Ages of Early American Statesmen.

No fallacy is more firmly fixed in the public mind than that which represents the establishment of our government as the work of old men. The delusion is imbibed in childhood, and is unconsciously cultivated by the text books used in school. The "fathers of the republic" are depicted in all the histories with wigs, queues and other accessories of dress that apparently betoken age, and the pupil naturally concludes that they must have been old when the nation was born.

In point of fact they were an uncommonly young set of men. George Washington, senior in age as well as in authority and influence, was but 43 when the Revolution broke out, and 57 when he became first president; Thomas Jefferson only 33 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence; Alexander Hamilton but 32 when he became secretary of the treasury; James Madison only 32 when he was made member of a Virginia committee of safety, and 36 when he was Hamilton's great collaborator in the production of that political classic, The Federalist.

Nor were the leaders in the great enterprise exceptional in this matter of age. Forty names were signed to the constitution of the United States on the 17th of September, 1787. Leaving out of account four whose birthdays are not given by the books of reference, only five of the remaining thirty-six had reached the age of 60; twenty of the number were less than 45 years old, and twelve were under 40, among the latter being one (Hamilton) of 30, another of 29, a third of 28, and a fourth who lacked some months of 27 when the convention met. The average age of all the members did not quite reach 45 years. The most important committee to which the instrument was referred for final revision consisted of five members, four of whom were between 30 and 36 years of age, the fifth and least prominent being 60.—Century.

The Baths of London.

There are as many great baths in London as there are theatres in New York city. They are Turkish, Roman, vapor, electric, swimming, medicated, hot, cold, tepid and salt. The most interesting are the great public baths. Nearly every district of London has one, and often there are public wash houses in connection with them. Some of the older of these baths are dark and more or less gloomy, but the newer ones are very inviting. Take the Battersea public bath as an example. Its first class tank is 100 feet long by 35 feet wide, with a depth of 6 feet at one end and 3½ feet at the other. It is lined with white glazed bricks, roofed with wood and iron and ventilating skylights, and has fifty locked dressing boxes. In the same building there is a second class bath, 75 feet by 25 feet in size. At certain times women use both baths. The water is heated when it is desirable. These baths are distinctly popular. The first class price varies from a shilling to fourpence, and the second class from sixpence to twopence, the cheaper baths being those in the more thickly populated parts of the city. The wash houses connected with many of the baths seem to be of very great public benefit.—Julian Ralph in Harper's Weekly.

Secret of Saving Gas Bills.

For several months a Brooklyn man has been terrified by the size of his gas bills. He is a family man and enjoys a good income, but he does not tamely submit to swindling and extortion. Believing he was being robbed he complained to the company which supplies him, but it availed him nothing.

Still the bills were presented with unvarying regularity, and as the days shortened and the nights lengthened they became larger. Finally he grew desperate, but was still powerless. At last he found an unexpected ray of hope. It came in the shape of this advertisement in a newspaper, printed in big type:

"Reduce your gas bills over 75 per cent. Secret free by mail for only $2. Address ——, Cincinnati, O."

Eagerly the oppressed citizen sent on his money and anxiously he awaited the receipt of the secret which he felt would be the means of keeping hundreds of dollars in his pockets. In a few days the secret came. With trembling hands he tore open the envelope and extracted a card. On this he saw in big, black type, "Use kerosene oil." For a few days the citizen kept his secret, but at last his wife gave it away.—New York Herald.

Thirteen Years' Work with a Penknife.

Nicholas Levisler has erected in his parlor a wooden model of a large country residence which he made with a penknife. The building measures four feet by two, is two stories high, with a French roof and observatory, and has bow windows and porches. A flight of stairs connects the first and second floors, both of which are neatly carpeted, and the walls are covered with paper. The parlor and bedrooms are filled with furniture, and have chandeliers hung from the ceilings.

The model contains nearly "all modern conveniences." It stands in a garden that occupies almost all the parlor floor. On the grounds are gravel walks, with settees, a pump and trough, an airy little structure for courting couples, and a strong watchdog. Mr. Levisler, who is a laborer, has been at work on the model for thirteen years, doing small parts at night when he returned from his day's occupation.—Baltimore Sun.