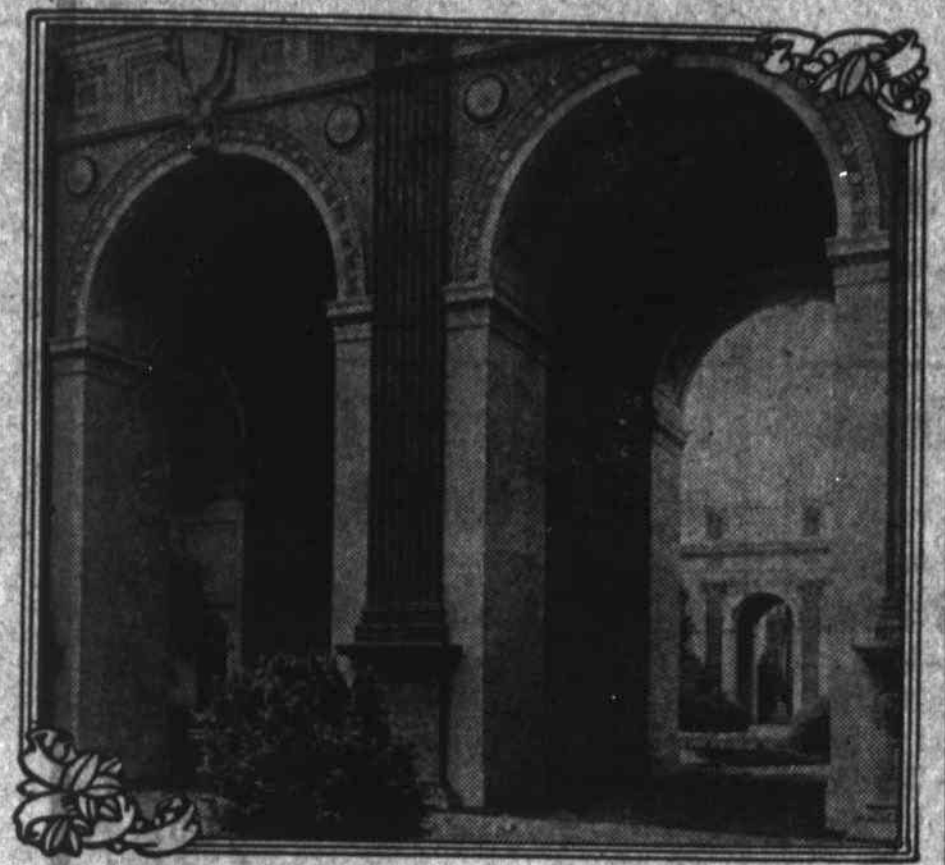


## Lofty Colonnades of the Superb Court of the Four Seasons, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915



THIS photograph faintly portrays the beauty of the arches that stand between the Court of the Four Seasons and the Western Venetian Court. While it truly presents the attractiveness of the architecture, it cannot even hint at the beauty of color tones.

The pilasters shown in this photograph are of verd antique bronze, the background of imitation Travertine is of other hue more than half the height of the arch, and the upper portion is of Pompeian red, with touches of orange and copper green in the ornamentation.

Inside the arches the ceilings are of cerulean blue, and bas-relief in white shows scenes typical of the seasons. The square wall surface at the left of the picture shows where one of many mural paintings will be placed.

Looking through the arch, a part of the Court of the Four Seasons may be seen. Closer inspection shows a verse from Spenser and below it the signs of the Zodiac.

The world is to be given something new in the system of courts at the 1915 Exposition, and each one is to be a revelation in modern construction. The Exposition will open at San Francisco on Feb. 20, 1915.

### GERMANY'S IRON CROSS.

The Order as It Existed in the Time of the Crusades.

Although it is recorded that on March 10, 1813, Frederick William III. founded the Order of the Iron Cross, the origin of the legion dates back to the crusades.

During the siege of Acre, in 1190, Barbarossa's army was at a disadvantage in comparison with the Templars and Hospitalers, as the English and French army orders were called. The latter had well organized corps for taking care of the wounded, sick and dead. The Germans did not. They fought without shelter, medicine, and with little food.

To relieve the situation a company of ship captains, headed by a certain Walpot von Bassenheim, citizen of Bremen, was organized to render such assistance as they could to the fighting Teutons. They used canvas tents for hospitals and went first under the name of "Knights Hospitalers of Our Dear Lady of Mount Zion." This cumbersome title was later changed to the "German Order of St. Mary" or "Deutsche Ritter von der Marie Orden," and finally abbreviated to "Deutsche Ritterthum."

The chivalric order then bound its members to fidelity and fortitude by a sacred vow. It became powerful through rich bequests until its main interests were no longer in Palestine, but in Venice. Thither its headquarters were transferred by Hermann von der Salza. The order was in great favor with the pope at the time.

Sixteen years later the crusaders, no longer having to prosecute a message in the direction of Palestine, turned their attention to Prussia. Prussia was inviting the attention of the order by reason of the fact that it was frantically anti-Christian. The bishop of Prussia was only titular. He dared not live in Prussia. He lived in Friesland, among the Bremen trading settlers. The titular bishop, worrying over the anti-Christian state of Prussia, persuaded the order to come to Prussia and convert the Prussians by force. The work was carried out, the two races intermingled, and Prussia became thoroughly Christian.

The sign of the order as it now exists is a cross in the shape of a cross pattée, much like a Maltese cross or plus sign, except that the arms of the cross become wider as they extend further. The cross is made of iron with silver edges and mountings. One side is entirely plain. The other has on its upper limb the initials "F. W." which stand for Frederick William. Above the initials is the imperial crown. The center of the cross bears oak leaves, the meaning of which seems to be lost. On the bottom limb is the date of the founding of the order, 1813.—Chicago Tribune.

"Is the editor in?" asked the man with the unbarbered hair and the shiny coat, as he fished a roll of paper from his pocket.

"No," replied the office boy, "he has just gone out."

"This is the third time I have

called to see him," growled the caller, "and each time you have told me that he has just gone out. What's the explanation?"

"I don't know," answered the office boy, "but I guess he must have been born under a lucky star."—Lippincott's.

### The Sorrows of Childhood.

Two little girls, Annie and Gertrude, were playing together one morning. Shortly after Annie came in from the playground, Gertrude was heard crying bitterly.

"What is Gertrude crying about?" asked Annie's mother.

"Why," explained Annie, "she dug a great big hole out in the garden, and her mother wouldn't let her take it into the house with her."—London Standard.

### Miles.

There are about as many different miles as there are countries. In the United States and England a mile is 1,760 yards, while in Germany it is 1,337 yards; in Denmark 8,244, in Italy 1,766, in Switzerland 9,153. The Irish mile is 2,240 yards, and the Scotch 1,976.

### The Poor Railroad.

"Our community thinks your railroad oughter furnish a couple more trains per day. We're going to take the matter to the legislature too."

"But very few people in your community ever travel."

"Maybe not. But we like to see the cars go by."—Judge.

### Malicious.

Young Bride—I didn't accept Jim the first time he proposed. Miss Ryval (slightly envious)—I know you didn't, dear. Young Bride—How do you know? Miss Ryval—You weren't there.—London Answers.

### No Subdued Bismarck.

It is related that many years ago the first time Prince Bismarck went to consult Dr. Schweininger he was asked many questions. The Iron Chancellor, who was not accustomed to be cross examined, got impatient and said:

"I came here to be cured, not catechized."

"Oh," replied the doctor coolly; "then you had better go to a veterinary surgeon. He's the only doctor I know of who cures his patients without asking them any questions."

"I was looking at some new style twenty dollar hats today," said his wife, "and I brought this one home to see what you think of it." "Frightful," said her husband. "That's what I thought. This is a cheap five dollar hat. Let me have \$15."—Philadelphia Ledger.

### Eyes of a Fly.

Naturalists state that the common blue-bottle fly possesses between 4,000 and 5,000 little eyes when viewed under a good microscope, although to the naked eye it appears to have only two. They are six sided and fastened together like the cells in a honeycomb.

### Up and Down.

"What does it mean when the policeman at the crossing holds up his hand peremptorily?" "It means that he puts his foot down."—Baltimore American.

## FIRST SUEZ CANAL.

It Was Built by the Egyptians Long Before the Christian Era.

That the Suez canal is not the first canal that joined the Red sea with the Mediterranean is briefly told in a statement by the National Geographic society:

"From the morning of history the west has sought to break into the east by way of Suez. Somewhere during the years 1350-1300 B. C. the Egyptians, under Seti I. and Ramesses II., joined the Nile by way of Lake Timsah to the Red sea, thus opening a waterway, the archetype of the present canal, from the Mediterranean, over the Suez isthmus, to the orient."

"This canal was choked by sand in the course of ages."

"Necho, about 600 B. C., began a canal from ancient Bubastis, and Darius Hystaspis, 100 years later, completed the work, once more bringing the Red sea and Nile together. Although nearly choked up by the beginning of the Christian era, it was navigable to a degree as late as the battle of Actium, and some of Cleopatra's ships escaped this way to the Red sea."

"Trajan restored the canal. It fell into disuse and choked up again. Amru, the Islamic conqueror of Egypt, restored it for the last time in the seventh century, connecting Cairo with the Red sea. Napoleon caused the old route to be surveyed, but was forced to drop the project. After him, Metternich, the great reactionary prime minister of Austria-Hungary, stimulated a Suez commission in 1847. Nothing, however, came of it."

"As the world well knows, the Suez canal was built by the man who failed to build the Panama canal—Count Ferdinand de Lesseps. Its original depth was twenty-six and a quarter feet and its bottom width seventy-two feet. It could accommodate ships of twenty-four and seven-twelfths feet, but it was in operation eleven years, beginning in 1869, before vessels of such draft sought passage."

"By 1900 its depth had been increased to twenty-nine and a half feet, and when the United States announced its intention to make a canal forty-one feet deep and 300 feet wide at its narrowest bottom point, at Panama, the work at Suez was extended so as to ultimately give a bottom width of 134½ feet and a depth of thirty-six and one-twelfth feet. England has dominated the canal ever since the khedive in 1875 sold his 176,602 canal shares for \$20,000,000 to the British government."

### Wasted Opportunities.

The view of the proper uses to which money may be applied depends wholly upon the individual. There are many who will see nothing funny in the old man's comment on the uses a departed relative had made of her property.

"I dunno what good Elizabeth's money ever done her," said Mr. Sage reflectively. "She spent it all; give it away here and there and bought things with it."

"No, sir," he continued, "it wa'n't much good to her. She didn't leave a cent."—Youth's Companion.

### The Stoning of Hamilton.

Alexander Hamilton was stoned by a New York audience in the summer of 1795. While at a public meeting he was speaking in favor of the Jay treaty, which had just been negotiated by John Jay between the United States and England. Dr. Francis in his "Old New York" says that among those who did the stoning was the famous Edward Livingston, together with many other "leading citizens."

### The Word "Bald."

It is believed by at least one writer that it is because baldness in women has nearly always been studiously concealed that no gentle way of erasing the blunt word "bald" has been evolved in contrast with the many ways of dodging "fat," "stout" (which really means sturdy), "portly," "comfortable" and "embonpoint" are instances of this evasion. But "bald" always remains "bald."—Chicago News.

### In Debt.

Sir George Beaumont once met Quin, the actor, at a very small dinner party. There was a delicious pudding, which the master of the house, pushing the dish toward Quin, begged him to taste. A gentleman had just before helped himself to an immense piece of it. "Pray," said Quin, looking first at the gentleman's plate and then at the dish "which is the pudding?"

### How He Got There.

The Prisoner—I got into jail by being an optimist.

Visitor—How is that possible?

The Prisoner—I was optimistically certain that the market would advance and backed my optimism with other people's cash.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## BATTLES AND POETRY.

An Ode That Was a Factor in the Victory at Inkerman.

Perhaps no poem which ever issued from the press was more eagerly bought and read than Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake." In palace and cottage it was devoured with the eagerness of an exciting novel, and even on the battlefield it was welcomed as an angury of victory.

When the first copy reached Wellington's famous lines, of Torres Vedras—it appeared in 1810, right in the middle of the peninsular war—Sir Adam Ferguson was posted with his company on a very exposed spot raked by the enemy's fire. The men were ordered to lie flat on the ground, and while they kept this attitude their captain read to them the description of the battle in canto 6 of the poem. So excited did it make the prostrate soldiers that every time the enemy's heavy shot struck the bank above the reading was interrupted by a shout of triumph from the listening soldiers.

Yet if the oft told story of Wolfe reciting Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" is true it beats the foregoing. Think of the dark and silent highway of the St. Lawrence river, the boat containing General Wolfe and his officers, the muffled oars silent as the flight of an owl and the low, distinct, thrilling voice of the man who was indeed going to victory and death and immortal glory speaking the lines:

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power  
And all that beauty, all that wealth  
Gave  
Await the inevitable hour—  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Like all good stories this has been strenuously denied, but there is much evidence for its truth and for the general's comment when he had finished, "Gentlemen, I would rather have written that poem than I would to take Quebec tomorrow."

When the news of the famous charge of the Light brigade at Balaklava reached England the imagination and patriotic fervor of a poet were stirred, and Alfred Tennyson in a white heat of inspiration penned his immortal ode:

There's not to make reply;  
There's not to reason why;  
There's but to do and die.

When the poem in its turn reached the frozen plains of the Crimea its effect upon the war weary soldiers was electrical. It acted upon them like the blast of the bugle and the rolling of drums and put new courage into an army worse provisioned and worse housed and clothed than any other army in history. It might almost be said that the poem won the battle of Inkerman.—New York Press.

### Hanged For Loafing.

Old time Englishmen hated idleness. An act passed in 1531 decreed that any person "being whole and mighty in body and able to labor" found begging might be arrested, and if unable to give a satisfactory account of himself he was brought to the nearest market town, tied to the end of a cart, stripped of his clothes and beaten with whips through the town, bleeding and ashamed, after which degradation he was sent to his native place, on his oath to "put himself to labor like a true man ought to do." If the sturdy vagabond were caught a third time in idleness he was to suffer death "as an enemy to the commonwealth."

### Hindu Gods.

Gods are as thick in India as the leaves on the trees—in the minds of the masses of the people. But the mighty Pantheon is subordinate to the great trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva—Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Siva the Destroyer. Of these gods Brahma is looked upon as being the highest, but Vishnu is the most beloved god, while Siva, on account of the hurt he is supposed to be capable of and inclined to, is the one who holds the largest share of the people's attention.

### Famous Rubies.

The largest ruby known is one mentioned by Chardin as having been engraved with the name of Sheikh Sephy. Another noble ruby is in possession of the shah of Persia. Its weight is put at 175 carats. A ruby possessed by Gustavus Adolphus and presented to the czarina at the time of his journey to St. Petersburg was the size of a small hen's egg.

### Columbus' Tomb.

The history of Columbus' bones is about as checkered as that of his life. His remains after burial at Valladolid, Spain, were removed to Seville. In 1536 they were taken with great pomp to Santo Domingo and interred in the cathedral. In 1796 what were supposed to be his ashes were again removed to the Cathedral of Havana and buried there with imposing ceremonies.

## A Famous Diamond.

Of the world's famous diamonds none has a more ancient history than the koh-i-nur or kohinoor, meaning "mountain of light." It is supposed to have been carried 5,000 years ago by Karma, an East Indian hero. However, it made its positive appearance in history in the fourteenth century, when it was brought to Delhi by Ala-ed-din. In 1073 the grand mogul sold it to Tavernier, the diamond merchant. It then weighed only 279 karats, previously weighing 793. This decline was owing to the unskilled work of a Venetian lapidary. The East India company finally purchased it, and in 1850 presented it to the English crown, when it was recut and its weight again reduced.

## Convenient Public Utilities.

Harassed Parent (to bus conductor)—This child ride for nothing? Bus Conductor—Yes. Parent—And this child ride for nothing? Bus Conductor—Yes. Parent—Then take them along, please; we'll walk.—London Standard.

## The Other Ark.

Scene—Village school.  
Vicar's Wife—Now, can any of you bright little children tell me of another ark?  
Model Scholar—I can, mum.  
Vicar's Wife—Yes?  
Model Scholar—"Ark the 'Erald Angels Sing."—London Globe.

## Elementary, Watson.

"Does Wombat own or rent his house?"  
"Rents it."  
"How do you know?"  
"I know all right. He scratches matches on the paint."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The term "halcyon days" is derived from a pretty little fable of the Sicilians, who believed that during the seven days preceding and following the winter solstice, Dec. 21, the halcyon or kingfisher floated on the water in a nest in which her young were deposited and that during this time of her brooding the seas were calm. Our Indian summer corresponds to the halcyon of the Sicilians.

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