

OLD CROSS OF LOUISBURG.

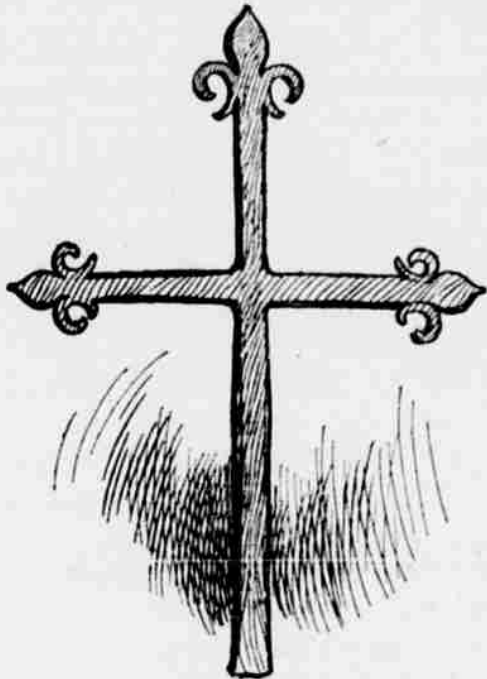
Interesting Relic Owned by Harvard University.

In a closet in the library at Harvard college is stored one of the few existing relics of the campaign of Sir William Pepperell and his New Englanders against the French stronghold of Louisburg, in the year 1745.

This relic is an iron cross that is believed to have adorned a church in Louisburg. How it came into the possession of Harvard is not known at this time, as no antiquarian has ever taken the trouble, it appears, to establish its history since it became a college possession.

About sixty years ago Mr. John L. Sibley, then librarian at Harvard, found the cross in a lot of discarded articles stored in one of the smaller buildings on the college grounds. It was marked with a tag on which was written the statement that the cross was brought from Louisburg by one of Pepperell's soldiers. Mr. Sibley attempted to trace the history of the relic in order to discover under what circumstances, and by whom, it was presented to the college, but so far as his successor knows, he made no headway in his quest.

In 1841, shortly after its discovery by Mr. Sibley, the cross was stored in a small building that stood back of



the Charles river national bank, near the college. The building was burned in 1845, and the cross was found in its ashes, undamaged except for slight pitting caused by the heat.

Taken in hand by Mr. Justin Winsor, then librarian, the cross was given a heavy coat of gilding, such as it had borne originally, and was fixed to the east wall of Gore hall, in the library building. Here it remained for many years, until alterations made its removal from the wall necessary.

It was next stored in the cellar of the library, remaining there until the early 80s, when it was firmly fixed in the stone peak of the gable over the entrance to the library.

The cross is made of soft iron and appears to have been the work of a Louisburg blacksmith, the workmanship being rougher than would have been produced by the skilled iron-mongers of France.

The cross to-day weighs about ten pounds. Its cross-piece is 21 3/4 inches long, terminating in fleur-de-lis, which are 4 3/4 inches wide by 6 inches long. An ornament of similar proportions caps the upright, or standard, the total length of which at present is 29 inches. Before broken off the cross was about 40 inches long. Both cross-piece and standard are 1 inch wide and 1/2 inch thick.

Has Sword of David Garrick.

White Whittlesey of Danbury, Conn., has been presented a sword, worn upon the stage by David Garrick. The handle is ornamented with jewels and the blade bears evidence of many spirited fencing encounters.

Nature's Wise Provision.

The bones of flying birds are hollow and filled with air, thus combining the greatest strength with the least weight.

HAWK AN EASY VICTIM.

Woman Captured Domestic Bird of Prey With Bonnet.

Mrs. John Hart of near Tonieville had an unusual experience with a large hawk a few days ago. She went out into the yard and saw a large hawk on top of one of her largest chickens, with its talons buried into the chicken preparatory to carrying it off for a feast.

But the chicken was too large for the hawk to carry away against its will, and it was not inclined to be a party at the hawk's dinner, with the hawk master of ceremonies. Consequently the hawk was unable to rise from the ground with its victim, and Mrs. Hart went to the chicken's defense. She first started to the house for the gun, but the hawk suddenly let go of the chicken, which ran away, and Mrs. Hart pulled off her bonnet, and throwing it over the hawk, captured it and carried it into the house and bound it with twine until her husband came home. It was a very large hawk and able to put up a good fight. —Larue Herald.

Steeplechasing on an Ox.

Attempts are being made in France to train oxen for saddle riding, and several races have been organized to test their capacity. They have been trained not only as racers on "the flat," but also as successful jumpers. The above illustration is from a photograph of a well known French sports-



man riding his ox at a leap-off. The bride and saddle used are similar in general design to those used for hunters, with the exception that a very powerful bit is employed. As in their excitement the animals are disposed to lose their temper, the precaution is taken of studding the points of their horns.

Salmon Dammed Stream.

A heavy fall of snow in Scotland a few weeks ago caused the River Tay to rise suddenly. One of the big dams in the stream overflowed with the result that the salmon lying in the numerous pools at once made a rush to get higher up the stream. A workman, engaged in carting stones from the bed of the river, was astonished at the moving mass of salmon passing. So phenomenal was the shoal that the carter deemed it wise to stop his charge in the middle of the ford to allow the fish to pass. The salmon swam like lightning through the wheels of the cart and around the horse's legs. In the space of a few minutes several hundreds passed this particular point.

Gets Gold Piece After Fifty Years.

Lying undisturbed for fifty years, a one-dollar gold piece that George H. Lessig, now of Philadelphia, dropped in the crack of a floor, while dressing, was found to-day, when the old Lessig homestead in West King street, Pottstown, was demolished.

With darning needles he tried to recover the dollar, but finally gave it up. It will be sent to him.—Philadelphia Record.

Prolific Wyandotte Hens.

E. O. Sterling of Keene, N. H., reports that he received during the year ending Dec. 5 a total of 1,692 eggs from a pen of twelve white Wyandotte hens. This is an average of 141 eggs to a hen.

NURSE OF JAMES G. BLAINE.

Colored Girl Who Watched Over Him in Infancy, Still Lives.

After living for 55 years in an old house in Uniontown, Pa., which has just been torn down to make way for the march of progress, "Aunt Keziah" Jackson, for years a nurse of James G. Blaine, has gone to live with her son, Charles Jackson.

She is now aged 83.

The childhood home of "Aunt Keziah" was at Brownsville, about twelve miles from Uniontown. The Browns were among the most highly respected colored people of that section, and Keziah Brown, in her youth, was almost constantly at the home of Ephraim L. Blaine, father of the future "plumed knight" of American politics.

At the time of the birth of James G. Blaine, Jan. 31, 1830, Keziah Brown



was a girl of eight years, and from the time that the future statesman was five months old until he was two years of age, the little colored girl looked after him almost constantly.

When young James was old enough to go to school he was led there by the little colored girl, and "Aunt Keziah" now frequently says with pride: "Jim Blaine, even when he was a little boy, was the smartest one in the school, and his father used to say, 'He is the smartest boy I have and he will live to be a senator or congressman.'"

Another incident concerning the Blaine family which is related by "Aunt Keziah" is that when Gen. Andrew Jackson passed over the old national pike through West Brownsville in 1833 on his way to Washington to be inaugurated a second time as president, she was then a girl of eleven years, and with other children went out to see the president pass, and the children shouted, "Hurrah for Jackson," and James G. Blaine's father, who was a staunch Whig, reprimanded them for thus greeting a Democrat.

Mounted Coffee Cups.

Silver mounted coffee cups on the order of those in which certain confectionery shops serve hot chocolate or coffee are utilized these days for the dining table. They add a decorative



note, particularly if Coalport, as in the illustration, or some other fine porcelain, be the ware selected. A cup and saucer complete the set and spoons to match the silver mount are added, when it is desired to have everything in accord.

Give Wild Creatures Liberty.

Because the state of Vermont removed the bounty from wildcats and lynx, Jesse Bentley, a trapper, living at Sunderland, in that state, deliberately released three lynx which fell into his traps.

SNAKES 'N THIS CONCRETE

Odd Foundations of New Lehigh Valley Shops at Sayre, Pa.

The Lehigh Valley railroad is using a combination of crushed stone and snakes in its concrete work in the large new shops being erected here, says a dispatch from Sayre, Pa., but the snake part of the mixture is not in accordance to the plans and specifications of the road's engineers.

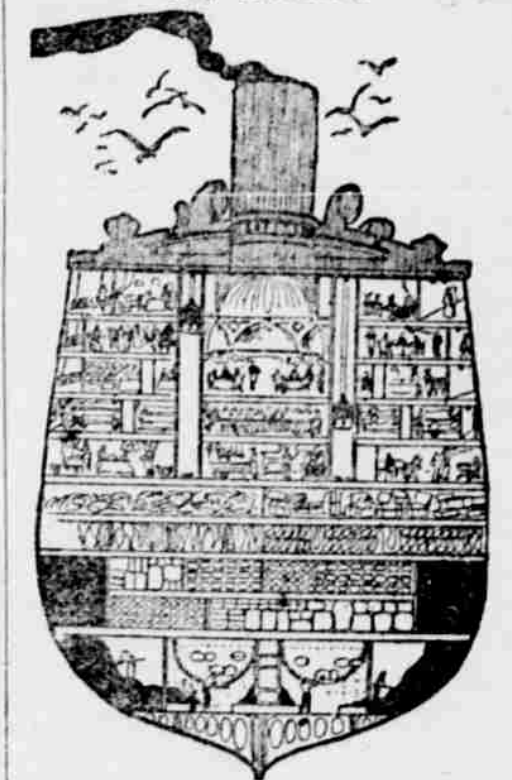
The crushed stone is procured from a gravel bed near the Auburn branch, and the cold weather has caused the snakes along the branch to seek the warm interior of the earth for their winter's nap. Thousands of them sought refuge in the gravel pit, for their descent was easy on account of the number of crevices. The picks of the workmen ruthlessly uncover these hibernating places, and the laborers say that fully 1,000 snakes are troubled in their winter's sleep on each working day.

One den thus invaded was found to contain over 100 snakes, twisted together in a large ball, twined and interlaced, faced and interlaced, a veritable delirium phantom of a Medusa head, and each particular snake in the lethargic stupor of nature's winter-repose.

Frequently, suspended from the frozen covering of the pit, the workmen see a snake with one end frozen fast and the other end dangling in silent protest to the demolishing hand of man.

But the workmen are without feeling. Everything is food for the stone crusher, and the hibernating mass is thrust heartlessly into the hopper, changed to cracked stone and mangled snakes, and then becomes a part of the Lehigh's new shops.

Ship Elevators.



Ocean liners are beginning to install elevators connecting with their numerous decks for the convenience of passengers.

Queer Result of Child's Prank.

Whilst playing at Eltham, Kent, England, a child caused a remarkable fire by throwing a lighted match into the hollow trunk of a huge tree. A quantity of dry leaves and rubbish immediately became ignited, and the interior of the tree was soon well alight. As the flames soared upwards a number of bats and owls were seen flying aimlessly in the vicinity of the quarters from which they had been so unexpectedly dislodged. When the outbreak was got under control by the firemen it was found that fully thirty feet of the interior of the trunk had been burnt out. The tree still stands supported mainly by the bark, which escaped the fire.

New Contribution to Art.

Lately it has been found that the hair in the ears of steers is of a quality which permits its being used in the manufacture of camel's hair brushes. And now the hair is removed from the ears of the steers that art may flourish as well as the packing house industry.