ON NAVAL WARFARE.

MANY OF OUR WARSHIPS INCAPABLE OF GOOD SERVICE.

Too Much Woodwork—The Late War Between China and Japan Illustrated the Uselessness of Wood Finish—Always on Fire When in Action.

IT WILL BE REmembered that in the battles with the Japanese the Chinese ships were on fire almost continuously from the effect of bursting shells. The men were called from the guns to extinguish the flames, thus diminishing the efficiency of the battery and causing demoralization generally. This fact has

It will be remembered that in the battles with the Japanese the Chinese ships were on fire almost continuously from the effect of bursting shells. The men were called from the guns to extinguish the flames, thus diminishing the efficiency of the battery and causing demoralization generally. This fact has led to the movement to reduce the woodwork in men-of-war to a minimum. It is a matter of vital importance. All ships in our navy need a thorough overhauling in this respect. Before war comes they should all be sent to the navy yards and the woodwork should be removed. A process of treating wood chemically to make it fireproof has been successfully tried in this country, and this wood will be used in ships now building. But even this wood will furnish splinters, and ought not to be used in parts of the ship where men are exposed. In all such places the bulkheads should be of light corrugated iron, as in the Texas, covered with asbestos and painted. This would prevent splinters as well as fire.

Many of the pretty mahogany skylights, ornamental brass hatch canopies and pieces of bright work that now add to the beauty of our men-of-war must be sent ashore in time of war.

The preparations in the engineer department should be as thorough as on deck. Ships designed for great speed must be ready to make this speed in case it is needed in battle, and the machinery must not be exposed to shot or shell or to the debris falling from above. The battle hatches in the protective deck over the boiler and engines should therefore be closed down, all fires should be started, the blowers put in operation, and it should be determined whether the ventilation is such that the men can live and perform the duties that would fall to them during an engagement.

It is safe to say that few ships in the "new navy" of the United States have ever been subjected to a full-speed trial under battle conditions. It would seem that the "inspection report" should include such a test—it is one of the most important of all practical requirements in a man-of-war.

A squadron routine is incomplete in the most vital of all points if it does not provide for maneuvering occasionally under the conditions that would probably obtain in battle. It should be ascertained whether or not the armored conning towers are to be used, and the stations of the captain, the executive and the navigator should be definitely decided upon.

A great deal of arbitrariness, a commendable thoroughness and zeal, are displayed in many of the comparatively trivial matters in naval routine. It would be well if the same arbitrariness the same thoroughness and zeal were always shown in the vitally important matters that affect the efficiency of a ship for battle. And this rule applies not only to the material, but to the personnel of a man-of-war—to its composition, organization and disposition for battle. It is in this latter respect more than in all other points combined that there is crying need for reform in the "new navy..

A close inspection of the personnel of our ships, when all are at their stations for battle, will uncover many glaring and absurd defects. Individuals will be found at important posts who are totally unfit for the work, and whose failure in action would cripple the battery. There are too few men at many important stations, while at other points men are uselessly employed. There are men and officers whose training and habitual duty in time of peace render them quite unavailable for general duties in battle, and who could be replaced by others whose training would contribute greatly to fighting efficiency. Conservatism and a singular and inexplicable tendency, developed during a period of naval impotency, to promote the personal comfort of certain individuals who, in the nature of things, can contribute little to ship efficiency, have resulted in an astonishing neglect regarding the men and methods that are absolutely essential to the fighting strength of our fleets.

If Congress, now engaged in considering the subject of naval reorganization, will adopt a policy regarding the personnel that takes intelligent account of the conditions existing afloat when our ships are "cleared for action," the navy will be properly prepared for war. But, if weighed in the balance, it will be found that some of the measures now being urged in Congress will have the inevitable effect to diminish rather than increase the fighting efficiency of our ships. The emergency is a serious one. There is need of care and patriotism in considering the subject. The gun, and the man behind it, will always win at sea. Here is the only true basis of "naval reorganization."

It is never too late to be mended.

WONDERS OF NASSAU.

A Phosphorescent Lake That Is Luminous at Night.

Having in remembrance the old Sampson Stamp of Key West, the discoverer of the sea gardens at Nassau, we took a pilot and sailboat the following morning and sailed some four miles up the channel, says Forest and Stream. There we embarked in a rowboat with a glass bottom, made by inserting therein plates of thick glass, through which the bottom of the sea spread out before us like dry land. A strange feeling crept over me and in imagination I fancied myself with Jules Verne on the voyage of "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea." We could see all the little fishes, minnows one inch long and larger kinds one foot, two feet and three feet in length, some white and black and blue, beside many angelfish, all yellow like a canary, with bright blue fins and tail, swam by beneath us. Like the ripe wheat fields in summer sway to the breeze so there in the submarine currents waved great bunches of fan-leaf coral, purple, yellow and white. The water was clear as air, and, pointing to some especially beautiful specimens of rock and fans, our little darky dove over, and, like the fish, we could see him swimming down until at last, clutching the growth with two hands and feet firmly braced against the coral, he gave a tug and away he came to the top, fan in hand. Indeed, God hath wrought marvelous things in this world of His, but nothing of greater bewitching fancy than the sea gardens of Nassau.

When night came and before the moon was up a drive of two miles back on New Providence island brought us to a most interesting work of nature. A lake some 1,000 feet long and 300 feet wide lay quiet and black as any other sheet of water at night might do. But once in a rowboat and shoved off from shore what a mighty change was wrought! Two small out-swimmers, the hue of the surrounding darkness, accompanied our boat of fire, for such it seemed. Like two human torches our darkies swam by our side as in a cloud of phosphorescent fire. At the slightest disturbance the whole surrounding water lit up like molten silver. Each boy's toes and fingers were as though the sun shone on them, and fish darted through the quiet water like sky-rockets, leaving a glittering trail behind. The light was so vivid I could see the time by my watch, and when a wave was sent upward with the oar the falling drops were like blue-tinted pearls. The movements of our boat made enough light to plainly show the bottom, for the water is from the ocean and as clear as all that which nature makes to flow about those lovely Bahamas. Enticed by the water's warmth and the hot night, my friend and I went in swimming, but only for a few minutes. From this swim comes a story hard to believe, but as true as gospel. That night, as was my custom before turning in, I went to the bathroom, which I could easily darken, to change some photo plates in my holders. When about to pull the slides I noticed the phosphorescence, which I had brought from the lake, shining from my bare feet and giving so much white light I had to cover them with a towel before I dared expose the plates to what a moment before had been intense darkness.

President Hayes and the Farmer.

President Hayes had for one of his Ohio neighbors a testy old fellow who kept a small truck farm. During Mr. Hayes' four years in the white house, on one of his visits home, he passed this old man's farm and found him planting potatoes. The president, being somewhat of a farmer himself, noticed some eccentricity in his neighbor's style of planting, and after a little chat called attention to it. The old man defended his method and finally Mr. Hayes said as he started along: "Well, I don't think you will get the best kind of a crop if you plant in that manner." The farmer rested his elbows on the fence. "They ain't neither one of us above havin' fault found with us," he said, "but if you jest go on presidentin' the United States your way and I go on plantin' pertaters my way I guess we won't be no wuss off in the end."—Exchange.

STRANGE AND CURIOUS.

Paper indestructible by fire, is said to have been invented by a Parisian. A specimen of it was subjected to a severe test—forty-eight hours in a potter's furnace—and it came out intact.

The pneumatic tent is a tent without poles. The only supports are canvas encased air tubes, which, when inflated, afford all the resistance that is required. The whole affair weighs only a few pounds, and on account of its extreme portability is likely to appeal strongly to travelers.

The picturesque upper suspension bridge at Niagara Falls will within the next year be replaced by a new and more modern structure, for which plans are now practically completed. It will be a steel arch bridge, 1,240 feet long and 46 feet wide, and over 4,000,000 pounds of steel will be needed for it.

A French journal describes a new and promising substitute for gold. It is produced by alloying ninety-four parts of copper with six of antimony, the copper being first melted and the antimony afterward added; to this a quantity of magnesium carbonate is added to increase its specific gravity. The alloy is capable of being drawn out, wrought, and soldered just as good as gold is, and is said to take and retain as fine a polish as gold. Its cost is one shilling a pound.

New Chum: And how am I to know when I'm getting near the gold? Old Digger: Well, just keep on digging till yer pick gets yaller like mustard, and you can reckon you are coming on it. —Sydney Bulletin.

STRANGE STORY.

A Man's Course of Life Changed by the Presentation of a Card.

"This play of 'The Fatal Card' we've been having here lately," said a Washington merchant, "reminds me of a card story."

"Not one of the kind of cards that Washingtonians are most familiar with, is it?" inquired the reporter, trying to be facetious.

"Hardly. But let me tell you the tale. When I was a youngster of 15 or less, which is now forty or fifty years ago, I hadn't as much money as I have now, nor did my parents, but we thrived well, and I got the best education that was to be had at the time, owing to the kindness of a millionaire relative of mine, an old chap who died when I was about 20. We never knew the story until he died, and then it all came out in a letter he wrote and left with his will.

"It seems that when the old man was about 20 he went west with a young man of his own age, who had been brought with him by the same people, both being orphans. They were as brothers, or even closer, in their affections, and when they started out to seek their fortunes they each wrote a card and gave it to the other. Just what the inscription was I don't know, but it was enough to signify that if one was in need the other would honor the card under any circumstances, and after any lapse of time, if he were financially able to do so.

"Well, they worked together for awhile, and then, by business changes and one way or another, they separated. For a long time they kept up a correspondence, but as the years went by that dropped, for in a few years one was very successful, while the other man was not, and you know how things go under those circumstances. A quarter of a century went by, and by that time my relative was a millionaire many times over, and the nastiest, meanest, stingiest, crustiest old cuss in ten states. He couldn't help that, perhaps, and I don't know that he tried.

"Anyhow, one day a ragged and starving man came into his office and asked to see him alone. He told him to state his business where he was. The man told a long story of suffering and want, of a sick and starving wife and children and the usual concomitants of that kind of a situation, and then handed my relative a card. It was yellow and worn and dirty, but it was the same old card that he had given his boyhood friend. The old man gave the applicant a dime and told him to get out and not come back there any more. He obeyed the cruel command and went out silently. That evening a policeman came to the old man's office with a note and a card. All the note said was: 'Give this to my boyhood friend, ——. He will understand.'

"The note was unsigned. The card which the policeman handed over had a hole through it as if cut by a knife, and there was blood about the edges of the cut. The officer explained that it had been found on the dead body of a man in an attic room in the slums, with a knife driven through it and into the man's heart. That was all the policeman knew. I don't know what the old man said, or how he felt, but I do know that from that day forward he was a changed man.

"He gave to every worthy person needing help; he sought out all his poor kin and took care of them judiciously; educating the girls, giving the boys a start in business, and helping their parents; he organized charities and he offered a reward of $1,000 for the family of his dead friend. He never found it, however, and I fancy the friend never had a family. I guess he wasn't any good, anyway, but, whether he was or not, the way he took himself off was a blessing to the old man, and most emphatically to all of his kin."—Washington Star.

Fish Hatched by Hens.

China is a land of queer things. Even their hens are queer. When not engaged in hatching out a brood of their own kind they are put to the additional and novel task of hatching fish eggs. Chinese cheap labor collects the spawn of fish from the water's edge, places it in an empty eggshell, which is then hermetically sealed with wax, and places it under the unsuspecting sitting hen. After some days the eggshell is removed and carefully broken, and the spawn which has been warmed into life, is emptied into a shallow pool well warmed by the sun. Here the minnows that soon develop are nursed until strong enough to be turned into a lake or stream.

Riches From An Accident.

The shop of a Dublin tobacconist was destroyed by fire. While the owner was gazing into the ruins, he noticed that his neighbors were gathering the snuff from the canisters. He tested the snuff, and discovered that the fire had largely improved its pungency and aroma. He secured another shop, built himself a lot of ovens, subjected the snuff to a heating process, gave the brand a particular name, and in a few years became rich through an accident.

Cost of Living.

Maine's labor commissioner has been gathering statistics on the cost of living in that state. He figures that the average daily cost of living is 31 cents a day for each individual in the average family. The cost of living to a single man, boarding, is 46 cents. These figures cover rent, food, fuel and light.

She Wrote for George.

The first successful woman editor and proprietor of a newspaper in this country was, according to the Hartford Courant, Miss Watson, who edited the Courant 120 years ago. She numbered among her subscribers George Washington.

Judges of the Olympian Games.

Universal peace during the month of the games was proclaimed by heralds in every part of Hellas, and the slightest breaking of the sacred truce was thought sacrilege, which deities and men alike were bound to punish. The judges of the games, or "Hellanodicate," ranging from nine to twelve in number at different times, were elected by the Eleans. All who wished to be judges were required to show not only that they had never committed a crime, public or private, but that they were stainless in moral character. Not unfrequently even men of distinction were excluded by this severe test during the golden age of Hellenic honor.—["The Olympian Games," by G. T. Ferris, in April St. Nicholas.

How's This!

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN,
Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price, 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Hall's Family Pills, 25c.

Wards Off Charity Hunters

A well known judge has invented rather a neat reply to the letters of busybodies soliciting subscriptions for useless societies. He fills the first page on the note paper with these words, written in a bold hand: Dear sir, in reply to your letter, I have much pleasure in subscribing"—here the secretary joyfully turns the page to find the conclusion of the sentence on the following leaf—"myself, your obedient servant, John So-and-so."—St. James Budget.

Coe's Cough Balsam

Is the oldest and best. It will break up a Cold quicker than anything else. It is always reliable. Try it.

She Told Them.

M. de Strop—Mary, remember, I am at home to none except Mr. Vere Brownkins this afternoon.

Mary (half an hour later)—I've told four gentlemen callers that you were at home to none except Mr. Vere Brownkins, ma'am, and they left very mad indeed.—Judge.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.—Mrs. C. Beltz, 439 8th Ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, '95.

An Instance.

"Moral courage," said the teacher, "is the courage that makes a boy do what he thinks is right, regardless of the jeers of his companions."

"Then," said Willie, "if a feller has candy and eats it all hisself, and ain't afraid of the other fellers callin' him stingy, is that moral courage?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

There are Dictionaries and Dictionaries but the noblest Roman of them all seems to be Webster. It is still easily in the lead in the great race for popularity.

Well and Happy When She Had Enough.

We once knew a woman, an inmate of a county infirmary, who attained the ripe age of 106 years, who had always been an inveterate user of tobacco, which owing to her poverty was a luxury not easily obtained. To economize in its use, she first chewed the plug and dried the quids, from which she made a tea and drank of it freely, then the residue was carefully redried for consumption in her T. D. pipe. The old lady proudly affirmed that she had never been ill.—Cleveland Medical Gazette.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for Children Teething.

Hard Fate.

"This, ladies and gentlemen," said the dime museum orator, leading his auditors over to the next platform, "is the armless wonder, Signor Bagstock, who was not only born without arms, but is also deaf and dumb. The great grief of his life, ladies and gentlemen, is that he can neither say anything nor can he saw wood."—Chicago Tribune.

FITS—All Fits stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. No Fits after the first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and $2 trial bottle free to Fit cases. Send to Dr. Kline, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

There are fifty-one anarchist papers published in England and America.

There are twenty creeks in the country with the name of the Titer.

Speaker Reed denies the report that he studied for the ministry.

Nearly every citizen of a town believes that he "made" it.

IOWA PATENT OFFICE REPORT.

DES MOINES, April 3.—Patents have been allowed to Iowa inventors as follows: To H. Mendenhall and F. B. Davis, of Audubon, for important improvements relating to a feed trough for animals, for which patent No. 339,915 was issued to the said Mendenhall April 13, 1886. To J. W. Terman, of New Sharon, for a composition for purifying and preserving butter, sweet milk, etc., and destroying bacteria or other micro-organisms therein. Rancid butter treated therewith and sterilized thereby is said to be as good and sweet as fresh butter. Valuable information about obtaining, valuing and selling patents sent free to any address. Printed copies of the drawings and specifications of any United States patent sent upon receipt of 25 cents. Our practice is not restricted to Iowa and inventors in other states can have our services on same terms as the Hawkeyes.

THOMAS G. AND J. RALPH ORWIG,
Solicitors of Patents.

Probably Has Not Occurred to Him.

"If the British lion," chuckled the American eagle," "is hurrying to discover the south pole so he can wrap his tail around it and take possession, let him go ahead. The revolution of the earth on its axis will give his tail the hardest twist it has ever had yet."—Chicago Tribune.

The Pilgrim—Easter Number.

Will be ready the early part of April. Everything in it will be new and original. It will contain articles by Capt. Chas. King, U. S. A., ex-Gov. Geo. W. Peck, of Wisconsin, and other noted writers. An entertaining number, well illustrated. Send ten (10) cents to Geo. H. Heafford, publisher, 415 Old Colony building, Chicago, Ill., for a copy.

A Prince Albert coat often covers a multitude of patches.

If you think anyone is wise, it is because you don't know him very well.

When Traveling.

Whether on pleasure bent, or business, take on every trip a bottle of Syrup of Figs, as it acts most pleasantly and effectually on the kidneys, liver, and bowels, preventing fevers, headaches, and other forms of sickness. For sale in 50 cent and $1 bottles by all leading druggists. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company only.

Trade in Bananas.

Few persons are aware of the extent to which the banana has become popularized in the United States. According to the statistics there were imported 16,720,127 bunches of banannas in 1895, of which number 928,336 bunches came to Baltimore, 1,637,802 to Boston, 2,499,618 to Mobile, 5,088,119 to New Orleans, 4,548,572 to New York and 2,026,780 to Philadelphia. The Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia supply was from Jamaica. New Orleans and Mobile got their supply largely from Central America, while New York got hers from all sources. The people find in the banana a cheap and wholesome article of food, which is valuable at seasons when few fruits are to be had.

Just how it does it is not the question.

It is enough to know that Hindercorns takes out the corns, and a very pleasing relief it is, 15c, at druggists.

Lovely.

"Oh, yes," continued the girl of the prehistoric period, "we had birds twenty feet high in those days."

"Dear me," exclaimed the fin de siecle person, "what lovely hats you must have had! Well, well!"—Detroit Tribune.

"I have tried Parker's Ginger Tonic and believe in it," says a mother, and so will you say when familiar with its revitalizing properties.

The queen of Roumania fairly revels in literature.

Half Fare Excursions via the Wabash.

The short line to St. Louis, and quick route East or South,

April 21st and May 5th. Excursions to all points South at one fare for the round trip with $2.00 added.

JUNE 16th,
National Republican Convention at St. Louis.

JULY 2d,
National Educational Association at Buffalo.

JULY 9th,
Christian Endeavor Convention at Washington.

JULY 22nd,
National People and Silver Convention at St. Louis.

For rates, time tables and further information, call at the Wabash ticket office, 1415 Farnam St., Paxton Hotel block, or write GEO. N. CLAYTON,
N. W. Pass. Agt., Omaha, Neb.

A lie must be thatched with another or it will soon rain through.

Billiard table, second-hand, for sale cheap. Apply to or address, H. C. AKIN, 511 S. 12th St., Omaha, Neb.

An Imprudent But Gushing Woman.

Young women who take books at the circulating library are imprudent to use their pages as blotters. They are doing wrong also, for it is against the rules. A copy of "Lord Ormond and Hiss Aminta," which has been in use in a Philadelphia library, held in front of a mirror revealed the inscription, "I send you my heart with a kiss." All women finish their letters with that phrase, which cannot therefore betray anybody; but, in this case, the signature was there.

The Rack, the Thumbscrew and the Boot

Were old-fashioned instruments of torture long since abandoned, but there is a tormentor who still continues to agonize the joints, muscles and nerves of many of us. The rheumatism, that inveterate foe to daily and nightly comfort, may be conquered by the timely and steady use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which likewise eradicates neuralgia, billious, malarial, bowel stomach and nerve complaints.

There are two great crimes; murder and slander.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

The Remedy with a Record.

50 Years of Cures

GASOLINE ENGINES. STEAM PUMPS.

IRON AND WOOD **PUMPS** OF ALL KINDS.

Eclipse and Fairbanks Windmills, Towers, Tanks, Irrigation Outfits, Hose, Belting, Grinders, Shellers, Wood saws, Drive Points, Pipe, Fittings, Brass Goods and **Fairbanks Standard Scales.** Prices low. Get the best. Send for Catalogue.

FAIRBANKS, MORSE & CO.,
1102 Farnam St. Omaha, Neb.

Patents, Trade-Marks.

Examination and Advice as to Patentability of Invention. Send for "Inventors' Guide, or How to Get a Patent." PATRICK O'FARRELL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

CRIPPLE CREEK Write for what you want to THE MECHEM INVESTMENT CO., Mining Exchange, Denver, Colo.

SCHOOL DESKS Save 50c freight on each by having them shipped from the Western School Supply House, Des Moines, Ia.

If afflicted with sore eyes, use **Thompson's Eye Water.**

Pain often concentrates all its Misery in **RHEUMATISM**

Use at once **ST. JACOBS OIL** if you want to feel it concentrate its healing in a cure.

BattleAx PLUG

A GREAT BIG PIECE FOR 10 CENTS

5⅓ ounces for 10 cents. You may have "money to burn," but even so, you needn't throw away 2 ounces of good tobacco. For 5 cents you get almost as much "Battle Ax" as you do of other high grades for 10 cents.

A. D. 1780.

Try Walter Baker & Co.'s Cocoa and Chocolate and you will understand why their business established in 1780 has flourished ever since. Look out for imitations.

Walter Baker & Co., Ltd., Dorchester, Mass.