

DEATH MASK OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY



The death mask of President McKinley, taken soon after death at Buffalo has been sent to Washington, where it will be preserved among the most sacred mementoes which are kept in the capital city. A duplicate of the mask will be made and sent to Princeton University, to be added to the cel-

ebrated collection presented to that institution some years ago by Lawrence Hutton of New York. In this collection are the death masks of Cromwell, Napoleon, George Washington, Lincoln, Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and many other famous men.

THE WEDDING RING

Attached to the use of the ring in wedding and other ceremonies from the earliest times there have been mystic meanings. Whether the plain band or the motto-inscribed article which the changing times brought into fashion, the ring has retained the significance attached to it as a sacred emblem or an emblem typifying sacred ceremonies. To the devoutly religious or the careless scoffer at religion the little circlet has its charm.

From the earliest period mystic significance has been associated with the ring. In its circular continuity it was accepted as a type of eternity and of the stability of affection. The Jews make it an important feature of the betrothal in the marriage ceremony. The rings used in the Jewish marriage rite were sometimes of large size and much elaboration of workmanship. It is necessary, according to the Jewish law, that the rings be of a certain value. It is examined and certified by the officiating rabbi and chief officers of the synagogue when it is received from the bridegroom, whose absolute property it must be, and not obtained by credit or gift. When this is properly certified the ring is returned to him and he places it on the bride's finger, calling attention to the fact that she is, by means of this ring, consecrated to him, and so completely binding is this action that, should the marriage not be further consecrated, no other could be contracted by either party without a legal divorce.

Solemn betrothal by means of the ring often preceded matrimony in the middle ages and was sometimes adopted between lovers who were about to separate for long periods. Shakespeare has more than once alluded to the custom, which is absolutely enacted in his

"Two Gentlemen of Verona," where Julia gives Proteus a ring, saying: "Keep you this remembrance for thy Julia's sake," and he replies: "Why, then, we'll make exchange. Here, take you this."

The fourth finger of the left hand has from long usage been consecrated to the wedding ring, from an ancient belief that from this finger a nerve went direct to the heart. So completely was this fanciful piece of physiology confided in by the Greeks and Romans that their physicians term this the medical or healing finger and used it to stir their mixtures, from a notion that nothing noxious could communicate with it without its giving immediate warning by a palpitation of the heart. This superstition is retained in full force in some country places, notably in Europe, where all the fingers of the hand are thought to be injurious except the ring finger, which is thought to have the power of curing any sore or wound which is stroked by it.

Potatoes in Washington.
An immense potato crop has been raised this season by irrigation in the Yakima Indian reservation in the state of Washington. The quantity for export is 2,000 carloads, and one farmer will clear \$10,000. It is estimated that the crop will be 40,000 tons, worth \$1,000,000.

Alcohol Product in Germany.
The production of alcohol in Germany in the year 1897 was 95,532,306 gallons, two-thirds of which was derived from potatoes of domestic origin. It was produced in country distilleries, which number about 12,500, of which 5,226 produce only from 264 to 2,642 gallons.

Words may shake a man's convictions but seldom shatter them.

BEACONSFIELD AT 22

This is a picture of Lord Beaconsfield at the age of 22. He was then plain Benjamin Disraeli, and had just published his famous novel, "Vivian Grey," which won high favor in literary London. The picture was simply published as "the author of 'Vivian Grey,'" and for a time was



the talk of the town. Lord Beaconsfield was born in 1804 and died in 1881.

ALASKA IS FERTILE

Alaska is not as barren a land as people generally regard it. The commonly received opinion is that it is a region of snow and ice, of chilly blasts and utter degradation. Governor Brady, however, thinks there is much to enjoy there, if one may judge by his Thanksgiving proclamation, in which he sets forth many reasons for gratitude. Here are some of them: "We in Alaska in comparing our blessings with those which our friends enjoy in other places find that we have much for which to be thankful. We have an abundance of grass, and where men have attempted to till the earth it has yielded many fold and those who have tried it are satisfied that greater things are in store for them. The sea has not failed to yield of its abundance and our fishermen have been handsomely rewarded for their toil. The mineral wealth of Alaska is more promising today than in the past. It is here, and when obtained will represent human effort. We have not been visited by destructive disturbances of the atmosphere, earth or sea. While we recount our manifold blessings our thoughts will be tempered by the calamity which overwhelmed so many people on the steamship Islander and by the humiliation which we feel in the manner of the death of President McKinley."

Apparatuses for Making Coffee.
Thousands of apparatuses for making coffee have been invented. The Patent Office is packed with pots, etc., some of which cost \$25 apiece. Some experts say boil the coffee; some say don't boil it. Some foreigners prefer to make it in a saucepan, and they have it as clear as crystal and as strong as alcohol. While I was in Sumatra, several years ago, I drank coffee made of the dried leaves of the coffee tree instead of the beans. At first I supposed they were brewing tea. But it was as fine coffee as I have ever tasted.

EXPULSED PROFESSOR

M. Edouard Herve, the French professor who has been dismissed from his chair in Paris for writing anti-military articles, is one of the most distinguished scholars in France, and has been an eminent figure in the education of France since he won the first prize in the normal and literary life of Paris since philosophy at the Normal College. He is a member of the French Academy, a knight of the Legion of Honor and has been several times honored by many of the learned societies of Europe. M. Herve was professor of mathematics at the University of the City of Paris. His



offense was alleged to incite insubordination in the army and to prejudice citizens against military service.

M. Herve is 65 years old, but age does not seem to have dampened the fire of his youth, which was marked by that almost defiant spirit with which he opposes his enemies in his present severe trouble. His article and its results are the foremost topic in political circles in the French capital.

GROW OLD GRACEFULLY

Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton has been writing on the subject of how to grow old easily, happily and gracefully. She is now in her eighty-fifth year and she says life to her is as sweet as ever. She has no pains or aches, no regrets or forebodings for herself; all her sorrows are for the troubles of others.

"I attribute my vigorous old age in part to advantageous circumstances," she says, "in part to a happy, hopeful temperament, a keen sense of humor, sympathies for all my fellow beings and a deep interest in all the vital questions of the hour."

"One must have an earnest purpose in life beyond personal ambition and family aggrandizement. Self-centered characters do not possess the necessary elements of a high development. If one would have a happy old age the first condition is a sound body; to that end exercise, diet, dress, sanitary conditions are all important."

"My philosophy is to live in the present. Regrets for the past are vain; the page is turned; there is no remedy for what is done. As to the future, anxieties are equally vain; we do not know what one day will bring forth; what we hope or fear may never occur; the present is all that is ours."—New York Sun.

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT

Quentin is the only member of the President's family who can boast of the capital as a birthplace. He was born just prior to the Spanish-American war at 1735 N street, while his father was organizing the Rough Riders. He does not think much of Washington as a place of residence. The



White House in his estimation, is a poor substitute for the home at Oyster Bay. He does not relish being confined to a small part of the mansion but would like to roam at will throughout the building and investigate the progress of public business from time to time. The other day he desired to walk through the flower-beds on stilts. His father told him that the gardener objected. The youngster answered: "I don't see what good it does for you to be President. There are so many things we can't do here. I wish I was home again."

A WORD IN SEASON

"If I have been able to accomplish anything in my life," said a woman famous as one of the most kindly and lovable among leaders of the best American society, "it is due to the word spoken to me in the right season when I was a child by my old teacher. I was the only homely, awkward one in a class of exceptionally beautiful girls, and being also dull at my books, I became the derision of the school. I fell into a morose, despairing state, gave up study, withdrew into myself and daily grew more bitter and vindictive. One day the French teacher—a gray-haired old woman with keen eyes and a bright smile—found me crying. 'Qu as-tu, ma fille?' she asked. 'Oh, madam, I am so ugly!' I sobbed out. 'She soothed me, but did not contradict me. Presently she took me into her room and said, 'I have a present for you,' handing me a scaly, coarse lump covered with earth. 'It is round and brown as you. Ugly, did you say? Very well. We will call it by your name, then. It is you. Now, you shall plant it and water it and give it sun for a week or two.' I planted it and watched it carefully. Green leaves came out at first and at length a golden Japanese lily—the first I had ever seen. Madam came to share my delight. 'Ah!' she said significantly, 'who would believe so much beauty and fragrance were shut up in that ugly thing? But it took heart and grew in the sunlight!' It was the first time it ever occurred to me that in spite of my ugly face I, too, might be able to win friends and make myself beloved."

Difference of opinion is the greatest common divisor.
Wit is the wine of intellect—and ill-nature turns it into vinegar.

A NOVEL SETTEE

This is hardly an undertaking for the ordinary amateur, but if one be well grounded in the carpenter's art it offers no difficulty. If not, the idea had better be handed over to the local carpenter for construction. The high back should have square spaces cut for etchings, water colors or photographs. At each cad artistic corner shelves are added, which make excellent receptacles for curios, china and such like. A shelf along the top of the back gives some more opportunities for the display of china. The seat itself need not be upholstered if a flat cushion to fit the size be made. All the little turned wood rails can be bought ready made, so the most difficult part is easily surmounted. When finished the structure



should be enameled in white or cream, and a really charming piece of furniture will be the result.

BECAME PROMINENT

"He is quite a prominent man in the neighborhood," said the village merchant to the traveling man, speaking of a gentleman who had just left the store.

"What does a man have to do to become prominent in this neighborhood?" asked the traveling man crossly, for business was not very good with him that day.

"Oh," said the merchant, "he may do any one of many things and sometimes becomes prominent, or even famous, by doing nothing, like old Hiram Rees, who by just living for ninety-three years has become the oldest man in the township. Some men become prominent by taking prizes at the county fair, some by raising big wheat crops, some by paying their debts, and some by never paying anything. I knew a man once who became prominent because his wife made good biscuits, and you will become prominent in this locality because I fired you out of my place for making light of things serious."

And then he took the traveling man by the ear, led him to the door, and kicked him into the muddy road.

STATUE OF CROMWELL

A bronze statue of Oliver Cromwell was recently unveiled in St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M. P. The statue, which is the work of Mr. F. W. Pomeroy, has been erected by public subscription, on the Market Hill at St. Ives, close to



which the Protector spent the early years of his life.

How the Timber Wolf Preys.

The keepers of Belle Isle zoo, at Detroit, recently had an opportunity to see how the timber wolf gets its food when wild. A peacock got out of its pen and after flying some distance, started to alight in the section fenced off for the timber wolves. When the bird began to settle the wolves were alert, crouching as if to keep out of sight. When the peacock touched ground the animals were upon it in an instant and the bird was torn to pieces in a few seconds.

Funds for Harrison Monument.

The Benjamin Harrison Monument association of Indianapolis has raised nearly \$40,000, and it is believed that the plans now agreed on, which will be put into active operation at once, will swell the amount easily to \$100,000, and \$150,000 may be raised.

CELEBRATING EARLY

It is the delight of a certain Chicago citizen to get intoxicated on every holiday in the year, save Christmas. But he makes up for this holiday by getting drunk one week before.

He is employed to unload dirt wagons by a north side contractor. Last Tuesday he was working out in Lake View. After he had labored for about four hours, it occurred to him that it was the 18th of December, the day on which he celebrates Christmas. So he went to the nearest saloon and purchased a pint of whisky. One hour later he was not able to stand.

In the meantime the dirt wagons were coming to the dump. The drivers, on not finding the unloader, drove back with the dirt to the job. There they told the "boss" that the unloader had disappeared. The "boss" got into his buggy and drove to the dump.

Behind a bank of dirt he found his employe stretched on the ground fast asleep. One foot away was a fire built by a little boy to keep the man warm. The "boss" aroused the unloader from his sleep, and asked him what he meant by getting intoxicated during working hours.

"Isn't this the 18th of December?" inquired the man.

"Yes," replied the boss. "What of that?"

"Well," said the unloader, "as I never touch a drop on Christmas I always celebrate it by getting drunk a week before."—Chicago Tribune.

NEW BISHOP OF MANILA

Mgr. Sbaretto, bishop of Havana, and recently auditor of the papal delegation at Washington, is made titular archbishop of Manila and goes as apostolic delegate to the Philippines. Coincidentally with this Mgr. Bernardina Nozaleda de Villa, archbishop of Manila, has resigned his charge into the hands of the pope, and the vacancy will be filled by the appointment of a prelate from one of the western dioceses of the United States.

Right Rev. George Montgomery, bishop of Los Angeles, Cal., is the pre-



late tentatively chosen to be the first American bishop of Manila. Bishop Montgomery, although resident in Los Angeles, Cal., is properly credited to the old Spanish see of Monterey, in California. He was born in 1840, and became bishop of his present see in 1896. His mother was a Spaniard, and he is thoroughly conversant with the feelings and prejudices of the Latin peoples, besides speaking the language as a mother tongue.

DAM WITH A HISTORY

The oldest dam in the Northwest Territory is to be restored to usefulness. Dan Riley's pond, which furnished the power that turned the wheels of "Riley's mill" for a century and a half, will soon be full of water and stocked with the finest fish in southern Illinois.

Riley's mill and pond are in a ravine between rocky hills, near Fort Gage, in Randolph County. The mill was built by a Frenchman named Prix Paget, about 1750, to grind the corn of the early French settlers. Paget was killed with all his mill hands by Kickapoo Indians in a massacre in 1764. Twenty years later the British General Edgar bought the place and restored it and conducted a milling business for several years. Then, in 1842, Dan Riley, later well known in state politics, came down from St. Louis, bought the property, and ran the mill.

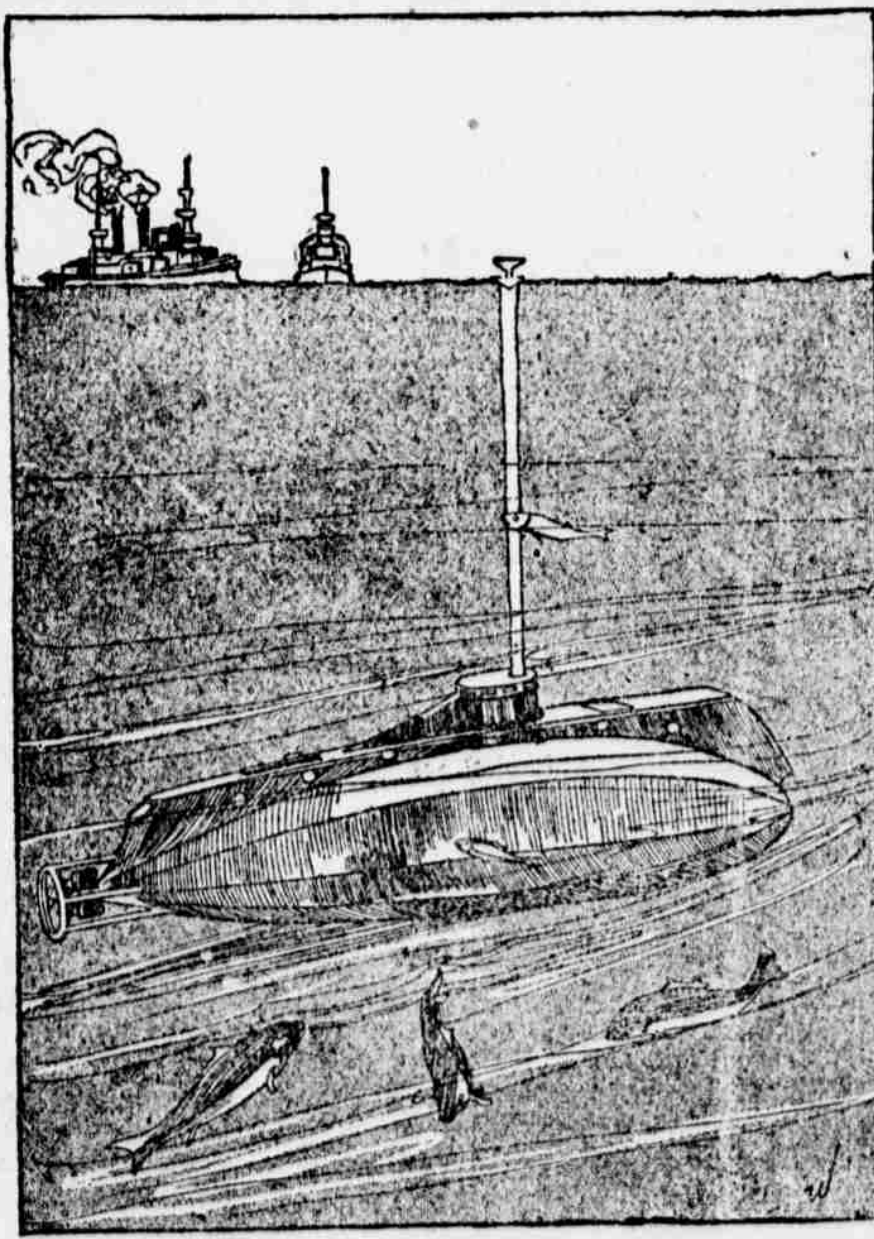
Under his control it became the leading mill in the Mississippi Valley and retained that position many years. He erected a steam mill beside the water mill. Riley died in 1867 and in 1880 the mill business was closed.

Now a fish club from Caester, Illinois, has bought the property and will restore the dam, stock the pond with fish, and make it a preserve.

Patron Saint of Bulgaria.

The patron saint of Bulgaria is St. John of Ryle, although Christianity was introduced into the country by St. Methodius. Originally a shepherd, John of Ryle became a monk and ascetic and lived for twenty years in the hollow of an oak tree in the mountains that divide Bulgaria and Macedonia, which are now called by his name. He then removed to an inaccessible rock, under which was afterward built in his honor what is known as the Ryle monastery. It is an extensive building of mediæval architecture, and one of the most picturesque objects in Bulgaria.

CLEPTOSCOPE FOR SUBMARINE VESSELS.



A Roman engineer, M. Trulzi, has invented a tube with crystal prisms, whereby those in a submarine boat can see what is going on at the surface of the water. The instrument is called the cleptoscope.

The experiments have been entirely successful, and photography of objects on the water is possible thereby from a vessel beneath.

The experiments were made on board the submarine II Delphino, and in the presence of Sig. Morin, the Minister of Marine.