

EUGENE CITY GUARD.

L. L. CAMPBELL, Proprietor.
EUGENE CITY, OREGON.

A FAMOUS COUPLET.

The Familiar Lines Which Have Been Attributed to Martin Luther.

Nearly everybody is familiar in one language or another with the famous old German couplet attributed to Martin Luther, and which literally and properly translated into English is as follows:

Who loves not wine, wife and song
Remains a fool his whole life long.

This supposed sentiment of the great reformer has been quoted thousands of times as his, and its authenticity was not questioned. But now comes a very competent authority—the Lutheran Observer—and stoutly insists that Luther never wrote the lines, and that, in fact, they were his first appearance more than 200 years after his death.

According to the Observer, in the year 1777 a well known German poet, John Henry Voss, published at Hamburg a small volume entitled "Museum-Almanach" ("The Almanac of the Muse"). At the end of one of the poems in this book he placed the couplet in German:

Wer nicht liebt wein, weib und gesang
Der bleibt ein Narr sein Lebentag.

To this effusion Voss affixed the name of Luther. This caused a good deal of comment and excitement. Voss was a candidate for the position of teacher in the Hamburg gymnasium. The Lutheran pastors of the city protested against his appointment because Luther was not the author of "the couplet" which had been attributed to him, and because Voss had thus made Luther encourage intemperance. But in spite of all that could be done in the way of denial and explanation the lines literally clung to the great name and refused to be separated, and we venture to say that comparatively few down to the present day ever doubted that Luther was their real author.

As the couplet expresses the convivial sentiments of many Germans it is probable that it was a common piece of un-written German folklore even before Luther's time. Some English writers have made the lines into a bacchanal rhyme, with sinister meaning, but the true version, coupling "wine, wife and song," expresses the prevailing sentiment and custom among Germans in taking their wives and children with them to the gardens and other social resorts for recreation and amusement.—Buffalo Commercial.

ELECTRICITY AT SEA.

Tests Prove That the White Light is by Far the Most Easily Seen.

Some interesting experiments have been made on the visibility of the electric light at sea by the governments of the United States, Germany and the Netherlands. The word "visible" in the report on the tests means visible on a dark night with a clear atmosphere. The result of the experience of the German committee was that a white light of one candle power was visible 1.4 miles on a dark, clear night and one mile on a rainy night.

The American tests resulted as follows: In very clear weather a light of one candle power was plainly visible at one nautical mile; one of three candle power at two miles; one of ten candle power was seen by the aid of a binocular at four miles; one of 29 candle power faintly at five miles and one of 33 candle power plainly at five miles. On an exceptionally clear night a white light of 3.2 candle power was readily distinguished at three miles; one of 5.6 candle power at four miles and one of 17.2 candle power at five miles.

In the Dutch experiments the results were almost similar, but a 16 candle power light was plainly visible at five miles. For a green light the power required was two for one mile, 15 for two miles, 51 for three miles and 106 for four miles. The results of tests with a red light were almost identical with those with green, but it was conclusively proved that a white light was by far the most easily seen.—Chicago Record.

Freckle Cures.

Do the freckles prove stubborn? There is usually a clamor for "freckle cures" about this time of the year, and the very best thing that proves reliable year after year is simply common buttermilk. Secure it as fresh as possible. It will be found that nothing can equal this fresh buttermilk for removing tan, freckles, sunburn or moth spots. It has the great advantage that it does not injure the skin, but makes it soft and white. Take a soft sponge and bathe the face, neck and arms before retiring for the night. Then wipe off the drops lightly. In the morning wash it off thoroughly and wipe dry with a crash towel. Two or three such baths each week during the summer months will take off and keep off the tan and freckles and keep the skin soft and smooth.—Philadelphia Times.

Galveston Streets.

The streets of Galveston are not merely leveled like those of Washington, but in Galveston they name some of the streets with half letters. This produces such an astonishing system that one reads on the carts that milk can be had on P-and-a-half street and eggs are for sale between N and N-and-a-half. Presumably wicked persons do not merely live in L, as they do in Washington, but give their addresses as in L-and-a-half. Avenue I is the finest street to look at in Galveston, but J avenue is a tumble down countrified road, with grass growing in the wagon ruts.—New York Sun.

A Hugo Pad.

An enthusiastic admirer of Victor Hugo has made a collection of all the black and white and colored portraits of the poet that he could find. Altogether they number nearly 4,000, of which about 2,500 are caricatures and cartoons. The collector, M. Beuve, has also gathered together with infinite pains innumerable pipes, canes, tobacco jars, bottles, scarfpins, handkerchiefs, even caps of soap, on which the head of the poet appears.

A County Without a Drug Store.

Catoosa county, Ga., claims the unique distinction of not having a drug store within its boundaries. From this fact the residents argue that it is the healthiest part of the state, "if not the world."

AMONG THE LIFE SAVERS.

An Important Branch of Christian Endeavor Society Work.

The Christian Endeavor society, in connection with its varied activities, is now engaged in a comparatively new work, that of ministering to the spiritual and intellectual needs of life savers and lighthouse keepers. It is a most commendable work, and already its good effects have been manifested. Thousands of men in sequestered spots along the seacoasts have been benefited by it, and into their lives, fraught with perils and hardships, have been infused more of brightness and comfort. This work was inaugurated four years ago, the originator of the movement being the Rev. S. Edward Young of Asbury Park. In 1891 Rev. Mr. Young held the first religious service in a life saving station on the New Jersey coast. It was taken up almost immediately by Endeavorers in various quarters of the globe, and the good work has spread marvelously.

The foremost object is to give the life savers the blessings of religious privileges, and services are now held quite regularly in stations all over the world. Another purpose is to furnish them good, wholesome literature and so far as possible minister to their creature comforts. To isolated stations and far-off lightships books and papers are regularly sent. Another way in which the Endeavorers add to the happiness of these neglected "heroes of the shore" in every clime is to send them "comfort bags," containing various small useful articles, with a Testament and a bright, cheery letter for the recipient.

Rev. S. Edward Young, to whom the life savers and lighthouse keepers the world over have reason to be thankful, is as youthful as his name indicates. He was born in Ohio in 1866 and was educated for the ministry at Princeton Theological seminary. He is now pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church at Asbury Park. He is most zealously devoted to the work among life savers and lighthouse keepers in connection with the Endeavor society and is chairman of the international committee having this in charge. He did vigorous and effective service toward increasing the pay of these brave servants of humanity, and the increase was some time ago granted by congress.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM I.

Germany's Impending Memorial to the Present Kaiser's Grandfather.

With imposing ceremonies and brilliant pageant the foundation stone of the monument to Emperor William I. was lately laid by his grandson, Emperor William II. It will be erected as a national tribute to the memory of the founder of the German empire, fittingly commemorating his great work in liberating Germany from foreign domination and unifying the petty German states into one compact and powerful nation.

It will be an immense structure, artistic and symmetrical in all its details, and will stand in the Schlossfreiheit, or plaza, in front of the imperial palace near the Unter-den-Linden in Berlin. The design, which has been approved by the emperor, is the work of Reinhold Begas, a German artist of prominence.

The monument will stand on a granite pedestal about 82 feet high, and its



CENTRAL FIGURE OF WILLIAM MONUMENT.

entire height will be nearly 70 feet. The central and most conspicuous figure will be an equestrian statue of the old emperor, attired in field marshal's uniform, mounted on his favorite steed, the horse being led by a figure of Victory, carrying a palm. The large platform will be constructed of mosaic stones, the pillars of sandstone and the statues and figures of bronze. Granite steps will lead from the street pavement to the platform. The base will be ornamental, with allegorical figures in relief, and the corners will be adorned by four figures of Victory holding wreaths in their hands. The wings of the structure are to have in front two imposing portals, with quadriges surmounting them, and on both sides of these colonnades in which will be placed statues of the emperor's coworkers in the unification of the Fatherland and the building of the empire.

Cork From an American Tree.

About 35 years ago several young cork trees were sent to Sandersville, Ga., by the government and set out to test their adaptability to the climate. Three or four are yet living, and the largest one is more than two feet in diameter. Last week it was stripped of its bark around the trunk, under the direction of Colonel Richard L. Worthen, who manifests a great interest in trees of all varieties, and samples of the cork will be forwarded to the agricultural department at Washington and to the Atlanta exposition. The bark, or cork, is 1 1/2 inches thick and is good material.—Atlanta Constitution.

Comparative Cost of Cabinets.

The difference between England and the United States is seen once more in the fact that Salisbury's cabinet ministers will cost \$475,000 a year in salaries. This pays 19 men for what seven are supposed to do in this country for much less than seven-ninths of \$475,000.—Buffalo Express.

Columbia River.

The Columbia river was first called the Oregon, the Spanish name for the wild sage that grows on its banks. Whitney says that the Spanish name was Oregon, "big car" or "one that hath large ears," an allusion to the custom of the Indians in that region of stretching their ears by boring them and crowding them with ornaments.

FROM GULF TO OCEAN.

MEXICO'S NEW RAILROAD ACROSS THE ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTEPEC.

It Took Fourteen Years to Build It at a Cost of \$10,000,000, and It Crosses the Sierra Madre at a Comparatively Easy Place.

Without doubt the Tehuantepec railroad, extending due north and south across the isthmus of that name which forms the narrowest part of Mexico, will eventually come to be regarded as one of the world's most important lines of transportation. It was finished about a year ago, its line lying along the least difficult route across the Sierra Madre mountains and from ocean to ocean between Guaymas and Panama, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, its construction was not accomplished without overcoming some very considerable difficulties in engineering. The northern, or gulf, terminus of the Tehuantepec line is Coatzacoalcos, and the southern, or Pacific, port is Salina Cruz. At the latter place there is a fine open roadstead for ships, with plenty of water, while at Coatzacoalcos there is a superb harbor with a hard clay bottom and no sand bars, and the Coatzacoalcos river for 30 miles above its mouth has a continuous depth of 40 feet, which renders unnecessary the heavy lighterage expenses which are such an important item at Panama.

The Tehuantepec road was projected and built by the Mexican government, which proposes to expend \$15,000,000 in improving the harbors at the two terminals, and it is believed that after these harbors have been deepened and fitted with proper docks and other facilities for loading and discharging cargoes, the new interoceanic route will be sought by a large portion of the commerce between Europe and California, between Atlantic and Pacific ports of the United States and between most Atlantic and gulf ports and ports on the western coast of Mexico. In addition to this there is every probability that much of the commerce between Europe and the far east which now goes by way of the Suez canal will also be diverted to this route, and that practically all European trade with Chile, Peru and Ecuador will follow along the same line.



SCENERY ON TEHUANTEPEC RAILROAD.

It is feared that this will prove of serious damage to the Panama railroad, since, although the Panama railroad is less than one-fifth as long as the Tehuantepec line, the use of the latter will shorten the distance between New York and San Francisco, for instance, by about 1,500 miles, and between most important European ports and China by about 700 miles. While probably it cannot be said that it will shorten the transportation to most South American ports, yet the superior depth of the harbors at the Tehuantepec terminals, enabling ships to unload directly to the railroad cars and dispensing with lighterage, as already explained, will no doubt make it a more desirable line of commerce to the south of the equator.

The territory through which the Tehuantepec railroad runs is of a highly interesting character. At the southern terminus, Salina Cruz, the greatest altitude is about 700 feet, and the line reaches north from there, nowhere encountering very severe grades, through a natural breaking down of the mountains to the waters of the Uspanapa, which flows into the Coatzacoalcos. The country through which these rivers flow is level and low lying, its soil is exceedingly fertile, and it is covered with a luxuriance of tropical vegetation that is nowhere surpassed. All through this territory there are extensive plantations of cacao, from which chocolate is made, and of coffee trees, which are cultivated and cared for by copper colored descendants of the Aztecs, whom Cortez found in possession when he landed upon Mexico's shores. Much capital from the United States has already been invested in the coffee industry, and upon one plantation, owned by an American company, over 400 native laborers work during the entire year. The temperature of the region is singularly equable and delightful everywhere, save close to the shores, the thermometer never rising above 92 degrees and never falling below 60.

It requires five years to bring a coffee plantation into bearing, and after that the average yield of each tree is between three and four pounds annually, or from 1,800 to 3,200 pounds an acre, since from 600 to 800 trees are planted upon each acre. The wages paid to laborers are not high, the head of a family earning from \$5 to \$7.50 a month, while the children work from 25 to 35 cents a day through the picking season of December and January.

These natives are a remarkably primitive but not at all savage lot. They live upon bananas and other native fruits, and they are satisfied with clothing made of coffee plants, but they are good natured, obliging, honest and courteous, and a stranger is invariably safe in their hands. The men are well built and strong and many of the women are comely, with features chiseled after Caucasian types.

It cost about \$10,000,000 to build the Tehuantepec railroad and occupied about 14 years, and there is no doubt that its proprietor, the Mexican government, will reap a profit from its operations, since it must acquire a considerable local traffic as well as the heavy through freight mentioned at the beginning of this article.

A Woman of Nerve.

Mrs. Louis Kirshoffer of Orange, N. J., is a woman of nerve. The other day a bound belonging to her husband went mad, broke his chain and made a dash at one of Mrs. Kirshoffer's sons. He tore the boy's clothes, but fortunately did not bite hard enough to break the skin. Mrs. Kirshoffer rushed to her son's aid, and the dog turned on her and bit her, but her clothes were too thick for him to break the skin. She then picked the dog up by the collar, carried him to the cellarway, threw him down the steps and closed the door. Mr. Kirshoffer came home later and shot him.

Why We Have Flies.

In one summer it is possible for the descendants of a single fly to grow to 2,080,320.

MILK SOLD BY THE PLUG.

Solid Frozen Cubes of the Danish Product on Sale in London.

Canada's representative in Denmark reports that during the past year a new industry has been established there which promises to prove both profitable and serviceable, and which might be followed with equal success on this side of the water—viz, the shipment of frozen milk to large cities. A year ago a Danish merchant experimented in this direction by taking Danish milk, which is peculiarly delicate and rich in flavor, freezing it by the use of ice and salt, and sending it in barrels by rail and steamer to London. On its arrival the milk proved to be as sweet and well tasting as if it had been just drawn from a cow in the middle of Denmark. The milk was so much in demand and proved so profitable an article of commerce that the exporter immediately took out a patent on the shipment of frozen milk from Sweden and Denmark to London. He then sold the patent to a stock company with large capital, which, on Feb. 1 last, bought one of the largest Swedish creameries, converted it into a factory, and, having put in a special freezing apparatus, began, on May 1, the export of frozen milk in large quantities.

When the milk is received from the farmers it is Pasteurized, that is, heated to 75 degrees C., and then immediately cooled off to about 10 degrees C., and then the freezing is commenced. Half the milk is filled into cans and placed in a freezing apparatus, where it will be thoroughly frozen in the course of three hours. The frozen milk is then filled into barrels of pine, the only kind of wood that can be used. The barrels, however, are only half filled with this frozen milk, the balance being filled with the unfrozen milk. This way of packing has proved to be the only practical one, as part of the milk has to be frozen in order to keep the whole cold, and part has to be in a flowing state in order to get the barrels exactly full, which is necessary in order to avoid too much shaking up on the road, by which the cream would be turned into butter. The floating masses of ice at the same time prevent the unfrozen milk from settling the cream. Milk which is treated in this way has proved to keep quite fresh for 26 days. Every barrel holds 1,000 pounds of milk, and twice a week there will be shipped 50 barrels, making in all about 100,000 pounds of milk a week.

The milk is shipped to Newcastle and from there by rail to large manufacturing cities, where it is sold in the streets or in retail stores. It is reported that the patent has been bought for Ireland also at a cost of \$200,000, which proves how much the stock company expects from this new enterprise.

The time may not be far away when the dairy farms of the New England and western states may be sending, not butter and milk, but frozen milk and cream, to the large cities of both continents.—Philadelphia Record.

Verdi's Little Expedition.

Verdi, if we may believe the Italian papers just to hand, has, by an innocent little expedition, at last induced Boito to put the finishing touches to his opera, "Verone," the long expected successor to "Metastefe." Some months ago, it seems, Boito brought Verdi the sketches for two libretti, "Purgatory" and "Hades," both, of course, based on Dante. Verdi, however, laughingly refused to look at any more words for music from Boito's pen until "Verone" was completed. A week or two since, therefore, Boito brought the venerable maestro another bulky package. It was the score of "Verone," and the two spent some hours in playing it over. As Boito was leaving, to Verdi's astonishment, he likewise produced the complete libretto of "Purgatory" less an opera, of course, than a dramatic cantata. Whether, at his advanced age, the composer of "Il Trovatore" will undertake to set so imposing a subject to music is, however, altogether another matter.—London News.

Acetylene.

Among the various opinions expressed as to the practical value of the new substance, acetylene, is that regarding its relation to the growing need in many places and for numerous purposes of a self contained source of gas of high illuminating power. It is considered that the bare fact of a portable solid substance being capable of generating a gas of the required quality by mere contact with a sufficiency of water suggests numerous and most valuable applications.—lights for vehicles of all descriptions, including railway cars; also where compressed oil gas might be replaced by calcium carbide and water; likewise signal lights and buoys in positions to which access is necessarily intermittent, and, too, the domestic supply of isolated houses. Considerable scope is here presented for a material fulfilling the prime conditions of simplicity, certainly and safety in use, and for purposes of the kind named the question of cost is altogether subsidiary.—New York Sun.

Newspaper Files.

The Minnesota Historical society files regularly 340 newspapers and has files of many now out of print. It also has very full reports of Masonic history and of that of other secret societies. It has a better history in its archives of the various religious bodies than the organizations themselves have. It has the third largest and most important set of genealogies in America. It has books rich and rare respecting Mexican history, and a vast supply of material on historic periods in many lands. Newspaper files are a quarry from which the scholars of the future will cut the blocks wherewith to carve the statues of history.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Needed the Humble Bumblebee.

An English writer recalls the curious fact that when red clover was first grown in Australia it never needed because the tongue of the native bee was too short to reach the pollen. The work of fertilizing red clover is chiefly done by the long tongued bumblebee.

A Twine Fence.

A farmer near Salem, Or., without money to buy wire, fenced pasture with twine and turned his stock in. So far they have respected the barrier, and will probably do so unless this announcement of the deception reaches their attention.

CARE OF THE FEET.

THE CRAMPED AND TORTURED FOOT NO LONGER THE IDEAL.

Views of a Celebrated Anatomist—The Importance of Wearing the Right Kind of Shoes—Something About Corns and How to Treat Them.

Very few seem to realize the importance of giving the feet proper attention in order to secure better health as well as general comfort. It is almost inconceivable that in our civilized nation in the modern age there are still so many otherwise sensible women who are willing to maim and cripple their feet and suffer tortures for the sake of wearing shoes just a little too small, or which are, as they imagine falsely, pretty or more fashionable. We see the folly of the cramping process upon the feet of the Chinese women, but how much more inexcusable it is for women of this enlightened country.

In former times it has been the fashion for shoes to be made with high heels, narrow, pointed toes and all sorts of extravagant shapes contrary to ease and comfort, and as too many people have felt it incumbent upon them to bow to the demands of the tyrant fashion, no matter how unreasonable her demands, the result has been for succeeding generations untold suffering in the form of corns, bunions and other deformities, until now it is comparatively rare to see, except among savage nations, a perfect, well shaped foot. But a more sensible fashion allows the wearing of various styles of sensible shoes that are adapted to the ease and comfort of the wearer, with thick soles, wide, low heels and plenty of room for free expansion of the toes and muscles, and the numerous corns, which are not only exceedingly painful, but often serious affairs, are gradually disappearing from the feet of the sensible ones and the ideal foot is no longer the cramped and tortured foot.

The celebrated anatomist, Professor Hyrtl of Vienna university, opened one of his lectures to his class with the singular question, "Which is the most beautiful foot, considered from the anatomical standpoint?" and then continued: "It is remarkable that there are so many divergent opinions on this subject. While the sons of men look upon a small, slender and graceful foot, a lady's foot, as an ideal one, the anatomist utterly rejects it as beautiful, and only the large, long and broad foot is the ideal one in his eyes. Even the greatest classic writers of antiquity, Horace, Callinus, and others, who had great appreciation of the feminine beauty, never mentioned in the descriptions of their beloved—and, as is well known, they had many—their small feet.

"The people belonging to the Celtic race have small feet; the Hindoos especially have such feet and hands that they may be envied by many European countesses. The native troops of the English army in India possess in England their own armor where peculiar kinds of weapons are constructed for them, and the sword hilts made for them are much too small for us to grasp with ease. The greatest beauties of Europe, the Italians, have really long and broad feet.

But even if we do not care to be convinced that the ideal foot is the foot that is long and broad, we can certainly realize the importance of care in selecting shoes of the proper size for comfort as well as beauty. The foot never looks pretty in a shoe too small for it, and such shoes soon become unshapely from undue pressure, giving anything but a pretty appearance.

On the other hand, we should not fall into the error of buying shoes too large. These are quite as apt to cause corns as small ones by rubbing certain parts of the foot. If any one has the misfortune to fall into this mistake, it can be remedied to a great extent by inserting a soft wedge of cotton batting in the toe of the shoe or in the part that rubs against the foot.

The same care is necessary in buying shoes as in buying gloves. They will last much longer and have a better appearance when made of new, good skins. Old leather or kid is not soft and elastic and does not easily shape itself to the foot or the hand. This is not only a matter of comfort, but of economy. In this, as in many other things, "the best is the cheapest," and as few women, or men either, for that matter, are good judges of leather it will be wise to buy only of honest, experienced dealers, in whom we can confide, for we cannot afford risks in a matter where so much is involved. An uncomfortable shoe is really a very serious matter when we take into consideration the pain and discomfort, the probable deformities in the way of corns and bunions, the wear on the nervous system and the unpleasant consequences of our irritable tempers because of personal discomfort.

It scarcely seems necessary to speak of the importance of frequent bathing of the feet and paring of the nails, and yet many are surprisingly careless in this respect. Corns are simply composed of a great number of layers of cuticle, or scarf skin, one above another, each successive layer being larger than the preceding, so that the whole assumes the form of a grain of Indian corn; hence its name. This is constantly pressing its point upon the tender flesh when the shoe presses or rubs against it, and as this cuticle is easily dissolved to a great extent by the warm water and soap we can see that bathing is the most ready and harmless remedy as well as preventive.—Exchange.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The very oldest watches bearing inscribed dates are of Swiss make, and the date is 1454. Anything antedating the above is a fraud.

An English law passed in the time of Henry V ordered that the geese of the empire be counted and that the sheriff furnish the government six feathers from each goose.

They carry the enforcement of their antivagrancy act to extremes in Melbourne. A man 103 years old was sent to jail there the other day for having "no lawful visible means of support."

The heart of King Louis XVII of France, which had been for years in the possession of M. Edouard Dumont of Nemilly, France, was recently delivered with impressive ceremonies into the hands of the Count Urbain de Maille, representing the Duke of Madrid.

O'CONNOR ALWAYS GETS THERE.

England's Minister to China and His Very Successful Diplomatic Career.

Sir Nicholas Roderick O'Connor, her majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the emperor of China and the king of Korea, is a diplomat of 30 years' experience and has won the admiration of all foreigners in the Celestial Empire because of his vigor in calling the Chinese government to account for the massacre of English and American missionaries by mobs at Kn-Chang and other points. He has been given full authority to demand that China shall give her local officials the order necessary to insure the presence of the American and British consuls at the inquiry at Kn-Chang into the recent massacre of missionaries, and backed as he is by the ever ready armies of Great Britain there is little doubt that he will get what he asks for.



N. R. O'CONNOR.

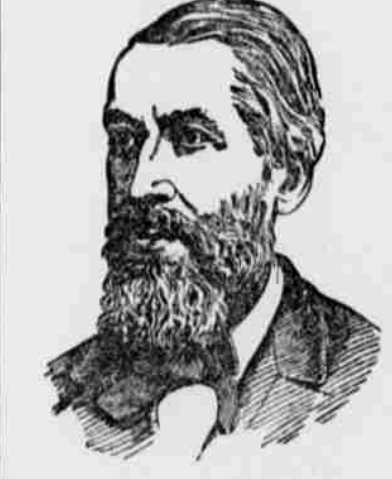
If there is one thing that Sir Nicholas is particularly noted for it is his invariable success in getting whatever he demands for his government. He ranks very high in the diplomatic service of his country and was knighted for his marked efficiency in looking after Great Britain's enormous interests in the Flowery Kingdom.

Sir Nicholas is 52 years of age, and his first appointment in the diplomatic service was that of attaché to the legation in Berlin. From 1883 to 1885 he was secretary to the Peking legation and at the end of this period was transferred to Washington, where he served his country as secretary of legation for three years. From 1888 to 1892 he was British agent and consul general to Bulgaria. He was then promoted to his present high office in China, an office which yields him the comfortable salary of \$27,500 a year, while the Hon. Charles Denby, who does the same work for the United States in China, has to worry along on but \$12,000 a year.

UNCLE SAM'S VETERAN LIBRARIAN.

Spofford's Wonderful Memory Concerning the 700,000 Books in His Charge.

Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the veteran librarian of congress, whose accounts are said to be in an inextinguishable flame, is a native of New Hampshire. He was born in Gilmanton, Sept. 12, 1825, and is consequently three score and ten. For 30 years he has been in charge of the Congressional library, and his memory is said to be so remarkable



LIBRARIAN AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD.

that he seems to know all about the location as well as the contents of nearly every one of the 700,000 books in his charge.

Mr. Spofford's father was a clergyman who well knew the great advantages of a good education and employed private tutors to prepare his son for the battle of life. When 16 years of age, young Spofford removed to Cincinnati, abandoning a college course because of his ill health, and engaged in the book selling and publishing business. During this time he gained the wide familiarity with authors and their works that proved so valuable to him later in life.

In 1859 he became associate editor of the Cincinnati Daily Commercial, and in 1861 President Lincoln appointed him first assistant librarian of congress. Three years later he was made librarian in chief and has since occupied that very important post. When he entered upon the discharge of his duties, the National library had but 70,000 volumes, and Mr. Spofford has seen it grow to ten times that number. He has also seen it leave its old cramped quarters in the capitol and take possession of the new Congressional library building, which has accommodations for 2,000,000 books. All American copyrights are issued from his office, and a vast amount of work is done yearly by himself and his assistants.

Mr. Spofford is a member of numerous historical and philosophical societies, and in 1884 Amherst conferred upon him the degree of doctor of laws. He has written a great deal on historical, literary and economic topics and has edited several collections of choice literature. When Lew Wallace was writing "Ben-Hur," he wanted a book describing chariot races. Mr. Spofford told him that the only book of the kind in the United States was on a certain shelf in the Athenaeum library, Boston. Boston officials were unable to find the book, but Mr. Spofford from memory made a diagram of the library and the shelves and indicated exactly where the book could be found. General Wallace followed the diagram, and thus secured the book.

Fulfilled in Time.

"And now"—
He stood dazzled with the bright light that had broken in upon him.
"I understand why we call feet!"—
He jumped to one side to avoid a screecher.

"—pedal extremities."
It was the year 1900, and he was the only man on earth who still refused to ride a wheel.—New York World.

Choosing a Wife.

The plainest features become handsome unawares when associated only with kind feelings, and the loveliest face disagreeable when linked with ill humor or caprice. People should remember this when they are selecting a face which they are to see every morning across the breakfast table for the remainder of their lives.—N. P. Willis.

THE AD. SIGN PAINTER.

ONE OF THEM RELATES FACTS FROM HIS EXPERIENCE.

How He Managed to Advertise on the Walls of Fort Sumter—When the Box Objected—Let a Farmer Show His Steam Off—The Obliging Steamboatman.

The experience of a sign painter at Fort Sumter makes a diverting story: "You see, I got a darty to take me over from Charleston in one of those little boats that they sail down there close to the wind than anything I ever saw before. The fort was unoccupied except by an old soldier, who showed me all over the place. 'Have a drink, cap'n,' said I to him after awhile. 'No objections,' said he, and we walked and talked a little further. 'Pretty loose,' said he, 'the old dink, warming to me as I breeted him a grade higher every two or three minutes.

"'Ah,' said I, 'it's a tough old life, the army, ain't it, lieutenant?' 'Faith, and it is, upon me life,' said he. 'Well, I brought my flask out again and pressed it upon him. 'Now, look here, cap'n,' said I, 'you don't mind me painting a sign around the old fort, do you?' 'Not a bit, my son. Paint as much as ye please,' he answered quite willingly, and away I went to work, finishing the lettering before sundown.

"That little business nearly got me into trouble, and I left Charleston in a hurry. Nearly as bad was the time I was painting on a beehive. I was walking along the railway track with my palette and brushes and saw the hive, which was in A1 position, bound to be seen by everybody in the trains. I stole up to it and slathered on the paint, taking care not to make much noise. Look at me! One little fellow came to look at me, then another, then another and then a score or more all at once. They didn't seem to object—in fact, seemed to admire the richness of the coloring—but in hanging my leg over the top of the hive I upset my can of turpentine, and not one less in the crowd would listen to a word of reason. I was laid up for a week or two after that, but I can't be quiet long, I ain't in me to be still. I'm an out and out Yankee, and it warms my heart to be off with the paints, and it ain't incumbent upon me now."

He added this with a complacent and proud glance at his massive watch chain and jeweled sleeve buttons, which indicated no little prosperity.

"When anybody gets his back up at me, I just let him blow his steam off, and then I talk to him," he continued. "Down in Maryland one day I was painting a fence, and a fellow working in a field near by hollered out: 'Hi! Get away from that yar fence!' I let 'em to hear him. 'You got now!' the old man shouted once more, but I dabbed and dabbed away as industriously as ever. 'You won't, won't yer?' said he, and then he came for me with a pitchfork in his hands. Folks in Maryland are generally pretty much in earnest when they are mad, but I didn't move an inch. He'd have lifted me like a piece of toast if I had, and instead of a toast it would have been a roast for me.

"I looked as mild and innocent as I could, shaped out the letters and held my head back now and then as if to study the effect. 'Don't you like it?' said I as he got up to me. Well, he met me with some high seasoned expostulations; but, as I told you, I never interfere with a man when he's blowing off steam; it isn't safe. The piddler did not look salubrious, but I held to my work, and as I was finishing it he began to cool off and at the same time to take an interest in the sign. 'Got a family?' said I. 'Yes,' said he. 'Young uns, too, maybe.' 'Yes,' said he again. 'Well, now,' said I, 'ain't you ashamed of yourself to let your temper get the better of you in this way? Think of the bad effect on your children. But I'll paint it out.' 'No, leave it on, stranger; I like it,' he answered, and we went over to the house together, which proves that when a man's blowing off it's best not to sit on the safety valve.