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of the people.

al District of Oregon.

says of him

#### George Eliot's Immertal the Reputt of an Inspiration and Much Hard Work. The scene of "Romola" is the Flor-

HOW "ROMOLA" WAS WRITTEN

ence of the fifteenth century, and the plan of it came to George Ellot in the course of an Italian Journey, "one of those journeys that seem to divide one's life in half so many new ideas do they suggest, so many new sources of interest do they open to the mind." Having fixed on her scheme, she returned to Florence, visiting the old streets, runninging ancient books, seeking to impregnate herself with the spirit of the venerable city. But she was still far from her goal. When, on her return home, she at last set to work, she saw its difficulties rising before her. Would not ber genius desert her when she left the familiar seenes of rustic life in the England of today for foreign countries and past ages? She despaired more than once, gave up her task, then took it up again, plunged (conscientiously as she did everything) into historical studies, and brought forth in sorrow a kind of moral tragedy which even the reader cannot behold, without emotion.-Ed-

#### mond Scherer. SCULPTOR'S USE OF CEMENT

Gigantic Figure of Neptune Is Work of Art as Well as Architectural Curiosity.

dorsement of Assessor Reed, who At Monterosso, near Spezia, Italy, there stands an architectural curiosity "Major Welch is an experienced -a gigantic figure of Neptune, conand competent valuing officer, is a structed of cement and used to support man of splendid executive abilty and the extreme end of a terrace for a scajudgment, is familar with the fun- side villa. The house is the Villa Pasdamentals of taxation and the laws line, and the statue is the work of Arpertaining to it, and is fully quali- rige Minerbl, a talented sculptor of

fied to fill the important office of Rome, A small promontory on which the County Assessor. His service in villa is built presented many difficulthe Army in the Spanish War, in ties to the architect, but he finally sucthe Mexican border troubles, and ceeded in building there a very comin the world war entitles him to the modious and comfortable residence. The statue, which is wonderfully life-Major Welch's Slogan: "Long like, is about 33 feet in height. The experience in the Assessor's office a body, which, like the head, is built of re-enforced cement, is hollow, and contains a spiral staircase. Considering the nature of the material with which Signor Minerbl had to work, he is to be congratulated on the result of his

"All For a Song."

"He has sold his future for a song" they said of a rich man's son who, instend of taking advantage of the unusual opportunities open to him for a worth-while career, was whiling away his golden years on the Great White

"All for a song" has come to mean to us "paying too much for a whistle," any undue sacrifice or waste for something that is worthless or only of transient moment, particularly the

superficial. It has come down to us from the day when its significance was literal. As a token of her appreciation of the poet, Edmund Spencer, Queen Elizath ordered Lord Rurlet him with £100, which in those days was a small fortune. Upon this Lord Burteigh is said to have exclaimed "All this for a song!"

Penn and Land Buying. The story that William Pean bought from the Delaware Indians as much land as a dozen bulls' hides would cover and then cut them into narrow strips to cunningly enable him to trick the Indians by encircling a vast stretch of territory is not true. This is a very old story. It was told in remote times of Dido of Carthage. The legend is that Dido built that city after buying as much land as a bullock's hide would cover. She cut the hide into strips, getting a large bit of real estate in the transaction. The story reappears in the case of the Dutchman in Irving's "Knickerbocker," who bought as much land from the Indians as Tenbreek's trousers would cover. But Tenbreek had on pairs of trousers enough to cover the Island of Manhat-

Pertinent Questions. Among the many Irish anecdotes told by Canon Hannay, author of sevworking class. I make no "George Birmingham," is the following. An Irish gentleman who heard discrimination as to whether of the death of a great enemy of his who had harassed him for many years, the working man or woman remarked: "Well, it's a comfort to think that the devil's got that fellow I at last." A clergyman who happened to be present felt it his duty to ream faithful to the public's monstrate against this uncharitable view of the dead man's condition. He interests and I am not a said he hoped that, in spite of all that had passed, the poor man might have henchman or a tool of private escaped the extreme penalty. "Well," retorted the other, "if the devil hasn't business, big or little. I am got that fellow, all I can say is that don't see much use in keeping a working solely for the good devil at all."

Rats as Food.

Doctor Kane, the Arctic explorer. said that one of the worst curses in the far North were the rats that infested his ship. Nevertheless, when in want of other food, he was glad to eat them-sometimes chopped up and frozen into tallow balls.

He wrote: "During the long winter nights Hans beguiled his hours of watch by shooting rats with bow and arrow. The repugnance of my companions to share with me this table luxury gave me frequent advantage of fresh meat soup, which contributed no doubt to my comparative immunity to

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#### SEA WORM SAMOAN DELICACY

Its Infrequent Arrival Always Made the Occasion for the Holding of a Great Festival.

Palolo, the most prized of all gustatory delicacies in Samon, declared by Americans who have tried it to be superfor to the lobster, is a marine worm, being rather mysterious in that It is never seen save on two or three nights in the entire year. Its appear ance seems to be regulated by the

The palolo chooses the time for its first appearance on the night when the October moon changes. When the moon rises the sea is seen to be alive with wriggling green and brown worms, some of them a yard or more in length. The natives make a festival of the occasion, going out with dip by, nets among the reefs and scooping up the worms by the bushel. They paddle around in every available bont with lighted torches waiting for the moon, and then the scene becomes one of great and Joyous excitement.

The patolo comes once again when the November moon quarters, and is not seen again until the following year. It is said to live in crannies of the coral reefs, coming to the surface to spawn at these lunar periods. Some of the worms are eaten as they wiggle, but the bulk of the catch is reserved for a big feast on the following day. when they are wrapped in banana leaves and baked.

#### YEAR ONCE BEGAN IN MARCH

Change In Style May Be Said to Date From 1752-Great Militant Events in Month,

Few people know, or, if they do, have forgotten, that March, and not January, at one time was the first month of the year, remarks the Chiengo Journal. For commencing the year with March there seems to be sufficient renson in the fact that it is the first season after the "dead year," in which decided symptoms of growth take place.

The name is derived from the Remans, among whom it was at an early period the first month of the year, and continued to be in several countries to a comparatively inte period, the legal year beginning, even in England, on March 26, until the change of style in 1752. For the Romans to dedicate their first month to Mars and call it Martius seems equally natural, considering the Importance they attached to war and the use they made of it.

In the history of our own country April appears to carry off the palm for the month in which great militant events occurred, yet in the world war a number of epoch-making incidents took place in March; for instance, the revolution in Russia in 1917, when Czar Nicholas abdicated on March 15. The big drive on the 50-mile front from Arras to La Feu began on the 21st, and Parls was in that month bombarded by "Big Bertha."

Strong Caps of Paper.

Astonishing strong paper caps, capable of withstanding powerful blows, though extremely tight in weight, have been invented by a shippard employee, and are intended to be worn by workmen whose duties expose them to danger from falling objects, mays Popular Mechanics' Magazine

The process by which the novel headgenr is produced has not been divulged, but it is known that chemicals are emplayed to barden the material, without adding to its weight. Several styles have been made, the lightest weighing about seven ounces, and others slightly more. In a recent test, a 1-pound bolt was dropped on one of them from a height of forty feet, with the result that a barely perceptible deat was made in the paper. The novel head coverings are proof against water and acids, and are nonconductors of elec-

Heat for Alaska.

The Pacific has its own "Gulf stream," which is called the Japan current, and it is formed in the same

The trade winds, blowing from the tropies, bank up the warmed ocean waters in the Yellow sea (correspond ing to our Gulf of Mexico), and thence they pour out between Japan and Formosa, the stream thus formed passing south of the Aleutian chain, along the southern coast of Alaska, and down the west coast of North America.

Hence it comes about that the whole southern coust of Alaska has a temperate climate. It is warmed by the Japan current.

What Really Keeps Time.

As a measurer of time the pendutum ranks today as the most perfect of our instruments, says the Scientific American. It is the part of a clock that keeps time. All the rest of the mechanism is simply for the purpose of keeping up its vibration or to point on a dial the number of vibrations it has made. It swings back and forth in a complete are 30 times each minute, but allows the escape-wheel to move a cog at each vibration, thus checking off on the dial, by means of the second hand, 30 seconds of time. In a similar way, minutes and hours are recorded, and by a like process a watch is guided.

Tranquillity Overdone.

"So you slept for twenty years!" "Yes," replied Rip Van Winkle; "and I'm compelled to admit that when a man tries to conquer 'unrest' there is danger of his going too far."

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WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY HAS GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Campaign of Oregon Laymen to Raise \$100,000 May Lead to a Very Large Endowment.

According to A. F. Flegel, chairman of the campaign executive committee of the Laymen's Association of Ore gon, working in the interests of Willamette University, there is excellent reason to believe that, if friends of the old school in the Northwest subscribe \$100,000 for its innucdiate needs, others who are watching the progress of the institution and are out waiting to see what is done now, will come forward and make large contributions that will go to make the university a very much larger one before two or three years have gone

The \$100,000 which the laymen of the Oregon conference are slow seek Help Given by ing is for the immediate restoration of Waller hall, for men; completion of Lausanne hall, the women's dormitory, and a heating plant.

With these improvements, which are absolutely essential to the largest usefulness of the university in earing for pupils already enrolled and the usual annual increase, Willamette will be very well provided for on the present basis. Should there follow large gifts, as predicted by Mr. Flegel, of course a number of other buildings would be constructed and the entire activity of the school would be greatly enlarged.

The active canvassing for funds probably will be undertaken about next week. From all over the state have come to the members of the committee assurances of support. Many have said they know of no other means of investing money that will bring larger returns.

Headquarters are at 505 Platt building, Portland.

#### Willamette University **Endowment Campaign**

The campaign to raise \$100,000 for Williamette University at Salem is well under way. All of the preliminary organization work has been completed and about next week the actual canvass for funds will be undertaken. This undertaking is backed by the Laymen's Association of the Oregon Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church and funds will, naturally, come chiefly from members of that denomination. However, as others have in the past given generously to the fine old institution which for 75 years has been steadily turning out men and women whose lives have gone far

toward making the great Northwest

what it is, so no doubt will be the

case in this effort adequately to fi

nance Williamette. While having the heartiest, enthus fastic indorsement of the late Hishor Hughes, who set aside precedent and asked the pastors of the conference to have a special Sunday for Willam ette, and the full support of the minfators, the campaign is ready a laymen's project. At their conference, held in Salem last October, the dele gates unanimously decided to take hold of the situation this year and put over a big job for the school. Therefore, they are directing the work through a special executive commit tee, backed by a larger advisory board of prominent lay members of the Headquarters are at 505 Platt building, Portland.

Funds subscribed will go to enable the trustees to rebuild Waller hall for nen and Lausanne hall for a women's formitory, with installation of a central heating plant, thus clearing up the present crowded condition at the

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Why Willamette University Needs Help

Willamette University, located at Salem, is one of the oldest denominational schools in the country, has a magnificent record of achievement and has given to the world many men and women of strong character who have contributed and are contributing to the best progress of the nation's life-especially of the Northwest.

Willamette exists for but one purpose-to educate men and women fully, in a Christian way, and to send them out into the world to help make it better. That is what it has been doing for 75 years and what it will continue to do on a larger scale. Willamette now needs the rehabilitation of Waller hall, partially destroyed by fire last December, and completion of Lausanne hall, the former for men and the latter as a dormitory for women. A central heating plant is also required.

Laymen of the Oregon conference have set out to raise \$100. 900 for this purpose. Confident that the old school is entitled to even more than this amount. they will canvass the state about next week. To what better investment could money be Campaign headquarters are in

room 505, Platt building, Port-\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Timid Old Soul. My aunt was a thuid old soul and

was quite afraid of holdups. For safe keeping she always put her money in her stocking. One day when she was going to do some Christmas shopping she thought she would play a joke oz the holdups. She put the money in her pocket and carried her purse. In the purse she put newspaper crumpled up. She kept her hand in the pocket that had the purse and walked along merrily. But to her surprise when she had purchased her needs she reached for the money, but it was missing. Then, forgetting, she reached for her pocketbook and pulled out the paper She had to give back all the articles and walk home empty-handed.-Chicago Tribune.

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