

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA TO BE DESTROYED.

Greatest and Oldest Wonder of the World to Vanish in the Light of Higher Civilization.

The kissing bug has a soft snap on a sure thing.

No man can enjoy health as long as he has the toothache.

It is a great misfortune not to be able to bear misfortunes.

A small boy's idea of greatness is to play baseball in a uniform.

Don't judge a man by the fit of his coat; it may be a borrowed one.

When a man is out of a job he can keep himself busy looking for work.

Children are like clocks; too much regulating is apt to make them go wrong.

Paradoxical though it may seem, some officeholders are very much out of place.

A girl is all right until she gets womanish and a woman is all right until she gets girlish.

It is simply impossible for a minister with a holl on the back of his neck to preach an enthusiastic sermon.

A man is always busy attending to the judges, lawyers, and jurors of eastern Kentucky to pick the lead out of their anatomy.

It will require some time for the judges, lawyers, and jurors of eastern Kentucky to pick the lead out of their anatomy.

Nothing is easier than ridicule; and in nine cases out of ten where ridicule is used, it is resorted to only because it is the only weapon available. The man of intelligence will use his reason in argument with his opponent; the man of knowledge will use his knowledge; but the man who has neither knowledge nor intelligence must resort to ridicule. It is a poorly furnished armory which supplies no better weapon.

The Illinois Supreme Court has declared that the legislature can not pass rules for admission to the bar. We are in a pious state if that is true. The general requisite in this state of a "good moral character" has resulted in rating our bar very low, and of making lawyers out of people that ought to be ditch diggers. But now in Illinois, according to its Supreme Court, the people in their legislative capacity can not raise the standard.

Mountain View, Ok., a new terminal town on the Chickasha extension of the Rock Island, that was organized in a day recently, broke another record in town enterprise. There had existed a rival town two miles west and it was deemed advisable to consolidate them. After a week's diplomacy the protocol was signed and the towns are now one. The consideration was raised by the citizens of Mountain View and amounted in total to \$34,380, and now "Oakdale," the rival town, is on wheels and strung out on the road to Mountain View. This is probably the first case of buying a whole town outright that the annals of the west record.

The Boston Journal quotes the prediction uttered by Gen. Horace Binney Sargent in his oration on Memorial day, 1869: "Comrades, though few of us may live to see it, I feel sure that the last survivors of the Grand Army of the Republic will celebrate this anniversary after some day of glory, when the sons of rebels and our sons shall have fallen side by side in some common cause of foreign war, as our sires and their sires fell side by side under the eye of the great rebel, . . . the Virginian, Washington." This prophecy has been literally fulfilled. The predicted "foreign war" has re-embellized America's national character, restored the unity of her people, and—as Editor Watterson phrases it—"flung her geography into the sea."

Patriotism, like many other virtues, is easily counterfeited. Gruff old Dr. Johnson called it "the last refuge of a scoundrel." It has one thing in common with charity, "it covers a multitude of sins." It often expends itself in mere bawling. Our holiday oratory brings out no end of inspired and inspiring utterances, but allowance ought to be made for considerable leakage of gas. Indiscriminate praise of everything American is a cheap way of drawing applause, but the truest friends of the country are they who make us wretched to be free, who help to save mankind, Till public wrong be crumpled into dust, And drill the raw world for the march of mind, Till crowds at length be sane and crowds be just.

The grievance of F. P. Richards of Louisville, Ky., against the Guatemala government is that as soon as the government found out there was gold on the land he was working it took the land away from him and forced him to leave the country. In other words, Guatemala acted toward Mr. Richards as Great Britain is acting toward the Transvaal. She let the Transvaal pretty well alone as long as it looked like a barren cattle range, but on the discovery of gold she resolved to spread civilization there. Mr. Richards knows how a Boer feels.

Now that the removal of the Great Wall of China is contemplated, upon the recommendation of Li Hung Chang, it is a curious reflection that the suggestion of the economic uses to which it may be put presented itself to the mind of the distinguished Chinese statesman through his knowledge of the levee system of the Mississippi, says Philadelphia Times. It is to dyke the rebellious Yang-tse-Kiang that this great wall, which has endured for a century more than 2,000 years, is to be pulled down.

The Great Wall of China, known as the eighth wonder of the world, was completed 211 B. C. Several millions of men, it is said, were employed for ten years in its construction, and half a million of these are said to have perished while the work was in progress.

scriptions of it in its present condition. Indeed its very existence has been denied. A dozen years ago a paragraph was printed in nearly all the newspapers of Europe and America declaring that it was a myth. While this was not true, it is not so interesting to know that the great wall is as that it is to cease to be.

According to the usually accepted accounts the Great Chinese Wall is 1,255 miles long, but as it follows the undulations of hill and vale—scaling the precipices and topping the craggy hills of the country," as Lord Jocelyn described it sixty years ago—its actual length reaches 1,500 miles. It is not all solid masonry, as has often been supposed. It is formed of two strong retaining brick walls, the intervening space filled with earth and

proximately. If the wall was regularly built through its entire length and the dimensions of the two retaining walls and the brick covering were known this would be comparatively easy. But as a matter of fact it is much more strongly built in some parts than in others. Parts of it indeed may be solid masonry. Its eastern parts are more grandly built than those west of the Ho river. In some parts of the country, where stone was more easily procured than bricks, the sustaining walls were built of hewn stone. Whether brick or stone these walls were more thoroughly and extensively built than any great embankment or tunnel produced by modern engineering, and have endured longer than walls built during the present time will last.

stupendous work. The immensity indicated by these figures is equally beyond the grasp of the human mind. The only way to obtain any adequate idea of the immensity of the wall is to compare it to some familiar building of great size. The Public Building, in Penn Square, as a fit example for comparison. That great structure as it stands contains 1,125,744 cubic feet of masonry. The masonry of the Chinese wall would make a structure thirty times as long and thirty times as high.

The accompanying illustration shows what a speck the present structure is in comparison with the space that would be occupied by a building increased thirty times its length and height.

It is equally difficult to conceive the number of laborers that would be required to construct such a work in ten years. Judging from the history of our Public Building Commission during the last quarter of a century the work would still be incomplete if it had been entrusted to a similar commission by Shi-Hwang-Ti, 211 B. C., regardless

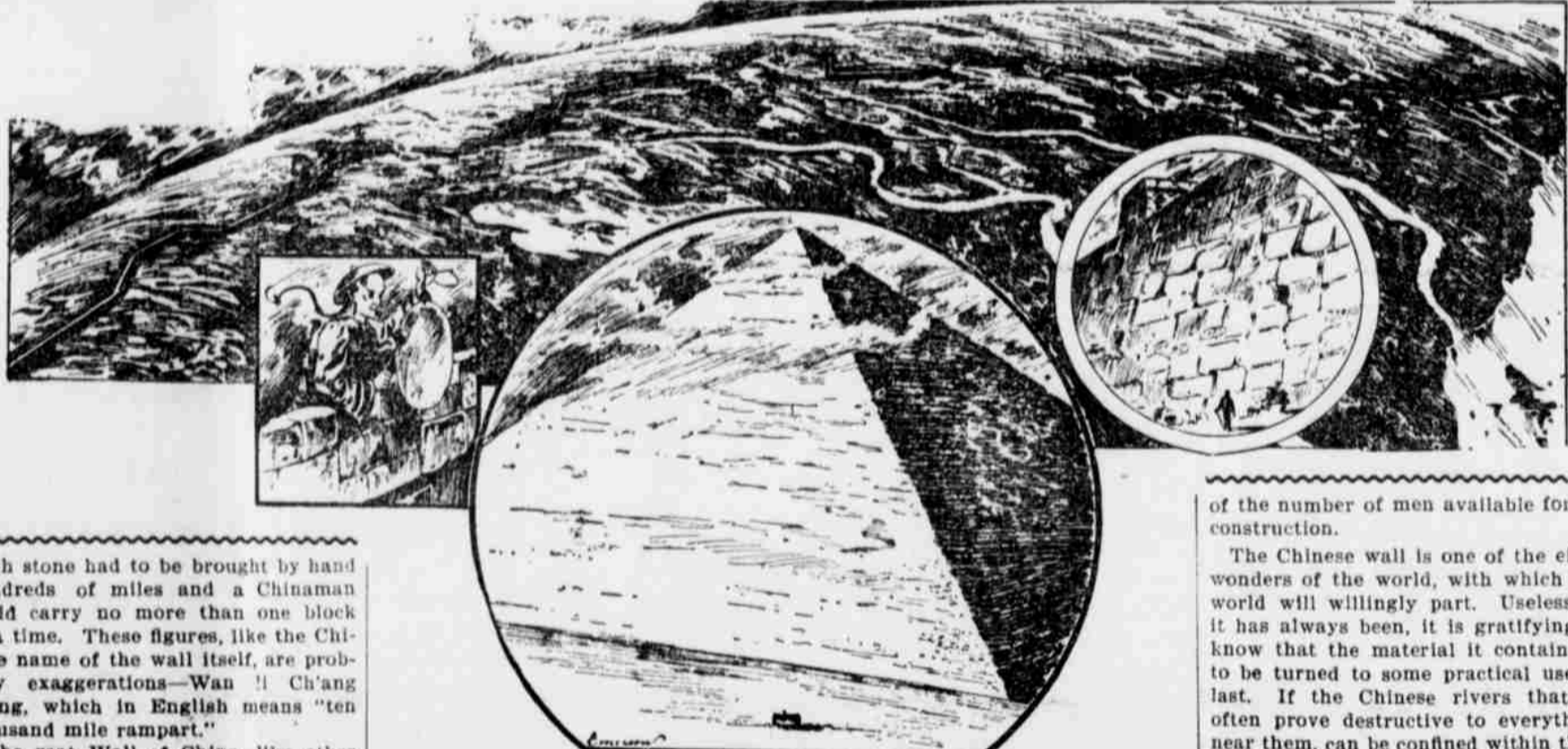


ILLUSTRATION SHOWING THE WALL AROUND NORTH OF CHINESE EMPIRE.

Each stone had to be brought by hand hundreds of miles and a Chinaman could carry no more than one block at a time. These figures, like the Chinese name of the wall itself, are probably exaggerations—Wan Ch'ang Ching, which in English means "ten thousand mile rampart."

The Great Wall of China, like other wonders of the world, never served the purpose for which it was intended. It was built by the first universal emperor of China, Shi-Hwang-Ti, to prevent the barbarians on his northern and northwestern frontier from making incursions into his dominions. Like Weyler's less stupendous and equally useless trenches in the Island of Cuba, it always failed to keep the barbarians out when they chose to scale the great rampart and invade the Celestial Empire.

For many centuries it has served no purpose whatever, not even nominally, unless it was to embellish the school geographies of the western barbarians. Few travelers were ever permitted to visit it and there are no authentic de-

scriptions. The breadth at the base is about 25 feet deep and at the top 15 feet. Six horsemen can ride abreast upon its summit. In height it varies from 15 to 30 feet. At a distance of about one hundred yards apart there are towers, many of them 40 feet high. The surface of the wall for the greater part of its length was a covering of brick. As the six horsemen never rode abreast along this rampart to any extent the top of the wall became overgrown with grass and it is probably in this condition at the present time.

It is not easy to estimate the number of bricks in such a wall even ap-

An appropriate estimate of the masonry in the Great Wall of China from such data as is obtainable—a wall that would extend from Philadelphia to Omaha if it could be lifted from its place and transferred to the western hemisphere—would make it measure the extraordinary total of 3,012,000,000 cubic feet.

These figures indicate an immensity so great that the mind is unable to grasp the full meaning of the idea it conveys. Assuming that the bricks are of the ordinary size of modern bricks this would make a grand total of 64,456,000,000 bricks in this one

of the number of men available for its construction.

The Chinese wall is one of the eight wonders of the world, with which the world will willingly part. Useless as it has always been, it is gratifying to know that the material it contains is to be turned to some practical use at last. If the Chinese rivers that so often prove destructive to everything near them, can be confined within their banks by the contemplated building of a new Chinese wall, it may be said that Shi-Hwang-Ti after all builded better than he knew.

The undertaking of A. D. 1899 is certainly greater in importance and not inferior in immensity to that of 211 B. C.

It would prove the revivification of China if the Chinese Government and people can remove within twice ten years the great landmark of isolation that has stood for the long period of twenty-one centuries, and use it to curb the rivers that so often work death and devastation in the northern part of China. And it is especially gratifying that this mighty stride toward a stronger civilization is wholly of Chinese initiative.

GREAT RUSSIAN POET.

A hundred years ago Russia gave birth to one who was destined to become the brightest star in her sparsely studded galaxy of poetic genius. Pushkin and Mickiewicz share the honor of being the two representative poets of the Slavonic race, and the only poets of their country who have attained world-wide celebrity. In the productions of this strange genius, Pushkin, Russian poetry first became an independent power. His writings were at once the type and expression of his country's nationality, and they have become part of the household language of his native land. He is undeniably the national poet of Russia.

Pushkin's birth and parentage are more than usually interesting and significant. The founder of the family was a German warrior, who migrated into Russia and obtained great renown in the art of war. One of the more celebrated of the poet's ancestors was Gabriel Pushkin, who espoused the cause of Demetrius the Pretender, that unfortunate impostor who so nearly became emperor of all the Russias. This ancestor plays an important part in the poet's historical tragedy, "Boris Godunoff." But on his mother's side Pushkin's descent is still more peculiar. His mother was the granddaughter of an African who was brought to Russia by Peter the Great, who gave him the name of Hannibal, and placed him in the navy, where he rose to the rank of admiral. Thus the poet blended in himself the cold temperament of the Teuton with the fiery, untamed spirit of the children of the desert. To this ancestor he dedicated more than one of his smaller works, and he makes frequent and proud allusion to his African descent.

His education was erratic, many teachers having him in charge. A young Scotchwoman taught him English literature, and a Russian woman trained him in the literature of his own country. Pushkin was a poor scholar, though he read widely. He was irascible, gloomy and imperious. His poetry was the first ever read by the peasantry, and he was worshipped throughout Europe by the lower classes as well as being a favorite with the nobility. He died at 38, being killed in a duel.

IN MANILA WHEN FILIPINOS FIRED IT!

It is evidently an English officer who sends from Manila to the British Navy and Army Illustrated a graphic account of the attempt of the Filipinos to burn that city. He says in one part of his story: "At 2 a. m., bugles on the insurgent side sounded 'Fall back!' and the Filipinos retreated as

kept at bay. Any bits of stone wall or other non-combustible structures were used as a foundation for the barrier, and the trees or woodwork were removed or burned.

"Then the Americans advanced on Tondo and completed the Filipinos' handiwork. Wherever a section of

us out of Manila began and ended in Tondo. The population of Tondo in normal times was from 60,000 to 80,000. The population now is nil. Tondo was razed to the ground, and the only Filipinos who remained in it were dead. As for Guadalupe, it was occupied by 4,000 of Aguinaldo's troops,



THE DEAD AT TONDO.

the fires, burning furiously to the west and south, drew closer around the city. It was hopeless to attempt to put them out. But as the natives, relying on the set of the wind, had started operations from their own quarter, it was decided to let them have the full benefit of their bonfire. A long barrier was made and soaked through and through with water, and buildings that looked likely to carry the flames were razed to the ground or burnt as they stood. Thus a non-inflammable zone was created, and across this belt the flames could

the native quarter was not burning they started a fire. Occasionally an organized band of Filipino riflemen barred the way, and there were several fights—hot fights from all points of view.

"At last the whole body of them broke and fled as fast as their legs could carry them in the direction of Maepajo village, where they had entrenched the bridge and the further side of the river. Others made for the fortified village of Guadalupe. The great fire which was to have burned

plus the fugitives from Tondo. Gen. King marched up a week later with the Utah volunteer artillery, and the California, North Dakota, and Oregon volunteer infantry, and, planting his men on three sides of the village, blew the place to pieces. The field guns used on this occasion were for the most part not American, but Spanish, of the Nordenfildt make. They were taken from the city walls of Manila, and are not of the very latest pattern. The Yankee artillerymen, however, make the best of them they can."

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

SOME GOOD JOKE'S, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

A Variety of Jokes, Gibes and Ironies, Original and Selected—Flotsam and Jetsam from the Tide of Humor—Witty Sayings.

One Day of Sunshine. One day of sunshine. All the birds are singing— Life to the joy of it delighted clings. The doves their way o'er meadows green are winging. With frost upon their wings.

Yet, lest deceitful spring afar abroad flutter, We shall not give her one wild word of praise. No song of adoration shall we utter— No rosy altars raise.

Too long with our affections did she trifle, Playing hide and seek with shadow and with sun. Enter her gardens while you may, and rifle Her rose ways and have done!

—Atlanta Constitution.

An Article of Luxury.



She—I'll grant that your income would be enough for us to marry, if only you didn't have such expensive fads. He—? Expensive fads? What expensive fad have I? She—Me, for one.—Lustige Blaetter.

He Couldn't Help It. "I am astonished to hear you say that Fralemann told you all these things; I gave them to him in strict confidence." "Yes, but he says you told them to him during your late voyage to Europe."

"So I did. But what's that got to do with it?" "Everything. You can't expect a man to keep anything to himself on his first ocean voyage, can you?"—Richmond Dispatch.

Revenge. It was apparent that the barber was highly pleased. "What has happened?" he was asked.

"I had the pneumonia last winter," he answered. "Yes?"

"Well, the doctor who doctored me got out of my chair just before you came in. If his wife recognizes him when he gets home it'll be by his voice."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Necessary to Warn Her. "When you got your groceries today," said the butcher to his wife, "don't go to that little grocer next door to my shop."

"Why not?" she demanded. "Because he sent in yesterday and borrowed an old pair of my scales."—Chicago Evening post.

Such Grieff (Overheard in Commercial road.) "Arriet—Would yer ha' bin sorry, Jim, if I 'ah kicked the bucket when I was took bad last month?" "Jim—Sorry! Why, Lord luv yer, I'd sooner 'ave 'ad me grog stopped for a week!"—London Fun.

Relief at Last. Sea Captain—There is no hope! The ship is doomed! In an hour we will all be dead! Sick Passenger—Thank heaven!—New York Weekly.

An Actual Necessity.



Boothblack—Say, dere, Dick, lend me yer box to prop up the forrid deck of us, won't yer?

Very Good, In Fact. Gush—Take him all around, he's a pretty good fellow.

Rush—Yes, I have discovered that after taking him all around last night he was good enough to borrow \$5 of me just before we parted.—Cleveland Leader.