Cleopatra's Needle.

HOW THE GREAT MONOLITH WILL BE TRANSPORTED ACROSS SEAS.

There is now a reasonable probability that before many weeks elapse Cleopatra's Needle will be *en route* for England. The monolith has been handed over to Mr. Dixon's agent, whose men have commenced the necessary work for its removal. I informed you on the 20th of April that Mr. Carter, Mr. Dixon's agent, had arrived here, and had obtained from Mr. Demetrio, the owner of the ground on which the obelisk lies buried in the sand, a promise of permission to remove it, provided the Egyptian Government and the British Consul General authorized Mr. Carter to take possession. A document to this effect having been obtained at Cairo, Mr. Demetrio, although he considers he has a pecuniary claim against the Egyptian Government in respect to the obelisk, has handed over absolute possession to Mr. Carter on behalf of Mr. Dixon and the British nation.

It is only fair to Mr. Demetrio, who is himself an eminent antiquarian, to explain why there has been some little delay and diplomacy on his part. Many years ago the land on which the Needle lies was sold by the Egyptian Government to an Italian, who afterwards resold it to Mr. Demetrio. In the sale no conditions were made as to the obelisk, but when Mr. Demetrio wished to build on the land in question, the Egyptian Government stepped in and said: "No; you must not remove the obelisk, which we have given to the British Government." As the British Gouernment did not remove it, the land has for years been rendered valueless to Mr. Demetrio. Morally, therefore, Mr. Demetrio seems to be entitled to compensation from some one; but as he is unable to establish a legal claim against the Egyptian Government (for he has tried and failed), and does not pretend to any against the British Government, the monument has been graciously given up.

The Needle is 69 feet long and 8 feet square—not uniformly, but the base. It weighs about 220 tons, and lies in the sand about 15 feet above high-water line. To get this mass safely into the sea and across the sea, it is intended to build up around it on shore a cylinderical iron case or ship, and then to roll the entire mass, nearly 300 tons, into the Mediterranean, and when the necessary ballasting and additions have been made to the ship in dry dock, to have her towed to England. The iron vessel is now being made at the Thames Iron Works, and when ready will be sent out here in pieces, to be built around the obelisk, under the superintendence of Mr. Wyman, brother to Mr. John Dixon, the enterprising designer and contractor. The vessel must be considerably longer than the obelisk, because of the shape of the stone. It will be ninety-two feet long and fifteen feet in diameter, with plates ¾ inch thick. It will be divided into nine water-tight compartments by eight bulkheads; total weight of iron, 75 tons.

To lift the end of the obelisk jacks of immense power will have to be sent from England, and after the cylinder is built tremendous tackle will be required to roll it into the sea. It will float in nine feet of water, and to reach this depth it must be rolled 400 feet. Once afloat and in dock it will be fitted with bilge keels, rudder and steering gear. It will be cutter rigged, with one mast and two sails, and will have a deck house for Mr. Carter, who will have charge of it on the voyage; for, although it will be in tow of a steamer, it will be in every respect a ship, and able to take care of itself for a time in case of accident or breaking away from the tow lines, which are to be of steel wire. There will be four or five men on board to make sail, pump bilge water, trim lights and make signals in case of need. In the opinion of eminent engineers the plan proposed is admirably adapted for the work to be done, and Mr. Dixon's confidence is shown in the fact that should he fail to complete his work, he will receive nothing for his outlay and trouble. If, however, the undertaking is a success, the entire expense will be borne by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, the eminent surgeon.

Immense care and nicety will have to be exerted in obtaining the necessary strength and rigidity; the obelisk must be so packed, forming with the iron cylinder one solid mass, so as to avoid any strain from the rolling into the water, or from the heavy working of the ship afterwards. I presume the most anxious part of the work will be to get the vessel and her precious cargo into the sea. Once afloat other difficulties will be mastered. Three thousand five hundred years ago this obelisk formed one of the pillars in front of the great Temple of Tum (the setting sun) at Hellopolis (near Cairo), and was brought to Alexandria during the reign of Cleopatra. No account exists as to the appliances used; but if this and larger monuments could be safely moved about some 1,600 B. C., it is not possible to doubt our ability to do likewise in the nineteenth century A. D.—*Alexandria Letter to the Scotsman.*

QUEEN VICTORIA'S WEALTH.—What Queen Victoria leaves behind her will never be known, because the wills of sovereigns are not proved, but those who have carefully considered the subject are of opinion that she must, since the Prince Consort's death, have saved at the very least £100,000 a year. Not only has she lived so quietly that a large proportion of her £385,000 a year income must be saved, but it is to be remembered that Mr. Nield left her £500,000 which, at four per cent., would give £20,000 a year, and she receives £43,000 a year from her Duchy of Lancaster. The crown lands given up to the country in lieu of a parliamentary annual grant, have of late years been so ably and economically managed that their revenue covers the royal allowance, and these crown lands were as much the property of the sovereign as the lands of the Duke of Devonshire, or any other landholder, are his. If the country choose to make the most of these lands by cutting up, say, the New Forrest, and selling it in lots, and adopting a similar plan with other outlying possessions of the crown, it would make money out of the royal family. The revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall has risen from £22,000 in 1324 to £75,000, and increases annually about £3,000, so that the next Prince of Wales will probably be independent of a parliamentary grant. Queen Victoria is probably saving with a view of rendering her family as independent as the wealth of the Duke de Penthievre rendered the house of Orleans, and made Louis Phillipe, in consequence, the cheapest of French kings.—*Washington Capital.*

Russian visiting cards are two feet long.

Some Japanese Usages.

The sovereign remedy for all ailments is shampooning, and he who inherits the trade is blind in his childhood for the sake of modesty. Shampooners are in constant demand; at almost every corner one is met, feeling his way by the aid of a long staff, and blowing the whistle that designates his avocation. The women have graceful, modest bearing; in public never forward. In marriage they shave the eyebrows and stain the teeth as a tribute to the husband's honor. In all towns, except at seaports frequented by foreigners, the public baths are used by both sexes in common.

Among the better classes great care is taken in the education of women, and time, pains, and patience are expended upon music. History, romance, and instructive facts are imparted by traditionary poetry that is sung to accompaniment of the samisen, an instrument not unlike the banjo, but with a square body. The vocalization is harsh and disagreeable.

Crime is speedily and severely rebuked. The capital punishments are harukiri, beheading, and for parricide and the gravest offenses, crucifixion. The haru-kiri has been much modified of late; it is reserved for state offenders, to whom some consideration is due, but death demanded. Ordinarily the execution takes place in a temple or at the palace of some Daimio, who is ordered to superintend the ceremony. A friend or second is selected, who stands by the offender with a drawn sword, the katana a salver is then offered the principal, in which lies the knife for disemboweling, and as he seizes it the second cleaves off his head at a blow. This is a humane modification of the method requiring the principal to cut into his abdomen before decapitation. This form, without interposition of a second, is quite popular as a method of seeking death when overpowered by grief for a lost friend or patron, or to oppose a sea of troubles. Beheading malefactors is done by a state agent, who has distinguished himself in military life. The victim is bound in a kneeling posture, and the executioner, standing behind, delivers a blow with the sword that severs the head. This is then exposed on a crossbeam by the roadside. In crucifixion, the culprit is bound to a cross with thongs, and, after a prescribed time of agonized exposure, life is tapped with spears. The Tokaido, the great thoroughfare of Japan, is thus ornamented with trophies of justice to terrify the ill-disposed and to assure the upright.

Sword-making is considered an honorable occupation, and a connoiseur of blades can identify the handiwork of a celebrated maker with the certainty some of us recognize the painting of an old master. To fashion clothes, make sandals and household utensils is ignoble and confined to the etas, a prescribed class—*F. P. Anderson's "Around the World in Six Months."*

THE TORTURES OF THE BASTINADO.—"T. H." writes to the London *Times:*—"I am boiling over with indignation while reading the account of the fearful bastinading of the unfortunate Ali Nasmi, narrated in your Pera correspondence. A few days ago I was reading an account of this punishment inflicted many years since on an unfortunate Englishman. As many of our readers may not be fully aware of the horrible nature of this torture, I give the account in the victims own words. I am led to ask how it is possible that in our day such barbarous cruelty can be perpetrated for so small an offense as the poor student was guilty of, and which he so magnanimously owned? The writer says: 'The victim was thrown flat on his face and his legs bent up, so that the soles of his feet were horizontal; the feet were held in this position by a long staff and chain. At first the blows were moderately dealt, then they were laid on more roughly, and every stroke felt like the application of a red-hot poker. At first the pain was excruciating, but the feelings in time became numb and it was like beating a bag of wool. It was six weeks before he could walk, even with crutches, and for more than three years his feet and ankles were very much swoolen, and, though about twenty years had elasped when he published this account he still suffered. He mentions instances of the bastinado having been applied for three days successively, and, if the person survived, the feet were rendered useless for life; but, in general, he observes, when between 500 and 600 strokes were inflicted death was the consequence."

A CRAZY EARL.—The Earl of Dudley is a British nobleman who, if he were not a British nobleman, would be extremely apt to be adjudged a lunatic. His eccentricities are as incomputable as his income, and London society never has the least idea what he will do next. Some years ago he amused himself by sending out invitations to a ball at his mansion, in three colors, pink, white and crimson. As the guests arrived they were shown into different parts of the building, and the result was that before the evening was far advanced his lordship was discovered to have sent white cards to all the women of the world about whom scandal had never whispered a word, pink cards to all those about whom scandal had succeeded in raising doubts, and crimson cards to all those about whom scandal had left nobody room to entertain any doubts at all. It may be imagined how popular the earl was made by this ingenious proceeding. His latest freak was performed the other day. He determined to give a ball and issued invitations upon vast gilt cards. A few days before the festivity a lady who had been honored with one of these cards received a letter from him informing her that he had seen her somewhere in dark apparel, and that she must either lay aside her mourning or deny herself the pleasure of attending his ball. The lady in question enthusiastically accepted the latter alternative. On the morning of the ball another lady, who had been the recipient of one of the gilt cards, received a letter to the same effect, written, not by the earl himself, but by his private secretary.—*N. Y. World.*

FOND OF LARKS.—An English nobleman had a house porter who was an enormous eater. "Frank," said he, one day, "tell me how many loins you could eat?" "Ah, my Lord, as for loins, not many, five or six at most." "And how many legs of mutton?" "Ah, as for legs of mutton, not many; seven or eight, perhaps." "And fat pullets?" "Ah, as for pullets, my Lord, not many; not more than a dozen." "And pigeons?" "Ah, as for pigeons, not many; perhaps forty—fifty at most—according to my appetite." "And larks?" "Ah, as for that, my Lord—little larks—*forever*, my Lord—*forever*."

Beating a "Bobtail."

A tall man, with cowhide boots up to his knees, a red beard down to his waist and a white slouched hat on the back of his head, stepped into a Bleecker street car yesterday afternoon. The car was one of those poke-your-money-through-a-hole-in-the-door-and-drop-your-fare-in-the-box arrangements which so delight the way-faring man, though a fool. The tall stranger glanced nervously around, and seeing the sign, "Pay Here," chucked a ten cent piece down the hole, to show that he knew all about the matter. Then to his horror he discovered that the fare was only five cents. He saw the hole in the door and the cheering description "Change" upon the trap.

"High, cap!" said he to the driver, thrusting an immense paw through the hole, "rustle out that change."

The driver gazed abstractedly at the new Court House on Chambers street, took several turns at the brake, glanced at his watch to see if he was on time, took a fresh chew of tobacco, and then turned round to make the change. He saw only an empty palm.

"What are you givin' us?" said he.

"Nuthin'," said the red-headed man, sententiously. "I want you to give me five cents change."

"Where's yer fare?" asked the driver, leering affectionately at the ten cent piece in the box.

"Why, thar's ten cents in that contraption thar, an' I want you to just hump out my change."

"Can't do it; against orders. Should 'a got change, first," said the driver, with a fiendish grin, turning his attention to the navigation of Lombard street.

"By jimmani,!" shouted the red-headed man; "can't I get my five cents? I'll take it out o' that fellow's hide, an' then I'll see the President of the company an' make him refund the money."

"Don't do that," said a man with a white tie; "I know a better way—don't pay next time!"

"But Je—rusalem! sir, I'm going to the Black Hills, an' I hope I may die if I ever come back to New York."

"I'll settle it for you," said a gentleman who had just stepped in; "here's my five cents; you take it, and I won't pay anything."

"That's the ticket," said the red-headed man. "I don't care a damn for the five cents, but it does grovel me like thunder to be gouged. Come gents," said he to the passengers, "let's all get off and take a drink."

The driver glowering through the window, saw the transaction, and knew that Nemisis had overtaken him. However, he rang the bell which announces a defaulter on the car, but the passengers only laughed at the tintinnabulations of the bell, bell, bell, at the moaning and the groaning of the bell.—*New York World.*

A WELL-MANAGED SWINDLE.—Yesterday a man clad in the garb and having the general style of the fronteersman, called at Mr. Eppstein's pawnbroker's office, on the corner of Woodward and Jefferson avenues, and said he would like to make a dicker.

"Well, sir, what can I do for you?" inquired the urbane attendant.

"I've got some gold here," said the stranger. "I'm hard up, and want to raise some money on this 'ere pile."

He took from an inner breast pocket a small pasteboard box, carefully lifted the cover off, and disclosed to the pawnbroker a handful of gold nuggets.

"Where did you get that?" inquired the pawnbroker.

"Dug 'er myself," was the reply.

"How much do you want for it?"

"Oh," returned the miner, "I don't want to sell it; only want to make a temporary raise. I guess $150 will see me through for a few days, and when I git home I'll send for it."

The pawnbroker tested one of the nuggests, found it twenty-one carat gold, and after weighing it and finding the pile worth $174, he offered to advance $100 on it.

"Twon't do, mister," said the visitor; "I must have $150 or nothing."

"One hundred dollars is all I can lend you on it," replied the pawnbroker, handing back the box and its precious contents.

The owner replaced the cover and his treasure back into his pocket and started toward the door. At the threshold he halted, appeared to be debating with himself for a moment, and at length turned again to the pownbroker.

"Well," said he, with a careless air, "take it and give me the $100. I'll make that do." With that he handed out the box once more, received a ticket and $100 in cash and disappeared. An hour later Mr. Eppstein thought he would have a look at the gold, and took it out of the safe. To make assurance doubly sure, he again tested it. The first nugget proved to be silver, very neatly gilded. Another and another were examined in like manner until the whole had been gone through, and every nugget was found to be of the same character, the whole being worth a fraction over four dollars.

The trick was now transparent. The pretended miner was in reality a very clever swindler, who had two boxes, one containing the pure gold and the other the gilded silver, which he exchanged at the time he pretended to decline the offer of $100. He made his escape, and Mr. Eppstein philosophically pocketed his loss of $96.—*Detroit Free Press.*

PROTECTION.—All orchards and fruit gardens, whether of young or old trees, should be carefully protected agaiust the depredations of cattle or other animals. Good fences to secure them are indispensible, as it is utter folly to expend time and money in planting and rearing a fine orchard, and then allow animals to disfigure, maim and destroy the trees. Cattle, horses, or sheep should never be allowed to run in orchards; nor should swine be admitted except at intervals of very short periods, in order that they may have time only to eat up the fallen fruit, and not bark the trees or root up the ground. In some sections birds are great depredators upon fruit, but as a general thing they do more good in devouring the insects than harm in consuming the fruit. If they become too numerous they can be frightened away with guns.

AN exchange says, "Shall we cherish the beautiful?" Of course we shall—two or three at once if necessary. It is a pretty mean sort of a man who will not do all the cherishing he can when the preponderance of women is as three to one. We have found, however, that it is not well to cherish more than one in the same town.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

THE Boston *Post* says: "The newspapers are writing up "Grant's trip,' but they needn't. It isn't the first time he has "tripped.'"

"Making Old Bones."

People who neglect their minor ailments rarely live to make old bones. The secret of hale and vigorous old age, lies not only in taking care of one's health in early life, by the observance of sanitary rules, but also by judicious medication when the premonitory symptoms of bodily disorder manifest themselves. Indigestion, bowel and liver complaints, are fruitful causes of injury to the constitution. These diseases should be, therefore, checked without delay. The best medicine for the purpose is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. This standard preparation disciplines the digestive organs, gives renewed impetus to the bilious secretive function, and exerts a beneficial influence upon the organs of urination. It has no rival as a remedy for and preventive of chills and fever and bilious remittents, infuses vigor into the debilitated frame, and is an excellent appetizer and nervine.

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"Durang's Rheumatic Remedy," the great *Internal Medicine*, will positively cure any case of rheumatism on the face of the earth. Price, $1 a bottle, six bottles, $5. Sold by all druggists. Send for circular to Helphenstine & Bentley, Druggists, Washington, D. C.

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has brought many to untimely graves. What is a Cough? The lungs or bronchial tubes have been attacked by a cold; nature sounds an alarm-bell, telling where the disease lies. Wisdom suggests "try WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY;" it has cured, during the last half of a century, thousands upon thousands of persons. As long as you cough, there is danger, for the cough is a Safety Valve. Use "WISTAR" and be cured. Sold by all druggists.

From a Physician.

HYDE PARK, Vt., Feb. 7, 1876.

Messrs. Seth W. Fowle & Sons, Boston.

Gents—You may perhaps remember that I wrote you several weeks ago in regard to the use of the PERUVIAN SYRUP for my wife, who was suffering from general debility, the sequence of Typhoid Dysentery. I had tried the most noted physicians in this State, and also in Canada, without relief. At your recommendation she commenced the use of the Syrup, the first four bottles made but little impression, but while taking the fifth she began to improve rapidly, and now, after using six of the dollar bottles, she has regained her strength, and is able to do most of the work about the house; and I feel that I cannot speak too highly in praise of the PERUVIAN SYRUP. I have prescribed it to several of my patients, and have procured the sale of several dozen of it here. You can make any use of this letter you see fit. Yours very truly, H. D. BELDEN, M. D.

AN EXQUISITE CHEF D'ŒUVRE.

GO AND SEE IT.

In passing down Post street yesterday, our attention was attracted by a rare and exquisite work of art, in the display window of Messrs. Koehler & Ritter, the well known manufacturing jewelers of this city. We went in, and were permitted to give this elegant *chef d'œuvre* a careful inspection. It was a magnificent gold chalice, worth $1,500, designed and made by this firm, for Rev. Father Grey of St. Patrick's Church, and presented to him by his people on his recent return from the Holy Land. The design is most exquisite, and all the details have been wrought out with the greatest delicacy and harmony. It is Gothic in style, and fulfills every condition of art in this line. The true artistic spirit is evinced in the plan, form, decoration and finish of this marvellous inventive design, and it is most fit and happy in aesthetic effect. The base of the chalice is a study of itself. The principles of symmetry and harmony are strikingly manifest here. It has its Gothic points and curves, and is built up in true architectural exactitude with its base, surbase, plinth, torus and fillet, which together form the pedestal of the vase. The work upon this must have been laborious, and skillful hands have achieved the rare results. On this base rests the shaft, which is beautifully decorated—as is also the base—with foliations, the space between the cusps of feathering being in trefoil, quatrefoil and quinquefoil, all exquisitely wrought. Near the top of this beautiful shaft is superposed a series of niches, eight in number, each a pointed Gothic arch, containing an image of the Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, also John the Baptist, Paul and the Saviour. These are superbly designed, each with a characteristic insignia of office, and are in *alto-relievo*. They will bear the most critical inspection, and are beautifully significant in decorative art. Underneath these, on the base of the chalice, is a suggestive representation of the crucifixion, in *bas relief*. The cup itself is of burnished gold, faultless in shape, and ornamented on the lower part with foliations corresponding to those on the base. Altogether, this is one of the most signal triumphs in jewelry art that has ever been manufactured in this city, and of its kind it has not been surpassed in this country. Messrs. Koehler & Ritter deserve great credit for the genius and skill evinced in its design and manufacture. We learn it will be on exhibition at No. 26 Post street for a few days longer, and all art-loving *connoisseurs* should be sure to examine it.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

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