

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

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About Battle-Field Fame.

Going to battle and getting shot or getting shot at for the love of one's country is one of those things on which the world will never stand agreed. The sentimentalist, the poet, the orator, and the politician—few of whom ever go, by the way—will always rave about the glory which bursts on the spirit of a dead soldier as it returns to the bosom of Divinity; or the earthly glory which follows the man who survives the battle shock.

The story of the "Charge of the Six Hundred at Balaklava" is about as familiar to Americans as to Englishmen. We have had Mr. Tennyson's poem on the ride into the jaws of death recited and declaimed oftener than any martial poem ever written on this side the water, not excepting "Sheridan's Ride," which is about the only poem of a military character that we have. We have plenty of songs, but few poems of the declamatory sort.

England wept over the "returning brave" of Balaklava, and received the survivors with manifestations of pride mingled with promises that so long as the sun continued to shine on the British Empire that long would the British empire feed and cloth, and support the survivors of that fight which is still so famous.

A writer in one of the English magazines has been looking up these survivors, and the showing doesn't speak well for England, and it isn't such as to encourage a fellow to enlist and die for his country or become a maimed veteran.

One in a London workhouse; one in an extreme want in a machine-shop; one with "no resources"; one, "a cripple in the Strand"; three, addresses unknown, but their condition is put down as pitiful; one is "sweeping roads" for a living; another, "miserably poor"; one, "seventy years of age, standing in public highway, begging and placard ed, 'One of the Survivors'"; two in Liverpool "in extreme poverty"; the only Manchester man, with Crimean medal and Turkish medal, "drifting from workhouse to lodging house"; one "supported by public contributions after a long time"; another—a trumpeter—"living on charity"; another "out of work"; in the hospital, two "in great distress," four.

Wanted a Good Supply of Them.

The tooth-brush might be termed the test of birth and breeding says the *Pittsburg Dispatch*.

Not long ago in a town not a million miles from Pittsburg a certain woman who had been all her life previous in very humble circumstances, suddenly fell into a very large fortune. By the way, there is nothing so convenient and pleasant to possess as a distant relative who is willing to die at an appropriate moment and leave you a coo \$1,000,000 or so. Doubtless this poor woman who inherited more money than she knew what to do with from a man she had hardly known was mourning for him in all sincerity. But could he flesh be blamed for rejoicing at the banishment of poverty's cruel counsel ors?

But it was not to philosophize on the effects of sudden riches that this story was begun. She built a great house, furnished it sumptuously, and then went down to the drug-store. She bought one of those curiously useless gum cracks which accumulate on drugstore counters, and last of all she said to the young man with the well-oiled bang who was waiting upon her: "You may put up six or seven of your best tooth-brushes, please—I want one for each of the spare rooms!"

How the "Devil's Bridge" Was Built

A correspondent writes to the *London Times*: "It may interest many of your readers who have doubtless heard of the famous 'Pont du Diable' in what is now the department of the Pyrenees Orientales, but was formerly the province of Roussillon, to learn that the precise origin and exact date of its construction have at length been discovered. The popular legend about this bridge, which spans a mountain torrent called the Tech, near the small town of Ceret, was that it had been built during one night by Satan and his myrmidons, and the fact that the particulars as to its construction had never been found in any of the local archives of course gave additional strength to this legend. But the registrar of a neighboring town called Prats de Mollo, close to the Spanish frontier, has just unearthed a manuscript, dated 1321, which relates how the notables of that town contributed 10 golden crowns of Barcelona toward the building of the bridge at Ceret upon condition that the inhabitants of Prats de Mollo were exempted from paying toll. The toll gate has long since been done away with, and this, no doubt, was how all trace as to the origin of the 'Devil's Bridge' was lost."

A Mistake in the Animal.

A gentleman accompanied by his favorite dog, visited the studio of a New York artist one day. There was a picture on the easel, and the dog began barking furiously at it. "Nature may be relied upon after all," said the visitor. "The best evidence of faithfulness with which you have painted that dog in the background is the earnestness with which my dog barks at it." "But that isn't a dog," said the artist, growing red in the face. "Not a dog? What is it then?" "It's a cow." The gentleman was nonplussed for a moment, but quickly replied, "Well, the dog's eyes are better than mine; he never did like cows."—*Texas Siftings*.

Diaz Whips a Liar.

Attention was some time ago drawn in this country, says the *London Truth*, to some silly personal attacks made against Mme. Patti in a Mexican paper. Apropos to these libels, Mr. Ruben, the well-known American artist's agent who accompanied Mme. Patti to Mexico, has told the true—and a good story.

The libels consisted in the fact that Mme. Patti was accused of calling Mrs. Diaz, the wife of the Mexican president, a "washer-woman." The statement was grotesquely untrue, for Mrs. Diaz is a personal friend of Mme. Patti, and the falsehood was presumably only in order to damage the great singer in Mexico. President Diaz, it seems, settled the matter in his own fashion. He sent a mes-age asking the editor of the paper to call upon him.

The flattered Mexican journalist came, and was then invited to take a stroll in the garden. Duly arrived there, the president removed his coat, gave the libeler a sound thrashing of the good old-fashioned sort. So, at any rate, says Mr. Ruben, and if he speaks truly I congratulate President Diaz.

Managing Black Hair.

If you have dark hair do not let anybody persuade you into wearing it in a full heavy bang; leave that to the unfortunate blondes, who, according to statistics do not marry. Instead, if you possibly can, have your hair parted and brushed back with just one or two soft locks curled a little. Frizzy black hair as bad form as that which gains its sunshine from peroxide of hydrogen. You want your black hair to shine like your diamonds. In your heart of hearts you ought to be satisfied with it, for fickle Monsieur Worth says that nothing delights his soul so much as to make a gown for a dark-haired woman. There is no earthly use in a blonde trying to turn her locks to auburn. This color is only produced by using the peroxide on dark hair, and even then great care has to be taken that too much is not used, else it will be lighter than the Titian red desired.—*N. Y. Sun*.

A Floating Island.

Sadawaga Lake, a large-sized pond in Whittingham, Vt., has one of the most remarkable islands in the world within its borders. The island is larger than any farm in the neighborhood, containing over 150 acres. Its peculiarities lie in the fact that it daily shifts its position, being first on the north then on the south and again on the east or west borders of the lake. It is known as "The floating island," and has kept up its aberrant voyages since time out of memory. It has many trees upon its surface some of which are from twenty to thirty feet in height, besides an immense thicket of prairie bushes. It is rare that a portion of the island breaks off and sinks to the bottom, and its stability has made it a favorite resort for picknickers and others seeking an outing. Holes have been cut through the crust and fish caught, much after the fashion of catching them through the ice in winter time.

A Huge Butterfly.

One day when off the savage island of Malaita of the Solomon group, Mr. Woodford and others under the protection of sentries, went to bathe in a pool. While in the water he saw a huge butterfly coming slowly along the beach, and, hurrying out as he was, he seized his net, dashed off, fell over the stones, rose again, and just in time to catch the fly. What a picture!

"I leave it to my ardent entomologists," he says, "to imagine my feeling." He had "rediscovered the long-lost Ornithoptera Victorice," and why should he not feel like Alexander on the Grecian or Hannibal at Cannae. These "bird-winged" butterflies are some nine inches across the wings. One is blue with a yellow body, another is velvety black and metallic green. They excel in size, but other kinds wear equally magnificent raiment, and make glorious forest beautiful.—*London Spectator*.

Improving Roast Duck.

Here is a new wrinkle with regard to roasting duck that some good wife, fond and foolish and out of fashion enough to care about pleasing her husband, may enjoy serving up to him some night when he comes home a little more perplexed and annoyed with business than usual. Take the duck, which has been roasted in the ordinary way with sage and onion dressing, score it deeply with the carving knife, scatter into the furrows so formed salt and white or black pepper, and pour over it a glass or two of Burgundy warmed, not heated, so that it will not chill the duck. Baste the bird with the wine a few moments, cover it up, and let the seasoning soak well in, and when it is served to your lord and master it will be as much of a revelation to him as was the far-famed pie of "four and twenty blackbirds" which was set before the king.

The French Soldiers Red Trousers.

Marshal MacMahon is in favor of retaining the red trousers of the French soldiers. He says that the fuss made about them is altogether too great, because future fighting must be at long range, and red is a color which is lost sight of at a comparatively short distance.

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