

## A CHAIN OF FAME.

The Barrier Washington Erected Across the Hudson.

ARNOLD REMOVED ONE LINK.

Still the Monster Cable, in Spite of the Traitor's Act, Served its Purpose and Blocked the Progress of the British Ships Up the River.

Somewhere in the bed of the Hudson river just off of West Point lies buried the larger part of a great iron chain, one of several ordered by General Washington during the Revolution to be constructed to prevent the enemy from ascending certain rivers to accomplish strategic points of vantage.

The British were making strenuous efforts to get hold of the Hudson in order to keep free communication with Canada by the additional channels of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, and so it was determined to obstruct the Hudson by a great chain crossing from Fort Montgomery to Anthony's Nose.

But this was a failure. The chain parted within a week after it had been stretched, and, although subsequently raised and again placed, it was destroyed by the British.

Finally Washington decided to forge another and obstruct the river between West Point and Constitution Island, for here there was an abrupt change of course, and a heavy tide reduced the speed of any ship encountering it. Besides, the channel was 300 feet narrower at this crossing.

The forging of a chain such as was contemplated was then no small undertaking. Requests were secretly sent to various iron companies, and among the bids the most favorable came from the Sterling Iron works, situated in one of the most beautiful regions of the east, now within the fashionable domains of Tuxedo Park.

It was originally organized by Lord Sterling in 1751, a well known officer in the Revolutionary army, and continued in operation for more than a hundred years, meanwhile passing into the possession of Abel Noble, who married a niece of Peter Townsend and who now in association with the latter increased the capacity of the works which eventually came into the entire possession of Peter Townsend, a patriot and filled with the spirit of the time.

He finally obtained a few Welsh miners from Pennsylvania for the heavy handling in the forging and a number of men from Connecticut with their ox teams to do the hauling, and when the chain was ready it was drawn over the rough mountainous roads and through forests that had to be purposely cut in many places and so on to New Windsor, the nearest river point, and towed to West Point.

It was a strenuous undertaking from the very start. Each link weighed 300 pounds, was two feet in length and two and a quarter inches square, and each 100 feet was secured by a swivel, a twisting link, and at every thousand feet there was a clevis. The whole of this weighed 185 tons. When it was stretched across from West Point to Constitution Island it was buoyed up by large sixteen foot logs, and these were in turn held in place by the anchors.

The British made no specific attack on this then invincible obstacle, for it must be remembered that in those days there was no dynamite nor torpedoes, and none of the enemy's prowess would have pushed their way through such a barrier.

Although the British did not succeed in passing the big Hudson river chain, the American traitor Arnold gave it his particular attention and removed a link of it under the pretense of having it repaired for weakness at a nearby smithy. He wrote to Major Andre that it would not be replaced until the forts were surrendered to the British. But somehow the chain stood for its purpose, and Sir Henry Clinton did not attempt to relieve Burgoyne.

Parts of this celebrated chain are to be seen among various historical curios of prominent societies. A number of years ago Mayor Hewitt of New York, then the owner of a mine near the Sterling properties, became interested in finding out the whereabouts of the remaining portions of the chain. A large part of it lies at the bottom of the river, about thirty tons were in various possessions, and at West Point there are thirteen links, and a staple placed near the spot where the chain was anchored and a plate tells of the date and place of forging.—Boston Herald.

### No Primaries For Her.

"Are you going to the primaries to-night, Ethelinda?" asked the husband of his suffragette wife.

"Indeed I am not," replied the lady. "Do you suppose that after I have attended the postgraduate courses in political science for two years I'm going to waste my time on those primary classes? I guess not! They're good enough for you men, but we women have progressed beyond that!"—Harper's Weekly.

### Two Failures.

"I married for beauty alone," said a presumably happy benedict to an old chum. "And yet you remind me of a friend of mine who married for money," was the rejoinder. "How's that?" "He didn't get it," said the chum sarcastically.

The preservation of health is a duty. Few seem conscious that there is such a thing as physical morality.—Spencer.

## PERFORATED COINS.

Uncle Sam Tried Them Several Times, but Without Success.

Perforated coins were never in favor in the United States, though various efforts were made to popularize them. The first United States coin with a perforated center was a gold dollar issued in 1849, which had a square hole in the middle of the planchet. It was the forerunner of the gold dollar issued by the United States mint in 1849. The coin was engraved, not struck from dies.

The next United States coin with a perforated center was issued from the Philadelphia mint in 1850 and was of the denomination of 1 cent. It was about the size of the bronze cent now in use. At that time the large, old fashioned copper cent was in general circulation, and the perforated coin received the name of "ring cent." The designer reasoned that by means of the perforation the cent could be distinguished by touch from the dime. Another perforated cent issued the same year showed two rings in the field with the words, "Cent. One-tenth Silver." The reverse showed an olive wreath around the perforation and the words, "United States of America."

The mint authorities undertook to design a coin that would answer all requirements, and the pieces were struck with both pierced and perfect centers in silver, copper, nickel and composition metal, six varieties in all, without counting the various metals, but none of the designs was favored by the government authorities, and consequently they were never put in general circulation.

The only gold half dollar ever produced at the United States mint was struck in 1852. It had a perforation in the center, and the obverse showed a wavy circle around the perforation, with the inscription, "United States of America," around the border. The reverse was blank. The coin was exactly half the weight of the dollar. Regardless of the generally accepted idea the gold fifty cent pieces with which the public is familiar were not an issue of the United States, but were manufactured by California jewelers. There has not been any attempt to introduce the perforated coin in the United States since 1854. In that year two pieces of the denominations of 1 and 5 cents were issued at the Philadelphia mint.—Harper's Weekly.

### Turkish Names.

On our visiting list are Mrs. Hyacinth, Mrs. Tulip, Mrs. Appletree and Mrs. Nightingale. I am also happy enough to possess the acquaintance of Mrs. Sweetmeat, Mrs. Diamond, Mrs. Air—though some know her as Mother Eve—Miss May-She-Laugh and Master He-Waited. This last appellation seemed to me so curious that I inquired into it and learned that my young gentleman waited to be born. These are not surnames, you understand, for no Turk owns such a thing. To tell one Mistress Hyacinth from another you add the name of her man. And in his case all you can do is to tack on his father's—you could hardly say Christian—name.—H. G. Dwight in Atlantic.

### Wild Schemes of Dinocrates.

The most remarkable proposal ever made about Mount Athos was that of the architect Dinocrates. His plan was to cut it into the shape of a gigantic statue of Alexander the Great, holding in the right hand a city, in the left a tank that was to receive all the waters of the region. Alexander was much taken with the scheme. But it was eventually rejected on the ground that the neighboring country was not fertile enough to feed the inhabitants of the projected city. Another of Dinocrates' plans was a temple to the wife of King Ptolemy of Egypt, with a roof of loadstones that would keep an iron statue of her floating in the air.

### The Earth's Shadow.

The earth has a shadow, but very few ever see it, except in eclipses of the moon, or else few recognize it when they see it. Nevertheless many of us have noticed on fine, cloudless evenings in summer shortly before sunset a rosy pink arc on the horizon opposite the sun, with a bluish gray segment under it. As the sun sinks the arc rises until it attains the zenith and even passes it. This is the shadow of the earth.

### Premonition.

He was brought to Bellevue hospital with some injury to the skull, and a surgeon, having examined the wound, determined to keep the man in the ward for a day or two.

"Oh, doctor," cried the patient, "do you think that I'll lose my head?"—New York Times.

### Too Slow.

"Why has your daughter dropped her hospital work so soon?"

"She found she'd have to nurse poor patients for two years before they entrusted her with any millionaires. So she's going on the stage in a musical comedy."—Kansas City Journal.

### Utility.

"Of what use is a fly, anyway?" asks an exchange.

Well, if there is only one out and it happens to be a long one it will score a man from third.—Detroit Free Press.

### Usual Result.

Sillius—Do you believe that two can live as cheaply as one? Cynicus—Well, after they get married I suppose they generally find they have to.—Philadelphia Record.

If a thing is proper and possible to man, deem it attainable by thee.—Marcus Aurelius.

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