

### Patriotism and Pay.

Talking of national emblems the other day while calling on a friend, I said I thought ours the most beautiful flag in the world, and that when abroad the sight of the stars and stripes made my heart jump for joy.

My friend's seamstress, who was sewing in the room, remarked, somewhat sadly:

"You would lose some of your patriotism if you made those same flags, as my sister does."

"Why?" I demanded.

"Because," was the reply, "you'd have to live on bread and salt. The white stars are set on the blue ground by hand. There are forty-five, I think. They are placed on both sides alike, so that makes ninety to be basted and telled on, and it must be done neatly, too."

"The pay is from sixty to seventy-five cents for that portion of the flag, and by working from morning till night as hard as she can, my poor sister, who is a quick sewer, can just finish one in a day, for which she receives sixty cents."

"She says she can't say hurrah for the red, white and blue with much fervor."—N. Y. Recorder.

### A Congressional Count.

The four-year-old and seven-year-old sons of a western congressman were playing with a set of numeral blocks and their mother was watching their innocent sport.

"Oh, mamma!" exclaimed the younger one, "I can count; listen;" and he rattled off: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king."

The mother was inexpressibly shocked, but before she had time to say anything the older boy put in:

"Why, Harry," he said, "that's wrong."

"Very wrong; very wrong," sighed the mother.

"Cert," went on the older boy. "This is the right way," and as the mother waited for the correction by her older child he dashed into this: "Duce, tray, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king, ace."

That night the mother had a conference with the congressman.—Detroit Free Press.

### Dyeing Burglars.

Burglars broke one night into the workshop of a dyer in Koslin, and had got together a pretty large-sized package of valuable dye-stuffs when the dyer, awakened by the noise, appeared on the scene, armed with a double-shooter. As he entered the door he espied two men skurrying off to the other end of the dye-house. At the summons, "Stand, or I fire!" they both jumped into a vat which they thought empty, but which was filled with some color liquid. Standing in the blue bath, they both cried for mercy. The dyer, however, took aim, and they ducked under, but soon came up again and earnestly entreated pardon. But the relentless dyer gave them the benefit of a few extra dips, and then turned them out into the street without giving notice to the police. The story got wind in Koslin, and everybody knows the indigo-dyed scoundrels. They are likely to remain men of mark for some time to come.—Vermischtes.

### POPULAR SCIENCE.

At the head of the gulf of Bothnia there is a mountain on the summit of which the sun shines perpetually during the five days June 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

There is a certain island in the Baltic sea to whose inhabitants the body of the sun is clearly visible in the morning before he arises, and likewise in the evening after he is set.

The central Sahara registers a mean of 97 degrees in July. Central Australia boasts of 94 degrees in January—a mean which is attained in South Carolina and inner Arabia in midsummer.

There is a certain village in the kingdom of Naples situated in a very low valley, and yet the sun is nearer to the inhabitants thereof every noon by 3,000 miles than when he riseth or setteth to those of the said village.

There are two observable places belonging to Asia, both lying under the same meridian and in a small distance of each other, and yet the respective

inhabitants of them in reckoning their time differ an entire day every week.

THE theory that the deepest place in the ocean will be found to correspond almost exactly with the height of the highest mountain has been disproved within the last year, ocean depths 10,000 feet deeper than the height of Mount Everest having been found.

### A Stylish Corpse.

"She was the most stylish corpse," we heard a woman remark the other day in speaking of a leader of fashion lately deceased, and, prompted by curiosity, we inquired what went to make up a "stylish corpse."

"Oh!" replied the gusher, with no hesitation, "she wore a black velvet gown with point lace trimmings, and her eyebrows penciled and cheeks and lips rouged, besides having her hair done in the most delightful fashion possible. Positively, to be such a beautiful corpse was worth dying for."

To our prosaic mind the solemnity of death seemed to have been robbed of all its grandeur and force by the artificial trappings and adornments of the complexion specialist; yet in this age of fads the time is not far off when just such caprices may be expected, for if fashion sets the pace there will be, besides other modish follies, fads in funerals that will probably be even more ridiculous than the others.—Philadelphia Times.

### Too Cheap.

Some people value a pet grievance far above money or anything which money can buy. A good many years ago there lived in Washington a United States naval officer who thought himself unjustly treated by the naval retiring board and made incessant complaint about it to his brother officers.

"Well, Sam," said one of his friends, who was a little worn out by hearing the same story over and over, "why in the world do you submit to it, if it is so? There is a man here who will investigate it for twenty dollars, and may correct it."

"What!" ejaculated the complaining officer, whose reasoning powers had evidently become a little confused through meditation on his wrongs, "do you suppose for one instant that I would take twenty dollars for a grievance like this? You don't know me!"—Youth's Companion.

### Baby Jack's Theology.

The doctrine of original sin is a difficult one to controvert, taking the world at large into consideration, but it is one which Baby Jack, aetat twenty-three months, steadily and sturdily refuses to admit into his theology. He says: "Now I lay me," with the utmost fervor and in a language of his own, which only the audacity of a mother would claim to mean anything. He asks: "Dod" to "b'ess" every one of his relatives to the forty-fourth degree, not forgetting his pet cat and "Hoo-Polly," the unclean rag-doll, but when mamma prompts: "Please make Jack a good boy," Master Jack says: "Das" in response as earnest as that of any good Methodist brother. "Das" means "yes," and Jack thinks he is a good boy, and no moral suasion can induce him to suggest to Providence that there is the slightest necessity for making over.—N. Y. Recorder.

### FATHERS OF GREAT MEN.

NAPOLEON's father was a citizen of very humble means.

ASHMOLE, the great antiquarian, was a saddler's son.

MARSHAL BERNADOTTO was the son of a provincial notary.

THE father of Barry, the historical painter, was a sailor.

MARSHAL NEY was a cooper's son, and himself a notary.

THE father of Adrian, the ascetic pontiff, was a laborer.

SAUSSURE, the naturalist, was the son of a Swiss farmer.

VIRGIL's father was a porter, and for many years a slave.

MASSILLON, the great French preacher, was a notary's son.

WYATT, the great architect, was the son of a farm laborer.

THE father of Niebuhr, the historian, was a farm laborer.

PLAUTUS, the Latin Shakespeare, was the son of a freedman.

### WARRIORS OF THE WORLD.

A SON of Gen. Pope and grandsons of Gen. Sherman and Gen. C. F. Smith were among the latest entries as cadets at West Point.

CAPT. CHARLES H. HEYL, of the Twenty-third infantry, has been detailed to represent the war department exhibit at the world's fair.

FLIES are so pestilential in Siam that every soldier is compelled to assist in reducing their number by catching enough of them every day to fill a match box.

By a recently issued decree all soldiers of the Russian empire must in future use handkerchiefs, which have heretofore been restricted to the officers.

THE Prussian army is said to contain but one officer from the ranks—Col. Lademann, who was promoted for acts of exceptional bravery in the Schleswig-Holstein campaign in 1864. He has just been gazetted commander of the Sixtieth infantry.

THERE is a population of 70,000 in Iceland, yet the only military force employed consists of two policemen, stationed at the capital, Reykjavic, and the only two lawyers in the island are the state's attorney, as he may be called, and another, who is on hand to defend anybody that may be put on trial.

### RUMBLINGS ON THE RAILS.

TRAINS in Russia run twenty-two miles an hour.

GREAT BRITAIN is reported to have 16,800 locomotives.

ON several of the railroads in Russia iron telegraph poles are to be substituted for wooden ones.

MEXICO has 22,500 miles of telegraph and 6,000 of railroad. A district messenger service will soon be introduced.

THE life of a locomotive crank pin, which is almost the first thing about an engine to wear out, is 60,000 miles, and the life of a 33-inch wheel is 66,733 miles.

THE Japanese government contemplates the construction of six lines of railway, aggregating 800 miles in length. The purchase of the private railways by the state is also projected.

ON foggy winter days English railroads employ thousands of extra hands to place detonating signals on rails, the ordinary semaphores being invisible. A new method of signalling is by an electric bell on the locomotive, a contact device causing each signal station to sound automatically the number of beats required to tell whether to stop or proceed.

### SPARKS AND FLASHES.

PLOWING by electricity is in contemplation for a large property in Central Spain.

THE Pennsylvania railroad is equipping its anthracite collieries with electric light plants, and will cut coal twenty-four hours a day.

THE importance of electricity on modern steamships is shown by the fact that the new English battleship, Royal Sovereign, has no less than eight hundred electric lights and thirty miles of wire.

A CANADIAN electrician states that electricity causes the tides and demonstrates it by electrifying a rubber comb by rubbing it through the hair and then drawing it over the top of a glass filled with water, the result being that the tidal wave follows the comb.

IT is said that a man in Columbus, O., has patented an electric device intended to automatically lower and raise railroad gates at grade crossings at the approach and after the passing of trains. The apparatus is expected to entirely supplant flagmen and gatetenders.

### AUTHOR'S CHAT.

WILHELMINE HENSEL, a relative of Mendelssohn, and a woman of some repute as a poet, celebrated her ninetieth birthday at Potsdam a few days ago.

OUIDA, the novelist, is distinguished for the exquisite beauty of her hands and feet. She constantly wears thin, dainty slippers and abbreviated sleeves.

WHEN Lord Tennyson was asked to read his works aloud he almost invariably selected the "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" and after that "Maud."

THERE is one form of inheritance that few people enjoy, and that is the fruits

of one's father's books. One lucky man is Dumas, who gets about \$10,000 a year from his great father's novels.

THE birthplace of Lord Tennyson, in Lincolnshire, England, has just been offered for sale. This beautiful old manor is said to be "The Moated Grange" which his poetic genius made so famous.

THE poet Rogers, whose hospitality was proverbial, has the credit of establishing the breakfast party as a link in London society. The "mornings" at his house are famous among the literati of England.

### A SOLDIER'S CORNER.

THE oldest British soldier is Sir Patrick Grant, aged eighty-eight years.

GUN caps were first used in 1822 in the British army.

THE armies of the civilized nations of the world number 3,600,000. Besides the loss of their time and labor, they cost at least \$1,000 a year for each soldier, and that amounts to \$3,600,000,000.

HENRY PACKARD, of Rockland, Sullivan county, N. Y., a veteran of the war of 1812, in which he served as a drummer boy, has just received from the General Society of the War of 1812 a bronze medal. Mr. Packard is lame to this day from a wound received in a skirmish.

A MAINE veteran who marched in the procession at Washington has forty-eight scars, an empty sleeve and an artificial eye to prove that he was in the late unpleasantness. His name is J. F. Chase, a member of the old Fifth battery of the Pine Tree state.

### WELL UP IN YEARS.

BUEDINGER, in Hesse, Germany, boasts of a laborer who has celebrated his 101st birthday.

AMONG Sir William Harcourt's supporters at Derby were two voters said to be 102 and 103 years of age.

DAVID WADE, of Enterprise, Ky., has been married to Mrs. Elizabeth Garvin at Wellston, O. Their ages aggregate 182 years. The bridegroom has passed the century mark.

NO DEATH has occurred in the family of Rev. Samuel Wakefield, of Latrobe, Pa., in 61 years. He is in his 94th year; his wife is a few years his junior; they were married in 1821, and have ten children.

MRS. ELIZABETH STANTON died a few days ago in Patton township, Center county, Pa., at the age of 117 years. She was of American-Indian stock, and was famed for feats of strength and endurance in her old age.

### OF ROYAL BIRTH.

DUCHESS DA MONTPENSIER, sister of Queen Isabella, is a great grand-mother at 55.

QUEEN VICTORIA's new dining-room at Osborne cost \$100,000. She paid for it herself.

ABU BUKAR, the sultan of Johore, who will visit the world's fair next season, is about 65 years of age, a man of progressive views and worth about \$20,000,000.

MARQUIS GUICCIOLI, the new Italian ambassador at Berlin, is a grand nephew of the beautiful Countess Guiccioli, the friend of Byron. The marquis was formerly mayor of Rome.

THE czar is said, on what London papers quote as the authority of his English physician at St. Petersburg, to have lately grown thin and nervous. There is nothing bracing and fattening about being the czar of Russia.

### THE FIRST.

THE Babylonians first divided the hour and minute into sixty parts.

THE first book imported from Europe was brought over by John Sabin, of Philadelphia.

ALJEZIRI ALHAMBALI says coffee was first made known as a beverage in 870 of the Hegira.

ABRAHAM presented his son's wife with a pair of earrings, the first of which there is historic mention.

THE first railroad to use the steam locomotive regularly in this country was the South Carolina railroad in 1831.

THE first French newspaper, the Gazette de France, was started in 1631 by Theophraste Renaudot. He also established the first Mont de Piété.