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As well as the handsomest, and others are invited to call on any druggist and get free a trial bottle of Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs, a remedy that is guaranteed to cure and relieve all Chronic and Acute Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis and Consumption. Price 25c and 50c.

ACTIVE SOLICITORS WANTED
Everywhere for "The Story of the Philippines" by Murat Halstead, commissioned by the Government as Official Historian to the War Department. The book was written in army camps at San Francisco, on the Pacific with General Merritt, in the Hospitals at Honolulu, in Hong Kong, in the American trenches at Manila, in the insurgent camps with Aguinaldo, on the deck of the Olympia with Dewey, and in the rear of battle at the fall of Manila. Bonus for agents. Brindful of original pictures taken by government photographers on the spot. Large book. Low prices. Big profits. Freight paid. Credit given. Drop all trashy unofficial war books. Outfit free. Address, F. T. Barber, Sec'y., Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.

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A Personal Matter

A well painted house is like a neatly dressed person—always attractive and pleasant to look upon.

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NEW MONEY FOR OLD.

AN EXCHANGE FOR MUTILATED AND WORNOUT BILLS.

Uncle Sam's Redemption Bureau and the Work of its Experts—Bills of the Department and Schemes for Cheating the Government.

There are several experts employed by the government to inspect the currency offered for redemption. In fact, every person employed in the bureau is in some degree an expert, because each one of them has to pass on the genuineness of the money presented for redemption and this is a difficult task. Remember that this money comes to the treasury, as a rule, only when it is so badly worn that it will not pass current. This dirty, torn, greasy, ragged money the experts have to handle and decide whether it was issued by the government and should be redeemed at its face value or whether it is the work of counterfeiters and should be rejected. It is not at all to the discredit of the experts of the bureau that some bogus money has got past them and been detected in one of the offices to which the pieces of the money go for further examination. This does not occur often.

The peculiar province of one expert is not to detect bad money—though she is an expert at that—but to put together torn pieces of money sent in for identification and redemption. These pieces of money come from all parts of the country and arrive under most extraordinary conditions. This is not surprising in view of the fact that they come from experiences with fire and water and gastric juices and many other powerful agents. A not infrequent accident to money is to be left in a stove, whence it is taken in a badly charred condition, with only ashes to represent the greater part of it. Often it is used by rats to make their nests, or buried in the dampness of a cellar, it rots away, or, swallowed by a cow, it is rescued from her stomach a slimy mass of paper.

Here are the rules of the treasury for the redemption of mutilated money: For a piece of currency greater than two-fifths and less than three-fifths of the original note one-half the face value of the note is given. For a piece as great as three-fifths the whole value of the note is given. For a piece two-fifths of the original nothing is given. But this last provision is limited by the law, which gives discretion to the treasury department to give full value for a note if the owner can prove to the satisfaction of the authorities that the note, or the missing part of it, was destroyed. This last provision opens the door to possible fraud, and many are the efforts made by dishonest persons to take advantage of it.

The fragments of money which come to the treasury are turned over to one of the experts and sorted out under the microscope for identification. They are picked apart, and each tiny piece is assigned to its place like a part of a puzzle. This is usually done on glass, and the fragments are eventually put between pieces of glass to hold them together while they are measured to see whether there is two-fifths or three-fifths of the note identifiable or whether it is so little that the owner can recover nothing. Sometimes it is a very serious matter to the owner, but the poor are not the only applicants for assistance to recover damaged money. At the time W. K. Vanderbilt's beautiful home at Newport was burned Mrs. Vanderbilt sent in about \$1,000 in mutilated currency, out of which the expert was able to identify for redemption all but a fraction of the sum.

It is not alone mutilated money that comes to the treasury, but dirty and worn money of all kinds, to the extent of nearly \$500,000,000 a year.

Sometimes counterfeiters get past the experts in this bureau and are caught in the other bureaus to which the halves are sent when the packages of old notes have gone under the knife and been divided up for counting and identification before they are destroyed. But this is not the most frequent form of attempted fraud. The mutilated money offers the easiest path to this sort of crime.

Some of the experiences of the redemption division with would be thieves are interesting. One man in Kansas sent to the treasury the halves of some small bills with the edges nicely charred, accompanied by an affidavit from the sender that he had put the money in his pocket, hung his coat on a fence and that the coat had been burned, to the destruction of part of the notes. It happened that the treasury had redeemed the other halves of these notes just two and a half years before for a money broker on the Bowery, in New York, and, thinking the case suspicious, had kept an eye out for the possibility of attempted fraud. The Kansas man was a person of good business standing, and his bankers threatened the treasury officials with dismissal if they questioned his affidavit. They put the case in the hands of the department of justice, and eventually the man pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,000.

A bank in Alabama received from a depositor a fragment of a \$10 bill, and the treasury people paid \$5 for it. Later came a claim accompanied by the other part of the bill, a little charred, with an affidavit saying the sender had burned the remainder of the note by mistake.

A Chicago man sent in fragments of two \$20 bills and one \$10 bill with an affidavit telling how the other halves had been destroyed, and in the same mail the other halves of these notes came in from a Chicago bank. A special agent caught the maker of the affidavit, who proved to be the tool of some swindlers, and he was sent to prison for a year and a half. —Washington Star.

A SHOOTING STAR.

What It Really Is and Where It Comes From.

Sir Robert Ball, who is the world's greatest living astronomer, told a London audience recently some interesting facts about meteorites and shooting stars. In describing the origin of meteorites he said that millions of years ago, when the earth was an infant at play and volcanoes were giants, the meteors were thrown upward in infant convulsions. Some of the earth's discarded rocks returned at once, but those which were flung upward at a rate greater than seven miles a second passed beyond the earth's gravitating influence and sought paths of their own, no one could tell whither.

And then, after millions of years, they once more came within the reach of the world, and old Mother Earth resumed her sway, took back the rocks to her bosom and the astronomers said a meteorite had fallen.

Sir Robert asked his hearers to imagine a wrapping of some hundreds of miles of air round the earth's surface. Now just in the same way that a gimlet, boring its way into wood, becomes warm, so a bullet going 20 miles a minute would become extremely warm in boring its way through 20 miles of air.

And in the same way that a bullet became warm, so a meteorite traveling 10,000 times as fast as a bullet, traveling at this speed perhaps for hundreds of years through realms of space whose paralyzing cold was indescribable and finding itself at last plunging through the warm bath of the air, became hotter and hotter and hotter.

It glowed, it became white hot, it melted, it dissolved in a burst of gaseous splendor, and observers on the earth cried, "Why, there's a shooting star!"

AN ARCHITECTURAL PUZZLE.

Monasteries Built in a Wildly Inaccessible Locality.

The famous monasteries of Meteora crown the summits of vast rock pinnacles rising from the plain of Thessaly.

By what strange means the first cunning architects of these airy perches succeeded in reaching the scene of their labors is a matter wreathed in mystery. The cliffs are far too smooth and perpendicular for any man to climb by hand and foot, and history guards jealously the secret of the monasteries. All that is known about them is that the monks and wandering friars of the middle ages found sanctuary here when first the crescent and scimitar ran red with Christian blood. Visitors to the monks' abode announce their presence by shouting until some one far above looks out and lets the net, which is worked by a windlass, come down.

The sensation of the ascent is distinctly novel. Seated on the ground in the center of the net, the meshes are one by one looped on to a large iron hook. As the rope becomes taut the cords press uncomfortably hard upon various points of one's body, and with a strong wind blowing it swings to and fro and bumps its human load against the cliff. The rope, as it slowly winds on the drum up in the monastery, kinks occasionally, and the jerk gives one the impression that the rickety concern is giving way.

The journey, however, ends safely 170 feet above the ground, where the monks promptly extricate the visitor and give him a pleasant welcome.

The Caroline Islanders.

As a rule the Caroline Islander is fairly honest. Once lay his suspicions to rest and win his confidence, and he will prove himself a faithful friend and an excellent host, courteous and just in all his dealings, as I have very good cause to know. On the other hand, when dealing with his enemies, he calls into play a talent for intrigue, lying and chicanery that would delight a Machiavelli.

In his private life he is unselfish, frugal and economical, a man of careful, small habits. Like all folk of Melanesian admixture, he is liable to fits of dangerous sullenness when he considers himself slighted in any way. He is inclined to be revengeful and will bide his time patiently until his opportunity comes. Yet he is not implacable and consents to reconciliation a noble and princely thing. There is a form of etiquette to be observed on these occasions—a present (katom) is made, an apology offered, a piece of sugar cane accepted by the aggrieved party, honor is satisfied, and the matter ends.

The Ponapean is a stout warrior, a hardy and skillful navigator, fisherman, carpenter and boatbuilder, somewhat of an astronomer and herbalist, but a very second class planter and gardener.—Geographical Review.

He Did.

"Whatever station in life you may be called to occupy, my boy," said the father, in sending his son out into the great world, "always do your best."

"I will," replied the young man, with emotion.

He never forgot his promise. Years afterward, when a prosperous man of business, he did his best friend out of a large sum of money.

In spite of everything it turns out that way once in awhile. —Chicago Tribune.

Dangers in Mercury.

Mercury is a foe to life. Those who make mirrors, barometers or thermometers, etc., soon feel the effect of the nitrate of mercury in teeth, gums and the tissues of the body.

In Iceland men and women are in every respect political equals. The nation, which numbers about 70,000 people, is governed by representatives elected by men and women together.

A philologist estimates that of every 100 words in the French language 13 are superfluous.

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