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UNDER SIX FLAGS.
Texas in Her Career Has Had Some Exciting Experiences.

Six flags have flown over Texas, including the banners of three foreign powers—France, Spain and Mexico. First came the French flag, which was carried down the Mississippi river to the Gulf of Mexico by the Interplid La Salle. Following this was the Spanish emblem, first thrown to the breeze under the direction of the Franciscan priests. Then came in succession the Mexican flag and the Lone Star emblem of the republic of Texas.

The stars and stripes followed the Lone Star, but was supplanted for a time by the stars and bars of the Confederacy.

In the struggle for ascendancy among these various groups it is needless to say that much blood has been spilled and countless tragedies have taken their places on the pages of history.

The history of the republic of Texas is one of the most unique examples of national sovereignty that the world has ever seen.

A province of 30,000 people won independence from a nation of several millions. But these 30,000 were generally men of sturdy Anglo-American stock.

A few years later these same fearless and independent Texans voluntarily gave up their sovereignty to become one of the galaxy of stars under the banner of the United States.—Chicago Journal.

SPEED OF NO RETURN.

How Fast an Object Must Travel to Escape Into Space.

The speed of no return is that speed which one would have to send a body, a bullet, for instance, straight up in the air so that it would never come back. The rate of this speed has been estimated to be about seven miles a second. If a bullet could be given that velocity away from the earth it would never fall back to our planet, but would travel on into space in an orbit of its own around the sun.

As to the possibilities of anything ever attaining this speed, no one can say. Scientists say all they know is that the friction of the air would probably melt and then vaporize the body before it succeeded in getting through the earth's ocean of air. The speed of the modern army bullet is about one-twelfth of the speed of no return, being a little over half a mile a second. Instances of the speed of no return are seen when meteors fall into the atmosphere of the earth. They very seldom actually reach the earth's surface, but are melted and vaporized by the enormous amount of heat evolved from friction with the air at such an enormous velocity.—Exchange.

Blackmore's Manners.
Blackmore is said to have resembled Horace Greeley. Several inches over six feet, with a large, beautifully shaped head, on which his hair tumbled wavingly, he wore a beard shaved away from his upper lip and chin, so that it framed his face, which was as rosy as a girl's. His eyes were full of twinkling humor and kindness, and there was always about him a sense of the outdoors—of great, calm spaces, winds and fragrances. He dressed carelessly in loose fitting clothes, taking no trouble to keep in the fashion. His voice was low and musical, and his manners had a touch of old world courtesy and distinction. He was utterly sincere and would never pretend to agree to anything because some one else advocated it. His opinions were strong and clear, and he stood by them unwaveringly.—Hildegard Hawthorne in St. Nicholas.

Rabbits and Squirrels as Swimmers.
A funny though able swimmer is the rabbit. He submerges his body with the exception of head and tail. The latter sticks away up into the air, and his hind legs make "soap suds" as he churns the water madly to get away. But with all his awkwardness he is a swift swimmer and is only beaten by the squirrel among the land animals. The squirrel swims with his heavy tail sunk away down in the water and his head held high. He cleaves the waves like a duck, and a man in a rowboat has all he can do to keep abreast of the swimming squirrel.

Maybe It Was a Fellinging One.
Piffing had been going on among the men in an engineering works. The master spoke to the foreman, who was an Irishman, in respect to the same, telling him if he had any suspicions to search the men before leaving. One evening Pat had occasion to do this, and while in the act of telling the men to take their coats off the master came by. "Well, Pat, what is missing now?" "A wheelbarrow, sir."

A Sordid View.
"Do you know that our bookkeeper is short in his accounts?" "Yes, a few hundred bones. Consequently he works every night and never wants a vacation. Let him alone. We're ahead of the game, all right."—Pittsburgh Post.

Adamantine Reminders.
Young Wife—What do you think of my biscuit? Tramp—Lady, they interest me strangely. I used to be a geologist.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Accomplished.
"She's a clever conversationalist." "Very. She can even make a man who is talking about himself stop to listen."—Exchange.

Politeness is good nature regulated by good sense.—Sydney Smith.

MODERN WARSHIPS

Changes Half a Century Has Made in Naval Methods.

A NEW TYPE OF SAILORMAN.

The Old Time Yarn Spinning Tar Has Been Supplanted by a Younger, Better Educated and More Capable Man. His Chances in Uncle Sam's Navy.

A naval officer would have been considered as a fit subject for an insane asylum who in 1890, the year of my entry into the service, had prophesied the creation in less than half a century of a United States fleet of great seagoing battleships of more than 30,000 tons displacement, each with several turrets, any one of which could throw against an enemy at one discharge a greater weight of metal, of incomparably greater destructive power and range, than was possible from the full broadside of one of Nelson's largest ships of the line. We may gain some idea of the tremendous increase in the power of fighting ships when we realize that in a short time and without danger to itself one modern dreadnaught could destroy the combined fleets that fought at Trafalgar in 1805.

In the wildest stretch of the imagination our prophet could not have foreseen the addition to the fleet of torpedo boat destroyers of a thousand tons displacement, a speed of thirty or thirty-five knots and torpedoes of great accuracy, high speed and an effective range of 10,000 yards. A "bag of powder on the end of a spar" was our conception of an offensive torpedo in those days. Good work could be done even with that crude equipment, as Cushing proved when he torpedoed the Albemarle.

I think our prophet would surely have had a padded cell provided for him had he attempted to describe the modern submarines, which are capable of keeping the sea for many days, which have a radius of action of 4,000 miles or more and which are able under favorable conditions to creep unseen upon the most powerful vessel and at one discharge destroy it. He would have found few indeed to listen to him if he had asserted the possibility that scouting or bomb throwing aircraft would act in conjunction with the fleets or foretell the influence of electricity and the wireless upon operations of the fleet both in peace and in war.

All these wonderful changes and advances in naval design, construction and equipment have taken place within my period of service. In sea power, in military efficiency, in comforts and conveniences, we have greatly gained, but I think that those of us who started our careers when the great naval advance of the last generation was still to come, who made their early cruises in sailing ships or ships with auxiliary steam power only, look back with tender memory upon the old and less mechanical environment.

The romance of the sea conveyed by Marryat and others in their stories has not really gone; the conditions only have changed. The sea and its effect upon those who follow it never change, and there is as great a field in the navy today for the adventurous youngster as ever, perhaps a greater. Certainly he can have as many heart thrills on board a submarine or destroyer or flying craft as he could have had on board a brig or schooner cruising for pirates in the olden days.

The changes in the material of the navy have produced corresponding changes in its organization and personnel. You no longer see the gray bearded boatswain's mate, quartermaster or quarter gunner about the decks of our ships. They were brave and loyal to the core, and their yarns of experiences on all seas and in all weathers, interspersed occasionally with a little good advice to the young officer, tactfully given, whiled away many an hour of quiet night watches in port.

The old type of sailorman understood his duties as thoroughly and performed them as faithfully as any one could desire, but machinery has banished him. His place has been taken by the younger, better educated man, who in a general way is more capable, but who does not as a rule follow the sea for a lifetime unless he wins early promotion.

It is now a rare thing to see in the lower ratings an enlisted man who is more than thirty years old. The great majority are much younger. The life is too strenuous and its conditions too abnormal, as measured by modern conditions on shore, to hold men to it. And yet I believe that no other occupation open to American youth offers them so many chances to succeed and to acquire a provision for old age. It is in the power of any young man of fair elementary education, industry and good moral character to enlist in the navy, say, at the age of twenty and to retire at the age of fifty with a life compensation of from \$50 to \$100 a month. That class does not include the considerable number of those who obtain warrants or commissions, which bring much greater emoluments.—Admiral Charles J. Badger in Youth's Companion.

How It Was.
"She wanted to marry him for his money." "Did she fall?" "No; he failed, and she married some one else."—Topeka Journal.

A fool always wants to shorten space and time; a wise man wants to lengthen both.—Ruskin.

SWISS CHEESE STONE.

Material of Which Native Houses in Bermuda Are Built.

When a native of Bermuda decides that he wants to build a house he goes to some quarry where the soft, rich, creamy coral sandstone has been stripped of its thin earth covering and begins sawing. He or some one employed by him, with a long, coarse toothed saw, cuts out blocks of stone measuring about two feet long, one foot wide and six inches thick. As soon as he has quarried enough of these blocks he allows them to stand in the open air for a few weeks to harden, for when first cut they are as full of holes as a Swiss cheese and almost as soft. The hardening period over, the blocks are placed one on top of another to form the walls and one beside another on a supporting framework, overlapping a little at their upper and lower edges, to make the roof.

When the building has been erected the Bermudian covers his outside walls and roof with a thick coat of whitewash, which hides all the cracks and joints and holes in the stone and gives the house a smooth, beautiful finish which is very pleasant to the eye and just as pleasant to the sense of touch. Even the big chimneys, the porches and the fences are built of the same stone.

These white roofs have another important office, for the rain that falls upon them as it runs off is caught and led into cisterns. It is easy to understand how important this is when one learns that there are no streams or wells in Bermuda and that the islanders are thus entirely dependent on these cisterns for their water supply.—Joseph Lauren in St. Nicholas.

YANKEE CURIOSITY.

How Ben Franklin Used to Save Time and Avert Questions.

The Yankee is proverbially inquisitive, and Charles H. Sherrill recalls in "French Memories of Eighteenth Century America" some amusing comments reported by the Marquis de Chastellux, which show that the reputation was well deserved more than a century ago.

"He says," declares Chastellux, repeating a traveler's tale, "that the Americans are the most inquisitive people he has ever seen. Their curiosity is pushed almost to impropriety. When he asked his way they only answered, 'You apparently come from Philadelphia.' When almost famished he asked for food. Instead of serving him they said: 'You seem to be in a great hurry. Is there anything new in the north?'"

"He also relates that Mr. Franklin (who possessed a sense of humor in addition to that habitual calm which so surprised the Europeans), whenever he was traveling in Connecticut, a section noted for its curiosity, was accustomed on entering an inn to call all the family together and announce in a loud tone: 'I am Benjamin Franklin. I was born in Boston, and I am a printer by trade. I am coming from Philadelphia, and I am going back there at such and such a time. I do not know anything new, and now, my friends, will you tell me what you can give me for supper?'"

Modest Blackmore.
That the author of "Lorna Doone" was one of the best fruit growers in England is brought out by Hildegard Hawthorne in an article on Blackmore, which she contributes to St. Nicholas. Indeed, it was of his fruit that he loved most to talk, according to Miss Hawthorne. Of his writings or of himself at all it was very difficult to get him to say a word, for he was shy and modest to a high degree. If you tried to make him talk about his books he would always slip quickly away to something about peaches or nectarines or plums, or he would ask you to come out to see his garden and wander there happily, pruning shears in hand, pointing out his prize fruits and telling you just what must be done to bring each type to perfection.

All Happens in a Second.
A second is the smallest division of time in general use, and when we consider that in one year there are about 31,536,000 of these periods it would certainly seem as if it was enough for all practical purposes. But, after all, a good deal can happen in a second.

A light wave, for instance, passes through a distance of about 186,000 miles in this length of time. The earth in itself moves in its orbit at a rate of about twenty miles a second.

A tuning fork of the French standard vibrates 370 times per second to produce the note A on the treble staff.

Saving Talk.
"Do you believe in telepathy?" "You mean," responded Miss Cayenne, "the art of communicating thought without audible speech?" "Something like that."

"I am not sure whether it could be made to work or not. But I know a number of people who ought to try it."—Washington Star.

Encourages Fine Buildings.
Our city planners might well imitate the example of Buenos Aires, which every year exempts from taxation the most beautiful building erected within the preceding twelvemonth and awards a medal to the architect.—Youth's Companion.

The Stopper.
Lettie—He wore my photograph over his heart, and it stopped the bullet. Tottie—I'm not surprised, darling; it would stop a clock.—London Sketch.

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