in realizing his ambition to form a large brigade of giants, but he secured quite a collection of men notable for great physical dimensions if for nothing else.

OPENING OF THE ERIE CANAL

It was a great day when the Erie canal was opened for traffic, on October 26, 1825. That was two years before the first railroad was built in this country, and the canal was the most stupendous public work that had yet been undertaken. The idea was conceived by Gouverneur Morris in 1800. It was strenuously advocated by a few prominent men, and as vigorously opposed by others. Work was not begun till July 4, 1817, at which time ground was broken at Rome, N. Y. In eight years it was completed, opening artificial communication for 428 miles, an uninterrupted passage from Lake Erie to tidewater in the Hudson. The opening was celebrated by a "telegraphic discharge of cannon, commencing at Lake Erie, and continued along the banks of the canal and of the Hudson, announcing to the city of New York the entrance on the bosom of the canal of the first barge that was to arrive at the commercial emporium from the American Mediterranean." Governor Clinton and other noted

public men were on this barge, and their voyage down the canal was a triumphal procession.

FIRST CONSUMPTION OF ANTHRACITE COAL

The use of anthracite coal as fuel is of comparatively recent origin. The first organized effort to mine it was made in 1793, but regular shipments were not made till 1820. The first anthracite used as fuel was a boatload sent from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., to Carlisle, for the armory there. It was not used as fuel in private houses till 1808, when Judge Fell of Philadelphia had grates built into his house and tried it. But it came very slowly into general use, and by 1820 only 365 tons had reached Philadelphia. It was first employed to generate steam in 1825. It was not used as exclusive fuel in manufacturing pig iron till 1839. The total production of anthracite in the United States for the year 1909 was more than 80,000,000 tons. The deposit in Pennsylvania covers 500 square miles.

CHICAGO'S FIRST GREAT CONVENTION

The river and harbor bill passed by congress in 1846 was vetoed by President Polk, chiefly on the ground of economy. This veto stirred up a great commotion all over the country, especially throughout the northwest; and a "harbor and river convention" was called to meet at Chicago in July, 1847. It was a great gathering, attended by several thousand delegates. Indiana alone sent 223, and Illinois more than 1,000. Among the delegates afterward

prominent in national affairs were Horace Greeley, Thomas Corwin, Schuyler Colfax and Abraham Lincoln. Strong resolutions were adopted favoring internal improvements, especially those relating to transportation by water. It was the first convention of national importance ever held at Chicago, and for the first time the eyes of the whole country were turned toward that city. Some one has said this convention was the starting point of Chicago's wonderful prosperity. The president of the convention was Edward Bates of Missouri. In his opening address he alluded to railroads, remarking that he had never yet seen one. Fourteen years later he traveled by rail to Washington, to become Lincoln's attorney-general.

THE CAPTURE OF ST. JOE, MICHIGAN

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary war St. Joseph, Michigan, was in the hands of the British. It was then a mere trading-post, and they used it as a depot of supplies and as a rallying point for their Indian allies. In the autumn of 1777 Tom Brady and sixteen other resolute residents of Cahokia, Illinois, set out to capture the post. It was garrisoned by twenty-one soldiers, but they were surprised by night and surrendered without a fight. The victors gathered up the stock of provisions, clothing, etc., and started homeward. They were pursued by a party of 300 British and Indians, who overtook them on the banks of the Calumet river, near Chicago. A battle ensued, in which two of Brady's men were killed, two wounded, twelve taken prisoners and

one escaped. Next spring a party of sixty-five Cahokians, about 200 Indians and a few Spaniards recaptured the post. On account of the Spaniards being in the party the government of Spain set up a ridiculous claim to that part of the country, and for a time St. Joe threatened to become an international bone of contention.

MAKING ENGLISH CITIZENS OF FRENCHMEN

After the fall of Quebec, in 1759, Canada passed into the possession of England. It had at that time a resident population of perhaps 100,000. A large percentage of these were Frenchmen, who could not understand English and knew nothing of English laws and customs. Yet in making the transfer neither the French nor the English took any account of this fact. The French king deeded the country to the English "in the most ample manner and form, without restriction;" the English king proclaimed the country to be English, and that is all there was to it. There was no reservation of the French tenure of land. In all respects the inhabitants were to be British subjects, and to be treated as such. As a matter of fact this did not make much difference to the French Canadians, for it was hardly possible that their condition could be worse than it was already. It was an extraordinary proceeding — transforming a hundred thousand Frenchmen into English subjects by a stroke of the pen, without taking their welfare into account one way or the other.

SKEDADDLERS FROM NEW ENGLAND

The war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain was very unpopular in New England. So serious was the opposition that for a time it threatened to break up the Union. There were several reasons for this. In the first place, the New Englanders were still chafing over the defeat of John Adams for a second term of the presidency, in 1800. Then they did not approve of the Louisiana purchase, which meant the addition of more slave territory to the United States. And finally, they were bitter against the Embargo Act, which interfered greatly with their shipping interests. The national government had to resort to conscription to fill the quotas of soldiers required of the New England States. This was very distasteful to the citizens, and to escape the draft hundreds of them slipped across the line into Canada. A large percentage of these never returned. Many of the present inhabitants of the region lying south of the St. Lawrence and between the Chaudiere and Richelieu rivers are descendants of those New England skedaddlers from the draft.

THE FIRST AMERICAN ALMANAC

The first American almanac was published at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1639. The first printing press was brought over that year and set up in Cambridge, and this almanac was the second thing printed on it. The author was Captain William Pierce, mariner. He was a notable man in the colony, and made more voyages between America

and England than any other man of his day. He and his good ship, the *Lyon*, brought over many notable people from England, among them Roger Williams. The manner of his death was tragic. In 1641 he took a company of colonists to the West Indies. As his vessel approached one of the islands it was fired upon by some Spaniards. Captain Pierce and one of the colonists were killed. No copy of his almanac is known to be in existence. If one were found it would be invaluable.

WHAT AMERICA MISSED

It was not publicly known till almost a century after the close of the Revolutionary war that the Americans missed a grand opportunity to conquer England in short order and avoid a long-drawn-out war for independence. In 1776 Gen. John Kalb came over with an offer from a French count named Broglie to become the William of Orange of America and lead the patriots to speedy victory. The count recommended himself most highly, and all he asked in return was, that he should be granted a large sum for expenses before embarkation, paid a liberal salary, given absolute command of the army, and granted a princely annuity for life after the war was over. Very soon after arriving in America, General Kalb saw how utterly impracticable and foolish the count's project was, and he had the good sense to say nothing about it. The count's letter of instructions was found among Kalb's papers long after his death.

THE USE OF A VICE-PRESIDENT

On April 4, 1841, a totally unexpected thing happened. For the first time in the history of the United States a president died in office. Exactly one month after his inauguration William Henry Harrison passed away. As a consequence the vice-president, John Tyler, was suddenly called to the head of the government. It was a novel situation, and for a time there seems to have been some doubt as to whether a vice-president so promoted should be considered a real president. The cabinet ministers, in officially notifying Tyler of the death of the president, addressed him as vice-president. Henry Clay, in writing to a friend, called Tyler a mere regent. John Quincy Adams thought his official title should be, not president, but "Vice-President, acting as President." Tyler, however, knew what a vice-president is for, and settled the matter at once and for all by styling himself president of the United States.

THE AUTHOR OF "HAIL, COLUMBIA"

The popular national song, "Hail, Columbia," was written April 29, 1798. It was composed for an actor named Fox who was connected with a Philadelphia theater. It was not written by a professional song writer, nor did the author have in mind composing a popular national air. It was written by Joseph Hopkinson, then a young man, a son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Joseph Hopkinson afterwards served as a member of congress from Pennsylvania for several years. In 1828 he was appointed a judge of the United

States court, and held the position until his death. At the time " Hail, Columbia " was written, war was threatened between France and the United States. The song at once attained great popularity, and did much to arouse the dormant patriotism of the country. Hopkinson made a good record in congress and on the bench, but it is as the author of " Hail, Columbia " that he is chiefly remembered.

CENSURING THE PRESIDENT

It is a very rare occurrence for the senate of the United States to pass a vote of censure on the president, but such a thing was done during Andrew Jackson's administration. It was in the year 1834, and the trouble grew out of the celebrated United States bank and the president's relation to it. The resolution of censure read thus: "Resolved, That the president, in the late executive proceedings, in relation to the public revenues, has assumed upon himself authority and power not conferred by the constitution and laws, but in derogation of both." Jackson, as is well known, was not noted for meekness. When he learned of the passage of the resolution he was in a towering rage. He came back at the senate with a message that fairly sizzled with wrath. He defied the members and vehemently denied the right of the senate to pass judgment on the executive, a co-ordinate part of the government. The senate was equally obdurate for a time, but finally, in 1837, the resolution was expunged from the records.

THE SILVER GRAYS

MILLARD FILLMORE was not a very popular president. He had many admirers, but they were not sufficiently numerous to procure for him the nomination for a second term. His supporters thought the slavery question was settled by the compromise of 1850, a view which a very large number of people did not share. A convention of the president's admirers was called to meet at Syracuse, N. Y., for the purpose of vindicating him and indorsing his policy. Evidently, however, the enemies of the administration had packed the convention; for when a vote was taken on a test question it was found they were greatly in the majority. Thereupon the president's supporters, led by the chairman, left the convention. As most of them were elderly, gray-haired men, they were called "The Silver Grays."

LIVING WITHOUT FOOD

THAT was a terrible experience which Lieutenant Greeley and his companions underwent in the frozen regions of the north during the winter of 1883-4. From November 1 to March 1 the daily allowance of food for each man was only 14.83 ounces of solid food. It will be appreciated what this meant when it is remembered that the daily army ration allowed each soldier is 46 ounces. From March 1 to May 12 the daily allowance to each member of the Greeley party was reduced to ten ounces of bread and meat, with one to three ounces of shrimps. From May 12 to June 22, a period of 40 days, there was no allowance, for there was no food. The only things to

be had to eat were a few shrimps, reindeer moss and black lichen scraped from the rocks. On June 22 a rescue party, under the command of Winfield S. Schley, reached the all but famished men, but only seven of the original twenty-five remained alive.

OUR NAVY IN 1812

Our navy gave a good account of itself in the War of 1812. This is the more remarkable because at the beginning of the war there were only 16 serviceable war vessels in the United States navy. Some of them were not very formidable; but three, the *United States*, the *Constitution* and the *President*, were splendid 44-gun frigates, superior to any British ship of the same kind in American waters. Besides these 16 men-of-war there were 257 gunboats, but they were not of much service in the war. On the other hand, at the opening of the war Great Britain had, according to the London *Times*, "from Halifax to the West Indies, seven times the armament of the whole American navy." Two years later, after Napoleon and his army had been disposed of, Great Britain had 219 ships of the line and 226 frigates free to use against the United States.

THE PARENTS OF NAPOLEON

The books that have been written about Napoleon would form a good sized library; the knowledge we have about his parents may be condensed into a paragraph. They were both of Italian descent. The father, Carlo Mariel Bonaparte, was born at

Ajacio, Corsica, in 1746. He was of a noble family, but poor. He is described as fine looking, tall, manly, and above the average in intellect. He was ambitious, as will be seen from the fact that he pursued a university course at Pisa after his marriage. Napoleon's mother's maiden name was Letitia Ramolino. She was beautiful, but had little education. She was proud and ambitious, but was an excellent mother, as Napoleon tells us. Carlo was 18 and Letitia 15 at the time of their marriage. Thirteen children were born to them, of whom eight grew to maturity. The father died in 1785, when Napoleon was only 16. The widow outlived her husband half a century, dying in 1836, in her eighty-sixth year. Both parents undoubtedly had much to do with forming the ambitious character of Napoleon. The father is said to have inspired his children with the belief that they were of rare stock, and might expect to rise in the world.

A FAMINE IN NEW ENGLAND

It is generally supposed that such a thing as a famine has never occurred in this country, yet there was a serious one in New England during the winter of 1816-17. The weather was intensely cold, and it is said there was frost every month of the year. The corn crop had been a complete failure, and there was not more than half a crop of oats, hay, potatoes, etc. Food could be procured along the seaboard, but the means of transportation were very poor in those days, and there was great suffering in the interior. Many of the inhabitants became disheartened, and there was a stampede for the west,

which then meant the Ohio country, the following spring. Many of those who thus forsook their homes and started west in wagons were poorly equipped for the journey, and some died on the way. Others reached the promised land and became sturdy western pioneers and the ancestors of many well-to-do people of to-day.

THE LEGISLATIVE "WHIP"

It is a curious office the "whip" in the lower house of congress holds. It is his duty to round up the members of his party and see that they are present to vote on important questions when they come up. Of course he is not solicitous to secure the presence of members of the opposition on such occasions. The idea of a party "whip" is borrowed from the English house of commons. For eight years, from 1850 to 1858, Sir William Hayter served as the liberal "whip" in the lower house of parliament, and his work was so efficient and so much appreciated by his party that three years afterward he was presented with a handsome testimonial. Another parliamentary "whip," Rt. Hon. William Paden, was made governor of Madras, doubtless as a reward for his "whip" services.

ORIGIN OF PUBLIC BATH HOUSES IN ENGLAND

At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign there were no public bath houses in England. Thirty thousand people were living in eight thousand cellars in Liverpool, none of which had drains or sewers, and

nearly all of which were subject to inundation after heavy rains. In the poorer districts of London, and in nearly all the other cities and towns throughout England, the supply of water was wholly inadequate to preserve the cleanliness of the laboring people. But steps to remedy this state of affairs had already been taken. In 1832, when the cholera broke out, Catherine Wilson, a London woman in moderate circumstances, was so impressed with the necessity of cleanliness as a preventive of disease, that she invited some of her poorer neighbors to come to her comparatively better house to wash and dry their clothes. The experiment was so successful, and the good results so apparent, that some benevolently inclined people united to help her extend her operations. This was the beginning of the present extensive system of public bath houses in England.

BOSTON'S FIRST SETTLER

WILLIAM BLACKSTONE was Boston's first settler. He was a peculiar character, preferring solitude to society, and differing from the majority in his theological views. He came over from England about 1623, it is said, and built a little house on the peninsula. Evidently he lived there alone for several years, but in 1630 he was joined by other settlers. He did not relish the idea of being surrounded by Puritan neighbors, however, and is said to have told them that "he left England because of his dislike of the lord-bishops, and now he did not like the lord-brethren." So in 1634 he sold out and removed to a more secluded spot. He died in 1675,

leaving some property, including a library that was quite large and valuable for those days. This library was destroyed by the Indians in King Philip's war. It included, according to an inventory taken at his death, "ten paper books." These are supposed to have been manuscripts which might have thrown much light on early colonial history.

JOHN FALK, RAGGED SCHOOLMASTER

JOHANNES DANIEL FALK, a native of Weimar, Germany, was called the Ragged Schoolmaster, not because he dressed in rags, but because he established the first institution in Germany for the care and education of neglected and orphan children. In 1813 he organized, in Weimar, the Society of Friends in Need, and the same year he started his "ragged school." Both the society and the school did a good work, and the latter came to be an important factor in the educational system of the city. In 1829 the school was taken over by the state, and it still exists under the name, "Falksche Institut." Falk was a poor boy, without much education, though by his own efforts he acquired considerable learning, especially in the languages. He was an author of some note, but he is chiefly remembered for his work as "the Ragged Schoolmaster."

SOME LAKE CITIES IN 1846

IN the summer of 1846 William Cullen Bryant, one of America's great poets and for many years editor of the New York *Evening Post*, made a tour of the Great Lakes. His observations concerning

some of the cities he visited are more interesting now, perhaps, than they were at the time they were published. Of Buffalo: "Buffalo continues to extend on every side, but the late additions to the city do not much improve its beauty." Of Cleveland: "Cleveland stands in a beautiful country without a hill, a thriving village yet to grow into a proud city of the Lake country." Of Detroit: "'You must lock your staterooms in the night,' said one of the persons employed about the vessel, 'for Detroit is full of thieves.' We followed the advice, slept soundly, and saw nothing of the thieves, nor of Detroit either." Of Milwaukee: "Farther on we came to Milwaukee, which is rapidly becoming one of the great cities of the west." Of Chicago: "Any one who had seen Chicago as I had done five years ago, when it contained less than 5,000 people, would find some difficulty in recognizing it now when its population is more than 15,000. It has long rows of warehouses and shops, its bustling streets, its huge steamers, and crowds of lake craft, lying at the wharves; its villas embowered with trees. The slovenly and raw appearance of a new settlement begins in many parts to disappear."

BOOM DAYS IN IOWA

THE tide of prosperity did not set in toward Iowa till about 1854. For some years previous to that the "California fever" had raged violently, and all the emigration talk was of gold and silver and sudden riches. But when the reaction came people turned their attention to the rich prairies of the Middle West, which afforded a surer if less daz-

zling prospect of prosperity. In one month 1,437 emigrant wagons passed through Peoria, Ill., en route for new homes in the Hawkeye state. On every important highway these "prairie schooners" might be seen creeping slowly westward. In one day two river steamers landed more than 600 future Iowans at St. Louis. In Davenport 300 new dwelling houses were erected in one season. New towns and cities sprang up in abundance, and some were "laid out" whose sites are now marked by waving fields of wheat and corn. Railroads were projected in all directions. The national government granted public lands for four roads across the state from east to west. But with such a tremendous flood of emigration the country filled up rapidly, and soon the advance tidal wave crossed the Missouri into a new Eldorado, Nebraska.

PEGGY O'NEAL AND THE CABINET

For many years William O'Neal kept a tavern in Washington, where many congressmen and senators found board and lodging. The landlord had a good-looking and sprightly daughter, very lively in her deportment. Her name was Margaret, but she was always called "Peggy" O'Neal. Among the boarders were Major John H. Eaton and Gen. Andrew Jackson. Later on Peggy married a man named Timberlake, but in 1828 she was left a widow. The next year Major Eaton married her. When Jackson became president he made Eaton his secretary of war. Thereupon ensued a great hubbub among the ladies, and the other cabinet wives refused to associate with Mrs. Eaton, because

of her lowly origin and because of certain ugly stories that had been told about her. The fiery president took her part and a Presbyterian minister led the fight against her. There was terrific firing all along the line on both sides, consisting chiefly of letters and newspaper articles. It is said that President Jackson's letters alone, most of them written by his own hand, would make about 100 pages of ordinary book print. The dissolution of the cabinet a little later on was not solely due to this affair, but "Peggy" O'Neal was a contributing cause.

TWO NOTABLE ANCESTORS

Shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war a soldier who had won distinction for bravery at the battle of Bunker Hill emigrated to the west and took up his residence in the little frontier settlement of Deerfield, in what is now the state of Ohio. His name was Noah Grant. At the same time there was living in the little Deerfield settlement a man named Owen Brown. These two, Noah Grant and Owen Brown, undoubtedly knew each other and probably were friends. Many years afterward the son of one of them, John Brown, virtually opened the Civil war by his raid on Harper's Ferry; and a grandson of the other, Ulysses S. Grant, closed the war when he received the sword of General Lee at Appomattox.

A SATIATED CONQUEROR

Saladin, Sultan of Egypt, was born in 1136 and died in 1193. He conquered Syria, Persia, Arabia, Mesopotamia and many smaller provinces, and the

fame of his exploits filled the whole known world. Yet in his will he directed that the shirt or tunic which he should be wearing at the time of his death should be carried on the end of a spear throughout the whole camp, and at the head of his army, and that the soldier who bore it should pause at intervals and cry aloud these words:

"Behold all that remains of the Emperor Saladin! Of all the states he had conquered; of all the provinces he had subdued; of the boundless treasures he had amassed; of the countless wealth he possessed, he retained in dying, nothing but this shroud."

AN UNFORTUNATE MARRIAGE

The Earl of Stafford followed his royal master, James II., when that gentleman was exiled to France. While in that country he succumbed to the charms of a certain French lady, a daughter of the Duc de Grammont. The marriage, however, does not appear to have been a very fortunate one for him. After fourteen years' endurance of her disgraceful conduct, he paid his respects to her and her parents in his will as follows:

"To the worst of women, Claude Charlotte de Grammont, unfortunately my wife, guilty as she is of all crimes, I leave five-and-forty brass halfpence, which will buy a pullet for her supper. A better gift than her father can make her; for I have known when, having not the money, neither had he the credit for such a purchase; he being the worst of men, and his wife the worst of women, in all debaucheries. Had I known their characters I had never married their daughter, and made myself unhappy."

PETER PARLEY AND HIS BOOKS

SAMUEL GRISWOLD GOODRICH was probably the most prolific author America has produced. He was the author, editor or compiler of 170 books. Of these, 116 were published under his *nom de plume* of Peter Parley, which came to be a very familiar name in almost every household in America. Most of his books were intended for children and young people; yet they were almost as extensively read by adults. It is estimated that more than 7,000,000 copies were sold. On account of the popularity of his books, many were published under the name of Peter Parley which he did not write. He had almost as much trouble repudiating spurious books as he did claiming credit for his own. He was born in 1793 and died in 1860.

THOMAS JEFFERSON AS AN INVENTOR

THOMAS JFFERSON was an inventor as well as a statesman. While traveling in Europe he was struck with the waste of power caused by the bad construction of the plows in common use. The mouldboard, which throws the dirt over, appeared to him to be the chief source of trouble. He set to work to design one which should offer a minimum of resistance, and sent one of his perfected plows to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Seine. The judges were impressed with its merits, and awarded it a medal. Jefferson also invented the revolving chair, which his political enemies said facilitated his looking all ways at once.

GEORGE CATLIN, PAINTER OF INDIANS

THE career of George Catlin, the American artist, is a good example of a life successfully devoted to a single object. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1796. He studied law, but had a decided taste for art. In early life he conceived the idea of executing a series of Indian paintings, in order to rescue from oblivion and save for future generations the various types and customs of the American aborigines. In 1832 he began traveling among the Indians, and for eight years he lived among the wild tribes of North and South America, studying their features, habits, customs, rites and ceremonies. He painted more than 500 portraits of Indians, from life, 470 of them full length. This unique and valuable collection of paintings is now owned by the U. S. government, and may be seen in the National Museum at Washington.

THE HARMONISTS

OF the many communistic societies that have sprung up and flourished for a season, none is more interesting than the Harmonists. This society was founded in Wurtemberg, Germany. The first American settlement was made in Pennsylvania, about twenty-five miles from Pittsburg. Here the members built substantial dwellings, churches, mills, etc., and in 1805 the community numbered about 750. After a few years they adopted celibacy and prohibited the use of tobacco, thereby causing some to withdraw. In 1814 they purchased a tract of 30,000 acres in Posey county, Indiana, and removed

there the next year. Ten years later they sold out and returned to Pennsylvania. They flourished for some years, and at one time their wealth was variously estimated at $5,000,000 to $25,000,000. In after years they dwindled in numbers, and in 1893 they sold out all their holdings to a Pittsburg syndicate.

IMPEACHMENTS BY CONGRESS

Since the founding of the U. S. government there have been seven impeachments by congress. In 1797 William Blount, U. S. Senator from Tennessee, was impeached for making treasonable negotiations with Great Britain for the transfer of New Orleans. He was acquitted for want of jurisdiction. In 1803 John Pickering, judge of the Federal court in New Hampshire, was impeached for drunkenness and profanity, and removed from the bench. In 1804 U. S. Supreme Court Judge Samuel Chase was impeached for arbitrary conduct and for introducing politics in his legal discussions. He was acquitted. The same year James Peck, a Federal judge, was impeached for punishing as contempt of court a criticism of his opinions. He was acquitted. In 1860 Federal Judge W. H. Humphries of Tennessee was impeached for aiding the rebellion and was removed from office. In 1867 President Andrew Johnson was impeached for violating the tenure of office act and was acquitted. In 1876 W. W. Belknap, secretary of war, was impeached for bribery in making appointments. He was acquitted.

ANDREW JACKSON'S RIDICULOUS PERFORMANCE

General Jackson was a stirring character in public affairs long before he became president. As commander of the army in the south while negotiations were pending for the transfer of Florida from Spain to the United States he kept the president in a constant state of anxiety by his impetuous way of doing things. After the treaty was consummated the Spanish governor, Calilava, refused to turn over certain documents until he received express orders from his government to do so. He appears to have been an unusually intelligent and conscientious man, for a Spanish official, and to have been warranted in the delay. But the fiery Jackson was not the waiting sort. He raged and fumed and stormed, and finally put the Spanish governor in the calaboose over night. It was a ridiculous performance, and, as a writer of the time said, "much ado about less than nothing."

AN ERA OF GOOD FEELING

The administrations of President Monroe, 1817-1823, have the distinction of being the quietest in the history of the country. That period was called "the era of good feeling." National political contests were suspended. The Democrats had a triumphant majority, and the Federalist party was all but extinct. The war of 1812 was over, and the troublesome questions of the tariff and internal improvements had not yet arisen. The term "era of good feeling" was first used by the Boston

Sentinel, on the occasion of a visit of the president to that city, in 1817. When Monroe retired from the presidency he received tokens of admiration from all parties. John Adams said his administration had been, so far as he knew, without fault; and chief Justice Marshall wrote, "The retrospect is not darkened by a single spot."

CABEZA DE VACA'S EVENTFUL LIFE

Cabeza de Vaca, a Spaniard of the sixteenth century, had enough excitement crowded into his seventy years of life to satisfy a dozen ordinary men. In 1528, while quite a young man, he went with an exploring party to Florida. The expedition was shipwrecked, and he and three companions were all that escaped death. They lived among the Indians for some years, and Cabeza became a "medicine man." In 1536 they reached the Spanish settlements in northern Mexico, and next year he returned to Spain. In 1540 he was appointed governor of Paraguay. Four years later he was impeached for arbitrary actions as governor, and thrown into prison. Then he was sent back to Spain, tried, convicted and banished to Africa. He was subsequently recalled, pensioned, and made a judge of the Supreme Court of Seville.

EARLY NAMES OF LAKES AND RIVERS

Some of the American lakes and rivers would hardly be recognized now if called by the names given them by early French travelers. Lake Ontario, for instance, was called Lake Frontenac.

Lake Huron was called Karegnondi; also Lake of Orleans. The name of Lake Erie was not so different from its present form: Erike, or Erige. It was also called Lake Conti. Lake Michigan had various names: Lake of Puans, Lake of the Illinois, Lake of the Illinese, Lake of the Illinouacks, Mischignong, and Lake of the Dauphin. Lake Superior was called Lake of Conde, and Green Bay, Baie des Puans. The Ohio river figured as Ouabouskigou, Ouabachi, Oyo, and Belle river. The Mississippi was called the river of St. Louis, the river Colbert, Meschasipi, etc. Of course after the English took possession of the country these French names were discarded, but in some cases the English substitutes are not as pretty as their predecessors.

THE END

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