

LINCOLN'S PLUG HAT.

A VERITABLE "JOINT OF STOPEPIPE" WITH ROMANTIC BRIM.

It served as a Title Rank and as One Time Was the Postoffice of New Salem—The Liveliest Experience Was When It Served as a Football for Ladies.

There are enough of funny incidents reported of Mr. Lincoln's hat to make it "fabled in song and illumined in story." For example, it served as a football on the night of his election to the presidency, when the ladies at the old homestead testified their glow over his good fortune. The scene would have done credit to the great game between Yale and Princeton on Manhattan field. This is the story as told by an eyewitness:

"A few of us ladies went over and helped Mrs. Lincoln prepare a little supper for the friends of Mr. Lincoln, who had been invited in to hear the returns. Every half hour or so we would pass around coffee and cakes. About 1 o'clock in the morning enough had been learned to warrant the belief that the rail splitter had been elected. I think it was when we heard the news from New York. The men rushed on Mr. Lincoln and shook his hands, while some of the women actually hugged him, and—I might as well admit it—kissed him.

"Then some one went into the hall and took from the rack the old silk hat that he wore, and which was as long as a joint of stopepipe and about as shapeless to my mind, and it was thrown up to the ceiling. As it came down some one gave it a kick, and then the women joined in the fun, and we played football with that hat until it was an indistinguishable mass. We were simply beyond control. What a ridiculous scene it would have been to one looking in without knowing what prompted it!

"It was all the more so, so far as I was concerned, for originally I had been a Seward woman. While the convention was in session in Chicago we were waiting to hear the news. It had been arranged in case Lincoln received the nomination to fire a cannon. My nearest neighbor was a Mrs. Dubois, with whom I had several friendly spats during the campaign preceding the nomination. I heard the cannon shot, and the next moment I saw Mrs. Dubois running across the street. She had been making a shirt for her husband, who was about the size of the late Judge David Davis, so you may have some idea of the size of the garment she was waving. She rushed into the house and flaunted it in my face. It made me mad, and I sat down and began crying. The good woman put her arms around me, begged my pardon and kissed me, and from that time we were Lincoln women. She took part in the football match."

As if not content with his 6 feet 4 or 5 inches of giant stature, Lincoln had his now historic hat made fully a foot high, with a brim almost as big as a southern sombrero. It seemed to have been a combination of all styles then in existence, and in this respect it reflected his own early experience in having been a storekeeper, soldier, surveyor and finally a solicitor. It was a veritable "joint of stopepipe," and its remarkable and romantic brim made it alike serviceable in rain or shine. It might have been called with propriety a "plug ugly," after the name of the mob in Baltimore that threatened him in his journey to the capital.

During Lincoln's great debate with Douglas the hat fairly loomed into space. The smallness of the latter's stature caused him to be nicknamed "The Little Giant," and when Lincoln stood beside him with his hat on the difference between the two seemed all but immeasurable. Curiously enough, when Mr. Lincoln came to be inaugurated at Washington and took off his hat on the stand preparatory to making his inaugural address Douglas held the high hat so that no careless person might put his foot in it.

Representative Springer, who hails from Lincoln's old home, knew the hat well, and in speaking of it recently said: "Mr. Lincoln's high hat was the most indispensable thing of his whole outfit. In it he carried all his valuable papers. In fact, it was a sort of file rack. Here were all the briefs of his various law cases. Curiously enough, he carried the accounts in his head, and that is why he lost so much money. Had he reversed the process and kept his accounts in his hat and the cases in his head, he would have been better off. His hat served for his satchel on a journey, and all that was needed besides this were his saddlebags and his horse. It was large and capacious, and a great many documents and data could be crowded into it without seriously discommoding the wearer."

But Mr. Lincoln had still a better use for his valuable title, which seems to have had more virtues than those rehearsed in the nursery tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk." When he was postmaster at New Salem, his hat became a most important part of his office equipment. As soon as the mail was received each day the young postmaster would put the letters in his hat and take a stroll through the village. The villagers knew that he was a peripatetic postoffice, and of course everybody was anxious to know the contents of the hat, which seemed to promise as much to them as a hat in the hands of a sleight of hand performer.—Washington Cor. St. Louis Republic.

Sweet Childhood.
Tommy—Europe's in the east, isn't it, papa?
His Father—Yes.
Tommy—And you can get there just by starting west and going far enough, can't you?
His Father—Certainly.
Tommy—Well, then, whereabouts on the way round do you stop going west and begin to get east again?—Chicago Record.

CHINESE ETIQUETTE.

DELICATE WORK FOR A MONGOLIAN MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

A Complicated System of Buttons, Banners and Coats of Arms Which Are Used to Designate Rank—Confusion Occasioned by the Purchase of Insignias.

"Nothing is more complicated than Chinese etiquette," said Dr. Edward Bedloe, ex-consul to Amoy. "A master of Debrett and Burke is a novice beside a Celestial master of ceremonies. Nevertheless the latter's system is definite, if elaborate, and he has many official landmarks whereby to shape his course. One of the most important of these is the button which is worn by every mandarin on the top of his hat. Each of the nine ranks has its particular button, and the second degree of the first and second ranks are also marked by separate buttons. The official list is as follows:

"First Rank—First degree, light coral red button; second degree, deep coral red button.
"Second Rank—First degree, light crimson button; second degree, dark crimson button.
"Third Rank—Both, light clear blue.
"Fourth Rank—Dark prussian blue.
"Fifth—Quartz, glass or crystal.
"Sixth—Opaque white.
"Seventh and Eighth—Gilded, yellow or gold.
"Ninth—Silver or silver white.

"It will be seen that a red button indicates high rank. The rank in general is personal rather than official. Thus, for example, a taotship is an office of the third rank, and its button is a light, clear blue. Yet many taotships, if not a majority of the class, are decorated with red buttons. It even happens that a person of the second rank, through misfortune or political vicissitudes, will hold an office of the fifth or sixth rank. In such a case he would still wear his red button, and in many official events would be preceded by an official of a dark blue or crystal button. For this reason it is often very difficult to tell the official rank of mandarins by their buttons. Nor is the difficulty lessened by the embroidered insignias upon the wearing apparel. This is more elaborate than the buttons, but, like the latter, does not discriminate between rank and position.

"To overcome the difficulty the Chinese resort to several expedients. One is the card on which is written a full statement of the owner's rank, degree and position. Such a card in English might read, 'Smith, baronet, judge of session, Devon.' Another consists of having the same facts painted upon the lanterns with which all chairs are provided. These can be read with equal ease day or night. The third is used for the information of the public and consists in having the name and all titles carved in large, bold characters on long red boards, which are carried by coolies. Mandarins who have received many honors will frequently have as many as 20 of these red boards. Where an official has retired from service he is still entitled to place these boards at the entrance of his residence. A fourth mode resembles the preceding and applies to junks or vessels in which a mandarin travels. The characters are written upon flags, which are fastened to the mast and elsewhere in lieu of ordinary bunting. When the present governor of Formosa left Shanghai on the steamer Smith, no less than 20 banners of this class were flung to the breeze from the masts and other parts of the boat.

"The embroidered insignias of rank and position are placed upon the front and back of official robes. They must be of the finest workmanship and so well executed as to show the design clearly and accurately. The general design for a civil officer is a bird, and for a military official a quadruped animal. The civil list is as follows, ranks and not degrees being discriminated:

"First—A Manchurian crane. Second—A golden pheasant. Third—A peacock. Fourth—A wild goose. Fifth—A silver pheasant. Sixth—A young egret. Seventh—A quail. Eighth—A long tailed jay. Ninth—An oriole.

"The military list runs:

"First—A unicorn. Second—A lion. Third—A leopard. Fourth—A tiger. Fifth—A black bear. Sixth—A tiger cat. Seventh—A mottled bear. Eighth—A seal. Ninth—A rhinoceros.

"These insignias have been used from time immemorial, while the buttons are a creation of the Manchoo conquerors of China. It is a singular fact that both the lion and the rhinoceros are strangers to the latter country. The limit of their habitat seems to be the Ganges and to have been so since the tertiary period. The knowledge of these animals by the Chinese was acquired long before the Christian era, when large fleets of junks, naval, private or commercial, went from Canton to nearly every port in Hindoostan and often brought back these and other wild beasts alive.

"A case of confusion in the use of buttons and insignias lies in the ever increasing power of wealth to secure these honors by purchase. Originally they meant pedigree, military heroism, generalship or intellectual ability, literary culture or eminent philanthropy. Their ownership indicated distinction of some kind to a high degree. This is no longer true. Ambitious officials are permitted to wear them in high honorary ranks. In Canton and Hankow several magistrates of the seventh rank have purchased the right and now wear light blue buttons. One, a very rich Cantonese, unconsciously reflects upon the decadence of the lines by using as a button a magnificent sapphire worth a king's ransom. Even private citizens are allowed to gratify their vanity in this manner. A wealthy tea taster in Tamsui, whose education would not allow him to become an official of the lowest class, secured the privilege of wearing a dark blue button by paying a heavy sum of money to the powers that be. He is said to have paid down \$30,000 for the bauble.—Washington Post.

An Astute Policeman.
Chicago Official—I have proof that you saw a man on the streets after 1 o'clock and neglected to question him.
Policeman—No, but I followed him, saw him enter a house and five minutes after heard a shrill female voice giving him Hall Columbia for being out so late, and so I knew he was a respectable citizen.—New York Weekly.

A ROYAL KID.

Bulgaria Went Wild With Joy Over the Visit of the Baby Prince.

A man of 84 years and a boy of as many hours are the two most conspicuous figures in Europe today. One, it is feared, must soon close one of the most remarkable public careers of this or any other age. The other, born in a palace, may some day sit upon a rather shaky throne. All Europe has smiled indulgently over the extravagant welcome with which Prince Ferdinand and his subjects received the wee bit of humanity that this world an awful humberg.

Before he had a chance to enjoy his first meal he was frightened half to death by the firing of 101 cannon under his window. He had hardly donned his swaddling clothes before he was condemned to be "Bearer of the Collar of the Order of St. Alexander." The poor child would have howled in protest, but the royal decree informed him that as the chief of three regiments of infantry, cavalry and artillery no such weakness would be tolerated. Some ordinary infant indulgences might be permitted him as prince and duke, but as a full fledged "Knight of the First and Fourth Class Military Order of Valor" he must preserve the stern dignity of his rank.

It was a hard week for him. In the first place, the palace yard was thronged night and day by his singing, dancing, affectionate subjects. His royal daddy, in spite of the nurse's protests, persisted in dangling him at a window several times a day, to the frantic delight of the cheering crowds. The whole principality took a week's holiday, and the rejoicing was so spontaneous and unrestrained that the nation found the spectacle a welcome relief from the solemn croakings about war.—New York Sun's London Letter.

THE NICKEL STEEL GUN.

Interest at the Government Ordnance Shops Over the New Method of Assembling.

The force at the Washington ordnance shops has nearly completed the assembling of the first nickel steel gun for the navy, and the result is awaited with interest. The ordnance officers have been engaged some time in the construction of a furnace for heating the tube of this gun, which is of 8 inch caliber. The furnace will apply the heat to the gun in a horizontal instead of in a perpendicular position. The jacket, the piece of metal which fits over the base of the tube and gives it greater strength, will be forced over the tube while the latter is kept beyond the expanding influence of the heat by the constant application of a stream of water.

The delay in assembling the gun, the forgings of which have been ready for some time, has been caused by the difficulty in securing a pyrometer, a delicate instrument for registering the fearful heat of the furnace. This instrument has been received, and everything is ready for the assembling of the gun. There is naturally much interest among ordnance experts over the result of the new system of putting great guns together, for, if the proposed method is a success, it will take the place of the old way, which required a good deal of shifting of heavy weights and the use of a shrinking pit.

There is also much interest in the trial of the nickel steel gun. It is expected that it will prove stronger and of longer life than the simple steel gun.—Washington Star.

Died While the Doctors Quarreled.

Here is the latest episode of Parisian life. The cold weather of late has been rather severe on the simian population of the gay capital, and it was keenly felt by Maurice, the orang-outang of the Jardin d'Acclimation. When Maurice fell ill, it was decided by the managers of the Jardin that inasmuch as Maurice possessed far more resemblance to a man than to an animal, a regular doctor should be summoned, and accordingly the services of a physician were invoked. On his arrival however, the doctor declared that, as the patient occupied an intermediary place between the quadrumanes and the humans, its treatment should devolve upon a veterinary surgeon, who, however, hesitated to assume the responsibility on the ground that Maurice was more human than beast. While the discussion was in progress between the two medicals the monkey died.—Boston Herald.

An Archbishop on Suicides.

The archbishop of Canterbury, at a church convocation the other day, entered a strong protest against the growing tendency to what is called "codding suicides." He protested against the conventional verdict of temporary insanity in order to grant a Christian burial. In spite of the repugnance to speak ill of the dead, suicide is becoming too prevalent, and a healthier public sentiment against it should be encouraged. He urged that newspaper headings, instead of being "Romantic," "Pathetic," "Interesting," should be "Revolutionary Self Murderer."—London Exchange.

Wants a Convict Wife.

Warden Weyler recently received at the penitentiary a letter in which the writer asked "if there is a young girl in your prison the age of 16 or 17, 18 or 20 years who can be taken out by marrying." The writer asked an answer and signed the name of John Mobley, adding the names of his father and mother and the information that he was born in Wilson, N. C. No address was given to which an answer to the letter might be sent.—Baltimore Sun.

Prescott Peculiarities.

Things are being run with a rather high hand in not the best localities in Prescott. The kicking in of doors and the seizing against their wishes and dragging around of women by men loaded down with six shooters is bound to result in bloodshed.—Prescott (A. T.) Courier.

M. A. Miller has a full and complete line of cough syrups.

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All our woolen underwear sold at prices to suit the times.

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When in Westerlo call on City Drug Store for headache cure.

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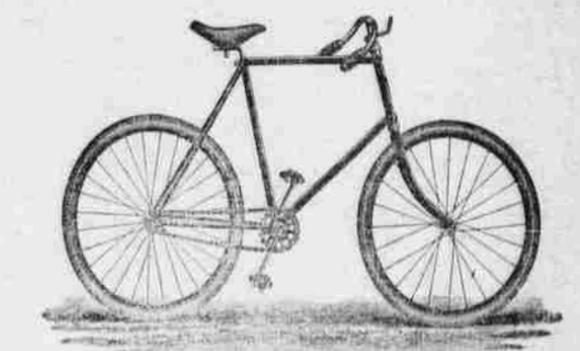
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A strictly high-grade Sewing Machine, finished throughout in the best possible manner. It possesses all modern improvements, and its mechanical construction is such that it is an undoubted simplicity with great strength, this bearing ease of running, durability, and making it impossible for the machine to be put out of order. It sews fast and makes a perfect stitch with all kinds of thread and all classes of material, always ready for use, and unrivaled for speed, durability and quality of work. Notice the following points of superiority:

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Highest Arm—Space under the arm is 3 1/2 inches high and 9 inches long. This will admit the largest skirts, and even quilts. It is Self-Threading—Absolutely no holes to put thread through except eye of needle. Shuttle cylinder, open on end, entirely self-threading. Never get out of order, or take out; bobbin holds a large amount of thread. Stitch Regulator is on the bed of the machine, beneath the bobbin winder, and has a scale showing the number of stitches to the inch, and can be changed from 8 to 32 stitches to the inch. Feed is double and extends on both sides of needle; never fails to take goods through; never stops at wrong movement; Automatic Bobbin Winder—For filling the bobbin automatically and perfectly smooth without holding the thread. Machine does not run while winding bobbin. Light Running—Machine is easy to run, does not fatigue the operator, makes little noise and sews rapidly. Silk is a double lock stitch; the spring on both sides will not ravel, and can be changed without stopping the machine. Season is a fine spring tension, makes little noise and sews rapidly. Sewing Machine is put out of order, or take out; bobbin holds a large amount of thread. Stitch Regulator is on the bed of the machine, beneath the bobbin winder, and has a scale showing the number of stitches to the inch, and can be changed from 8 to 32 stitches to the inch. Feed is double and extends on both sides of needle; never fails to take goods through; never stops at wrong movement; Automatic Bobbin Winder—For filling the bobbin automatically and perfectly smooth without holding the thread. Machine does not run while winding bobbin. Light Running—Machine is easy to run, does not fatigue the operator, makes little noise and sews rapidly. Sewing Machine is put out of order, or take out; bobbin holds a large amount of thread. 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