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Union Dime.  
Paris Modes.  
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**THE SILK OF ITALY**

**HOW AND WHERE THIS INDUSTRY IS CARRIED ON.**

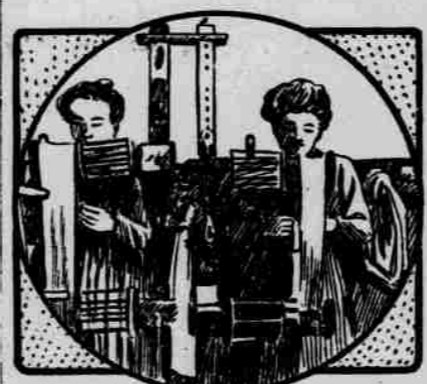
Provides Employment for Many of the Women and Children of the Sunny Land—From Cocoon to Fabric.

How many ladies think of the wonderful transformation through which the golden thread, the precious product of the laborious silkworm, must go before the woven material reaches their hands? Yet to study the manufacture of silk, step by step, in every phase, from the cocoon state until the silk is made into skeins ready for the weaver, is both interesting and instructive. Italy stands first in Europe in the silk spinning manufacture; then come France, Germany, Austria and Spain. Hungary has only lately taken to the rearing of the silkworm. England cannot do it on account of her cold climate. The greatest part of the silk produced in Italy comes from the Lombard and Venetian regions; but Piedmont produces a quality of silk superior to any other.

Those who have never visited an Italian spinningmill can have no adequate idea of the lives led by the many women (of from 12 to 50 years of age) employed. Few of us think of the obscure existence of these women when the wonderful products of their work are before us. Most of the spinning-mills in Italy are in villages or small towns, and the workers are generally girls from the same place, or from the neighboring villages. These poor girls earn from 50 centimes to a franc a day at most; they walk for miles to reach the mill early in the morning, and go home at dusk. On their way they sing popular songs. However scanty the wages may be, some peasants are so poor that they are glad to earn them, working 12 hours a day, in excessively heated rooms, in which even in winter the heat is oppressive.

The cocoons, when first sent to the spinning-mill, are spread over a table to be selected. From the bright yellow cocoons a very fine quality comes, and from the faulty ones, of course, an inferior quality. When the choice is made, the cocoons are washed in hot water, and are left in it for some time to get "cooked." After the washing

and "cooking," the cocoons are put in "battuses" for "brushing." When this operation is accomplished, the cocoons, with their silk threads forming a kind of skein, are placed in other basins, and the weaving work begins. As in all the other operations, these basins contain hot water, and there is a workwoman attending to each one of them. After this last bath the silk thread is completely detached from the cocoon, and, accurately guided by the workwoman, is wound round a spinning-wheel, forming a skein. When the skeins are ready they are taken into another room, where they are carefully looked over and got ready for weaving. Lastly the skeins are taken into the room where the



Preparing the Skeins of Silk.

thread is treated. The thread is wound round a spinning-wheel with a manometer, which is put into motion by a handle. The skeins are at last twisted and thrown into baskets. After being carefully weighed they are sent to the weaving-mills. All these operations are for the finest silk, used only for expensive materials. The coarser silk, which is used to make cravats, shawls, bed-covers, and sometimes ladies' blouses—blouses that in appearance are of the finest quality, but are done for after a fortnight's wear—is treated somewhat differently. And what becomes of the industrious little worm, the patient, untiring creature that for many days has worked hard to construct its golden prison? Even after death, after being cooked and re-cooked in boiling water, the worm is worth something: it makes an excellent manure for hemp and flax plantations.

**SEEKS PIRATE GOLD**

**AMERICAN SAILOR PREPARING EXPEDITION TO HONDURAS.**

Believes He Can Locate Place Where \$6,000,000 in Spanish Doubloons Were Buried Centuries Ago.

Is it a case of seeking the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, or is it real buried treasure which an American sailor named Bill Small is going



CAPT. W.H. SMALL.

to find at the end of his long cruise to the coast of Honduras? He expects it will be the latter and is hopeful of loading his little vessel down with the \$6,000,000 and sailing back home to enjoy his easily gotten wealth. Bill Small is master, mate and owner of the likely yawl Catherine, moored at foot of Twenty-third street, South Brooklyn. It won't be the fault of his seamanship, skill, persistence or pluck if he doesn't finally come upon the \$6,000,000 in Spanish gold buried a century ago by "Blackbeard" Latrobe, on a tiny, uninhabited island off the coast of Honduras. It has taken him eight years to get the ship and the money to make the try, and now he's ready. If he succeeds, it will be where others have failed. Many have already tried for the treasure buried by that throat-cutting, ship-sinking buccaneer, Latrobe, once the terror of the seas, until justice put a rope around his neck and swung him off into eternity.

Think of it—\$6,000,000 in Spanish doubloons, jewels and solid gold altar ornaments waiting for the man who can find them!

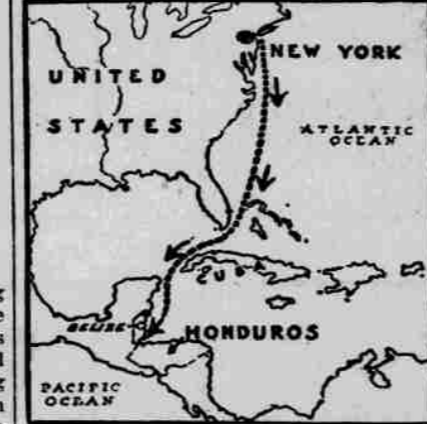
And Small, of Lancashire, England, knows that spot. He says he has the longitude and latitude of the island and a chart with the triangle of mahogany trees. These located, he can go straight to the place where the

treasure lies, 30 feet below, buried in quicksand.

As the story goes, the pirate Latrobe on the night before his execution at Kingston, Jamaica, placed in the hands of a boy who had been forced into service on his ship a packet of papers, and these it seems he kept until as an old man he died on board a ship in the Pacific ocean. Into the hands of a young Dr. Davidson, who attended him in his last illness, this old sailor placed the packet of papers. Thirty years afterward, in 1888, Dr. Davidson fitted out an expedition and visited the spot where the gold is supposed to be buried, but it was found that the quicksands baffled their efforts and Dr. Davidson and his crew were forced to return home empty handed.

Eight years elapsed. Cornelius Healy had been with the expedition, and he tried to get up another one in 1906, but he couldn't raise the money. And so nothing was done until W. H. Small, a Lancashire man who has spent most of his life in the United States, got hold of the packet.

He wasn't well-to-do, but he managed to get enough together to buy the 45-foot yawl Catherine two years



Map Showing Course to Be Taken by Capt. Small.

ago. She was in pretty bad condition, having been laid up for several years. But Capt. Small got to work with his own hands and finally he had her fit to cross the Atlantic. He even attended the Liverpool Nautical college to get a further knowledge of navigation. Work and study took all of eighteen months. Then he was ready to start on his journey of 7,139 miles, starting for the Honduras coast by way of New York, in his little yawl, with one man, Angus Horn, as crew.

Japan Gets Bulk of Lumber Trade. During 1906, 1,500,000 feet of American lumber was imported into Newchwang, the value being \$38,736 gold. The total lumber imported amounted to 17,497,857 feet; value, \$302,696 gold. The bulk of the trade during the year was captured by the Japanese, who, by their great activity and nearness of supply, had things practically their own way. Most of the Japanese lumber imported came from Korea.

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