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ARTILLERY CURIOSITIES.

Old Time Cannon That Were Made of Leather, Wood and Rock.

Among the curiosities of artillery odd inventions have a great place. Cannon have been made of the most unlikely materials. Leather was used as early as Henry VIII's day at the siege of Boulogne. The very articles were stored in the tower once, and Evelyn saw them there, inscribed "Non Marti opus est cui non deficit Mercurius." Are they still lying in some corner of a forgotten lumber room? The Scotch employed leather guns in 1640 to batter Lord Conway's fortifications at Newbourn, and they did the work well. Describing the feverish alarm in Paris in 1792, Carlyle says: "One citizen has wrought out the scheme of a wooden cannon, which France shall exclusively profit by in the first instance. It is to be made of staves by the coopers, of almost boundless caliber, but uncertain as to strength."

Two small pieces brought to France by the Siamese ambassadors as presents from their king to Louis XIV. were the only artillery procurable for the attack on the Bastille—of eccentric model no doubt, adorned with dragons and golden inscriptions, but efficient workmanship. We read of gold cannon in India. There were two so described at Baroda in Burton's time. "to which regular adoration was offered." In fact, the tubes were of steel, but the massive gold casing cost \$20,000.

For the defense of Malta in the old days the knights "invented a kind of ordnance of their own, unknown to all the world beside," says Brydone, an eyewitness. They followed out the natural rock here and there in such fashion that the cavity was like a mortar, put a barrel of gunpowder into the hole, plugged it with a wooden disk exactly fitting and heaped miscellaneous projectiles thereupon. About fifty of these singular cannon defended creeks and landing places. Some of them were six feet in diameter and threw 10,000 pounds weight of iron or stone into the air. Doubtless if all went well they would do tremendous execution upon an enemy trying to disembark.

But there are eccentricities still more curious on record. In a tomb on the island of China, near Usumacinta, Mexico, was found a cannon four feet eleven inches long of terra cotta, with terra cotta bullets. It is suggested that when Cortes retired after his great flight at Ceutla, Tabasco, the natives copied the Spanish guns in clay, hoping to produce the same results.—London Standard.

LIKE THE INFERNO.

Graphic Description of a Climb Over a Volcanic Island.

A climb over a volcanic island in Bering sea is thus described in *Outing Magazine* by Robert Dunn:

"Cliff sank away into chaos. Upright fans of tuff, crevices like salt crusted wounds, chasms with leoprous edges—breathed all like mad. Less steam, but more crinkly and venomous gases. Parched white and red and ochre in their depths, they seemed almost to whistle—yet they did not whistle—a furtive, ambient, high pressure 'Zjsssh-oo!' Was it sound? Then I would pause and catch only the horrid, overburdened silence.

"The 'thing' seemed more friendly. The sulphur no longer choked. You could have passed a burning bunch of miners' matches under my nose and I would have gulped the fumes like fresh air. But the invisible venom still belched out everywhere, secret and furtive; now from jaws and gashes four feet and more across, no longer red yellow, but with fangs crusted white or brilliant green and bristling with rapier-like stalagmites. Heat tremors pulsed, as the whole were a vast roof too close under the eye of the sun. And below on the blasted acre under the beak the panting steam flashed out the supreme desolation—crumbling, clinkery and over-parched; trailed away its smear of the dull rainbow hues of sulphur from grotesque mosaics. It was a pudding of slag fresh from that great furnace of the unknown fusing point, and how alien to the cold waves and winds of the subarctic!"

Brain Growth.

The brain usually stops growing at about fifty, and from sixty to seventy it is more likely to decrease. It has been related by Canon MacColl that Mr. Gladstone's head was constantly outgrowing his hats. As late as the Midlothian campaign, when he was nearly seventy, he was obliged to have his head remeasured for this reason. Canon MacColl's conclusion that this continual growth of brain contributed to Mr. Gladstone's perennial youthfulness appears not unwarranted.—London Spectator.

Oratory.

"What am oratory, Brudder Jackson?"
"Brudder Simmins, I will elucidate. If you says black am white, dat am foolish, but if you says black am white an' bellers like a bull an' pounds on a table wif bofe fists dat am oratory, an' some people will believe you."—Atlanta Constitution.

A Juvenile Wriggle.

Mother (an invalid)—Elmer, what did you do with the orange Mrs. Neighbors gave you to give to me yesterday? Small Elmer—It was too soon for you, mamma, so I put some sugar on it and ate it myself.—Chicago News.

It is from the remembrance of joys we have lost that the arrows of affliction are pointed.—Mackenzie.

LAKE TRAFFIC GAINS

NEARLY 10 PER CENT INCREASE
IN 1907 OVER 1906.

Department of Commerce and Labor
Reports Volume of Shipments
Reached Total of 83,387,919
Tons Last Year.

Washington.—Lake commerce during the 1907 season, as measured by the volume of shipments from the various lake ports and reported by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor, reached the unprecedented total of 83,387,919 net tons. This total is almost ten per cent larger than the corresponding 1906 total and about 20 per cent in excess of the 1905 shipments.

The increase is due mainly to the larger ore and coal shipments, though the movement of grain and miscellaneous merchandise likewise shows larger totals than for the preceding seasons, the only items showing smaller shipments being lumber and flour.

The iron ore shipments by lake for the year, exclusive of about 275,000 tons exported to Canada, were 40,727,972 gross tons; the largest shipping ports, in the order of their importance, were Duluth, Two Harbors and Superior-West Superior.

The eastward grain movement for the season included 63,349,585 bushels of wheat, compared with 47,726,778 bushels shipped during the 1906 season, the main shipping ports, in the order of their importance, being Duluth, Superior and Chicago, which are credited in the aggregate with over 93 per cent of the total wheat shipments by lake. The corn shipments, 44,335,990 bushels, about 91 per cent of which originated in Chicago, were somewhat larger than the 1906 shipments of 43,531,540 bushels.

The shipments of oats, 20,680,188 bushels, mainly from Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Chicago, were 38 per cent below the 1906 total, while the barley shipments, 13,564,074 bushels, mainly from Superior and Milwaukee, show a 26 per cent decrease as compared with the 1906 figures.

The importance of Buffalo as a receiving port for grain shipped from the upper lakes is seen from the fact that 87 per cent of all the wheat, 64 per cent of all the corn, 52 per cent of all the oats and 83 per cent of all the barley received by lake is credited to that port.

The lumber shipments for the season, 1,380,284,000 feet, show a considerable decrease compared with the total of the preceding year, 1,807,570,000 feet. The gradual exhaustion of the lumber supply in the territory contiguous to the great lakes is seen from the fact that the lake shipments of this article have decreased about 42 per cent since 1901—the first year for which the bureau has a complete record of the lumber shipments by lake.

The westbound traffic was made up largely of soft coal shipments from Lake Erie ports to the upper lake ports, the principal shipping ports in the order of their importance being Toledo, Cleveland, Ashtabula, Lorain, and Huron, the aggregate shipments from these five ports constituting over 75 per cent of the total shipments, 15,309,237 tons. The hard coal shipments for the year, 4,079,177 net tons, proceeded mainly from Buffalo. The destinations of these shipments were largely the head of the lakes, Chicago and Milwaukee.

The vessel movement on the lakes aggregated 73,769 vessels of 99,166,409 net tons register cleared from the various lake ports, compared with 76,097 vessels of 94,094,316 net tons register cleared during the preceding season.

LOST IN BABYHOOD; FOUND.

Sister Sees 15-Year-Old Brother Working at Place She Visits.

Worcester, Mass.—One of the strange happenings which at times come in real life took place at the residence of John Fuller in Granby when Ray Turner was brought face to face with his sister, whom he never remembered having seen, and who had not seen him for 15 years, during which time he had been lost completely to his family.

His mother died when he was three years old, and he was placed in a family and boarded for two years. When his father came to pay another year for him he discovered that his son had been taken away by the state authorities. The family has searched for him ever since.

His sister happened to drive up to the Fuller residence, and, struck by the remarkable family resemblance of the young man in Fuller's employ, asked if he wasn't Ray Turner, and when he replied in the affirmative she disclosed her identity. Young Turner is now busily engaged in getting acquainted with his own family.

Live Bees in Stone Block.

London.—While the workmen were sawing through a block of bathstone at Exeter, they cut into a cavity in which was found a cluster of two or three dozen live bees. The incident occurred at the works of Collard & Sons, monumental sculptors. There was not much sign of life in the bees at first, but when air was admitted they gradually revived, and after a few hours several of them were able to fly. The bathstone is to be removed to the Royal Albert Memorial museum for expert examination. No vein or crevice was apparent on the surface of the stone.

Absence of Mind.

Many amusing anecdotes are told of Bishop Burne's absence of mind, but few perhaps are more striking and have been less repeated than the following, which Lord Orford used to relate:

Burnet was once dining with the Duchess of Marlborough after the great duke's disgrace. In the course of conversation, speaking of Marlborough's great qualities, great services and great fall, Burnet compared the duke with Bellerophon, the great Roman.

"But how in reason," exclaimed the duchess, "could so great a general be abandoned?"

"Ah, my lady, do you know what a cursed brimstone of a wife he had?"

The Count Too Touching.

In the long corridor of an uptown hotel they tell of a certain foreigner who until recently held court there of evenings. At last he disappeared, and then each of the men who had nightly been entertained by his flow of anecdote and his abundance of witty stories confessed that he had lent the count various sums, ranging from \$100 up. The total seemed so formidable that a movement was set on foot to bring the defaulter back, his whereabouts having been ascertained. But funds were needed for the purpose. One of the big men of Wall street who was a creditor on the count's books to the extent of \$500 was approached for a subscription.

"Not on your life!" said he. "I don't want him back. He'll borrow more money from me if he gets in town. But I'll subscribe \$25 toward a fund to send him back to France if he'll agree to sail from Boston."—New York Globe.

Recipe For Making Money.

First catch your capital, however small, or if homemade, such as from savings, so much the better. Place in a steady, secure position, where it will not be disturbed, and allow to stand. Skim off all that accrues without waste and with that at the proper season make a stiff paste of business, in which place your capital or as much of it as you can use with advantage. A little ripe judgment should be added. Season with hope and enterprise and stir briskly with a bunch of fresh energy. While your pie is cooking watch it carefully yourself and see that nothing goes wrong. Keep up a good fire until it begins to brown and don't take too much off the top for tasting until the whole is well cooked; then enjoy the result.—London Graphic.

Square Bullets.

In 1718 an Englishman, James Puckle, secured a British patent for what seems to have been an attempt at a breechloading rapid firing gun. An original feature of the invention was the use of two different breech plates, one for square bullets, to be used against the Turks, and the other for round bullets, to be used against Christians. It is curious to find two opposing tendencies in the same invention—first, the desire to construct a gun that should be more effective because more destructive, and, second, a desire to recognize certain ethical distinctions in its use. If a round bullet was too good for a Turk, a square one was too bad for a Christian.—London Chronicle.

Stereotyping.

It is claimed that stereotyping was known in 1711. It was practiced by William Ged of Edinburgh about 1730. Some of Ged's plates are to be seen at the Royal Institution, London. A Mr. James attempted to introduce Ged's process in London in 1735, but failed. Stereotype printing was used in Holland during the last century, and a quarto Bible and a Dutch folio Bible were printed there. It was revived in London by Wilson in 1804. Since 1850 the durability of stereotypes has been greatly increased by electrotyping them with copper or silver.

The Cure.

Professor W. E. Grange, author of "The History of Primitive Love," alluded in the course of a lecture in Boston to the modern cynical view of love that prevails: "I remember once hearing a bricklayer and a plumber discuss love. 'I hold,' said the bricklayer, 'that if you are terribly in love the way to cure yourself is to run away.' The plumber shook his head and sneered. 'That will cure you,' he said, 'provided you run away with the girl.'"

Short and Out.

"Where is Mr. Middleman?" asked the caller at the broker's office.
"I think he's out on a little matter of wheat," replied the bright clerk.
"Out long?"
"Certainly not. If he had been long, he would have been in. It's because he was short that he's out."—Philadelphia Press.

Chemical.

In Prestbury churchyard, near Macclesfield, England, may be found the following epitaph on a chemist:

Willie's dead—we're full of woe—
We'll never see him more.
He thought to drink of H₂O,
'Twas H₂SO₄.

A Vicious Dig.

Patty—I always think of all the unkind things I have said during the day before I fall asleep at night. Patricia—Dear me! Do you stay awake as long as that?

Many a fellow has his nose to the grindstone without sharpening his wits.—Philadelphia Record.

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