

BRINGS RARE CURIOS

Army Officer Must Pay Duty on His Treasures.

Lieut. Schoeffel Meets with Difficulty on Reaching San Francisco with Chinese Imperial Seals and Jade Tablets.

Five Chinese imperial seals and 12 jade tablets from the temple at Peking, which were brought home by Lieut. John B. Schoeffel, of the Ninth infantry, were seized at the transport dock at San Francisco by the customs officers the other day. It was supposed at first that the tablets were of great historical value, but more careful examination convinces the customs officials that they were simply ornaments and of no particular value except as curios. Both the tablets and seals are beautifully done, and they will command high prices as curios. It was intended at first to hold the relics pending instructions from Washington, but later it was decided that Schoeffel could have his property by paying the duty. The amount has not been fixed. The imperial seals weigh about six pounds, are of rectangular shape, about six inches square and three inches in height. Carved dragons in crouching attitudes surmount the block, serving as handles. Chinese characters are carved in relief on the base of the seals, and a yellow tassel is knotted on one of them. The tablets are of dark green jade, each inscribed on one side with Chinese characters traced in gold. The five-toed dragon, the Chinese royal escutcheon, is imprinted on the other side, also traced in gold. The tablets are ten inches by five, by one-half an inch in thickness. Lieut. Schoeffel said he bought the jade tablets of a Chinese, who did not tell him where they came from. He declares that if they are of any historical value he did not know it. He bought them simply as curios, and has been carting them around for two years. He was not in the least disturbed by the seizure.

HIGH TRIBUTE TO HIS WIFE.

Emperor Tells Students at Bonn That Presence of Empress at Kommerz Should Be Lifelong Inspiration.

At the kommerz of the Borussia student corps, which was held at Bonn, Emperor William, who was present referred in a speech to the empress of Germany, who witnessed the kommerz from the gallery of the building. Alluding to the presence of his wife, the emperor said:

"The chroniclers record that when our forefathers met in tournaments it was perfectly natural that a circle of illustrious ladies should witness their deeds, and with pride the victor received the wreath presented by a lovely hand. It was thus also at Wartburg, when they seized the harp and lyre and sang in competition.

"Never before, so long as the history of German universities has been written, has any university received such an honor as is conferred to-day upon that of Bonn. In company with the beauty of Bonn and surrounded by ladies of princely rank, her majesty, the empress, the first princess of the land, has appeared at a students' kommerz. This unprecedented honor and to the Borussia student corps. I hope and expect that all the young members of the Borussia corps upon whom the eye of the empress has rested to-day have received an inspiration for the rest of their lives. I call for a strong salamander for her majesty; hurrah!"

PLANS CONSUMPTION TEST.

Dr. Garnault, the Paris Physician Who Inoculated Himself with Virus, is Disappointed.

Dr. Garnault, the Paris physician who has inoculated himself with matter taken from a consumptive cow, in order to disprove Prof. Koch's theory that it is impossible for human beings to catch tuberculosis from cattle, is ready for a new experiment.

He does not propose that Dr. Theobald Smith, professor of comparative pathology at the medical school at Harvard university, shall treat him during the present experiment if tuberculosis declares itself. Should the experiment fail, however, then Dr. Garnault will place himself in communication with Dr. Smith and Prof. Baumgarten, of Tubingen, who, he says, "if they do not follow Koch completely, yet express doubts which impose on them grave obligations.

"I do not ask Dr. Smith or Prof. Baumgarten to imitate me," continues Dr. Garnault, "but if the experiment fails I ask them to assure, in concert with me, a new, decisive experiment, to be practiced on myself."

Dr. Garnault also says that he chooses Dr. Smith and Prof. Baumgarten because he is convinced of their scientific good faith, which he questions in Prof. Koch. The French physician is willing to go to Boston if necessary for the experiment.

Prize for Punctuality.

Young Teddy Roosevelt has received a prize at Groton for punctuality. There is nothing more worthy of a prize than that same punctuality, says the Chicago Record-Herald, as any man who has ever agreed to meet his wife at a given time and place will admit.

His Cheerful, Busy Season.

Now that the American woman who can afford to go to the seashore and the mountains are in transit, each with from two to a dozen trunks, says the Chicago Record-Herald, the baggage smasher is naturally in a cheerful mood.

HIS BUG ALREADY CLASSIFIED

Mrs. Professor Had Paid Two Dollars for It and It Belonged on Her New Bonnet.

As the stogie man stood at the end of the bar he chuckled to himself and blew clouds of smoke until the mixer had serious thoughts of sending in a call for the fire department. Fortunately the broker's clerk and the meek man came in together and the oracle let it out, relates the New York Times.

"Got a laugh on that college professor up my way. His regular graft is anatomy, you know; but he makes a side issue of zoology in general—'specially insects and bugs. Regular bug hunter—one of these fellers that chase butterflies and such with a young fish net, and impales the specimens on a big-headed pin, and, as though that wasn't bad enough, insults the poor creatures by writing unpronounceable names under 'em.

"Well, he was returning from church with his family last Sunday when he discovered a new and singular insect on the front doorstep. He was naturally mighty pleased, and, forming his handkerchief into a net, he pounced down upon and succeeded in capturing it.

"Bring the microscope, children," says he, 'an' tell your ma to hurry; I want her to look at it. I'm sure it belongs to the hemiptera class, and is a new specimen. Here, Charlie, put your eye to the glass and tell me what you see."

"Oh, pa, ain't it splendid! It's got four wings, eight eyes, and don't it sparkle! Red and green and yellow—oh, it's getting away, ain't it?"

"Then it isn't dead!" cried the professor in ecstasy. He's so near-sighted that he passes his next door neighbor on the street without knowing him. 'I wasn't quite sure whether it moved or not. Let me look! Yes, after all, I think it belongs to the genus pentamera—the antennae have that peculiar flexible look; and yet, now that I look again, the eyes seem to indicate that it is a phytocoridae, in which case it will be very destructive to your ma's plants and we must kill it at once. It will be a very valuable addition to our collection. Marie, where's the chloroform?"

"What are you going to do with it?" asked Mrs. Professor. She wouldn't trust him with the paragon without knowing what he was going to do with it, he's so absent-minded.

"Kill this insect as soon as you have examined it."

"Well, I guess not," says she, looking with much interest at the new specimen. "I paid two dollars for that insect, as you call it, last week. To wear on my bonnet, and it must have dropped off when I came in. It belongs to the genus millinerae, and couldn't be any deader if it had been baked for a century. Science will have to get on without it, professor; it's already classified."

WHAT THE WATER CURE IS.

A Punishment for Swearing Sooner Than Has Been in Use for Many Years.

What has come to be known as the "water cure" treatment is an adoption by the army of a disciplinary measure as old to the navy as wooden hulls and hemp rigging. The deep-sea sailor calls it a "handy-billy washdown," and its application is only resorted to as the most effective means to stop the bawling profanity of a drunken sailor on shipboard, says the Philadelphia Times.

Where ships are visiting ports in torrid climates it is considered a hardship to confine a man in the brig, the ship's lockup, because of the heat, and a sailor who goes on board in an unruly, intoxicated condition is usually put in the forward deck. Not infrequently, when "Jack" has been drinking all kinds in sight on a shore leave, the "feel" of the irons, combined with the liquor, makes him "swearing mad." No one, from the commanding officer to the ship's boy, escapes his onths at such times, and finally it becomes necessary for the peace and discipline of the ship, to give him a "handy-billy washdown."

His hands, which are fastened behind him are lashed to a bolt in the deck, and the "handy-billy"—a small hand forcepump—is prepared for action. A rubber hose, without a nozzle, is pointed close to his face and chum, is asked to stop swearing, or "Jack" is asked to stop swearing, or take the "washdown." The answer generally comes in the form of renewed effort to swear louder and harder. "Pump petty officer in charge orders: 'Pump away!' and for four or five seconds a steady stream is played on the sailor's mouth. His spluttering attempts to utter more oaths in spite of the water are drowned in the laugh from his shipmates.

High-Priced Orchids.

There are a number of orchids worth from \$2,000 to \$4,000 apiece. They grow in the malavial, miasmatic jungles of Africa, and there are men whose only business in life is orchid hunting. They only gather them in the dry season, when they are shriveled and apparently dead. Gathered in the wet season, when they are blooming the least rough handling would kill them. Some orchids do not bloom till they are 18 years old. Others grow in the cold and rarified air of mountain tops.—Nature.

Ice and Milk for the Poor.

A philanthropic society in Philadelphia peddles ice in the summer to the poor at one cent for as many as seven pounds, and pure sterilized milk at one cent a bottle.—Allan Argus.

A PERILOUS CALLING

Difficulties and Dangers Met With in Bridge-Building.

Mammoth Steel Sinews Must Be Woven Into the Dizzy Structures with Mathematical Accuracy at All Times.

The design of a long bridge span is one of the most elaborate mathematical problems that arises in constructive work. The stresses produced by its own weight, by the weight of traffic, by locomotive drivers, by the hammering of flattened wheels, by the action of brakes on an express train, by the high speed of a curved track, by the wind and by the expansion and contraction of the steel in summer and winter, are all accurately calculated. The definition of the loaded and unloaded bridge is determined, and complete drawings are made of every member of it. The bars of steel are tested in machines which will pull in two a horsehair or a steel bar strong enough to lift half a score of the heaviest locomotives at once, and which will crush an egg-shell or a steel column, and accurately measure the stress in each case. The different kinds of members are forged, riveted, bored or planed in perhaps half a dozen remote shops, and although usually not fitted together there, are examined and measured by specialists to see that they are correct, and are then shipped by scores of car loads to the site of the proposed structure, where steam derricks unload them and pile them many feet high in stacks covering acres of ground.

The huge piers may rise above the water, hundreds of feet apart. It remains to place on them a 1,000-ton structure, high above a savage chasm, over an impassable current or roaring tide, where the water is deep, the bottom of jagged rocks or treacherous quicksand, or where an old bridge must be removed and the new one built in its place without interrupting navigation or obstructing continuous traffic on the bridge. To accomplish this the engineer has timber, bolts and ropes, hoisting engines, derricks, and a band of intrepid builders, who have perhaps followed him for years through more hardship and danger than fall to the lot of almost any other calling, writes Frank W. Skinner, in Century.

The complicated framework of a great span is a skeleton with many accurate joints and thousands of steel sinews and bones, each of which must go in exactly the right place in exactly the right order. The builder must weave into the trusses pieces larger, heavier and far more inflexible than whole tree-trunks; swiftly hoist and swing them to place hundreds of feet high; fit together the massive girders and huge forged bars with watchmaker's accuracy; support the unwieldy masses until they are kevel together and self-sustaining; and under millions of pounds of stress must adjust them, at dizzy heights, to mathematical lines. This he may need to do, not deliberately in a comfortable shop or on a solid platform, but in dangerous emergencies, at utmost speed, putting forth his whole strength on narrow, springing planks in a furious tempest, in bitter cold or in blazing heat. He may be in the heart of an African desert, menaced by blood-thirsty fanatics, or in a gorge of the Andes, hundreds of miles from tools or supplies, where there is absolutely no supplement to his own resources. Under such conditions bridge building is one of the most fascinating and difficult of engineering problems, and requires a different solution for almost every case.

President Palma on Florida.

Senor Palma and Gov. Jennings were very complimentary toward each other. In speaking of Florida Senor Palma seemed greatly touched. "If it had not been for Florida," he said, "Cuban independence would probably never have been realized. When other ports one at a time closed against us, Jacksonville still remained open. There was always a little cigar store there from which arrangements could be made to start any expedition which had been planned. If the Spanish consul had put a bomb under the little cigar store instead of doing so much protesting to the government, he would have accomplished more." President Palma spoke in a very amusing vein concerning the matter of cooling stations. He said the Cubans thought very much of Key West, and that he thought the United States, instead of demanding the Isle of Pines for cooling purposes, should, on the contrary, give Cuba the island of Key West. "Key West is closer to Cuba than Florida, anyhow," he said.—Havana (Cuba) Post.

Which Was It?

Sir William MacCormac, the president of the Royal College of Surgeons, is an indefatigable worker. Often to save time when studying in his laboratory, he used to have a light luncheon served there. On one occasion his assistants heard him sigh heavily, and looking up, saw the doctor glaring at two glass receptacles on his table. "What is the matter, doctor?" asked one of the men. "Nothing in particular," was the reply, "only I am uncertain whether I drank the beef tea or that compound I have been working on. And on the whole, I would rather it had been the beef tea."—Youth's Companion.

Out of It.

"The man who doesn't own a horse or a wife," remarked the Observer of Events and Things, "has no business buying bonnets."—Yonkers Statesman.

Conference Ends in Failure.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3.—The great coal conference between the President and the representatives of the operators and miners came to an end at the temporary White House, facing La Fayette square at 4:55 o'clock this afternoon, with failure to reach an agreement, and, apparently, the rock upon which the conference split was the recognition of the miners' union. The President had urged the contending parties to cease strife in the interest of the public welfare; the miners, through the president of their union, had expressed a willingness to the differences to arbitration trial to be named by the President, and to enter into an agreement to abide by terms fixed by the arbitration for a period of one to five years; and the employers, through the presidents of the railway companies and a prominent mine operator, had squarely refused arbitration, had denounced the miners' labor organization as a lawless and anarchistic body, with which they could and would have no dealings; had demanded Federal troops to insure complete protection to workers and their families in the mining region, and court proceedings against the miners' union, and had offered, if the men returned to work, to submit grievances at individual collieries to the decision of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the district of Pennsylvania in which the colliery was located. There the matter closed.

Great excitement has been occasioned in Dawson during the past few days by the reports of a big strike on Duncan Creek. Fabulous stories are told of the wealth of the region; and the rush from that city has equalled anything seen in the early days of the Klondike excitement. One claim in the newly-discovered diggings is yielding \$300 a day. A quartz strike 60 miles from Dawson, in the Rocky Mountains, is also causing some excitement, and many are preparing to leave for that region. Samples of the ore have been sent to Dawson, and it is claimed to be the best base ore ever seen there. Considerable work is being done on the mine, and experts claim the ore will average \$80 to the ton.

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