

# A BIG NAVAL EVENT

## Launching of the First Warship of Our Young Nation.

### SHE WAS THE UNITED STATES

It Was a Great Day in Philadelphia When Our First Naval Vessel Built Under the Constitution Slid Into the Water on May 10, 1797.

In the long list of splendid vessels which in a hundred combats have maintained the honor of our national flag the United States stands at the head. After three years of unavoidable detention the first naval vessel built by the United States under the constitution was to be committed to the waves. The day chosen for so great an event in our history was May 10, 1797. The hour for the launching was set for 1 in the afternoon, and the whole city of Philadelphia, it is said, went down to Southwark to behold such a rare show.

One estimate puts the number present at the launching at 30,000 souls, a goodly number for that period. Another authority declares that an hour after the launching took place the streets of Philadelphia near the river front were still choked with people going home.

It was feared that a strong northwest wind, which for several days had kept back the tides of the river, would make the waters of the Delaware much too shallow to permit the launching. Yet at sunrise on the morning of the 10th the best points of observation began to be occupied by an eager throng.

By noon every hilltop and every house-top commanding a view on each side of the river and every inch of space on the stands put up about the vessel and before the houses on Swanston street was covered with human beings. In the river a hundred craft rode at anchor, gay with bunting and richly dressed dames. At 1 precisely the blocks were knocked from under her, the lashing of the cable cut and amidst the shouts of the great multitude the United States slid gracefully down her ways.

The builder of this first naval vessel of the United States was Joshua Humphreys. The launching was witnessed by the president of the United States and the heads of the departments, who were stationed in the United States brig Sophie. Commodore Barry was in command of the vessel.

The figurehead on the vessel was carved by William Rush and represented the genius of America wearing a crest adorned with a constellation. Her hair escaped in loose, wavy tresses and rested upon her breast. A portrait of Washington was suspended from her neck, and her waist was bound with a civic band.

In the right hand the figure held a spear and belts of wampum—the emblems of war and peace. In her left hand was suspended the constitution of the Union. Above was a tablet on which rested three books, to represent the three branches of government, and the scales of justice. On the base of the tablet were carved the eagle and national escutcheon and the attributes of commerce, agriculture, the arts and sciences.

Scarcely was the frigate in the water than the journals of the country who were in favor of the French republic and took exception to the class rule of the country, as they designated it, began to scoff and to jeer. "What would the executive do with his navy of one forty-four gun ship? Send her to hunt up the Africa and demand satisfaction for the insults heaped upon the town of Newport and the French Minister Fauchet? Send her to avenge the dogging given by an Englishman to the captain of an American ship? Would he use her to stop the impressment of our seamen and the plunder of our merchantmen? Or would he use her against the French?"

These radical Republicans noted that Talleyrand himself had been heard to say that France had nothing to fear from a nation of debaters that had been trying for three years to build three frigates.

The United States was one of the first vessels to do service in the War of 1812, with that brilliant sea captain, Stephen Decatur, in charge, and the most remarkable of the engagements in which she fought was with the Macedonian. Of all the battles between American and British ships there was none so often discussed and so well remembered up to our civil war as this sea fight, for the reason that the victory was well won for the Americans, and the Macedonian was brought into port, and for many years she carried the stars and stripes.—Philadelphia Press.

**Few Norwegians Can Swim.**  
It is a curious fact, says the London *Lancet*, considering the geography of the country, that the proportion of Norwegians who can swim is small, the number of deaths in Norway from drowning being about 600 a year. Only about 12 per cent of all the school children between the ages of twelve and fifteen have learned to swim. Norwegian sailors say the extreme coldness of the waters that leave their shores accounts for this.

**A Quick Decider.**  
The firemen turned the hose in our basement, sir, and drenched two of that silk dress gowns. Merchant—Advertise a big sale of watered silk right away.—Boston Transcript.

Long ailments wear out pain and long hopes joy.—Stanislaus.

## TITLES IN RUSSIA.

Where There Are Only Two Classes, Nobles and Peasants.

Contrary to the laws existing in England and Sweden, in Russia when a lady belonging to a titled family marries a Russian gentleman without a title she takes her husband's name entirely, and the only right left to her of her former title is to write on her visiting cards and official papers "Mrs. So-and-so, born Princess, Countess or Baroness So-and-so." Her children are called by their father's name. There are only a few exceptions to this rule.

In Russia no middle class or gentry are known. There are only nobles and peasants. The czar, however, grants sometimes for special merit the right to be styled a nobleman and also for the same reason the titles of count and baron and occasionally that of prince.

All those merchants who have kept their firms always flourishing for a hundred years have the right to receive the foreign title of baron. This law was made by Peter the Great over 200 years ago, but the merchants very seldom accept this title and generally decline the privilege.

In former days when the peasants were still slaves they had no family names, but were called by their father's Christian name. Peter's son was called son of Peter—in Russian Petrov; so also Smirnov—Simon's son; Ivanov—Ivan's (John) son, and so on. When slavery was abolished and the emancipation proclaimed by the Emperor Alexander II, they all kept these names. Since then many of them have received the right to belong to the class of nobles.

The Russian clergy, belonging to the class of peasants, for it very seldom happens that nobles become priests, have special family names. Their names mean always a feast day or a precious stone or something connected with the church. In former days the clergy was a class apart, and a son of a clergyman was bound to be a clergyman, and when they first entered the church they chose a name for themselves.—London Answers.

## ROCK OF GIBRALTAR.

The "Key of the Mediterranean" Has Had a Stormy History.

England has been in possession of the rocky promontory of Gibraltar since 1704. From that time to this it has been a crown colony under the administration of a governor. By reason of its important strategical position it is called the "key of the Mediterranean." Gibraltar has had a stormy history.

In 711 the rock was taken by the Arab chief Tarik, who called it Jebel-al-Tarik (Hill of Tarik) and built a fortress on the promontory. Part of these ruins is still extant. In 1309 it was taken by the Castilians, only to be recaptured by the Moors in 1333. It was held by them until 1462. Following the taking and sacking of Gibraltar in 1540 by Barbarossa, extensive military works were built there by order of Charles V.

In 1704 the promontory was captured by a combined force under Sir George Rooke and the Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt, fighting for the Archduke Charles of Austria. The moment it fell into their hands the British admiral threw off the alliance with the Austrians and took complete possession of the works.

British possession since that time has been unbroken, although it was under a Spanish siege for nearly three years and eight months, beginning in 1779. Twice the garrison was on the point of falling because of the starvation of its defenders.

## Line and Staff Officers.

Broadly speaking, the distinction between a line officer and a staff officer is that between the fighter and the nonfighter. The staff officer has non-military duties. He may, for example, be a member of the medical corps, an instructor at a military institute or have charge of some administrative department of the army or navy. The word is also used for those men attached to the staff of the commander in chief. A line officer is literally that; he is the man in the field or on a battleship to do the actual fighting.—New York Sun.

## Where Eating is a Trade.

"Maccheroni" eating is a trade with the street beggar of Italy and apparently a satisfying one to men and boys gifted with copper interiors immune to heat. One of the most familiar cries of the beggar is, "Signore, dame cinque soldi, mangia maccheroni!" ("Mister, gimme a nickel for macaroni!") And usually the plea ends with a lugubrious whine, "Oh, muori di fame!" ("Oh, I am dying of hunger!")—National Geographic Magazine.

## Cold Calculation.

"Quality is more to be desired than quantity," said the man of artistic inclinations.  
"Not always," replied the practical person. "A diamond is pure carbon, but you can't get the action from it that you can from a ton of coal."—Washington Star.

## Made a Home Run.

Willis—I played golf yesterday for the first time. Gillis—How did you make out? Willis—Fine. Made a home run right at the start. I hit the first ball into the tall grass in left field and ran around the whole eighteen holes before they found it.—Puck.

## A Cutting Retort.

"I wish you were more like Mr. Green. He never has any business engagements downtown at night."  
"That's so. But you don't see Mrs. Green riding around town in an automobile of her own, do you?"—Detroit Free Press.

# OUR FLOUR RIOTS

## When Mob Law Ruled For Awhile In New York City.

### DURING THE PANIC OF 1837.

Short Crops and High Prices Added to the Terrors of the Financial Disaster, and Warehouses Were Wrecked by the Frenzied Populace.

The panic of 1837 was one of the most severe this country has ever experienced. Owing to the scarcity of money every sort of business received a sudden and severe check. The price of money rose, and none but those with the best security could get it at any terms.

The financial suffering was still further aggravated by the scarcity and high price of flour in the eastern cities. The Hessian fly had made such ravages that the crops along the Atlantic coast states were almost a complete failure. In certain sections it was recommended that the legislature establish public granaries for the storage of wheat.

Affairs in New York were brought to a crisis by the leaders of the Anti-Monopoly, Equal Rights or Locofoco party, who plastered the walls and fences of the city with a handbill calling a meeting of the people to be held in the City park.

On the appointed afternoon some 5,000 persons, mostly foreigners, gathered in front of the city hall. Moses Jacques was chosen chairman, but the crowd was quickly parted into groups and addressed by several speakers. Conspicuous among the orators was Alexander Ming, Jr., many times a candidate for city recorder. He closed his harangue by offering a set of resolutions to be presented to the legislature and praying for a law prohibiting the circulation of bank notes under \$100. They were adopted, and Ming was carried off on the shoulders of his admirers.

Another speaker meanwhile was addressing another group of listeners and, carried away by the denunciation of the holders of flour, exclaimed: "Fellow citizens, Mr. Hart has now 53,000 barrels of flour in his store. Let us go and offer him \$8 a barrel, and if he does not take it"—here somebody touched him on the shoulder—"we shall depart from him in peace."

The hint was enough, and his hearers set on in a body for the warehouse of Ell Hart & Co., in Washington street. The clerks, on the approach of the mob, hastened to shut the doors, but one was burst in and barrels of flour were rolled into the street and opened.

Mr. Hart, with a few police, now arrived on the scene, but they were attacked with staves and stones and driven from the scene. Barrels of flour and sacks of wheat meantime had been thrown from the window by scores, and the flour eagerly gathered up by women and children. A thousand bushels of wheat and 500 barrels of flour are said to have been destroyed.

While the mob was thus engaged the cry "Meech, Meech!" was raised, and a party went off toward the East river to attack the warehouse of Meech & Co., but stopped on the way and sacked the warehouse of Herrick & Co., and destroyed thirty barrels.

In a card published in the newspapers Hart & Co. remarked that the impression prevailed that they were monopolizing flour. The truth was, all flour in the city was the property of the millers and was held under the control of the owners. It was needless to say that the destruction of an article could not tend to reduce the price. Nor did it, for flour at once went up 50 cents a barrel.

At a second meeting in the park a few weeks later the crowd came bearing flags inscribed "No rag, money—give us gold or silver." "Down with chartered monopolies." "We go for principle; no monopolies." "We will enjoy our liberties or die in the last ditch."

A carpenter's bench was used for a platform, and mounted on this Ming urged his hearers not to use rag money, which was the foundation of aristocracy and monopoly. Another speaker advised the crowd to go west in a body, buy land at \$1.25 an acre, found a new state and let the aristocrats build their own houses. This time the artillery paraded, and no disorder occurred.

The panic of 1837 passed into history as probably the most severe monetary crisis the country has ever experienced. Banks all over the country failed, and most of the notes in circulation became valueless. Many large business firms also failed, and mills and factories shut down because their products could not be sold. Rich men became poor, and poor people because there was no work to be had suffered for lack of food. In no place was the panic more keenly felt than in New York, where all the banks suspended May 10, 1837.—Philadelphia Press.

## A Great Wheel.

Laxey, in the Isle of Man, is the headquarters of the lead mines of the island. It is celebrated also for its great wheel, which was erected in 1854. Its diameter is seventy-two feet, and so splendidly is it set that there is no oscillation, and it has been going practically ever since its erection.

## He Reduced.

Willis—I took up golf to reduce. Gillis—Did you succeed? Willis—Yes. I reduced my bank account, my hours at the office and my reputation for veracity.—Puck.

Talebearers are just as bad as tale-makers.—Sheridan.

## THE HISTORIC SCHOENBRUNN.

Austria's Royal Palace the Scene of Many Dramatic Events.

Less than three miles southwest of the Ringstrasse, which surrounds the inner city of Vienna, is the impressive pile of masonry known as Schoenbrunn, where some of the most dramatic episodes in the history of Austria have been staged and where Emperor Francis Joseph's death brought to a close a phenomenal reign of sixty-eight years. A National Geographic society bulletin gives the following description of the royal summer residence and some of the episodes which have had a regal setting there:

"With its more than 1,400 rooms Schoenbrunn is a splendid example of imperial residence modeled on the standard of the great palace at Versailles. One of the striking peculiarities of this home of Austria's royal family, however, is that instead of crowning an eminence it is built on low ground, while the magnificent park of nearly 500 acres occupies the high ground, rising gradually from the palace doors until it terminates on a hill adorned with a beautiful colonnade called the Gloriette.

"Three important events of the Napoleonic era were staged in the imperial apartments of Schoenbrunn. The first was the treaty of 1805, signed here by Napoleon and Haugwitz, the latter acting for the king of Prussia. By this document Napoleon inflicted a humiliating diplomatic defeat on the Prussian statesman, who agreed to surrender Cleves, Ansbach and Neuchatel to France in exchange for Hanover, whereas he had come to see the emperor for the express purpose of delivering an ultimatum demanding the return of Hanover. In the same year (Dec. 27) Napoleon issued the proclamation of 'Schoenbrunn, in which the Bourbon dynasty in Naples was declared at an end.

"Four years after Haugwitz's humiliation a second treaty of Schoenbrunn was signed, the principals this time being Napoleon and Francis I., the Austrian emperor, who less than a year later was to become the father-in-law of the 'upstart Corsican.'

"On this occasion the emperor of the French again drove a hard bargain, but this time his antagonist had no alternative, for the Austrian army had just sustained the crushing defeat at Wagram. The vanquished nation was forced to give up Salzburg, a portion of upper Austria and extensive territory in Carinthia, Carniola, Croatia and along the Adriatic seaboard. In addition, Francis was compelled to relinquish that share of the booty which had fallen to Austria in the third dismemberment of Poland (1795).

"One of the most pathetic scenes ever witnessed within the walls of this palace erected by Maria Theresa was the final hour in the life of the unhappy Duc de Reichstadt, son of Napoleon and the Austrian archduchess Marie Louise. The 'Eagle,' as he was called, was just twenty-one when he died of tuberculosis in a room once occupied by his illustrious father on one of the occasions when he held Schoenbrunn as his military headquarters. A perhaps too highly colored and historically warped but superbly appealing picture of this deathbed has been given to the world by the distinguished poet-playwright of France, Edmond Rostand, in his widely known drama of 'L'Aiglon.'

"One of the novel features of Schoenbrunn is its amazing number of kitchens—139."

## Aroused His Suspicion.

A well known business man who was lately married, says Billy Blair, took out some life insurance last Thursday. Coming uptown Monday morning, he was accosted by one of his friends with the salutation:

"What's the matter, old man? You look worried."  
"Well, to be honest with you, I am. You know, I took out some life insurance last Thursday."

"Yes," replied the sympathetic friend, "but what has that to do with the woe-begone expression on your face?"

"Well, the very next day after I had it written my wife bought a new cookbook. Possibly it's all right, but it certainly looks suspicious."—Kansas City Star.

## Thirteenth Century Happiest Era.

Dr. James J. Walsh of New York spoke on "The Happiest Era in Human History" recently. He so described the thirteenth century, calling attention to the good wages and low prices of that age, the holidays and the leisure to enjoy life. It was the century of architecture and literature. Contrasting it with the present age, Dr. Walsh regarded the twentieth century as almost the unhappiest in human history.—Boston Transcript.

## An Ancient Work on Angling.

The greatest work of antiquity on angling is the "Halioutica" of Oppian, a Greek poet who flourished in the time of Severus, A. D. 198, from which we learn that many artifices in fishing thought to be modern were known to ancients.

We also learn from Athenaeus that several other writers had written on fishing some centuries before the Christian era.

## Not to His Liking.

When he was on his dying bed the witty Bishop Wilmer of the Episcopal church was asked by one of his relatives where he wanted to be buried. "I do not want to be buried," was the bishop's conclusive reply.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Cheerfulness keeps up a kind of sunshine in the soul and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

# POWER OF RADIUM

## It May Be the Force Destined to Destroy the World.

### TO DIE IN A BURST OF FLAME.

This Wonderful Element, It is Claimed, Will First Emancipate Man and Then Later on Put an End to Him and All His Works in a Sea of Fire.

If we place a thermometer into a phial containing a minute quantity of radium bromide it will indicate a temperature 2.7 degrees hotter than the temperature outside of the phial.

What the temperature would be if we substituted radium for radium bromide we have no means of knowing, for science has not as yet produced pure radium, although the lay world prefers to think so. Our closest approach to radium so far has been radium bromide, which if pure consists roughly of three-fifths by weight of the element radium and two-fifths of the element bromine.

Turning back to our thermometer, we also make the discovery that the heat radiated from our speck of radium bromide does not grow less as the days and months—nay, years and centuries—roll by. The mysterious element continues to furnish prodigious amounts of energy, with never a let up or at least not until it has "worked" for 2,500 years, this being the present calculated age of radium.

In order to better comprehend what this means let us compare it with coal. This is what we find:

According to Professor Soddy, a gram of pure radium evolves 133 calories of heat an hour. In one year (8,760 hours) the same gram of radium evolves 1,160,000 calories. In 2,500 years—the length of time radium will evolve energy—2,900,000,000 calories will be developed. Now, one gram of coal when burned evolves 2,200 net calories of heat. Consequently the energy developed by radium is more than a million times that furnished from the combustion of coal.

Commercial radium salts are at present obtained by working the Austrian pitchblende and lately from the American carnotite found in Colorado. These are practically the only commercial sources known today.

But radium is by no means as scarce as most people believe. Radium emanations have been found in springs, in the air, in rocks, etc., and this has given rise to an extraordinary theory regarding the evolution of the world.

When the famous Swiss-Italian Simplon tunnel was constructed some years ago totally unforeseen circumstances arose which made the work most difficult. Although this tunnel is far above sea level, the heat became unendurable as the work progressed. Artificial cooling had to be resorted to in order to allow the workmen to proceed with their work. Professor Joly then made the astounding discovery that the rocks of the Simplon contained radium, which accounted for the unexpected high temperature within the mountain.

From this Joly has built up a new theory of evolution, and, while revolutionary in the extreme, it is most plausible and gains more adherents each year.

Lord Kelvin already deduced that if the earth contained only two parts of radium per million million—and a great deal more is actually found in the rocks and crust of our globe—this minute quantity would raise the temperature of the earth's core 1,800 degrees C. in 100,000,000 years. There being no escape for the imprisoned heat—the earth's crust being an exceedingly bad heat conductor—Professor Joly convinces us that as the ages roll by the interior of the earth must become hotter and hotter. Finally, after the end of millions of millions of years the crust must give way to this tremendous heat from within and the bursting earth must go up in flames, becoming a burning gas ball, just as we see our sun today.

This will be the "Incandescent age," a title suggested by Professor Soddy. After another ten million years the incandescent earth will have expended all of its heat into space by radiation and it gradually will cool. A new crust then begins to form anew. This is what we see at present on the planets Jupiter and Saturn, worlds just beginning to cool after emerging from their incandescent age.

Thus we find that worlds do not die. They slowly pass from one stage to another, in a long and interminable cycle. It is more than probable from the above that the earth must have passed many times through this cycle. Probably every time the world went up in flames man was at his highest point of civilization, infinitely further advanced than we are today. In an instant every living soul had perished, and for millions of years his like was not to tread again on the hardened earth crust.

This is the new and greater gospel of radium, the element which will emancipate man and which will destroy him and his all later.—H. Gernsbach in *Electrical Experimenter*.

## One of Jerrold's Retorts.

Very tart was Douglas Jerrold's retort to a would be wit who, having fired off all his stale jokes with no effect, exclaimed:

"Why, you never laugh when I say a good thing!"

"Don't I?" said Jerrold. "Only try me with one!"

You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one.—James Anthony Froude.

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