

AMONG ORANGE GROVES.

THE SUB-TROPICAL EXPOSITION IN PROGRESS AT JACKSONVILLE.

Pictures of Some of the Buildings—The Scope and Intent of the Great Show—It Is Held to Let the World Know All About the South.



FLORIDA'S sub-tropical exposition, now open in Jacksonville, is likely to result in conveying to the rest of the world some knowledge of the great changes which have lately taken place in the peninsula. Until recently Florida has been regarded as non-productive—the dark swamps covered by the unattractive palmetto or the pine; the home of the alligator; its product only oranges.

It is intended to show at this exposition that Florida produces many valuable things. The palmetto furnishes pulp for paper; pine needles, converted into a rich product, afford fiber for carpets, while the skin of the alligator decorates the feet of thousands, and his teeth the heads of many a fair woman as ornaments.

The city of Jacksonville is the location of the exposition. Jacksonville's population is about 25,000, though in winter the influx of tourists undoubtedly makes it much larger. The exposition grounds are in the city water works park, being an inclosure of about nine acres. This, by a system of landscape gardening, has been converted into a park with streams, fountains, miniature lakes and lawns. The buildings are the main building, the annex, the Hernando, Citrus and Pasco building, the Seminole camp and other minor buildings.

The main building displays considerable architectural taste. It covers one acre, being 305 feet long and 132 feet wide. It has six towers, as seen in the accompanying sketch; and near the top of the tall tower is an observatory, reached by a winding stair. The view from this tower is thus described by a correspondent of The Atlanta Constitution: "The eye rests upon a panorama of wonderful beauty, comprising the entire city of Jacksonville, about six miles in length and three miles in width, with the St. Johns river flowing along its southeastern border, and across the river the growing suburb of South Jacksonville."

The same correspondent describes the interior of the main building: "Entering the building, the universal expression is one of admiration and delight. From the entrance, lengthwise through the center, extends the central aisle, twenty-four feet in width, its surface line broken in the center by a fountain of lovely design and great beauty. The basin of this fountain eighteen feet in diameter is surrounded by a curving of handsome design, twenty-six inches in height from the floor, octagonal in its outline, and surmounted at each of its eight corners with a graceful vase of the same manufacture, twenty inches high, and filled with growing flowers. From the center of the basin rises a mound of coral rock and shells festooned with vines and aquatic plants, from the summit of which bursts the fountain of pure artesian water at the top."

In this main building are the perfumery exhibit, the horticultural garden and exhibits of Florida's different counties. There are also in this building the products of other sub-tropical regions which have taken part in the exhibition. From the southwestern corner of the main building extends the annex, eighty-eight feet long and sixty-two feet wide. In the annex is the art gallery, which comprises over 400 oil paintings, many of them very valuable. The Hernando, Citrus and Pasco building is built in rustic style of woods brought from these counties, and is thatched with palmetto leaves from the same region. Each of the counties named has an exhibit in this building, the center of each county's exhibit space being occupied by a pyramid of the choice fruits of the county.

MAIN BUILDING. One of the attractions is a camp of Seminole Indians. Every schoolboy has read of the Seminole war and of Osceola. When the war ended the Seminoles were removed to the Indian territory, but a few hundred refused to go and fled to the Everglades, a region inaccessible to the white man, and unexplored by them even at the present day. There the remnant have lived peacefully ever since. A number of them are to occupy the camp, living in the manner in which they live in the Everglades. The exhibition is to remain open until May 1.

Features of Persian Serfdom. As to other forms of service resembling slavery which still exists in Persia, but are gradually falling into "innocuous desuetude," there is serfdom of the peasantry; but they began years ago to do away with this in practice, although not exactly formulating such a phrase in the expressive language used by the president of the United States. The chief feature of Persian serfdom is the obligation of the peasant to belong to the village or estate where he was born. The villages either form part of the royal demesnes, or they are given as appanages to the wives of the shah, his sons, and other grandees to furnish them with revenues, or they are owned in fee simple by men of wealth and are then transferable by sale or otherwise. The royal lands are never sold. The peasantry go with the estate, and are assigned lands to cultivate on shares with the proprietor. They may not change their residence without his permission, nor travel; will about the country. Such is the law of Persia. But the law has been gradually falling into abeyance, and it will not be many years before it will be a dead letter.—S. G. W. Benjamin.

A MEDAL FOR PITMAN.

New York Phonographers Honoring the Inventor of Shorthand.

The shorthand writers of the city of New York have recently had a fine gold medal made to be presented to Mr. Isaac Pitman, the inventor of phonography. This in commemoration of the publication of his first book on that subject in 1837.

The father of shorthand is of Bath, England. He is about 75 years old. He received a common school education, and was, when a youngster, a clerk in his father's cloth mill. When 17 years old he mastered one of the old systems of stenography (Taylor's), with which he reported slow speakers. Subsequently he prepared a manual of shorthand founded on this system, and later issued a book, called "Stenographic Sound Hand; or, Sign Writing by Sound." It is the anniversary of the publication of this book, which is to be soon commemorated. Since that time Mr. Pitman has issued numerous books on phonography, which have had a large sale, one of them "The Teacher" having been sold to the number of more than a million copies.

A recent discovery has shown, however, that Mr. Pitman was preceded in the application of the phonetic principle by the Rev. Phineas Bailey. A book on shorthand has been found in Vermont, written by Mr. Bailey, in which certain rules for writing by sound are clearly laid down. He published a book on the sub-



THE PITMAN MEDAL. John Jay was chief justice from 1789 to 1795, and was succeeded in 1795 by John Rutledge, of South Carolina, who presided for one term only of the court, his appointment not being confirmed by the senate. Oliver Ellsworth was the next appointment, serving from 1796 to 1800, when he resigned, and was succeeded by John Marshall, of Virginia, who served from 1801 to 1835. Roger B. Taney, of Maryland, was next, and he presided over the court for twenty-eight years, from 1836 to 1864, and in the latter year gave place to Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, who served for nine years, and in turn made way for Morrison R. Waite, of Ohio, who has held the office since 1874.

Professional shorthand work is very fairly paid, both in England and America, though owing to the crowding of the profession of late, this is true only of the very best writers. The salaries of official court stenographers in New York run from \$2,000 to \$3,000. In other states they will earn about \$1,500. The reporters of the congressional committees receive \$4,300 apiece yearly. Twenty years ago newspapers were in the habit of reporting speeches and lectures in full, and there was a great demand for stenographers for this work. But the great volume of news now crowds out these detailed reports. It is rare now that a long speech is reported. When one is to be taken down a person especially devoted to this work is given the job, receiving therefor from \$6 to \$10 a column.

ROGER Q. MILLS. Democrat Congressman and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Roger Q. Mills, of Texas, is chairman of the committee on ways and means. This chairmanship is regarded the most important position in the gift of the speaker, and is especially so just now, when the tariff question is attracting so much attention, for this committee will have charge of whatever tariff legislation is accomplished.

Mr. Mills was born in Todd county, Ky., and is 45 years of age. At 17 he went to Palestine, Tex., where he studied law, finishing his studies three years later; but being only 20, and the laws of the state of Texas requiring a practitioner to be at least 21, Mr. Mills would have been obliged to wait one year, but a special law was passed by the legislature, and he was admitted to practice without the additional year being added to his age. He settled at Corsicana and opened a law office.

His practice soon became lucrative, but when the war came on he left it for the Confederate service, which he entered with the rank of lieutenant colonel, retiring at the finish a full colonel, with honorable scars, having been thrice wounded.

Going back to Corsicana, he resumed the practice of his profession and was regarded as an able counsellor. In 1872 he was elected member of congress at large, and in 1874 was chosen to represent the Fourth district of his state, and again represented the Ninth district. He was one of Mr. Carlisle's most active supporters when he Carlisle was first a candidate for speaker of the house. This naturally resulted in a warm personal friendship between the two men. Mr. Mills is also a warm friend of the president. Mr. Mills has already assumed the leadership left vacant by Mr. William R. Morrison.

In personal appearance Mr. Mills is tall, muscular and commanding. He stands nearly six feet high and is broad shouldered. He is open, frank and aggressive. He wears his hair, which is gray, close cut, and his face is adorned with a frosted mustache and goatee. He is said to be truthful, and can say "yes" or "no" without keeping one who wishes to engage his interest in any matter dancing attendance when he has no intention or ability to serve the person seeking his influence. All this has rendered him popular in his state.

How Actresses Labor. People say some men and women are "born actors," but those who imagine that they have not cultivated with an indefatigable assiduity the talents he or she possesses from nature have a very imperfect knowledge of the source of that merit which so astonishes them. Who that knows or reads of Rachel realizes how she worked and struggled to gain the goal—hour after hour, day after day, intonation, pauses, declamation—all she studied step by step with her master and her friend Samson. All cried, "She is a genius," yet not many hours of deep reflection and earnest study were her rare exhibitions of skill the fruit!

"I have studied my sobs," she wrote, "and shall watch to see if you are satisfied, for I am now sure it will come." This she said of perhaps her greatest piece of acting, the scene in "Phedre" where she utters "Miserable et je vis." Not one effect that delighted and electrified her audience during two years of this great role but was studied and tried and studied again. Rachel was never lost in a character; it was lost in her. In referring to my humble efforts in the past, I can only say that my best results have been through my greatest study and work. Many a night have I cried myself to sleep unable to reach an effect or make a certain point. There have been times when certain roles have been as a closed book to me, and even after repeated rehearsals remained a blank and I became wholly dependent, when all at once the veil fell from before my eyes and I seemed to realize the character and its possibilities.—Fanny Davenport.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Origin of a Singular Ceremony Lost in Obscurity.

It has been suggested by some who have written on the subject that it is possible the three volleys fired over a soldier's grave represent the three sentences in the regular service for the dead—"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Some time since we remember to have read an observation on this subject in a military paper, in which the writer speaking from recollection, his authority having been forgotten, said the three volleys were designed to symbolize the inscription: "We lay thee in the grave waiting for the resurrection. In the name of the Father (volley) and of the Son (volley) and of the Holy Ghost (volley). Amen." The Army and Navy Journal some time ago said:

The number of cheers for salutation of a multitude is the same. The earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes is preceded by a pagan custom referred to by Horace, who ends one of his elegies with asking the visitor at the grave to piously let fall a threshold gift of sacrificial sand. Right oblique, left oblique, front, covers the ground. One volley covers nine, three is embracing, but one is not.

The origin of the practice is not only difficult, but, at present, impossible of explanation. Notes and Queries makes the following reference: "The earliest account of the procession, etc., that I have been able to trace is contained in a folio entitled 'The Compleat Body of the Art Military,' by Richard Elton, lieutenant colonel, published in 1688. In chap. 25, lib. xii, p. 190-192, A. C. Lomax will find full instructions for the 'ordering of a private company into a funeral service,' and in chap. 25, lib. iii, p. 192, similar instructions, though more brief, 'for the ordering of a regiment to a funeral occasion.'"

United States Chief Justice. John Jay was chief justice from 1789 to 1795, and was succeeded in 1795 by John Rutledge, of South Carolina, who presided for one term only of the court, his appointment not being confirmed by the senate. Oliver Ellsworth was the next appointment, serving from 1796 to 1800, when he resigned, and was succeeded by John Marshall, of Virginia, who served from 1801 to 1835. Roger B. Taney, of Maryland, was next, and he presided over the court for twenty-eight years, from 1836 to 1864, and in the latter year gave place to Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, who served for nine years, and in turn made way for Morrison R. Waite, of Ohio, who has held the office since 1874.

The Inventor of the Guillotine. Dr. Guillotine, a member of the national assembly of France, and one of that merciless "Committee of General Security," first proposed the use of the instrument, which now bears his name to infamy. It was really not such a numerical mode of death, since its work was instantaneous, but it is said that the inventor, Dr. Guillotine, was so overwhelmed with remorse when he saw the number of victims who daily perished under its stroke that he gave up his political offices and devoted his life to his legitimate art of healing.

A Time to Stop Fighting. The "Truce of God" was a regulation prohibiting all private warfare or duels on the holy days from Thursday evening to Saturday evening in each week; also, during the season of Advent and Lent, and on the "Octaves," or eighth days, of the great festivals. This rule was first introduced in 1017—then in France and Burgundy, and later in Germany, England and the Netherlands. It was the protest of the church against evils which this might be mitigated, but which it was powerless to wholly repress.

Dies on American Coins. The die of the Goddess of Liberty on American coins was originally cut by Mr. Spence, the inventor of the Spencer litho. The first die was from a portrait of Mrs. Washington, Gen. Washington's mother, not pleased with the head of his wife as a medium of circulation, and at his request the die was changed, only a few coins having been cast from the original design. The die as it now appears was made from the former one by placing a cap on the head and altering the prominent features.

Rich People. Doubtless the Vanderbilts could command within twenty-four hours more money than any other family; and perhaps Mr. Russell Sage could command in two hours more money than any other single person; and perhaps the capital of the Rothschilds is larger than that of any other family, but not so easily to be realized. The Vanderbilts, Jay Gould, Russell Sage, the Astors, the Goetschs, D. O. Mills, T. P. Huntington, Sidney Dillon and many others are each worth over \$5,000,000.

The Short Term in the Senate. The short term in the United States senate can only occur once in the history of a state. On the admission of a territory into the Union the first United States senators are elected for four and six years respectively; this in order that the election of their successors may fall on different dates. From this time forward the senators are elected for terms of six years each, and one would only fill that office for a shorter time to fill the vacancy made by the death or resignation of some senator.

Origin of the Englishman's Sobriquet. The name John Bull, as applied to the English people, is first found in Arbutnot's ludicrous "History of Europe," a book sometimes erroneously ascribed to Dean Swift. In this satire Arbutnot calls the French Lewis Baboon and the Dutch Nicholas Frog. "John Bull," a comedy, by George Coleman the younger, was performed in 1805. The John Bull, a Tory newspaper, supported by Theodore Hook, was first published in 1830.

A Short Cut. The Panama canal, if it ever reaches completion, will save 10,000 miles in distance between Europe and the Pacific ports. Its length is to be forty-six miles, including a tunnel of four miles, which will be 100 feet wide and 100 feet high. The original estimated cost of the Panama canal is \$132,475,000, but enough has been done to show the estimate to be low.

X for the Cross. The use of the letter "X" to represent the cross has become common with religious writers, and is taken by them to symbolize Christ. Other words of the same root are often abbreviated thus: Christian, Xtu; Christianity, Xnty, and Christ, Xt. Christmas is often pedantically written Xmas.

The Panhandle. "The Panhandle" is a fanciful name for the most northerly portion of the state of West Virginia. It is a long, narrow projection between the Ohio river and the western boundary of Pennsylvania.

Tar. The chemist Becher first proposed to make tar from pit coal in 1781. Mineral tar was first discovered at Colobrodolado, Shropshire, England, in 1779, and in Scotland, October, 1792.

Ranson Carbon Light.



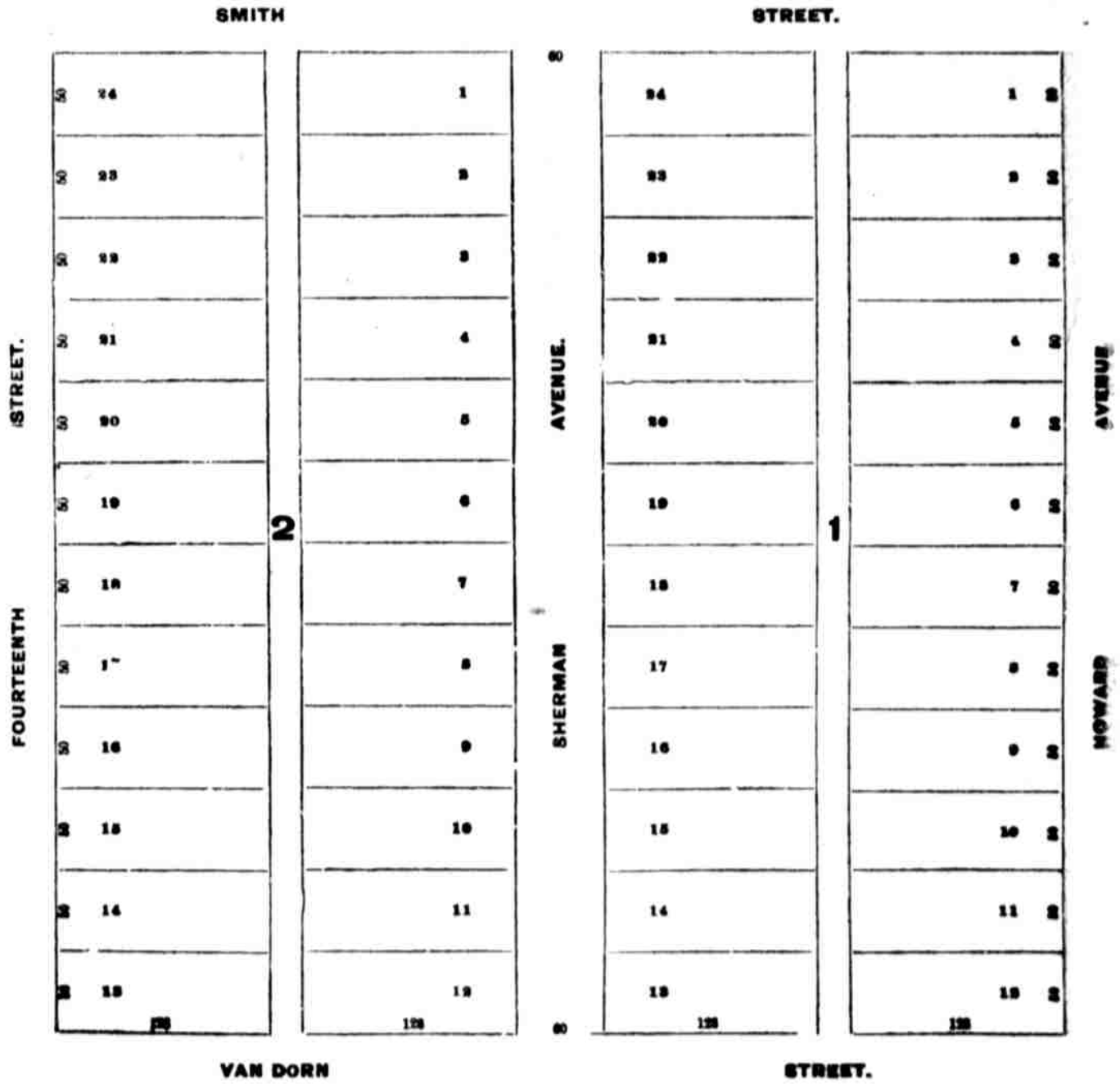
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