

THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

A Russian View of the Ride into the Jaws of Death.

That the charge of the Light brigade seemed to onlookers a piece of magnificent folly is evident from all reminiscences of that day.

"When we saw the English coming at us," says a Russian soldier, "there was but one thought. 'What fools' we said. We never dreamed they would charge.

"Our colonel was angry and ordered the men to give no quarter and never surrender. I was lying down, with my wound bandaged, when I saw them coming.

GRANT'S SYMPATHY.

Tribute of a Southern Woman to the General's Kindly Nature.

The sympathetic side of General Grant's nature, as every one knows, was very strong. A few days after the surrender of Vicksburg a southern lady hurried to his quarters to ask for information about her husband.

For little children and old people General Grant showed special sympathy. Many who were small folk in those days remembered his way of drawing them to him and impressing a kiss on cheek or brow.

One old lady who afflicted her friends by her propensity for smoking was often the recipient of a good cigar from him. The gift was fully appreciated, as the general's stock was always of the best.

Crops, Glazards and Stomachs. Insects are oddly constructed atoms of animated nature, as a rule, and it depends altogether on the species as to internal makeup.

Age of Mother Earth. An eminent scientist's estimate of the age of the world is "not so great as 40,000,000 years, possibly as little as 20,000,000 years, probably 30,000,000 years."

His Theory. "It is better to rule by love than fear," said the philosopher. "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum; "it is people's love of money that has made life easy for me."—Washington Star.

Too much effort to increase our happiness transforms it into misery.—Rousseau.

India's Sacred Fires. The sacred fires of India have not all been extinguished. The most ancient which still exists was consecrated twelve centuries ago in commemoration of the voyage made by the Parsees when they emigrated from Persia to India.

POLLY LARKIN

"What will the summer girl wear this season?" This is the query of many fair daughters.

"Those men were mad and never seemed to think of the tremendous numbers against them nor of the fearful slaughter that had taken place in their ranks during that desperate ride. Then they neared us and dashed in among us, shouting, cheering and cursing. I never saw anything like it. They were irresistible, and our men were quite demoralized."

Not long since during a stroll through Golden Gate Park, I saw two Japanese couples that interested me very much. The young men were devoted lovers, buying the girls enough popcorn, peanuts and candy to give them indigestion for a week beside giving them several boat rides on Stowe lake as well as the merry-go-round.

It straws show which way the wind blows, then ribbon sashes with pretty artistic bows and long ends or streamers will be used to give a dainty and dressy finish to lawns and other costumes in wash goods. Another thing I noticed in the lawns was that many of them showed a very pretty little floral border printed the entire length of the goods to be used in making up the material into fetching little costumes.

Last year I thought the dressy shirt-waists buttoned in the back were on the wane and this year would find them completely out of date, but I was mistaken. Nearly all of the higher priced and elaborate waists or shirts, particularly in wash goods, are fastened in the back, mostly hidden from view under a convenient tuck or fold of the goods.

As usual, violets open the season for spring millinery with its shades ranging from the lightest violet to the royal purple of the California violet or the shade bordering on the lightest tint of the majenta that appears in the Marie Louise, in silks, velvets, chiffons and chenille braids. They are always beautiful and particularly gratifying to the eye when they come out in all their freshness as harbingers of spring.

A glance at the glove department shows the same disposition toward the more showy styles. Some of the gloves are elaborately embroidered on the back and on the wrists in the daintiest patterns. Silk gloves and mits have come to stay, at least for a season, to the great delight of those who, unfortunately, have the moist hands that ruin a pair of kid gloves the first wearing. That abolition, high-heeled shoes, has also come to stay.

The above topic reminds me of the reform in China, the edict having gone forth that the feet of the Chinese baby girls shall no longer be bound. They have at last awakened to the cruelty of the method that has been endured for so long, and it is no longer considered a mark of beauty or a sign of gentle birth to have the poor, shapeless stubs of feet, fit only to be seen in the exquisitely embroidered slipper and of precious little use to the owner of the deformities. What a boon of comfort this edict must be to the women of China. Of course, it will not benefit those who have been through this purgatory on earth for the sake of fashion and of a barbarous custom, but to the wee Chinese lassies it means a great deal.

Paris Police as Motorists. An interesting suggestion was made at a meeting of the Paris Municipal Council to consider the report of M. Paul Escudier in the regulation of the motor car traffic. M. Escudier, among his chief proposals, included the stopping and warning of drivers whose cars made an objectionable smell, the prohibition of the use of vehicles with ineffective silencers, and of the excessive sounding of the horn.

MAKING CLAY PIPES.

A BUSINESS ABOUT WHICH MOST PEOPLE KNOW VERY LITTLE.

The Process of Manufacture is Not So Simple as Rightly to be Imagined. From the Low Price of the Finished Product—How they are Made.

Among the little things seen in daily life about which most people know very little is the cheap, ordinary clay pipe. In almost every cigar shop window, in the mouth of every third laborer met and even in the nursery this snow white little instrument of comfort and amusement may be seen. Yet few know, for instance, that most of the clay pipes sold in this city of domestic make are manufactured in New Jersey.

Looking at the chunks and lumps of clay as they are transported from the banks to the factories, one would hardly believe that the snowy, cheap little article could have been manufactured from material so different in color. The color of this clay before it is burned is dark gray, like cement; nor is the process of manufacturing one of these pipes as simple as might be imagined from the absurdly low price.

Grasping a small chunk of clay in each hand, the artist begins work to fashion roughly two pipes at the same time. Rolling the clay between a table and his palms, he quickly produces two curved, shallow, pointed rolls that he little by little perfects and puts to the little wheel until it shall be finished. With incredible speed the fashioning of these rolls continues, for ahead of the expert is the problem of manufacturing something like seventy-five gross of pipes within the week. Then the rolls are put away to dry somewhat, and for ten or twelve hours they stiffen so that once shaped they will not fall readily to pieces. After that the clay is ready for molding.

THE WORD "HUSSAR." It is Hungarian and Originally Meant a Freebooter. Hussar is a Hungarian word meaning originally a freebooter or free lance. These men, strong, active, hardy, accustomed to capture and tame herds of wild horses, were brought into military service by Corvino, the boy king, in 1422 and became the finest body of light cavalry in the world.

Peculiar Land Tenure Custom. At Chingford, in Essex, England, an estate is held by a very strange custom. Whenever it passes into new hands the owner, with his wife, manservant and maid-servant, comes on horseback to the parsonage and pays his homage by blowing three blasts upon a horn. He carries a hawk upon his fist and his servant has a greyhound in the slip, both for the use of the rector for that day. He receives a chicken for the hawk, a peck of oats for his horse and a loaf of bread for his greyhound. After dinner the owner blows three more blasts and then, with his party, withdraws from the rectory.

A Strange Case. In the latter part of 1878 a young lady died near Cleveland of a disease that had greatly puzzled the attending physicians, the symptoms being similar to rheumatism of the heart. The postmortem revealed one of the most remarkable facts to the medical profession. A large burdock bur was found securely imbedded in the heart directly against the posterior surface of the aorta. It was completely enveloped with cystic tissue, which had also covered all the large blood vessels leading to and from the heart. There is only one way of accounting for the presence of the bur. It had been breathed into the air passages when the woman was a child.

Bishop's Rebuke. Bishop Dudley of Kentucky could administer a rebuke delicately, but on occasions he took care to see that the point was plain. One of the wealthiest members of his church as well as one of the closest told him he was going abroad. "I have never been on the ocean," he said to the bishop, "and I would like to know something that will keep me from getting seasick." "You might swallow a nickel," responded the bishop. "You'll never give that up."

Tactful. "At what age do you consider women the most charming?" asked the inquisitive female of more or less uncertain age. "At the age of the woman who asks the question," answered the man, who was a diplomat.—New Yorker.

POTASH MINES.

They Are All in Prussia and Supply the Entire World.

The potash which is dug from the roof of Prussian mines, located at Strassfurt, ninety miles from Berlin, is the sole source of the world's supply. Before the mines were discovered the best substitute which could be found for the product was wood ash, such as the southern plantations used in the old days for making lye soap.

When the new variety of salt was given to the world the Prussian mines were temporarily abandoned, and in a few years a search for rock salt was instituted. The salt was found, but in a badly adulterated condition, and an analysis of the adulterant revealed the fact that it was the most valuable part of the mineral. The potash was once turned to use as commercial fertilizer.

MILITARY STORIES. A Soldier Who Was Punished and a Bugler Who Was Excused. From one of the French naval ports comes an interesting story of an incident which recently occurred there. A general holding a high command made his appearance suddenly at the barracks of an infantry regiment, which, in obedience to his orders, was promptly drawn up in the yard. Then he explained the reason in a brief address. He said that as he was walking in the town attire in muff on the previous day a man belonging to the corps, who was the worse for liquor, accosted him rudely and asked him to stand him a drink. "Let him step out of the ranks," he concluded, immediately a bugler emerged and, saluting, said, "It is I, mon general."

LABRADOR. It is a Picturesque Country With Many Great Waterfalls. Labrador externally is forbidding and discouraging. She is not all moss covered rock, however. From a scenic point of view she has something to offer that will interest the world. Unfortunately it is possible to reach the country by water during only four months of the year. Dog sledges and snowshoes are the medium of travel the remainder of the year. There are no roads.

THE WATER LOTUS. A Plant That Has the Power of Purifying Standing Water. There is a plant growing in the southern waters of the United States which possesses the singular property of being able to render the most impure standing water perfectly healthy. The people of Louisiana and Mississippi call it the water lotus.

Occurs in Tea. When the tea is made and the lid of the teapot is forgotten for a minute or two it is a sure sign that some one will drop in for the meal. Two spoons put by chance into the saucer of a maid or a bachelor denote that he or she will be married within a year. Putting cream into your tea before you sweeten it will bring you love troubles. A tea stalk floating in a girl's teacup is "bean." She should stir her tea briskly and then hold the spoon upright in the center. If the "bean" be attracted toward the spoon and cling to it a gentleman visitor may be expected some time that evening. If, however, the "bean" goes to the side of the cup the visitor will not come that day.

Talismans in War. It was not at all unusual for soldiers and others who were exposed to danger to wear talismans by way of protection. A story which gained credence is told of a soldier in the time of the Prince of Orange. He was a Spanish prisoner, and on being condemned to be shot it was found that he was invulnerable. The soldiers stripped him to see what kind of armor he wore, but it was discovered that he was not protected in that way, but an amulet on which was the figure of a lamb was found on his person. This was taken away from him, and the shot took effect.

Costly Fire Extinguishers Useless. Scores of costly fire extinguishers and hundreds of fire buckets are picked up and destroyed every year by the agents of the insurance patrol. They are all rendered worthless by neglect. Acids which enter into the formula of most patent extinguishers eat away the tin coverings, and there is nothing to be done except to destroy the apparatus, because it becomes a peril in itself. The water buckets, which should be emptied and refilled at least once each week, simply rust out and become useless.—Philadelphia Press.

The Farm. Every farmer should own his farm. If he cannot own a large one, let him own what he can and gradually increase the size. Land ownership conduces to happiness, contentment and restfulness. One of the greatest hindrances to the prosperity of the tenant is that he is compelled to move frequently and therefore cannot accumulate.—Maxwell's Talisman.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Choosing a Pagoda. A strange festival was held long ago in Mandalay, the chief town of Burma, says Le Tour du Monde. A new pagoda, sacred to the Buddhist religion, was to be completed by the placing of a huge crown or thil upon its summit, more than 300 feet above the ground.

To witness the ceremonies came Buddhists from all Indo-China, from the Himalayas, from Laos and Chan and Siam. Warriors from Katschin, sorcerers from Miot and people from endless other places made a melody of languages like that at Babel.

Self Made Men in England. We hear so much of American capitalists of industry, of John D. Rockefeller, the farm laborer's son; of Edison, the newspaper boy, and of Yerkes, the youthful soap jobber, that we are apt to forget British giants of perseverance. Livingstone worked as a factory hand until twenty-five. The man who sought and found him in the wilds was born in a workhouse. The great firm of W. H. Smith & Sons was begun by two brothers so poor that the wife of one had to go into domestic service. The house of Tangye began in a little workshop whose rent was but 4 shillings a week. That of Lever Bros. had a scarcely more pretentious start at Bolton. A coffee stall on a London curb was the fountain and origin of Pearce & Plenty. Seven hundred pounds sterling once formed the total capital of the "universal" Whiteley. Bass' brewery was founded by a carrier and the Elder Dempster line of steamers by a ship's apprentice, now Sir Alfred Jones. The inventor of Bessemer steel was once a poor, almost starving boy in London, the poorer for having devoted his labor to an invention of whose profits the government robbed him. So one might go on throughout the whole range of our industries. It is the sergeant and the plain constable of life's affairs who have made this nation industrially great and carried its flag and fame to the ends of the earth.—St. James Gazette.

Dieting, Gains Weight. "I could easily subsist on \$2 a month," was the statement made by Henry Lobb, the North Fond du Lac jeweler who has been experimenting in dieting for several months at the suggestion of the professor of physical culture in the Ohio State university. Lobb, on account of his occupation, is able to carry his diet to extremes and last fall went for a week with no food at all. At the present time he consumes as a daily ration one gallon of milk, raw oats and as are fed to horses and corn. In order to aid digestion he puts his victuals through a coffee grinder and sometimes soaks them in water. He drinks all the water he cares for. In the summer time he eats fruit and takes salt, but no pepper and no sugar. He eats but two meals a day.

Cocooner Sent Through Mail. A letter carrier in the Louisville (Ky.) postoffice was surprised to find among the mail matter ready for his distribution a few days ago a large cocoon in all its natural hairy coverings. He thought at first that some one was trying to play a joke on him, but upon looking closely he discovered that the cocoon was duly stamped, postmarked and addressed to a young woman of his regular route. It had been sent from a Florida town and bore sixteen two-cent stamps to cover postage. At one spot the hair had been carefully scraped off, revealing a smooth surface, on which the address was written in ink. The unique mail parcel was promptly delivered to the young woman, and she later told the postman that it had lost nothing of its flavor by reason of its odd method of transmission.

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Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so.