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THE PLAN OF WASHINGTON.

L'Enfant's Scheme For the Capital Once Deemed Impracticable.

The site that had been selected on the Potomac for the capital was thick woods, naked fields and treacherous swamps. It was Washington's ambition to make out of this wilderness a new city which should be a metropolis as well as a capital, a second London or Paris. There were no city planners in those days, as there are now. President Washington chose Major L'Enfant for the task. L'Enfant had rebuilt the New York city hall and in Philadelphia had erected on the house of Robert Morris, financier of the Revolution, the first mansard roof ever seen in America.

There were only 4,000,000 people in the United States then, but it was Washington's wish that the new capital should be laid out for a future population of at least 800,000. L'Enfant worked on his plans for many months. He studied the plans of old world cities and freely sought advice of the founders of the republic. The city plan that he evolved still stands unique in world architecture. Its partial realization is seen in the Washington of today; its completion will be the Washington of history's tomorrow.

L'Enfant's original plans are preserved in the Congressional library. They were enthusiastically received at first, but were so far ahead of their time as to be considered impracticable. Only within recent years have they been resurrected. Then they were found to be so comprehensive, so simple and intelligent, that, though they were drawn more than a century ago, the modern city builders could see nothing in which they could be improved.

But L'Enfant died an embittered and disappointed man. There was much friction between him and his associates. He became unmanageable and was removed from office. The work was placed in the hands of Major Andrew Ellicott, a bright young Pennsylvanian who had been one of his subordinates. Ellicott proceeded to develop and carry out L'Enfant's ideas, and to him much credit also is due.

Until he died L'Enfant haunted the halls of congress, pouring his alleged grievances into the ears of all who would listen to him. He spurned the compensation that the government offered him and lived on the bounty of others. In 1909 his remains were transferred from their former resting place and were placed in Arlington cemetery with full military honors, and a memorial was unveiled over them. It is a marble canopy on which is carved the original plan of Washington and overlooks, from a green hillside, the city of his dreams.—Egerton Fuller in Harper's Weekly.

Purely Bostonian.

There is a little girl in Boston who early learned one of the inconveniences of wearing glasses.

A friend encountered her at Nantasket Beach when she seemed to be not more than four years old, but was wearing spectacles. She wanted to paddle in the water and spoil her tan pumps. Her nurse had been forbidden to let her go barefoot, and baby began to whimper. Then she cried:

"Take them off, Clarice! Take them off!"

The friend thought the child referred to her tan pumps and was about to explain to the nurse when the child added:

"Take off my spectacles, Clarice, so I can cry!"—New York Press.

Not Contagious.

Nearly all of the children in the neighborhood had been ill with chickenpox, and one morning when they were able to play about again Julia, aged four, came running in to her mother and burst out excitedly, "Oh, mother, the Smith children have got something else, but brother says we can't catch it."

"Well, what is it they have?" the mother asked.

"It's pigeon toes," she replied.—Mother's Magazine.

Not So Dull.

A schoolteacher was one day greatly annoyed by not getting satisfactory answers to the questions he put to one of the scholars. At last he called the dunce to the front and, handing him twopence, said: "Here's some money. Away with you and buy some brains."

The master felt rather small when the boy turned with the query, "Shall I tell the shopkeeper they are for you?"—London Telegraph.

A Most Natural Inference.

They had just become engaged.

"Herbert," she said, "are you sure that you love me?"

"Absolutely," he answered.

"How can you tell?"

"By the fact that I am anxious to marry you."

UNCLE SAM'S LAUNDRY.

The Way, It Washes, Starches and Irons His Soiled Bills.

When one of Uncle Sam's bills becomes too soiled for use it is sent to the laundry to be washed, starched and ironed. To be properly laundered a bill must go through three separate machines. The first step consists of inserting the bills into the washer, which is made up of a series of rubbers with double blankets between them. Each bill is fed in between these blankets, which hold them flat in the water, and they go back and forth nine times through the suds, which contain a bleach.

The washing tank is divided into two parts, one of which holds hot suds and the other clear rinse water. The same blankets go up over a partition into the rinse water, carrying the bills with them. After going back and forth through the rinse water eight times they are blown off the blanket by an air blast which comes through perforated cylinders.

Through this washing process a bill is obliged to travel 150 feet. In order to find lost bills the washer is raised above the tank, and then the suds and rinse water are searched for the bills which have become detached from the blankets and which otherwise would go out with the waste water.

As all the stiffness is taken out of the bills by the laundering process, it is necessary to starch them with a solution of glue and alum. This process is known as sizing the bills. From the sizing machine the bills go into the ironer, which is an ordinary collar and cuff ironer, such as is used in many laundries.

The damp sized bills are placed upon a canvas apron and go over a small steel cylinder, which dries them well, and then over a large cylinder heated to about the same degree as an ordinary flatiron, which irons them. The pressing is done by means of padded rolls. In ten minutes' time and at a cost of but one-tenth of a cent the dirty bill comes out of the laundry fresh, clean and crisp.—Exchange.

The Oldest of Banknotes.

It is held that the oldest banknotes are the "flying money" or "convenient money" of China. Originally these notes were issued by the Chinese treasury, but experience dictated a change to the system of banks under governmental control. The early Chinese banknotes were, in most essentials, similar to the modern banknote, bearing the name of the bank, the date of issue, the number of the note, the signature of the official issuing it, indications of its value in figures, words and pictorial representations of coins or heaps of coins equal to the value of the note, together with a notice of the penalties for counterfeiting. There was also a laconic exhortation to industry and thrift in these terms: "Produce all you can; spend with economy." The notes were in blue ink on paper made from the fiber of the mulberry tree.—Harper's.

Bunching the Germs.

In an office building whose seventh floor is occupied largely by doctors one elevator displays the sign:

"Take this elevator for doctors' offices."

"Why are doctors' callers restricted to this one car?" asked a passenger.

"Germs," said the operator. "A lot of the tenants in this building are more afraid of a germ than of a Gatling gun. Most people who visit a doctor are supposed to have germs of one kind or another, and the regular tenants object to riding in the same elevator with them. They raised a big row when the doctors moved in and threatened to leave, but the trouble was finally settled by making the sick folk stick to one elevator."—New York Press.

An Oddity In Toes and Digits.

There is one curious fact respecting the animal creation with which you will never become acquainted if you depend on your textbooks for information. It is this: No living representative of the animal kingdom has more than five toes, digits or claws to each foot, hand or limb. The horse is the type of one toed creation, the camel of the two toed, the rhinoceros of the three toed and the hippopotamus of four toed animal life. The elephant and hundreds of other animals belonging to different orders belong to the great five toed tribe.

Not to Be Trifled With.

Love had just laughed at the locksmith.

"Why don't you laugh at the milliner and the landlord and the grocer?" asked a bystander.

"Because," replied Love, "they always make me feel mighty serious."—Houston Post.

BERTHON'S LIFEBOATS.

It Took Twenty Years to Get the Collapsible Into Use.

Few inventions owe their birth to so simple and yet so tragic a circumstance as did the Berthon, and few are the histories of bitter disappointments or keener perseverance. The facts are recalled in an article in the Millgate Monthly.

In the year 1849 the steamship Orion went down off the Scottish coast, and all on board were drowned for lack of boats. At that time the Rev. E. L. Berthon was vicar of Fareham and much devoted to the welfare of seafaring folk. A friend who had been deeply touched by the needless loss of life in the wreck of the Orion wrote to him, asking him to do something, if possible, since his mind was always busy with nautical matters, to prevent a repetition of such a disaster. The outcome of the plea was the invention of the collapsible life saving boat, to which Mr. Berthon gave his name.

First of all Mr. Berthon made models upon which the dockyard officers at Portsmouth pronounced most favorably. Then with his own hands he built a boat thirty feet in length. The late queen heard of this plucky inventor and sent for him. So he went to Osborne with his boat, and both the queen and Prince Albert were most enthusiastic concerning its merits. Her majesty desired that the boat should be adopted by the navy, and two cutters were ordered. But the authorities were determined nothing further should be done, and of Berthon boats they would have none. This was a great blow to the inventor, who launched into considerable expense, and he came to the conclusion that he was not justified in expending more. In the meantime he had accepted the living of Romsey, in Hampshire.

About twenty years passed away. Then Mr. Plimsoll urged upon Mr. Berthon the duty of once more attempting to convince the world of the necessity for his collapsible life saving boat. Accordingly the inventor again embarked on his scheme. Erecting a shed on the vicarage meadow of Romsey, he called in the aid of a few local workmen and began to build. Somehow what he was doing became bruited abroad. The directors of transports, the late Admiral Sir William Mends, came down to see for himself, and within a dozen months £15,000 worth of Berthon boats were ordered for the Indian troopships. Since then the work has increased until it has attained its present satisfactory dimensions.

One of the Wonders of Physics.

An experienced mechanic who was asked what he regarded as the most wonderful thing for general utility replied: "The tracking of a car wheel is the most wonderful thing to me in the whole range of science and invention. Here are two rails, uphill and downhill, round sharp curves and along false tangents, and upon them fly at more than a mile a minute, without jar or jolt, a dozen heavy cars drawn by an engine weighing sixty tons. Passengers realize no danger, yet there is only the little flange of a wheel between them and eternity. An inch and a half of steel turned up on the inner side of the wheel holds up the whole train as securely to the rails as if it were bolted there in grooves."

Money Made No Difference.

A poor but worthy old couple had a rare stroke of luck. Some relative died and left them a fortune of £20. The night of the arrival of the lawyer's letter telling them of their good fortune they sat up late, discussing the future and what they were to do with the great sum they had inherited. When they had done and were rising to go to bed the old man said, with a grand air of magnanimity: "Weel, I suppose, Janet, this'll mak' nae difference. We'll just speak to the neebours as before."—London Standard.

Did Their Best.

At the bidding of the school board in a certain town a physician visited the local school. He examined the eyes of the children. The teacher next day sent a note to the mother of one pupil, saying that he was "not perfect optically." The following day Johnny brought back a reply to the teacher which read:

"The old man whaled Johnny last night, and I took a hand at him this morning, and I think you will find him all right now."—Everybody's.

A Sporting Proposition.

"There doesn't seem to be any hustle at all about that boy of Dascomb's."

"Hustle. Say, if there was any chance to fix up a race between Steve Dascomb and a glacier, I'd back the glacier."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Oregon Agricultural College.

This great institution opens its doors for the fall semester on September 20th. Courses of instruction include: General Agriculture, Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Husbandry, Bacteriology, Botany and Plant Pathology, Poultry Husbandry, Horticulture, Entomology, Veterinary Science, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Highway Engineering, Domestic Science, Domestic Art, Commerce, Forestry, Pharmacy, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Public Speaking, Modern Languages, History, Art, Architecture, Industrial Pedagogy, Physical Education, Military Science and Tactics, and Music.

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