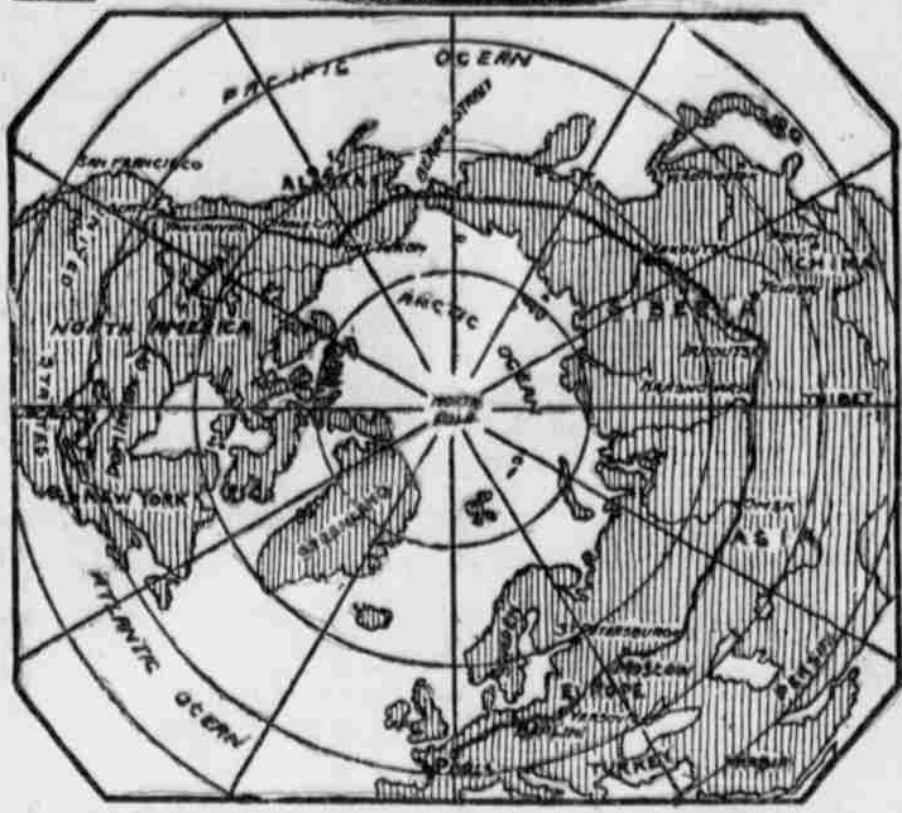


BY LAND FROM PARIS TO NEW YORK.



Route Crossing Bering Strait Planned by Harry De Windt.

Harry De Windt and his companions, who will attempt to reach New York by traveling overland, have started from Paris on their way to Behring strait. The trip will be across the continent of Siberia, where the Russian government will actively assist the explorer in his undertaking.

The vicomte de Clinchamp and George Harding will accompany M. De Windt. This will be the third attempt M. De Windt has made to reach America entirely by land. On the first occasion, starting from New York, he managed to reach the Asiatic coast of the straits, but owing to his capture and subsequent ill treatment by Koari, the Tchuktchi chief, he narrowly escaped with his life and had to return. He again attempted the journey in the reverse direction last year, but owing to the political situation in China and on the Amur Count Lamson refused to allow De Windt to cross Siberia, and again M. De Windt had to relinquish the trip.

Now, however, he is receiving assistance from both the Russian and American authorities, including Commodore Melville of Washington.

he was able to take no part in any official or court ceremony, and spent his entire existence prostrate either in bed or on a sofa, while on the rare occasions that he visited the foreign office he had to be lifted out of his carriage into a sort of sedan chair, and borne in the latter to the room of Lord Salisbury.

Alluring.

The following is quoted as a Japanese "personal" from the columns of the Anazawa-Sheurbum of Tokio: "I am a beautiful woman. My abundant, undulating hair envelops me as a cloud. Supple as a willow is my waist. Soft and brilliant is my visage as the satin of the flowers. I am endowed with wealth sufficient to saunter through life hand in hand with my beloved. Were I to meet a gracious lord, kindly, intelligent, well educated, and of good taste, I would unite myself with him for life and later share with him the pleasure of being laid to rest eternal in a tomb of pink marble."

Steel in Ocean Liners.

The boiler tubes of a liner, if placed in a straight line, would reach nearly ten miles and the condenser tubes more than twenty-five miles. The total number of separate pieces of steel in the main structure of the ship is not less than 40,000.

The golf players in congress are quite numerous. Corless of Michigan is the founder of a golf club, and was among the pioneer followers of the game in his state.

Count Hatzfeldt's Last Days.

The death of Count Hatzfeldt did not come entirely as a surprise to his friends, as it was generally recognized that the retirement from the post of German ambassador meant a very critical state of health. Indeed, it was one of the peculiar features of his career that he should have for so long remained entrusted with the interests of the German Empire in London, when his health was such that

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 end 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. Pomery, 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. Sbarretti, 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 Prie 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.

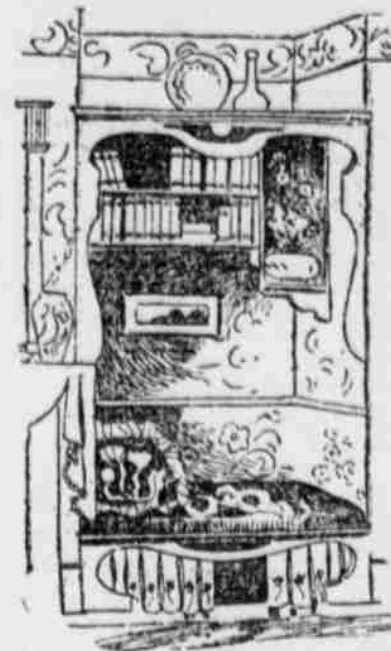
Now a fish club from Caneater, Illinois, has bought the property and will restore the dam, stock the pond with fish, and make it a preserve.

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 mediaeval architecture, and one of the most picturesque objects in Bulgaria.

PRETTY WINDOW RECESS

The recess for this seat must of a necessity be fairly deep. No recess under eighteen inches deep should be attempted. The seat should be fixed across the recess at about sixteen inches above the floor, the underneath front being filled in with a fretwood support as shown. This will form a receptacle if curtains are fixed inside. The seat need not be upholstered if a flat cushion of the same size be made to fit it. About a foot from the ceiling fix across a shelf, with a decorative woodwork front, and finish this off along the top front with a molding, says the Chicago Daily News. Under and inside this the smaller shelves can be fixed for books, and an open cup-



board as shown for pottery. Keep these well out of the way of the head of the person sitting down. The wood should be stained and varnished, or else enameled in some pretty art shade. When finished the whole structure will give great satisfaction.

AUTOMOBILE MASKS

Gold automobile masks are coming. M. Pierre Roche, the Paris sculptor, proposes masks for women made either of silver, gold, or aluminum. He says the caps and goggles of to-day are unsightly, and, besides that, they do not prevent neuralgia.

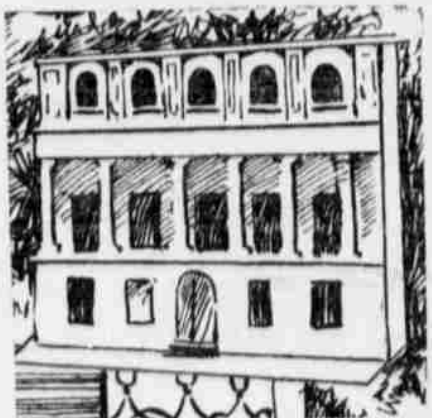
Of course, every woman, whose husband can afford them, will have her masks golden. Mr. Roche says gold is better for the complexion, anyhow.

He will make his ready-made masks on the model of Diana's face. But for those dames who think the virgin huntress' physiognomy too chilly as an outward sign of their own sunny natures he expects to produce made-to-order masks showing the favorite expression of the customer.

"Or, better still," pursues the inventor, "I can make several masks for the same face, showing it in manifestations of various soul conditions. For example, a sweet, submissive smile for her fiancé, a polite grin for her friends, and any one of several quite different expressions, according to the choice of the buyer, for her husband. On starting out of a morning for a stroll in the park she can choose from out of her wardrobe of masks that best suited to the time, place, weather, and companion."

QUEEN'S DOLL HOUSE

One of the most valuable and unique exhibits at the Christmas children's exhibition at the Crystal palace, London, was the doll's house which Queen Victoria played with at Kensington palace, when, as Princess Victoria, she resided there with her mother, the duchess of Kent. Built on the lines of Buckingham palace, with six large columns, the house, of course, has a more than ordinary commanding appearance and is a plaything which is sure to



call forth expressions of envious delight from the youngsters. The house is well furnished with the toys which the young princess spent so many happy hours in arranging and rearranging; but that which is sure to attract more than usual attention, both from the children and their elders, will be the two carpets which the late queen worked with her own hands.—Chicago Daily News.

Taxation in Russia.

During the last forty years the yearly expenditure of Russia has increased enormously. Thirty years ago its budget was less than 500,000,000 rubles (\$250,000,000), twenty years ago it was 900,000,000 (\$450,000,000), ten years back it amounted to 1,000,000,000 (\$500,000,000), and at present it has reached nearly 2,000,000,000 (\$1,000,000,000). The peasantry and the industrial classes, who form nearly 90 per cent of the whole population, have to bear this burden.

UNIQUE VIOLIN

Perhaps the most ghastly musical instrument ever made is the violin belonging to an eccentric Englishman living in London. It is composed of a human skull and leg bone. It was made by stretching over the hollow part a sheet of sheepskin as a sounding-board. A part of the leg bone is used as a keyboard, with pieces of the small bones of the arm for keys. This curiosity came from Charles Wilson of Durban, South Africa.

Mr. Wilson had to risk his own skull to get this one. He attended a pow wow of the natives in the guise of a wandering hunter. When the climax of their ceremonies was reached, he was startled to see them bring forth this hideous musical instrument. Upon it was played the Yu-ku-ka, or death dance.

Mr. Wilson knew enough of the native dialect to learn that this death's head violin was made from the skull of the great chief of their tribe, who had lived hundreds of years ago. When the death dance was over and the performers had sunk exhausted and stupefied by the native wine, the Englishman secured the skull violin and succeeded in escaping with it undetected to Durban.

WEAPONS IN RUSSIA

As an illustration of how closely everything is watched in Russia, take their system of registering firearms. When a weapon of any kind is purchased a permit must be secured from the local authorities. The name of the man who makes the purchase, with the number of the weapon, is recorded. If the purchaser ever wants to dispose of the weapon he must notify the authorities and cause the transfer to be recorded on the books of the firm which sold it. If that weapon is ever used in an attempted assassination or in any demonstration against the law the man recorded as last having it in his possession is held responsible.

MRS. WILLIE ALLEN

The south has given many beautiful women to New York society, but none more charming than Mrs. Willie Allen, who was recently accorded an added distinction by acknowledging the authorship of "The Love Letters of a Liar," a production that greatly



pleased people who are inclined to be fond of that sort of literature. Mrs. Allen is a great social favorite, and her claim to really remarkable personal beauty there is none to dispute.

How a Queen Revived Lace Trade.

As a younger woman the Queen of the Belgians was fond of paying incognito visits to her husband's poverty-stricken subjects. It is said that during one of these expeditions she became aware that what was wanted was not so much the bestowal of money as a revival of the lace trade. It is, thanks to her efforts, that Belgium now again holds a leading place in the lace trade of the world.

In Belgium, where much of the finest lace in the world is made, there are over one thousand schools where lace making is taught. Each of the towns has its own particular "points," the patterns of which have been handed down from mother to daughter for generations. Lace making is the chief industry of the women of Flanders, and has been for five centuries. The finest specimens of Brussels lace come from the town of that name. Bruges has its point duchesse, or Belgian Honiton, a brilliant white pillow lace of flowers, united by barrettes. Prettiest of all the Flemish laces is that made at Mechlin. Point de Mechlin it is called, and it has an exquisitely transparent ground and fine design.

Constituents Annoy Congressmen.

It is a rule in political life in Washington that a congressman must always be "in" to a constituent. The greatest annoyance and hardship they are forced to endure under this rule is providing transportation home for men and women who have failed to find government employment or merely go to Washington on a pleasure trip and spend all their money. The professional "constituents" always pick out a new member when they want cash for board or railroad tickets.

Emperor Williams Six Sons.

Emperor William's six sons are to get their education in part at the military academy at Plon. Two of them are there now and three have been there. The crown prince is at present at the University of Bonn and Prince Adalbert is making a long trip on a military training ship.

"Surrender Tree" in Cuba.



During his recent visit in Santiago General Wood bought for the government the principal part of the San Juan battlefield, including San Juan Hill, the site of the blockhouse and Bloody Bend. The tract comprises 200 acres and cost \$15,000.

It will be considered a United States reservation, and the government intends to lay out a beautiful park on the old battlefield.

Governor General Wood's action in purchasing the San Juan battlefield for a government reservation is believed to be in line with the policy of the administration to acquire territory at strategic points in Cuba upon which American troops will be stationed.

On this park is situated the "Surrender Tree," under which the terms of the surrender of the Spanish army to

the victorious Americans were agreed upon after the famous battle.

Dressmaking in Paris.

Paris leads the world in dressmaking. It is estimated that there are 75,000 persons employed in the dressmaking establishments of the city, and if one includes the workers who design and make the materials used by the dressmakers, about 140,000 persons are engaged in the business.

Opals.

Formerly most opals came from Hungary, and more recently from Mexico. In 1889 an Australian hunter, while pursuing a wounded kangaroo, came across an opal. Since that time Australia has yielded nearly \$2,000,000 worth of that gem.