

MONUMENT TO GENERAL LEE.

The One That Was Discovered in the City of Washington.

Fortunately there is a breezy and refreshing side to political Washington. Says a correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer. One of the new southern congressmen recently was walking down Pennsylvania avenue with an older southern member, and they stopped in front of a statue of Grant. They admired it for a few moments and later in their walk stopped in front of a statue of Sherman.

"What puzzles me," said the new southern member, "is that here in the capital of the United States there is no monument to Robert E. Lee. The nation is now united, and Lee was one of our greatest men. There should be an impressive monument to him right here in the capital."

"Why, haven't you seen the monument to Lee?" asked the southern congressman. "It is the greatest monument ever erected to any man. I will take you over and show it to you right now."

They walked rapidly for fifteen minutes, and the older southern member showed the newer one the pension building.

Tungsten.

Tungsten is probably the most remarkable mineral known. Pure metallic tungsten is practically insoluble in any common acid, its melting point is higher than any other metal, its tensile strength exceeds that of steel, it is paramagnetic, it can be drawn to a smaller size than any other metal, and its specific gravity is 70 per cent greater than lead. And what is more to the point, Colorado contains more tungsten than any other state or possibly all other states in the Union.—Metal Mining Journal.

She—I'd like to know what you had before I married you.
He (dejectedly)—Well, I had a night's hay, anyhow.—Boston Transcript.

WHISTLING JUGS.

Curious Musical Product of Peru's Ancient Pottery.

The potters of ancient Peru used to manufacture an ingenious musical instrument which may very properly be called a whistling jug. In collections of antiquities it is called a sifador or silvio. Specimens are obtained from the ancient burial places of Peru.

One of these consists of two vases whose bodies are joined one to the other, with a hole or opening between them. The neck of one of these vases is closed, with the exception of a small opening, in which a clay pipe is inserted leading to the body of the whistle. The closed neck of this double vase is inserted into a representation of a bird's head.

When a liquid is poured into the open necked vase the air is compressed in the other, and in escaping through the narrow opening is forced into the whistle, the vibration producing the sounds.

Many of these sounds represent the notes of birds; one in the collection at the British museum imitates the notes of the robin or some other member of the thrush tribe peculiar in Peru.—Washington Star.

Rice in Ecuador.

Rice is the principal article of diet of all Ecuadorians, rich and poor. The country produces excellent rice in limited quantities and imports largely. The crop is harvested in May by stripping the grains with the hands, the average yield being twenty bushels per acre. The rice growing lands are rented to small farmers, who sell the harvested crops to town merchants. The latter in turn send the grain to the rice mill, exchanging 100 pounds of the unhusked rice, if of good quality, for 100 pounds of the husked product. If of inferior grade a larger toll is taken. This includes storage for six months. Some of the very small growers hull their rice with a flail and winnow it with the wind. The husks are thrown away, but the remaining waste is fed to the horses.—Exchange.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Attempt to Assassinate President Andrew Jackson.

QUEER MANIA OF A MADMAN.

Richard Lawrence, Who Sought to Kill "Old Hickory," and Only Failed Because His Pistol Missed Fire, Thought He About Owned the World.

Since the establishing of the United States, three successful attempts have been made to assassinate our presidents, and another one was a failure only through the weapon not discharging, when it was drawn upon President Andrew Jackson on Jan. 30, 1838. The news of this attempt spread like wildfire throughout the country, and consternation filled the public mind at the thought that the tragic mode of dealing with the crowned heads of kingdoms and empires had at last been tried upon the person of the popularly selected ruler of a free republic.

At the time of the attempted assassination of President Jackson, he was at the capitol, in attendance on the funeral of Hon. Warren R. Davis of South Carolina. The assassin was Richard Lawrence, a painter, residing in Washington. This individual was seen to enter the hall of the house of representatives during the delivery of the funeral sermon, but before its close, however, he had taken his stand on the eastern portico, near one of the columns.

The president, with the secretary of the treasury, on retiring from the rotunda to reach his carriage at the steps of the portico advanced toward the spot where Lawrence stood. The painter had his pistols concealed under his coat. When the president approached within two yards and a half of him Lawrence extended his arm and leveled the pistol at the president's breast.

The percussion cap exploded with a noise so great that several witnesses supposed that the pistol had been discharged. On that instant the assassin dropped it from his right hand and taking another ready cocked from his left, presented and snapped it at the president, who at the moment held his cane and made for the assassin with blithe energy and would have executed summary vengeance, but Secretary Woodbury and Lieutenant Godney at the same instant laid hold of the man, who gave way through the crowd and was at last knocked down, the president pressing after him until he saw he was secured. As soon as the act was known to the crowd they wished to kill the assassin on the spot.

Lawrence was at once conveyed to jail. When asked why he attempted to kill the president the assassin said because Jackson had killed his father. This proved to be a hallucination on his part. The total absence of any personal motive on the part of the prisoner suggested the idea that he must be insane.

Lawrence was a handsome young man of thirty-five years, small in stature, pale of complexion, with black hair and dark eyes. So great was the excitement produced by the affair that some of the most eminent political opponents of the president, including such men as Clay, Calhoun, Poindexter, White and others, were in the frenzy of the moment suspected of having conspired in a plot to get rid of the president.

On the day of the trial Lawrence at first conducted himself in court with much ease, taking his seat very quietly beside his counsel and conversing amiably with them. But when the first witness was called the prisoner sprang to his feet and demanded to know by what right they had brought him there, as he claimed the crown of Great Britain and also that of the United States. He made these same assertions frequently during his trial.

When Lawrence's counsel asked that he be withdrawn from the court to save further of his ridiculous outbursts the prisoner rose and addressed the judge wildly: "What I have done to Jackson was on account of the money he owes me. I consider all in this court as under me. The United States bank has owed me money since 1802, and I want my money. You are under me, gentlemen. It is for me, gentlemen, to pass upon you and not you upon me."

It was not very difficult for the counsel to prove that Lawrence was insane. Many witnesses were called to testify as to his peculiarities, covering a number of years. Several physicians were introduced into the case, and they were unanimous in declaring that Lawrence's state of mind was that of morbid delusion.

In accordance with the evidence thus given, the jury was out only five minutes, returning at once with a verdict of not guilty. Lawrence was sent to a lunatic asylum, where he remained an inmate close to forty years.—Philadelphia Press.

Stings of Animals Are Similar.

In the examination of the poisonous machinery of insects and reptiles it is apparent that the destructive principle is the same in all and that the fang in all possesses a hollow through which the poison flows into the wound the moment the incision is made. The sting of the scorpion is precisely like the fang of the rattlesnake and performs its deadly work on the same mechanical principles.

If our children are not trained in the principles of thrift our nation as a whole will suffer for it later on.—Theodore Roosevelt.

MANGLING A WORD.

Why "Comptroller" is Used Instead of the Correct "Contrôleur."

It is an old story, many times told, that the scrivener centuries ago, ignorant of Latin, but having heard that in French "compter" means to count and assuming that as the controller has to do with money he must of course count money, wedged the false and perverting letter "p" with an "m" before it into a perfectly good and correctly formed word.

In late Latin the word is "contrôleur." The keeper of the king's rolls, the payroll and other accounts, was the "rotulator." To guard against the possible dishonesty of that official the king appointed an auditor to check up his accounts and called him the "contrôleur"—that is, the counter roll keeper. From "contrôleur" the word has come into modern languages, always without the offending "p."

In French, Spanish, Italian, German and Russian we have the word "control," meaning the keeping or auditing of accounts, and the title of the officer in those languages is spelled always without the "m" and the "p." When our commissioners to the Paris peace conference in 1806 used the word "control," meaning political control of the Philippines, the Spanish commissioners were puzzled; they thought our representatives were speaking of matters of finance.

But the word "comptroller," with its vicious spelling and implication of a false etymology, is imbedded in the federal statutes and in the constitution of the state of New York. All the king's oxen could not pull it out against the Boeotian indifference and inertia of those who, if they would, might correct the blunder.—New York Times.

BASQUES OF THE PYRENEES.

Those on the Spanish Slopes Are the Pure Aborigines of Europe.

You are in the habit of thinking of the inhabitants of France as "French" and the inhabitants of Spain as "Spanish." Did you happen to read a learned disquisition on the shape of the skulls of people living on the two slopes of the Pyrenees, together with the announcement that, contrary to the belief of scientists, the Basques are not all of the same origin? And then did you ask, "Who are the Basques?" Primarily they are the people who gave to the rest of the world a curious kind of garment for women, but they are far more interesting to the student of anthropology and the historical development of language than they are to the designers of women's clothes.

There was a time before the present generation of scientists got to work on the problem when the Basques, both in Spain and in France, were recognized as the last remnant of the original occupants of Europe, the people who were driven into this backward corner of civilization by the onrush of the Celts. The Celts were in their turn driven westward and into such out of the way corners as they could hold, so that they are now represented by certain strains in Spain, by the Bretons in France, the Irish, Scotch, Welsh, Cornish and Manx in the British Isles and by a substratum of the Bohemians and the Gallians. Those who preceded them and who managed to cling to the mountain strongholds of the Pyrenees are remotely related to the Finns in another remote backward corner. The ones on the Spanish slopes are the pure aborigines of Europe.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Sensitive.

A polite young man called upon another young man, unfortunately not at that time at home. So the first young man left a note for the second young man saying that he was "sorry to have found him out." The second young man in reply wrote the first young man a long and very painful letter, in which he declared that he had always tried to do the best he could and had always meant to be fair to every body.—New York Post.

The Applan Way.

The famous Applan way, mentioned by almost every Roman writer, connected the Eternal City with all parts of south Italy. For many miles from Rome the space on each side was filled with sepulchers, many of them of persons distinguished in history. To have a sepulcher on the Applan way was equivalent to being buried in Greenwood, in New York, or Pere Lachaise in Paris.

How It Works.

"I don't see why mothers can't see the faults in their children," said Mrs. Smith to Mrs. Jones.
"Do you think you can?" asked Mrs. Jones.
"Why, I would in a minute if my children had any."—Ladies Home Journal.

Very Particular.

Mistress (engaging servant)—I hope you have nice print dresses, and I expect you always to wear caps. Maggie—Yes, mum; I'm very particular to wear caps. I should not like to be taken for one of the family.—Buffalo News.

The Essential.

"Is he a typical American?"
"Yes; he likes baseball, has a motor-car, owes a mortgage, pays alimony and thinks the moving pictures have grand opera beaten a mile."—Life.

Will Never Know.

Seymour—It is better to be right than president. Ashley—How do you know? You've never been either and never will be.—Chicago News.

Fortune comes to the gate of a merry home.—Japanese Proverb.

Chimneys.

Chimneys constructed on modern principles were almost unknown to the ancients, being used only in the large baths, where great quantities of hot water were needed. Chafing dishes, braziers of glowing coals and bottles of hot water were employed by the ladies of the middle ages to keep their rooms warm, and a curious picture is extant of three Norman ladies chatting together, each with a bottle of hot water placed between her feet. Chimneys are believed to have been unknown in England until the twelfth century, but by the end of the fourteenth were generally employed in domestic architecture. For a long time there was a chimney tax all over England.

A Translator's Blunder.

Jacob Boehme, the "mystic shoemaker," once wrote a pamphlet which he called "Reflections on the Treatise of Isaiah Stiefel." One of Boehme's biographers had never heard of that theologian. But he knew enough German to be aware that "Stiefel" meant "boot," and he was further misled by the fact that Boehme was a cobbler as well as a philosopher, so he made a brilliant shot and spoke of the pamphlet in question as Boehme's "Reflections on the Boots of Isaiah." In this guise it passed into several catalogues.



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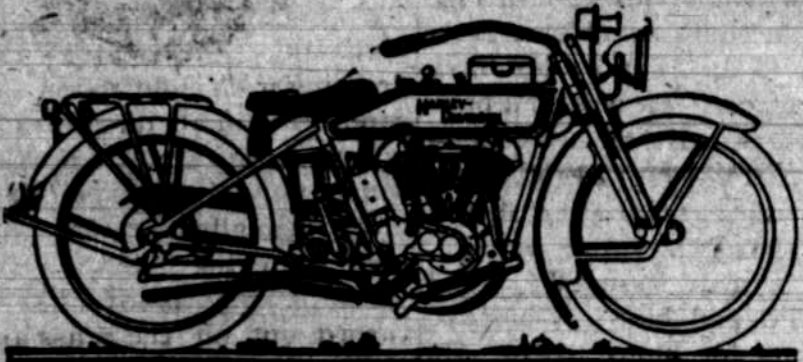
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