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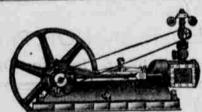
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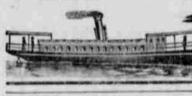


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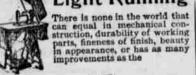
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THE LARGEST LENS. The Splendid Achievement of an Amer

The Clarks have accomplished what has long been regarded as an impossible thing, and one which no European manufacturer of lenses could be induced to attempt. This is the making of a perfect lens of more than three feet across the face. No one but this American manufacturer ever thought of exceeding the twenty-six-inch lenses which are in use at several observatories on both continents, one at the naval ob-servatory at Washington, through which Mr. Hall discovered the longsought satellites of Mars and many double stars. The highest power was supposed to be reached when the Lick telescope in California was put up with a thirty-six-inch lens. The difficulties to be met in the production of a perfectly clear lens of great size are so many that the European observers who have wanted anything above the twenty-six-inch lens have had to take the reflecting telescope, which has a concave mir-ror. It requires, of course, a much larger reflecting telescope to get the same amount of light and the same

magnitude of object. The making of this forty-one and a half-inch lens, says the New York Commercial Advertiser, is regarded as the crowning work of Mr. Alvan Clark's life. It is probable no larger lens will ever be made. Under existing conditions a larger telescope than the Yerkes—the telescope of the Chicago university observatory for which the lens is made-would be of no great value. To increase the magnifying power is at the same time to increase the obstructions to clear vision. When the object is magnified the atmospheric agitation is increased to such a degree that distinctness is virtually sacrificed when the object glass is larger than forty-one and a half-inches. It is loubtful if the Yerkes will be any more useful than the Lick. Some day it may be possible to remove the obstacles to clearness in the case of a powerful lens, though the only reason for suggesting it is that Prof. Tyndall was able to construct a glass by which the blue of the atmosphere was dissi-pated in looking through a deep space. If the Yerkes glass answers expecta-tions it will enable an experienced observer to catch occasional glimpses of the Mars canals, which, though drawn armly on the Vatican maps, are vague and wavering and almost imaginary through any glass. They can be seen at all only by the trained observer. The great telescope will be most useful in the study of double stars, which is now a matter of special interest to

many observers. Continuous Rails a Necessity. A serious trouble, causing many railroad accidents, is that our rail is not continuous, being broken in a number of places by switches and frogs. Perhaps only a higher wisdom than ours can tell us how to avoid accidents caused by open switches, as long as these dangerous devices are not elim inated from the track. This should be done, even if the cost of otherwise setting off the cars be more expensive. Let us make our rails absolutely continuous, says the Engineering Magazine, and transfer cars bodily to adja-cent tracks by the use of hoisting machinery. Such devices are used in Eng- siller." land-of course under the control of a block system-and are found very safe and satisfactory. Particularly should tracks on which very fast trains are run be made continuous, as accidents to such trains are much more serious than those that happen to slow trains.

Steel Ropes Known in Pompell. While conducting a series of tests with a one hundred-ton testing machine at the Yorkshire college in England, which included the testing of a steel wire rope, Prof. Goodman stated that such ropes were not a modern invention, and that he had recently seen a bronze wire rope one-half inch in diameter and from twenty to thirty feet long, which had been found buried in the ruins of Pompeli, and which must have been at least nineteen hundred

TO THE EDITOR:—I have an absolute remedy for Consumption. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been already permanently cured. So proof-positive am I of its power that I consider it my duty to send two bottles free to those of your readers who have Consumption, Throat, Bronchial or Lung Trouble, if they will write me their express and postoffice address. Sincerely, T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 183 Pearl St., Rew York.

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CRUELTY TO A CORONER. in English Policeman Treats Him with

The police of Denbigshire area grace less and irreverent lot, says London Truth. One of their number at Wrexham lately spied a chimney on fire at the residence of W. Wyan Evans and straightway took out a summons for the offense. If Mr. Evans had been an ordinary citizen this would have been a proper proceeding. But Mr. Evans is not an ordinary citizen, and he speedily reminded the chief constable of the

"I am, as you are aware," wrote Mr. Evans, "one of her majesty's coroners of this county. By virtue of my office I am also a magistrate for the county. Do you suppose that it can do the po-lice any good, or further the cause of law and order in this borough, that I should be subjected to the indignity of being fined one shilling and costs for a technical breach of an obscure provision of the public health act for which personally I am no more responsible than you are? I come into almost daily relationship with your officers in the conduct of my official duties as coroner. Hitherto this relationship has been a pleasant one and free from any friction. Is it wise on your part to create a feeling of a grievance on my part and 'bad blood' on both sides?"

This is sufficient to show the coroner's sense of dignity and calm judicial temper, but there was a further hint that, if the summons were proceeded with, he might make things disagreeable for the police. Instead of trying to appease the affronted official the chief constable replied that he considered the letter "in the worst possible taste. The police," he added, "cannot favor one and punish another." However, the magistrates can-and they dismissed the summons.

HONOR AMONG GAMINS. Touching Story Related of the Boot-

blacks of Glasgow. A gentleman, going through a crowded part of the city of Glasgow, Scotland, noticed a palefaced little boot-black waiting for hire. Touched by the delicate look of the child, he thought he would give him the blacking of his boots to do. Accordingly, says the Children's Record, he gave the little fellow the signal. The boy at once crept lamely toward the gentle-

man, and, as he pulled himself along, was nimbly supplanted by another little bootblack, who was immediately at the gentleman's feet and already to "What's this for?" said the gentle-

man to the intruder, somewhat angrily. "It's a' richt," said the newcomer, brightly. "Jamie's jist a wee while oot o' the hospital, and the rest o' us take turns aboot o' brushin' for him."

Jamie smiled pleasantly by way of assuring the gentleman that his comrade's story was true. The gentleman was so gratified by

his act of brotherly kindness that he gave Jamie's friend a whole shilling for his work, telling him to give sixpence to Jamie and keep the other sixpence to himself. "Na, na, sir," quickly replied this little hero, giving the shilling to Jamie

sir; nane o' us ever take ony o' Jamie's MESSENGERS OF THE SKY. About the Remarkable Kites Made by the

and hurrying from the spot-"na, na,

Japanese and Chinese In the making of kites shape is no consideration. A square, circle, man, star, fish, dragon, horse or shield will fly equally well, but they must be equally proportioned. In Japan one sees a whole menagerie at once in the air-horses, cows, monkeys, bats, fishes, crows and snakes, as well as dragons, babies which cry, boys with their arms and legs spread out, hunters and sol-

"Fighting kites" are seen everywhere in both China and Japan.

The armed kite is usually made about two and a half feet high and covered with cambric or silk. The tail may be made of strips of bright-colored cloth about one inch wide, securely tied in the middle to a strong twine. The destructive part of this kite lies in the tail, to which are attached sharp pieces of broken glass called knives. Fasten three of these knives together with wax, so that each shall point in a different direction, bind on three slips of thin wood lengthwise to hold the wax and glass firmly, and cover with cloth or kid.

A much simpler weapon is made by dipping the ten feet of string next to the kite in glue and then rolling it in pounded glass until thickly coated with a glistening armor of sharp points. The object with both is, of course, to cut your opponent's string. The skillful maneuvering which this requires is very good practice in training one to act quickly. It is considered dishonorable to cut an unarmed kite.

QUEER MEXICAN MONEY. Traveler Many Years Agn Gets His Ex-

change in Scap. Here is an amusing account from Harper's Round Table of a traveler who went many years ago to Mexico, and found the natives using a strange kind of currency. Says he:
"In one of the small towns I bought

some limes, and gave the girl one dollar in payment. By way of change, she returned me forty-nine pieces of soap the size of a small biscuit. I looked at her in astonishment, and she returned my look with equal surprise, when a police office, who had witnessed the incident, hastened to inform me that for small sums soap was legal tender in nany portions of the country.

"I examined my change, and found that each cake was stamped with the name of a town and of a manufacture authorized by the government. The cakes of soap were worth three farthngs each. Afterwards, in my travel, frequently received similar change. Many of the cakes showed signs of hav-ing been in the wash-tub; but that I discovered was not at all uncommon. orided the stamp was not obliterated, the soap did not lose any value as currency. Occasionally a man would borrow a cake of a friend, wash his hands and return it with thanks. I will be seasoned the made use of my pieces more than once in my bath, and subsequently spent

Experiments have recently been made to decide how far spiders can see. and as a result of these investigations it has been determined that they have a range of vision of at least a feet.

ALL HER HUBBY'S. she Had No Children-Why the Agent Got

Such a nice quiet neighborhood! They had just moved into one of the new, spotless, shining, "no children alflats and the agent was delighted with his new tenants, says the New York Recorder. Such nice peo-ple! So refined and quiet! They would be sure to raise the standard of the building—not a dog or cat in the family; no musical instruments; and the lady of the house had assured him that she had no children.

Before he had eaten breakfast the following morning his joy received a setback and by noon he was in de-

First one of the other new people in the flats dropped in, then another and still another, until all the families but one had been represented, and they were unanimous in their complaints of the noise made by the children in the flat of that especially nice couple.

So the agent went and his hair stood on end when he heard the noise coming from that flat. But when he knocked at the door it suddenly subsided and when the woman appeared she was so calm and quiet-looking that he hesitated and his courage would undoubtedly have weakened if he had not seen a couple of childish faces peeping at him around the door. That settled it. He gathered his forces together and began the attack without delay or quarter.

"Madam," he said, with what he believed to be a withering glance: "Madam, I thought you told me you had no children. Whose are these I

"Not mine," she answered, calmly; "I have none, but my husband has six."

OILED DOWN.

An Operation That It Is Frequently Nec essary in Case of Elephants. To the general public the elephant house in the Central park menagerie was a closed house. The fact was, says the New York Tribune, the elephants, at least two of them, were to

be oiled down. This is necessary from the fact that the caged elephant cannot from day to day throw great sprays of water over his thick hide and so keep it from cracking, as he would do if in his native forest, and so it was determined to anoint these great pachvderms with neatsfoot oil.

Small Tom was the first to be experimented on and obeyed orders to turn to this side or the other more meekly than a fractious babe. He was anointed fore and aft, only trumpeting when his legs were being attended to. The reporter was in the pen and helped to hold up the legs of the animal while "Billy" Snyder rubbed in the oil, and it was a wonderful illustration of man's power over the lower brutes. Tom or his bedroom partner, Jonas, could in a moment have killed the two men in the pen, but as each was being operated on, except for twining the proboscis round the nearest leg in a sort of grateful kiss, these great beasts seemed thoroughly to understand that man, who had made him captive, was trying his best to ameliorate his condition. When all was over the elephants stood up glossy and black, and if ever one elephant spoke to another in cornful tones it could be gleaned from the eyes of those two elephants who looked at one another.

A Bamboo Organ A bamboo organ has been built for the Jesuits' church at Shanghai, and is said to surpass organs made of metal. As bamboo can be obtained of all dimensions, from the thickness of a pen to pieces of a foot in diameter, this natural material costs little more than the simple labor, and the notes are beautifully soft and pleasant to the ear.



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