

**The First American Railroad.**

In the course of a paper read before the Franklin Institute, bearing the title, "Transportation Facilities of the Past and Present," Mr. Barnett Le Van corrects the commonly received statement that the Granite Railroad, built at Quincy, Mass., in 1827, by Gridley Bryant, for transporting stone for the Bunker Hill Monument from the granite quarries of Quincy, was the first railroad built in the United States. On this point he presents interesting testimony to prove that, far from being the first, the Granite Railroad was really only the fourth in order of precedence in the United States. We quote from that portion of the paper relating to the subject as follows: "Railroads were first introduced into Pennsylvania. In September, 1809, the first experimental track in the United States was laid out by John Thomson (the father of John Edgar Thomson, who was afterward the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company), Civil Engineer of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and constructed under his direction by Somerville, a Scotch millwright, for Thomas Leiper, of Philadelphia. It was 180 feet in length, and graded one and one-half inches to the yard. The gauge was four feet, and the sleepers eight feet apart. The experiment with a loaded car was so successful that Leiper in the same year caused the first practical railroad in the United States to be constructed for the transportation of stone from his quarries on Crum Creek to his landing on Ridley Creek, in Delaware County, Pa., a distance of about one mile. It continued in use for nineteen years. Some of the original foundations, consisting of rock in which holes were drilled and afterward plugged with wood to receive the spikes for holding the sleepers in place, may be seen to this day.—Scientific American.

**Wealthy Romans.**

Some of the ancient Romans were very wealthy. The philosopher Seneca had a fortune of £3,500,000. Tiberius, at his death, left £23,624,000, which Caligula spent in less than twelve months. Vespasian, on ascending the throne, estimated all the expenses of the State at £25,000,000. The debts of Milo amounted to £600,000. Caesar, before he entered upon any office, owed £2,995,000. He had purchased the friendship of Curio for £500, and that of Lucius Paulus for £300,000. At the time of the assassination of Julius Caesar an only son was in debt to the amount of £3,000,000; he owed this sum on the 15th of March, and it was paid before the kalends of April; he squandered £147,000,000. Appian squandered in debauchery £500,000, and finding on examination of the state of his affairs that he had £80,000, poisoned himself. If he considered that sum insufficient for his maintenance, Julius Caesar gave Satilius, the mother of Brutus, a pearl of the value of £10,000. One single dish cost Esopus £80,000. Caligula spent for one supper £80,000, and Heliodorus £20,000. The usual cost of a repast to Lucullus was £20,000.—Chicago Herald.

Sponges are very offensive in smell when taken from the water, and soon grow worse. This is cured by burying them in dry sand, and, when decomposition has ceased, exposing them in wire cages to the action of the tides.—Chicago Herald.

**Couldn't Have Been a Woman.**

Bagley: That was a painful affair in Frankford last week.  
Mrs. B.: Oh, do tell me!  
"A woman was the sole repository of a dreadful secret. On her deathbed she called her relatives around her and proclaimed it to all!"  
"Not a bit. She died without revealing it."  
"William, that story is untrue, or else it was not a woman."—Philadelphia Call.

Remember that there is a home nursery at Lafayette, when you want trees. Address E. R. Poppleton.

**A KOORDISH VILLAGE.**

**Swarthy Asiatics Who Have Not the Least Conception of Mannerliness.**

The shades of evening are beginning to settle down over the wild mountainous country round about. It is growing uncomfortably chilly for this early in the evening, and the prospects look favorable for a supperless and most disagreeable night, when I descry a village perched in an opening among the mountains a mile or thereabouts off to the right. Repairing thither I find it to be a Koordish village, where the hovels are more excavations than buildings; buffaloes, horses, goats, chickens and human beings all find shelter under the same low roof; their respective quarters are nothing but a mere railing of rough poles, and as the question of ventilation is never even thought of the effect upon one's olfactory nerves upon entering is any thing but reassuring. The filth and rags of these people is something abominable; on account of the chilliness of the evening they have donned their heavy raiment; these have evidently had rags patched on top of other rags for years past until they have gradually developed into thick quilted garments, in the innumerable seams of which the most disgusting entomological specimens, bred and engendered by their wretched mode of existence, live and perpetuate their kind. However, repulsive as the outlook most assuredly is, I have no alternative but to cast my lot among them till morning. I am conducted into the Sheikh's apartment, a small room partitioned off with a pole from a stable of horses and buffaloes, and where darkness is made visible by the sickly glimmer of a grease lamp. The Sheikh, a thin, sallow-faced man of about forty years, is reclining on a mattress in one corner smoking cigarettes; a dozen ill-conditioned ragmuffins are squatting about in various attitudes, while the ragtag and bobtail of the population crowd into the buffalo stable and survey me and the bicycle from outside the partition pole. A circular wooden tray, containing an abundance of bread, a bowl of yaort, and a small quantity of stringy cheese that resembles chunks of dried codfish, warped and twisted in the drying, is brought in and placed in the middle of the floor. Everybody in the room at once gathers around it and begins eating with as little formality as so many wild animals, the Sheikh silently motions for me to do the same. The yaort bowl contains one solitary wooden spoon, with which they take turns at eating mouthfuls. One is compelled to draw the line somewhere, even under the most unpromising circumstances, and I naturally drew it against eating yaort with this same wooden spoon, making small scoops with pieces of bread, I dip you part and eat scoop and all together. These particular Koords seem absolutely ignorant of anything in the shape of mannerliness, or of consideration of each other at the table. When the yaort has been dipped into twice or thrice all around the sheikh coolly confiscates the bowl, eats part of what is left, pours water into the remainder and deliberately drinks it all up; one or two others seize all the cheese, utterly regardless of the fact that nothing remains for myself and their companions, who, by the way, seem to regard it as a perfectly natural proceeding.—Thomas, Stevens, in Ouing.

A few evenings ago a fine-looking, well-dressed negro, black as black can be, entered a drug store and inquired semi-confidentially of the clerk: "Do you keep lamp-black?" "How much do you want?" "Well, you see, sah—ah—is it very nice? I would like a little, sah, in a pretty box like these," pointing vaguely at boxes containing toilet articles in the show cases. "Well," said the clerk, dubiously, "I dunno; what do you want it for?" "For de toilet, sah; for my wife—she powdahs, sah!"—Buffalo Express.

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**MISCELLANEOUS.**

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Santa Maria	Monday Feb. 14
Yaquina City	Sunday Feb. 20
Santa Maria	Saturday, Feb. 26
Yaquina City	Friday, March 4
FROM SAN FRANCISCO.	
Santa Maria	Friday Jan. 28
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Santa Maria	Wednesday Feb. 9
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