

# The "Alabama" Tablet.

According to newspaper dispatches from Washington, the navy department is being urged by influential Alabamians, including Senator Morgan, to not put a plate on the battleship Alabama commemorative of the famous battleship off Cherbourg, France. They contend that the Alabama that fought the Kearsarge was built in England, owned in England and manned in England. Therefore they believe that the new Alabama should in no way be associated with the pirate craft that was commanded by Captain Semmes and for whose buccannery at sea, Great Britain was forced to pony up \$15,000,000 to Uncle Sam.

The old Alabama was built in England in 1862, and although she was not one of the largest warships of the time she was considered of fair fighting capacity. She was built to meet men-of-war, yet she did meet and was fairly matched by the Kearsarge, an old, but still serviceable, member of the dwarf United States navy. In a two years' cruise on the Atlantic the Alabama had preyed on the merchant marine of the North and when she steamed out to meet the Kearsarge off the coast of France she had a lot of sixty-four destroyed merchantmen to her credit. The battle between these two wooden vessels was one of memorable interest. Nearly all France was present, with a goodly representation from England, stationed off shore to cheer the Alabama to victory. The whole affair was arranged much as though it had been a regatta instead of a stern sea battle. When the Kearsarge steamed into the Cherbourg harbor on the 18th of June, 1864, and found the Alabama there every one

hung on the sides of the Kearsarge protected the engines, but not the men who were struggling on the decks with the guns. And on the Alabama there were no chains and the sea was forcing its way through the wooden hull to add its horror to the suffering of the wounded. The men on the Alabama found their gunpowder cakey and bad and they were discouraged at sight of the unexpected armor of the enemy. Finally the Alabama turned and made for French waters hardly a mile away. It would not have taken long for the Alabama, disabled as it was, to swing in and out of danger, but Captain Winslow saw the move and was quick to meet it.

The Kearsarge swung to, and, crossing the Alabama's bow, raked her fore and aft. An English yacht, the Deerhound, which was hovering near to aid the officers of the Alabama, scurried away in flight, while a cry from the watching boats foretold the end. The Alabama went down quickly, although her colors had been struck and the whiteflag was flying when her bow dropped out of sight. Captain Winslow stopped firing when he saw the end had come and boats were sent out to rescue the enemy's crew. The men from the Kearsarge worked with such good will that all told sixty-eight were saved from the wreck. The officers of the Alabama were taken off by the Deerhound and carried to England, where, in spite of his defeat, Captain Semmes was feted and made much of.

The career of the Alabama was one of the most notable in history. Never was such a record made at buccannery. Although hardly two years at her

work, she irreparably injured American commerce and busied a greater part of the United States navy in her chase. For years her history was the horror of merchantmen and tradesmen kept a sharp lookout lest another might come to succeed her.

As to the battle, there has never been one like it; it stands out as one of the most remarkable events of history, a great ocean duel, witnessed by people from many nations and seconded by a great republic and a great empire. It was a battle well fought and one which as a battle the United States may be proud of in spite of the national upheaval which it brought about.

## Elevator Sickness.

Physicians have discovered a new and distinctly modern ailment which they call elevator sickness. It is ascribed by reputable medical men that the large increase in the number of cases of brain fever and nervous disorders is due in no insignificant degree to the extension of the elevator system. Most people feel a sensation as if they were falling when going down in a rapidly moving "lift," and the constant repetition of this seemingly slight dizziness induces chronic headache or other nerve disorder and even leads to brain fever in some instances. Those who habitually ride up and down six or eight stories two or three times a day almost inevitably become a prey to some form of nervous trouble.

## Payment for Persistence.

Every day for eleven years George Stinson, a teacher living in poverty, reported for duty at an east side grammar school in New York city, from which he had been discharged, as he alleged, unjustly, but was not permitted to teach. For twelve years he kept up a fight in the courts, his suit being the subject of comment by many eminent lawyers, and now he has won a judgment for \$19,000 in pay for eleven years of service. Stinson's pilgrimages to grammar school No. 29 were a matter of daily interest and the supreme court verdict caused rejoicing throughout the east side.

## Fond of Children.

Although the czar of Russia—he is emperor as well as czar—is one of the busiest men in all Europe, he makes a point to spend three hours a day with his children. Thomas Jefferson's happiest hours were spent in working and playing with his children and grandchildren. Charles Dickens found his best recreation in the same way. Abraham Lincoln soothed the anxieties of war days by romping with his boys in the White House. And New England's great old man, Edward Everett Hale, has kept young in spite of a long life of hard public labor by cultivating the society of his children and their children.

## DISEASE SPREAD BY PETS.

Certain Tastes of Childless People Are Dangerously Dangerous.

There are many bachelors, lonely women and childless couples who lavish their affection on some pet dog, cat, bird, or horse. Dog or cat shares the bed of master or mistress; they eat their meals from the master's and mistress' plates, and many a fond kiss is pressed on dog's black muzzle, cat's and bird's head, and horse's moist nose. Tastes differ. But it should be remembered that the above-mentioned tastes are distinctly dangerous. Dogs snuff around everywhere, are not at all particular. Neither are they dainty in their manners. The dog is likely to be externally and internally full of disease germs, most of which thrive also on or in the human organism. The mange is caused by a very small parasite. Another parasite passing from dog or cat to man is the "demodex folliculorum," which enters the sebaceous gland of the face and in particular those of the eyelids. The pip of birds is transmissible to human beings. The greatest harm, however, may come from parrots. These seemingly harmless pets often become the victims of a kind of pneumonia, which becomes dangerous also to the man or woman fondling a pet so afflicted. Not long ago an epidemic scattered all over the city of Paris was traced to infection from sick parrots. Two bird dealers had brought 500 parrots from Buenos Ayres to Paris. Both men fell sick of pneumonia, and one of them died. From the latter's dwelling the disease spread, first attacking those persons who had attended to the sick man or to the parrots. Of seventy victims, thirty-four died. Investigation developed that all the parrots were sick, the respective bacillus reaching human beings even without direct contact with a sick bird, infection being carried, in one case, by the casual cleaning of a cage.

## IN BUYING FISH.

Simple Rules for the Guidance of the Purchaser.

Nothing is more difficult in marketing than to tell whether a fish has been properly killed. It should be killed as soon as taken from the water, but too frequently it is allowed to gasp itself to death and then treated so as to appear properly slaughtered. The only absolutely safe way is to buy a live fish and have it killed before one's eyes. This is not always practicable, but there are certain rules which, if observed, will result in the purchaser getting fish of good quality. Fish purchased killed must not smell any different from ordinary fish odors; they must have their natural color, and should never be covered with slime. When the meat is slimy and fatty it proves that the fish is not fresh. Fish, the meat of which looks bleached, with spots on the skin, sunken eyes and discolored mouth and gills, should not be bought under any consideration. Fresh water fish must be of brilliant color, the scales must adhere closely to the body, the eyes must be clear, the gills rosy. Slimy fish, with the scales loose and projecting from the body, are spoiled and very unwholesome. Dead eels are easily told by the odor from the mouth, which is offensive, and spoiled salmon can also be recognized by the color of the meat, which turns yellow and even brown when too far gone. Salmon in this condition is very dangerous to life.

## Ex-President Cleveland's Retreat.

The Berkshire place, which former President Cleveland and his family are to occupy for the summer, is "Riverside," at Tyringham, which Mr. Cleveland has leased. "Riverside" is interesting from the fact that Tyringham people actually believe that the old house was for several days the headquarters of General Washington. The story goes that Burgoyne's army marched over the road leading to the house and that a few days later Washington, with a detachment, passed over the same road and stopped at the old tavern for rest. One of the rooms is called Washington's room, and its big fireplace, wide doors with hand-wrought hinges, and low ceiling seem to bear out the story and belief that the house is at least old enough to have had such a distinguished visitor. The original structure was built in 1761. On the estate there is a famous trout stream.

## The Onion's Virtues.

Onions are really sweeteners of the breath after the local effects have passed away, as they correct stomach disorders, and carry off the accumulated poisons of the system. They provide a blood purifier that all may freely use, and do perfect work in constipation troubles. As a vermifuge, the onion cannot be surpassed, and eaten raw will often check a violent cold in the head. One small onion eaten every night before retiring is a well-known doctor's prescription for numerous affections of the head, and is highly recommended for sleeplessness. It acts on the nerves in a soothing way, without the injurious effects of the drugs often applied. The heat of the onion heated and placed in the ear will relieve the agony of earache, while the syrup produced from sprinkling a sliced onion with sugar, and baking in the oven, is said to work wonders in a croupy child.

Prescott, being almost blind, required ten years to prepare "Ferdinand and Isabella"; the "Conquest of Mexico" required six years, and the "Conquest of Peru" four.

## QUALITIES OF SEXES.

MASCULINE AND FEMININE TRAITS COMPARED.

Certain Physical Qualities Not Exclusively Confined to One Sex or the Other—Their Virtues and Faults Are All Merely Human.

From time immemorial, poets, philosophers, scientists, and essayists have considered the psychic life of men and women strictly differentiated according to sex. So deeply rooted has this idea become even among the masses that certain psychic characteristics are generally believed to be typically masculine, while others are considered typically feminine. All qualities based upon or kin to physical or physical strength are essentially attributed to man, those growing out of depth and intensity of sentiment to woman. Thus one speaks of manly energy and vigor, courage and pride; on the other hand, of womanly devotion, tenderness, resignation and modesty. There are, however, many cases in which an individual is devoid of some or all characteristics believed to be typical of its sex, while it displays many of the characteristics attributed to the other sex. Such cases are universally voted anomalous exceptions, confirming the general rule. It is one of the generally accepted theories that sentiment and imagination predominate in the psychic life of woman; reason and will power in that of man. Ever since the beginning of the modern movement toward emancipating woman, its opponents have used that arbitrary classification of psychic qualities according to sex as a weapon against that movement, which, they said, would make the man unmanly, the woman unwomanly. A careful and unprejudiced investigation proves, however, that the theory of a strict differentiation between the psychic characteristics of man and woman is absolutely untenable and at variance with the methods of nature. Regardless of all theories to the contrary, each individual combines in itself certain psychic qualities, and any attempt to classify the latter according to sex must fail, owing to the fact that no such quality is exclusively confined to one sex or the other. There are a great many strong-minded and physically courageous women in this world, just as there are highly sensitive and imaginative men. To consider those men and women anomalies is arbitrary and unjustified. It is undoubtedly true that among the civilized nations there is an apparent difference in the psychological characteristics of the two sexes. Certain qualities predominate in the masculine, others in the feminine character. However, this differentiation is not a natural one, but has gradually developed with the progress of civilization. It does not exist among primitive and uncivilized races, but like moral ethics is the product of thousands of years of experience and heredity. Compared with the profusion of expressions upon the subject of woman's peculiar characteristics, barring a man's superiority of physical strength, the latter has been constantly referred to as the one quality which gave man the right of dominating woman. A compilation of all the expressions regarding the nature and character of woman that have ever been made would fill a large library. Those expressions are remarkably conflicting; some glorify, others vilify woman, and few are just and unbiased. The reason may be found in the fact that three classes of men are principally represented among woman's critics—those who do not love women, those who love them excessively, and those who are not loved by women. From an ethical point of view there are no specifically masculine or feminine virtues or faults; they are all merely human. The higher the moral and intellectual development of a people the more individual units will be free from the typical faults and deficiencies of both sexes, the more harmoniously they will combine the typical virtues of both sexes.—Chicago Tribune.

## Cleaning the Bread Pan.

A woman hates worse than anything else the cleansing of the bread pan or bowl after having made up a "batch" of bread. Unless absolutely necessary to put the bowl away at once, fill it with cold water and let it stand for an hour. By that time all the hard particles will have become softened and fallen to the bottom of the bowl. The practice of putting the bowl and molding board away unwashed, in the flour bin, as so many do, is most reprehensible. The tiny particles will work off into the next lot of dough and ferment in the raising, and often spoil a whole baking of bread, while the baker is wondering what possesses the stuff. Absolute cleanliness should always be observed in attending to bread, cake or pastry cooking to obtain the best results.

## Where Costly Cooks Are Engaged.

The employment agency that deals with the most costly servants in New York, is situated in an uptown butcher shop, which shows no outward indication of this phase of its work. It is patronized by the wealthiest New Yorkers, who engage their cooks there. As these cooks draw salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 the engagement of one of them is a more or less important matter. No fees are paid by the servants or by the master, but nobody doubts that the proprietor makes his profit out of the arrangement.

The largest inclosure for deer is said to be the Royal park in Copenhagen, 4,200 acres.

## FIND GERM OF LITERATURE.

Discovery in Crete of the Origin of the Alphabet.

From Crete comes news of a new and startling find in regard to the alphabet by the well-known archaeologist, Prof. Arthur Evans, the director of the Ashmolean museum, at Oxford, and son of Sir John Evans, the distinguished British scientist. Prof. Flinders Petrie likewise shares in the honor of the discovery. It is considered by scholars one of the most important archaeological revelations yet made, as it throws fresh light upon the origin and history of the ancient Mycenaean civilization, which had its center evidently in Crete, and which afterward spread throughout the Grecian archipelago. The main feature of the Cretan discovery is the fact that the age of the alphabet is now conclusively turned back from 1,500 to 2,000 years, and proves the existence in the island of Crete of an indigenous system of writing anterior to the use of the Phoenician alphabet. Between 800 and 900 B. C. is the date commonly assigned to the birth of the alphabet, while 2000 B. C. is the conservative date now given by Prof. Evans for the origin of the Cretan alphabet. Prof. Evans declares that in the alphabet and other material unearthed we now have in Crete the first stepping stones of European civilization. The new western alphabet, as it is now designated, was found while Prof. Evans was making excavations at Knossos, the site of what is believed to have been the ancient capital of Crete. In the great palace of King Minos there, a palatial structure covering four acres, having a perfect maze of corridors, chambers and passages, the alphabet was found on a series of clay tablets. They exhibited a highly developed form of letters in an upright and singularly European aspect. They are supposed by Prof. Evans to be fragments of the laws of King Minos as well as palace archives and correspondence referring to stores and treasures. These are now in process of being deciphered, and when finished will undoubtedly yield rich results which will enlarge the bounds of history.—Chicago Journal.

## MINERAL RUBBER.

A Curious Deposit in Utah Possessing Semi-Elastic Qualities.

There has been found in Utah a large deposit of a curious substance, which, so far as is known, exists in no other place in the world, and to which the name "mineral rubber" has been applied. It is a semi-elastic substance, similar to elastite. The India Rubber World states that a prominent rubber house of Boston has made extensive tests of it and now offers it to the trade as a substitute for rubber in cheap grades of goods. This mineral rubber, under qualitative analysis, shows itself to be a pure hydro-carbon, the molecules of which are built up in series precisely similar to those of crude rubber. It is wholly neutral, free from sulphur and acids, and under heat does not throw off any vapors which might cause porosity. An interesting point about this remarkable substance is that the melting point, hardness, ductility and resistance of the product can be regulated at will, points of great importance when the wide range of rubber compounds are considered. Up to the present its use has been confined to boots and shoes, but it has even been tried for pure gum goods, such as elastic bands. Vulcanized samples of goods made of reclaimed rubber and mineral rubber, and of a great variety of rubber compounds, where from 15 to 20 per cent of crude rubber has been taken out and mineral rubber substituted, have been tested without showing any apparent loss either in elasticity or durability.—Philadelphia Record.

## New Way to Catch Tigers.

Capturing tigers by a novel method is now being adopted in Sumatra, and is proving almost invariably successful. As soon as a tiger's lair has been found, natives are employed to construct a wooden fence nine feet long and four feet wide a short distance away from it, and in this enclosure is then placed as a bait a dog, which is tied to one of the fence posts. A narrow entrance leads into the enclosure, and there, deftly concealed under the earth, leaves and boughs of trees is placed a strong steel trap, which is so designed that any animal that places its foot on it is certain to be held captive. This trap is of recent invention and consists of strong steel plates and equally strong springs. When it is set the plates form a sort of platform, and as soon as the tiger, which has been lured thither by the dog, sets its foot thereon the springs are released and the cruel steel grips the leg and holds it fast. Powerful as the tiger is, he cannot free himself from such bondage, and as those who have set the trap are never far away he is in a short time either killed or securely caught. At the same time the dog is released, and indeed he could not be removed from the enclosure as long as the trap was set, since this instrument, strong as it is, is nevertheless so delicate that the pressure even of a dog's foot would release the springs and cause the animal's legs to be crushed in a twinkling.

## The Plains of Abraham.

The historic plains of Abraham, near Montreal, have been appraised by an expert in the pay of the Dominion government. He declares the land to be worth \$137,000 as real estate. The Ursuline nuns, who own the land, offer to sell for \$29,000 if the government will give them another piece of property worth \$50,000.

## SELF-IGNITING FIRES.

Crooked Pane of Glass Started Celluloid Collar Into a Blaze.

Fires that start themselves are much more common than people generally suppose. There is a mysterious property in dust which, under certain conditions, produces violent explosions. There have been instances in postoffices where the dust from the mail bags, suspended in the air of a closed room, has exploded with terrific force, the explosion being followed by flames. Dust explosions and fire are of frequent occurrence in drug stores and flour mills. The origin of many fires in tailor shops may be traced to the so-called dry cleaning of clothes. A rag that has been dipped in any one of the fluids commonly used by cleaners is thrown in a corner and when the shop is cleaned up and closed, thus confining the air, the rag will frequently of itself generate fire. Not long ago there passed along Eastern avenue, in this city, a load of hay, which suddenly became enveloped in flame. The driver was about to horse-whip a boy whom he saw near by smoking a cigarette. People who had been watching the load of hay driven along were certain that the boy was no time within 25 feet of the hay. The fire was clearly shown to have been caused by the tire of the wheel rubbing against an iron on the side of the wagon, thus producing sparks. In all manufacturing establishments a frequent cause of fire is the rubbing of leather belting against the edges of the opening through which it passes from place to place. One of the most stubborn fires that ever occurred in New York city was started by a plate glass window focusing the rays of the winter sun upon a celluloid collar, which burst into a blaze. Metal goods had been shown in the window before, and therefore the peculiar formation of this particular pane of glass never had been discovered. It was on Sunday, and almost before the fire was noticed half the block was in flames. Defective electric wiring has many sins to answer for in these days. Electricians who are supposed to be competent will cross wires and violate every principle of common sense, to say nothing of electrical science. Some of them lead strands of wire through wooden boxes, which, in the event of fire, become roaring furnaces. Many of our most destructive fires have been due to carelessness in electric wiring.—Chicago News.

## PURIFICATION OF WATER.

Nikola Tesla Believes It Can Be Done by an Electrical Process.

Nikola Tesla, who is here arranging for the manufacture of apparatus for his wireless telegraph system, has interesting ideas about many things. Undoubtedly he is a brilliant electrician, capable of much useful achievement. He is highly imaginative, as all original investigators are of necessity, for there could be no creation without the creative mind. It does not follow that his imaginings are all vain, not by any means, though it is natural that his fancy might take unwarranted flights to Mars or other objects in remote space. Mr. Tesla is especially interested in an electrical process for purifying water, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The project is feasible—at least from a scientific point of view—and it is to be hoped he will be able to make it practical in both the mechanical and economical senses. If the thing can be done on a large scale as cheaply as water can be filtered it will prove a boon to all mankind. In respect to the water supply of Pittsburgh, however, Mr. Tesla's idea is not of immediate import. He is engrossed in perfecting the wireless telegraph—an undertaking that will tax his resources, material and mental, for some time. Pittsburgh must be content with filtration for the present. It will be glad to get rid of 98 per cent of impurities after a long experience in taking its water unrefined, though the people will live in the hope that some day Mr. Tesla will take away the other 2 per cent of microbes and give them water pure and vivified.

## Nature's Storehouse the Mountains.

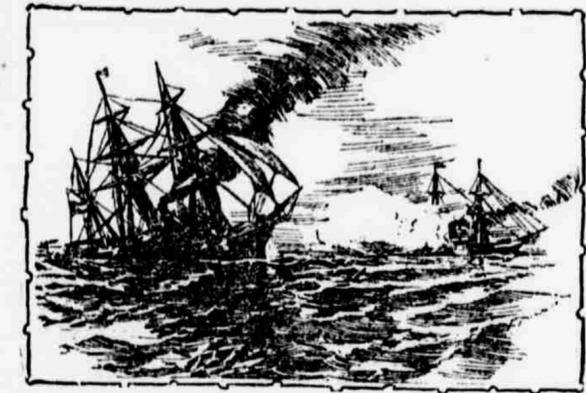
The mountain dweller lives apart from the world. The present is the past when it reaches him. For centuries the Highlander has had his plaid and kilt; the peasant of Norway and the mountaineer of the German and Austrian Alps each a habit of his own, and every Swiss canton a distinctive dress. Mountains preserve the Gaelic tongue in which the scholar may read the refuge of Colt from Saxons, and in turn Saxons from the Norman French, just as they keep alive remnants like the Rhaeto-Roman, the Basque and a number of Caucasian dialects. The Carpathians protected Christianity against the Moors, and in Java the Brahmin faith took refuge on the sides of the volcano Gunung Lawa and there outlived the ban of Buddha.—Scribner's Magazine.

## Hence Tommy Atkins.

Let it not be forgotten, however, that the "exquisite humor" displayed in the name Tommy Atkins belongs rather to the war office than to the public. That institution used to issue little pocket manuals, in which each soldier's name, age, date of enlistment, length of service, etc., were entered, and the method of filling in the form was explained by the use of a hypothetical name, not the John Doe of the legal profession, but—Thomas Atkins. The books were first so called, and then the soldiers.—The Academy.

## Not Many Voters in Mississippi.

Mississippi has a total population of over 1,500,000 and yet the total vote of the state last November was under 60,000.



LAST SHOT AT THE ALABAMA.

(Fight between the United States cruiser Kearsarge and Confederate cruiser Alabama off Cherbourg, France, June 19, 1864.)

know there would be a fight. The news of it spread throughout France and from every corner of the pleasure-loving republic crowds started for Cherbourg. Parties went down from as far north as Germany, and yachts carrying private parties crossed the channel from England when it was known that the Alabama would not try to run away as she had done before.

Every man on the Alabama was "itching" for a fight after the months of uninterrupted domineering. They were looking for an enemy that would not give up at the first shot. Captain Semmes, who had conducted their expeditions, was a southern gentleman and not an inch a coward; besides that he knew the ship which lay waiting for him was a fair match for the Alabama, and he loved nothing better than a fair fight. It was therefore much to his satisfaction to give the orders to clear for action, nor was a moment wasted by the men. Sunday was the Alabama's lucky day. It was the day of her christening and Captain Semmes chose it to be the day of her death. Early Sunday morning, the 19th of June, 1864, the Alabama swung away from her pier. She was in the best of fighting trim and the good cheer of her crew echoed in the face-castle refrain:

We're homeward bound, we're homeward bound,  
And soon we shall stand on English ground.  
But, ere our native land we see,  
We must first fight the Kearsarge.

A fleet of small craft accompanied her to the three-mile line, their crowded decks shouting words of encouragement to the waiting gunners. A mile further out in the purple haze the Kearsarge waited. Captain Semmes called his men forward and addressed them briefly, with perfect assurance in his words. Then ordering them to their places he charged the Kearsarge, leaving in his wake the line of spectators. So began the most spectacular naval battle the world has ever known. Thousands of people witnessed the eight, their boats keeping just within the safety line.

The Kearsarge waited silently while the Alabama rushed in wasting her first broadsides from carelessly trained guns. The clear-headed prudence which has since distinguished the United States navy saved the day for the Kearsarge. Captain Winslow was in no hurry to open fire, but when he did begin the guns worked steadily and methodically. The Alabama pushed forward to get within range, as surely the Kearsarge backed away to get the advantage of the greater range of her guns. In doing this the two ships moved in a circle, keeping always within view of the spectators.

For more than an hour the battle lasted; it might have been a gala day maneuver for all the audience saw. On the ships, however, the business of war was bringing its suffering. The chains