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TAKETHE

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

A Project of Former Days-The Erie Canal-Completed in 1825.

The Erie canal enterprise grew out of the the Western Inland Lock Navigation company, incorporated in 1792, with fifty mem-bers, for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Mohawk river, and of opening a communication by canal to Seneca lake and Lake Outario. The route in question was carefully surveyed by Mr. Weston, a civil engineer from England, in company with Thomas Eddy. On the 4th of July, 1817, ground was first broken for the canal by James Richardson, on the middle section, in the vicinity of Rome, and from this date work did not cease for a single day until its completion in 1825. On the 22d of October, 1819, the first boat sailed on the Erie canal from Rome to Utica, with De Witt Clinton, then governor of the state, Chancellor Liv-ingston, Geu. S. Van Rensselaer and a large party of friends of the enterprise on board. This was a passenger boat named the Chief Engineer, in comp iment to Benjamin Wright, and was dragged by a single horse. The work completed, the city of New York was naturally selected as the most suitable place for the canal celebration. On the morning of the 26th of October, 1825, the first flotilla of canal boats left Buffalo for New York, where the intelligence of its departure was received one hour and twenty minutes after, by the sound of cannon stationed along the line. The answer was returned in the same time; and thus in less than three hours Buffalo had spoken to New York and received a reply.

On the 4th of November the fleet, consisting of the Chancellor Livingston, in which were Clinton and his party, with a long line of canal packet boats in tow, arrived at New York and anchored near the state prison at Greenwich, amid the ringing of bells and the salutes of artillery. A grand naval pro-cession was formed of all the vessels in port. Fireworks were set off in the park after a procession on shore.

Strong Maritime Powers.

Great Britain still has the largest navy, hough she is closely pushed by France and Italy. She has one vessel carrying two 110ton guns, which have a penetrating power of thirty-six inches of iron; four vessels with sixteen 68-ton guns, one with four 80-ton guns, five with sixteen 43-ton guns, and numerous other vessels. She has eleven seagoing vessels carrying from twenty to thirty inches of armor. France is her most formidable antagonist, with nine seagoing vessels with armor from twenty to thirty inches thick, and six with armor from eight to sixteen inches thick. She has on six vessels fourteen 75-ton guns that can penetrate twenty-seven inches of iron, on one vessel two 52-ton guns that can pierce twenty-five inches of iron, and on six vessels nineteen 48-ton guns that can pierce twenty inches of iron. Italy is a close third. She has five seagoing vessels carrying twenty 103-ton guns that can pierce thirty-two inches of armor and two with eight 101-ton guns that can pierce twenty-eight inches of armor. Seven of her vessels carry armor from twenty to thirty inches thick. So, though Great Britain has the strongest navy alone, she has a bad show against France and Italy combined. The United States doubtless has the smallest navy of any nation of any size. Even when our Delivered to any part of the "new navy" is finished it will not compare

Presidential Candidates. The following is a complete list of the presidential candidates of the two great parties:

1789...George Washington....No opposition 1792. George Washington....No opposition 1804...Thomas Jefferson.....C. C. Pinckney James Madison C. C. Pinckney 1812. James Madison..... De Witt Clintor 1816. James Monroe..... Rufus King 1820. James Monroe. No opposition 1824. John Q. Adams..... Andrew Jackson 1828. Andrew Jackson.....John Q. Adams 1832. Andrew Jackson..... Henry Clay 1836. Martin Van Buren.... William H. Harrison 1840. William H. Harrison. .. Martin Van Buren 1844. James K. Polk. Henry Clay 1848. Zachary Taylor......Lewis Cass 1852. Franklin Pierce......Winfield Scott 1856. James Buchanan John C. Fremont Abraham Lincoln.....S. A. Douglas Abraham Lincoln.....G. B. McClellan 1861. U. S. Grant Horatio Seymou 1872. U. S. Grant Horace Greeley 1881. Grover Cleveland......James G. Blaine 1888. Grover Cleveland......Benj. H. Harrison

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO AMATEURS AND SCIENTISTS

Simple Experiments in Physics That May Be Tested by Any One Without Expensive Apparatus, the Results of Which Are Instructive and Entertaining.

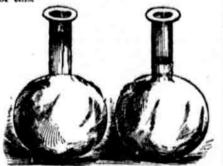
A pretty illustration of cohesion-the force which holds the molecules of matter together -is shown in the first cut,

In the bottom of a suitable vessel is placed a few drops of olive oil, and into the vessel is carefully poured a

mixture of alcohol and water having the same specific gravity as the oil. The oil will be detached from the bottom of the vessel, and will, in consequence of the cohesion of its particles, assume a spherical form. Another method of performing this experiment is to introduce the oil into the center of the body of dilute alcohol by means of a pipette. By careful manipula tion a large globule of oil may be introduced in this

way. Cohesion 80, 1-oil GLOBULE SUS PENDED IN EQUILIBtends to cause RIUM. liquids to assume a

spheroidal form, but in the case of liquids in large masses gravity causes them to assume the form of the vessel in which they are contained. The tendency of liquids to assume a spheroidal form is seen in the rain and dew drops, in liquids dropped from bottles, also in liquids thrown in drops on surfaces which they do not moisten. Water spattered upon a surface covered lycopodium is an example



NO. 2-A CURIOUS PHENOMENON. [Tto first represents volume of unmixed alcohol and water. The second-Reduction of alcohol and water. The see

In the case of the mixture of water and alcohol, or water and sulphuric acid, a curious phenomenon is presented. Take alcohol and water, for example. Two equal volumes of alcohol and water, when mixed, occupy less space than when separate. If the sum of the volumes of the two separate liquids is 100, the volume of the mixture will be only 94. In the case of the mixture of sulphuric acid and water, the difference is greater.

An easy way to perform this experiment is to fill a narrow necked flask up to a line which may conveniently be marked by a rubber band around the neck, then removing one-half of the water, measuring it exactly, and replacing it with a volume of alcohol exactly equal to that of the water removed. It will be found that when the liquids are mixed, the mixture will not fill the flask up to the original mark.

A New Industry.

A new branch of industry, according to ron, is going to revolutionize the lace tr

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Effects of an Insufficient Quantity of Food Upon Mind and Body.

In a lecture on "Food and Digestion" Professor Miles, of the University of Maryland, speaks thus of the effects of an insufficient quantity of food;

"The fat disappears first, then the muscles waste away, and finally the boncs come through the skin. The brain, the spinal cord and the nerves are nourshed to the last. Like a king in a belenguered city to whom his loyal subjects give up their food, the nobler organs are longest nourished. Instarvation there is not simple hunger of the stomach, but hunger of the whole body. It is not strange that when hunger presses on people they will do strange things. It produces insanity, and they have been driven to eating what has been called 'strange flesh;' that is, to cannibalism. There are millions of peo ple who have not enough to eat. It is at the bottom of anarchy. The po-lice may give them a loaf of bread, but the whole body is ill nourished, and a restless feeling results. Not much can be done with the grown up people of the criminal classes, but the child criminal comes first. The crim Inal classes are called dirty, lazy and ugly. Of course they are. They are dirty because they have no spare heat to let go; they are lazy because the muscles are weak and nature tells them to keep still when hungry. You would be astonished to know how much of the beauty of the fairest woman is made up of fat. The criminal classes are ugly be cause they have no fat. How could a child whose muscles and nervous system have been partly starved be expected to have all the sympathies and instincts of a higher class of ociety! An everyday Sabbath school, with breakfast before the lesson, would be a capital thing for the poor children. Some say the poor themselves are to blame for their condition by living too luxuriously. One of the most intense cravings of the Greely arctic party was for sweetmeats. Ter and coffee do more good than harm. They stimulate not only the brain, but the activities of the whole body. There will be a great mission to the pcor some day to see that they get enough of good food."

An Old Superstition

The belief that warts may be charmed away or removed by various superstitious practices, such as stealing a neighbor's dish cloth to rub the wart with and then burying it, when the wart will gradually waste away, has a certain attraction for many people of a non-scientific turn of mind, to whom it may be a pleasure to know that so eminent a man as Lord Bacon was not without a little weakness in this direction.

After telling in one of his works that he and a wart on one of his fingers from early childhood, and that when a youth in Paris at least a hundred grew upon his hands in a month's time, Lord Bacon adds:

"The English ambassador's lady, who was far from superstitious, told me she would get away my warts; and, in order to do it, she rubbed them all over with the fat side of a piece of bacon with the rind on-and. among the rest, the wart I had from my childhood-then nailed the bacon, with the fat toward the sun, upon a post of her chamber window, which was to the south; and in five weeks' time the warts went away, and the wart I had so long endured for company. At the rest I did not wonder, because, as they came in a short time, they might go away so too; but the vanishing of that which had remained so long, sticks with me."

Food for Young Children.

For supper, milk toast, bread and butter and a glass of milk, with possibly a little stewed fruit, will be quite sufficient for young children. Hot bread, cheese and hashed meat and vegetables, so often the supper of the hearty workman, are altogether too indigestible for young children. In fact, it should be the duty of the mother to learn what foods are easily digestible, and none others should be allowed. Her own powers

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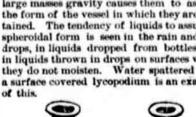
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And by Special Agreement Com-

And by Special Agreement Com-bined with the Capitol City Courier at \$3.25 Per Year.

The Quarantine Act.

The Quarantine act approved by the president provides for the immediate establishment of eight new Federal quarantine stations at the following points: One at the mouth of Delaware bay; one near Cape Charles, at the entrance of Chesapeake bay; one on the Georgia coast; one at or near Key West; one in San Diego harbor; one in San Francisco harbor, and one at or near Port Townsend, at the entrance of Puget Sound. down. It was impossible to see anything a The aggregate sum appropriated for the cs-tablishment and maintenance during the and it was found to be a dangerous experipresent fiscal year is \$511,500.

Porterhouse Steak.

The steak called porterhouse was evidently the steak sold in the public houses where por-ter was sold. Porter is a dark colored mait liquor, first made for and drank by porters. It is heavier than ale, and has tonic properties which ale has not. Probably, then, the large steak, which is to the ordinary steak as porter is to ale, was sold in porter houses, and so gained its name.

Petitio Principil.

is credited to Aristotle, who gives five ways of begging the question. The earliest Eng lish work in which the expression is men tioned is one published in 1584, cutitled "The Arte of Logicke Plainlie set Forth in our Eng-lish Tongue."

No Lake Tides.

There is no tide on the great lakes, but changes in the water level are noticed from year to year, and sometimes every season. These differences are sometimes considerable and affect the lading of vessels passing through the St. Clair and St. Mary's canal.

Officers of High Rank.

There have been five lieutenant generals in the United States army-Washington, Scott, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. The generals have been three in number-Grant. Sherman and Sheridan.

A. D. C.

Webster and Worcester give aid-de-camp as an English word. It is sometimes spelled aide-de-camp. Both forms are, according to the above authorities, correct. The word means, literally, "aid on the field."

Free Matrizaoulal States.

Marriage licenses are not required in Ari-zona, Dakota, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin.

A New York dealer is exhibiting a specimen of lace of an extremely delicate pattern, and so light that it can almost be blown away by a breath of air. This lace is made of steel rolled as fine as the point of a cambric needle. It is not woven, but stamped out of a sheet of low grade steel, so that it should not be too brittle. It was turned out of a small Pittsburg mill, and sent to the dealer to show what could be done in that line. In the course of time other patterns will be made, heavier, perhaps, but certainly more tena-cious than this piece. There is said to be no question as to its durability, and its cheapness would make it the most salable of all laces on the market. It may create a revolution in the lace market if rust can be guarded against.

A Sand Storm at Sea.

The British steamship Glenshiel, from the East Indies, recently arrived at New York, reports a sand storm which occurred on the evening of July 10, while the vessel was making for Suez. When half way up the Red sea a most terrific sand storm, which lasted nearly ten hours, suddenly swert ment to stay on deck for any length of time. The sand was hot, and when it came into contact with the body, would sting like the point of a knife.

Porcelain Shot.

Under the name porcelain shot small white globules of porcelain are made in Munich. These are designed to take the place of ordinary lead shot used for cleaning wine and medicine bottles, as porcelain is entirely free from the objection of producing lead con-tamination, which is often the result when ordinary shot is used. Their hardness and The phrase "begging the question," is a logical fallacy, the first explanation of which greater friction, adapt the porcelain shot greater friction, adapt the porcelain shot well for quickly cleaning dirty and greasy bottles, and as they are not acted upon by acids or alkalies, almost any liquid can be used.

The United States Fish Commission

The United States fish commission is undertaking an extensive series of explorations of the fish fauna of the rivers of the Alleghany region. The work is in charge of Professor D. S. Jordan, assisted by Professor P. P. Jenkins, Professor B. W. Evermann and Mr. Barton A. Bean. The basins of the James, Kanawha, Roanoke, Holston, French Broad, Yadkin and Catawba will be included in the work of the present summer. Similar explorations of the smaller lakes of Michigan are under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Bollman.

The Art of Paper Making.

The art of paper making has reached a point where a growing tree may be cut down, made into paper, and turned out as a newspaper all within thirty-six hours, or at least public. o affirms Popular Science News.

Whole Wheat.

A Maine physician says: "When properly cooked and used, I consider whole wheat one of the most healthy and efficient remedies for that malady or bane of the people of New England, constipation, a trouble that destroys annually thousands of valuable lives, directly or indirectly."

of digestion, or those of the father, cannot by any means be considered a safe guide in the selection of food for her little ones.

Helpful Hints.

The most exquisite cleanliness should pro vail in the sick room.

"Infants intelligently fed have nearly as good a chance of life with artificial as with natural food," asserts a medical journal. The habit of slow deep breathing-thirty or forty inspirations a day-is a great preventive of that terrible disease, consumption. Physicians say the number of patients cured in hospital rooms exposed to the rays of the sun are four times as great as those confined in darkened rooms.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

Accepted Laws of Correspondence Among Well Bred People.

Don't conduct correspondence on postal cards, advises a popular monthly on social matters. A brief business message on a postal card is not out of the way, but a private communication on an open card is almost insulting to your correspondent. It is questionable whether a note on a postal card is entitled to the courtesy of a response. Don't write on ruled or inferior paper. Don't use paper with business headings for private letters. Tasteful stationery is considered an indication of refined breeding, and tasteful stationery means note paper and envelopes of choice quality, but entirely plain. One may have his initials and his address neatly printed on his note paper, but there should be no ornament of any kind.

"Noblesse Oblige."

According to Mrs. Sherwood there have been hostesses of a singular turn of mind, who ask people to their houses apparently to insult them. They are not common, but they are not altogether unknown. This assumption of a mock dignity, this supposed addition to one's importance by a disagreeable and atrocious display of bad manners, is sometimes done to ward off insolence. It is repellant, but it is not half the armor of proof which is a cultivated politeness. The Arab knows better, the man who eats his salt is shered. The Indian, in his dirty lodge, is more of a gentleman. There is no such detestable use of one's principles as to be rude on one's own ground. A hostess should be very particular to specify whom she wishes to see, but if the person gets into the house awkwardly, or even presumptu-ously, she must be polite, noblesse oblige.

The Well Bred Girl.

She never accepts a valuable present from a gentleman acquaintance unless engaged to him.

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She does not permit gentlemen to join her on the street unless they are very intimate

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