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JOLT CAMP NO. 1710. M. W. OF A. Meets on the first and third Tuesday in the month in the Masonic hall.
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A HISTORIC GOLD CUP.

The British Museum's Latest Acquisition James L's Gift to a Spaniard James I was a monarch always

hard up, but exceedingly lavish with other people's "bawbees." Although he has now happily been defunct for over two centuries his generosity with goods not his own has, according to the report of the trustees of the British museum, just cost the country and several patriotic Englishmen the sum of £8,000. While he was king a Spanish ambassador came to England to conclude peace, and among the presents James awarded him was the royal gold cup, an exceedingly valua-ble vessel, fashioned in France in 1391 by command of the duc de Berry, as a

gift to his nephew Charles VI.

It is supposed to have come to England in return for money lent to the French king to carry on his wars; at all events it is found in the inventory of the royal chattles of Henry VI., and remained in the possession of the English court until James generously

gave it away. The Spaniard gave up the cup to a convent where it remained until 1883, when the abbess sold it to Baron Pichon of Paris, from whom the Messrs. Wertheimer purchased it for £8,000. The last named gentlemen agreed to let the British museum have it at cost price, and the late &e Wrtheimer even subscribed £500 to enable them to acquire it. The treasury gave £2,830 and the remainder was up by private subscription.

HOUSEHOLD BREAKAGES.

And a Possible Means of Relief From This Prevalent Trouble.

A creaking joint in the domestic machinery is that of servant's breakages. How often one hears the plaint, "I'm through buying expensive china and glass, it seems to be the slipperisort for the maids to hold," or a sigh from the collector of bric-a-brac, "I can insure my curios against fire and burglary, but not, alas! against the dangers of dusting day."

Some mistresses try to enforce the principle that breakages must be paid for out of the maid's wages, but, as was recently tested in a police court, this process is not legal and the servant can claim and secure full wages. The method is, besides, manifestly unjust, as in the homes of wealthy persons it might be possible for a careless servant to break in an instant a piece of bric-a-brac that it would take years of unrequited labor to pay for.

A suggestion which comes from a writer on the subject is to the effect that housekeepers might find relief in a "breakage fund." That, for instance, a sum of \$3 a month be put aside, to be divided among the servants where two or three are kept, less if only one is employed, from which sum twentyfive cents is deducted for every article broken by any one of them.

HUMBERT IS TEMPERATE.

The King of Italy Does Not Believe in Wine Bibbing.

King Humbert of Italy, like his father, Victor Emmanuel, is a firm believer in temperance. He tastes liquors and wines so seldom, in fact, that he is almost a total abstainer. This was illustrated a few weeks ago when his majesty visited a great vermouth distillery in Pallenzo. When the owner of the distillery offered the king a glass of his finest brand so pop-ular in the sunny land, he declined it laughing with the words: "I have been called to be the head of a wineproducing nation par excellence and ought to set a good example in the consumption of our wines. Unfortunately-and I almost fear the admission—there is hardly a poorer wine-drinker than myself in all Italy."

On state occasions and at official dinners King Humbert is, of course, obliged to drink some wine when toasting his guests or responding to their toasts. But he always takes as little of the wine as etiquette will permit. He merely touches the glass with his lips on other occasions, and when dining with his family rarely even tastes it. His son, it is said, cares almost as little for wine as his father and grandfather.

Fize of European Families. The Berlin anthropological society has recently completed some curious tabulations on the average size of families in the various countries of Europe. According to these statistics the average number of persons in families in the different European countries is as follows: France, 3.03; Denmark, 3.61; Hungary, 3.70; Switzerland, 3.94; Austria and Belgium, 4.05; England, 4.08; Germany, 4.10: Sweden and Norway, 4.12; Holland, 4.22; Scot-land, 4.46; Italy, 4.54; Spain, 4.65; Russia, 4.83 and Ireland, 5.20.

Longevity Among the Birds. Small singing birds, technically known as "warblers," live from 8 to 18 years, providing they meet with no accident Ravens have been known to live for more than 100 years in captivity, and parrots even longer. The average life of the common barnyard fowl is 171/2 years; geese, (wild) 100 and swans, 300 years. Ornithologists believe that the extraordinary longevity of some species of birds is nature's plan of compensation for their feeble fertility and for the great mortality among their young.

Louis Napoleon, when a mere adventurer in London, lived for a time on terms of considerable intimacy with the Grotes. When he was president of the French republic, Mrs. Grotes happened to be in Paris, but he ignored her. One day, however, when the Bois de Boulogne was crowded, their carriages came so close together that he could not avoid speaking to her. "Ah, madame, you are here?" said he; "do you remain long in Paris?" "Not long, sir; and you?" The coup d etat shortly followed.

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