

sunk all his own money in the venture, all he could borrow, all he could beg, and still, from all sorts of odd and unexpected corners of the world, copper came pouring in. As soon as he ceased buying he had, of course, to commence selling, and this hastened and accentuated the inevitable end. By March 1 the price had dropped to less than it was when Thibault commenced operations. Altogether the gigantic gamble cost him \$50,000,000, of which sum fully one-half was lost between noon and five minutes past on February 28, 1889, when the bottom dropped out of his corner."

IN THESE DAYS OF FAST MOTORING AND high railway speeds, the story of the first steam carriage will be particularly interesting. A writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger says that it was in July, 1829, some little time before George Stephenson had solved the problem of steam transport, that Sir Goldsworthy Gurney made his famous journey in a "steam carriage" from London to Bath and back. Gurney was a surgeon in Marlborough, greatly given to the working out of inventions in his spare time, and it took him some years to complete his first "motor" in his back yard in Albany street. He accomplished the journey to and from Bath at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, and there was only one disturbing incident, when a crowd assembled at Melksham set upon the machine and, having burned their fingers, threw stones and seriously wounded the stoker. This Gurney journey stands as the first example of locomotion by steam in this country.

THE SMALLEST LOCOMOTIVE IN THE world is owned by W. A. Smith, a jeweler living at Meridian, N. Y. The Meridian correspondent for the New York World says that Mr. Smith made this machine working at odd times during a period of three years and the correspondent describes the affair in this way: "The locomotive is of heavily plated gold and the bell, whistle and driving wheels are solid gold. The trimmings are of silver. The locomotive is six and a half inches long and the tender is three inches long. The boiler is three-fourths of an inch in diameter, the smokestack is two and one-sixteenth inches high, and the other parts are in proportion. Kerosene is used for fuel and steam is raised in less than two minutes. The whistle blows, the bell rings and every part of the locomotive works perfectly."

THE MONEY IN THE UNITED STATES treasury is now being counted by order of the secretary of the treasury. Twenty young women have been chosen to do the work and every dollar in gold, silver, and currency and every bond in the treasury will be gone over. The Washington correspondent for the New York American says: "Some of these swift-fingered experts have handled 20,000 bills in a day. The average is about 12,000. They are now at work on the \$403,000,000 reserve fund, done up in packages of 1,000 notes, regardless of denomination. This will take from thirty to forty days, and then the young women will tackle the gold coins, silver certificates, United States notes, national bank notes received for redemption, the fractional coin and the mixed money held for daily use. The entire count will take about three months."

A STRANGE DISCOVERY WAS RECENTLY made by Captain Sykes of the Yorkshire militia. According to the London correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle, Captain Sykes found that an ordinary field gun, if daubed all over with blotches of red, blue and yellow paint, becomes to all intents and purposes invisible, at least at any considerable distance. Six guns and their limbers so painted and streaked with the three primary colors, as they are called, were placed on the Fox hills at Aldershot and a number of artillery officers invited to locate them. The distance was only 3,000 yards—a mere trifle in actual warfare—and the officers were armed with the best field-glasses. But so perfectly did the painted guns harmonize with the natural background that no one was able to pick them out.

SOME CURIOUS ERRORS ABOUT AMERICAN affairs and appearing in the new French encyclopedia are pointed out by the London correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer in this way: "In the article on Lincoln, for instance, the president is killed by a 'sectarian'—one J. Wilkes. John Brown is represented pictorially as an individual who could easily pass for Louis XVI., wig and all. The United States mint is situated in

New York and the Hudson river bridge is an accomplished fact. Walter Damrosch is set down as an American composer, and James Gordon Bennett's Paris edition of the New York Herald is made to appear twice a day. Madame Patti's elder sister is killed off in her youth, despite the fact that she is the most concert-going lady in Paris. Madame Melba is described as nee Porter, although her maiden name is Mitchell. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, we are gravely informed in a ponderous volume, was an English poetess, better known by the name of Miss Barrett."

A MEMBER OF THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE is engaged in the effort to do away with the official chaplain. He thinks that the various clergymen living in the state capital should be called upon from time to time to open the legislative proceedings with prayer. The name of this member is Representative Harry Oldam, and he has considerable support in his proposed reform. The Chicago Record-Herald, referring editorially to the subject, says: "Representative Oldam believes it is proper that the deliberations of the legislature should be opened with prayer, but he regards the official prayer that is paid for by the state at the rate of \$1 a minute as an affront to Christianity. He calls attention to the undignified scramble that is made for the position at the opening of each session and to the fact that its duties are generally intrusted to a political henchman of the speaker, who frames his petitions to suit the machine. It is recalled that on the morning after the riot and the organization of the rump house at the last session the chaplain offered a prayer in which he referred to Speaker Miller as 'one of those brave, strong men who arise from time to time to guard the state from peril.' For this encomium upon the tool of the bosses the state paid three dollars, and it paid the same amount every morning, whether the legislature was in session or not. Most sensible and consistent Christian men will agree with Representative Oldam that such prayers are an affront to Christianity. Even though they did not breathe servility to the machine, they are as devoid of religious meaning as the mutterings of the Hindoo who turns a printed prayer pasted on a wheel."

SIR THOMAS LIPTON CAUSED CONSIDERABLE surprise when at a luncheon recently given him in Washington city he said that if he should win the American cup in the coming race, it would represent to him an investment of considerably more than \$2,000,000. The Washington correspondent for the Milwaukee Sentinel, referring to this incident, explains: "Sir Thomas said it would cost him a little more than \$1,000,000 to compete for the cup this year. This was partly due, he explained, to the fact that he had brought over his two challengers. Sir Thomas did not say what Shamrock III. cost him to build, but intimated that it was close to \$500,000. The combined expense of his trial foot up this year, Sir Thomas said, \$1,000,000, and probably more. In contrast with the cost of the challenger, it was stated by one of the members of the party that the Reliance syndicate had invested only \$300,000 in the defender, and that this amount was expected to cover all expenses."

AT FREEHOLD, N. J., ON JUNE 27, THE HISTORIC town was thronged with people, the occasion being the celebration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Monmouth, the revolutionary battle in which Washington put the redcoats to flight and in which Mollie Pitcher became famous. This battle was fought on June 28, but as the date came on Sunday this year, the celebration was held on the previous day. A Freehold dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald says: "Governor Murphy and Senator Fairbanks of Indiana, the latter the orator of the day, arrived on a special train from Elberon about 10 a. m. General Gilmore was in command of the troops, and about 1,400 men were in line. The parade was reviewed by Governor Murphy and staff from the reviewing stand, built in front of the court house. There were exercises at Monument park directly after the parade. Theodore W. Morris of Freehold, president of the Monmouth Battle Monument commission, made the address of welcome. Bishop Scarborough of Trenton pronounced the invocation. Governor Murphy addressed a few words to the vast crowd around the speakers' stand, and poet Will Carlton read an original poem, composed for the day. The oration by Senator Fairbanks was a masterly and scholarly address and received great applause. A letter

of regret was read from President Roosevelt, who was unable to be present because of an engagement. Bishop McFaul of Trenton pronounced the benediction at the close of the exercises."

RAMON JOSE LACOEN, A FILIPINO twenty years old, has distinguished himself at Georgetown university. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle, referring to Lacoen, says that after winning distinction in some other educational institutions he went to Georgetown, where his career has been especially brilliant. In a newspaper article he quotes the record to show that there were universities in the Philippines before institutions of as high a grade were established in the United States. All these Philippine universities, he states, "existed before Harvard was founded, and, though they cannot boast of one-tenth the number of Harvard graduates, they can boast that their graduates can pass any examination that Harvard ever required."

THE BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION of New York has advanced a plan for securing industrial peace. By this plan it is proposed: "That when employers have a trade agreement with their employes there shall be organized a trade arbitration board where all difficulties in trade shall be discussed and adjusted; in addition a higher court or general arbitration board for the settlement of all disputes. The former board is to consist of two arbitrators consisting of two from each of the building trades, and two each from the employers' association. From this body of general arbitration not less than two from the employers' association and two from the unions shall constitute a court of appeals. Strikes or lockouts are prohibited before the matter in dispute has been submitted to the general arbitration board for settlement."

MAJOR FRED F. B. COFFIN OF HURON, S. D., claims to be the last man fired upon during the civil war. The Huron correspondent for the Chicago Inter-Ocean says: "Major Coffin was in the last battle of the war, which occurred at Palmetto Ranch, Texas, on May 12 and 13, 1865. The union forces were commanded by Gen. Theodore H. Barrett; the confederate forces by Gen. J. E. Slaughter. On the night of May 11 General Barrett sent Colonel David Branson with the Sixty-second United States Infantry and two companies of the First Texas cavalry to destroy a confederate outpost and camp at Palmetto Ranch. The camp was captured and destroyed. About 4 o'clock on the morning of May 13 General Barrett arrived with the Thirty-fourth Indiana infantry. An advance was made and the confederates were driven about two miles beyond Palmetto Ranch. When the union troops arrived there General Barrett ordered Major Fred F. B. Coffin, then a captain, to take command of the skirmishers. In a short time Captain Carrington rode up to the west end of the grade with a detachment of confederate cavalry and opened fire. He soon ordered a retreat. As the confederates were leaving one cavalryman wheeled his horse around, dismounted, took deliberate aim, and fired at Major Coffin. The ball struck in the sand about six feet in front of him. This was at sundown on May 13, 1865. The following morning an order was received to the effect that General Dick Taylor and General Kirby Smith had surrendered to General Sheridan, which incident closed the war."

IN 1897 THE AMERICAN FLAG ASSOCIATION was organized. June 14 was fixed as Flag Day, because on that date in 1777 the American congress declared: "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. The number of the stripes having been increased by the admission of new states, our sure to be expanded future dawned upon our fathers and the original thirteen stripes were unchangeably restored by act of congress on April 4, 1818, when it was enacted: 'That from and after the 4th day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be twenty stars, white in a blue field, and that on the admission of a new state into the union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and such addition take effect on the 4th day of July next succeeding such admission.' Since 1818 twenty-five stars have been added to the flag. Owing to the fact that this year June 14 fell on Sunday, Flag Day was generally observed throughout the country on Monday, June 15.