

MEDALS IN PAWN.

Badges of Courage That Tell of Pathos, Romance or Crime.

This soldier pawned his valor for five cents.

In a window of a Philadelphia pawnshop hangs the bronze octagonal medal for which a young soldier faced death, says the Press.

Driven to despair by hunger and want, this priceless treasure went for a trifle. Nor did it come to the pawnshop alone, for by itself it would bring scarcely enough to buy a loaf of bread.

The medal in chief hangs suspended by two chains of four or five small links from a cross-bar, bearing the word "valor." A raised figure of a soldier in campaign uniform stands at parade rest. Beneath him are the words: "July-August, 1898."

Over the head are the words: "Presented to," and directly under them is a blank space for the name of the recipient of the award for services in the war with Spain.

"Oh, yes," said the money-lender, in a matter-of-fact way, "I have had a number of them. They ain't worth anything, though. I only take them along with a lot of other stuff. No, they are seldom redeemed.

"After the time runs out on them, I hang them up in the window and some well-dressed chap comes in and buys one. The only kind of service he's seen was behind a counter, but when he goes out of town where nobody knows him he'll pose as a hero."

"The badge isn't worth anything. You see this kind of badge is out of style now. The grand army veterans mostly wear bronze buttons in their button-holes. Years ago a soldier would think it a disgrace to see this in the window of a pawnshop, and he would hasten to buy it.

"I guess I'll keep it for luck."

"Presented by citizens of Philadelphia to —," but permission to inspect and to hear the story of a beautiful medal, or rather two of them, which stand out conspicuously against a mass of rings, revolvers, boxing gloves, knives, opera glasses, etc., in the window of a pawnshop on Front street was given only on the promise that the name would not be mentioned.

"These medals are companions. On one is engraved the above quotation. On the other is: For Humanity and Heroism Displayed in Rescuing the Passengers and Crew of the Steamship Denmark in Mid-ocean, 1899. From Citizens of Philadelphia to Officers and Crew of Steamship Missouri."

The medal is extremely beautiful. The crossbar is fully two inches long and represents a heavy timber of a wrecked ship. In the center of the crossbar is a life preserver. Coiled around either end of the bar and extending diagonally downward are two cables, studded with miniature pulleys. They support the medal proper.

The figure of a ministering an-

gel on pendant wing graces one side of the disk. In one hand she offers a wreath of laurel to a kneeling figure. With the other the sign of a blessing is given.

This one is made of silver. The other, in gold, represents the American eagle soaring aloft with a crossbar of wreckage tightly gripped in its powerful talons. Hanging from the eagle's prize are two chains which carry the story of the rescue.

This is the story of their pawning:

"Fully eight years ago a man somewhat past the prime of life came into my shop and drew this case from his pocket with trembling hand," said the pawnbroker. "I saw that he was up against starvation. He said to me: 'I have not a cent in the world. Everything else has gone. Now these must go too, for I must live. Keep them carefully for me. Some day I will come for them—if I ever go to sea again. Give me as much as you can and take two years' interest out.'

"I did so and I guess he went to sea again, for I have received three remittances of interest money from as many different foreign countries.

"I haven't heard from him for two years. Perhaps he's dead. I will keep these medals awhile longer in hope that he will turn up. Aside from their sentimental value they are worth considerable."

BIRTH OF A SATELLITE.

Moon's Origin Different from That of Any Other Body.

The planets Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have their satellites, and it would not be unnatural to classify our own moon as simply one more in a series of objects with precisely similar histories. Of course, says Harper's Magazine, the earth is similar in that it is a planet attended by a satellite, but text books of astronomy scarcely give sufficient emphasis to the fact that the earth and moon really do differ widely from other planets and satellites. The earth is, in fact, only 80 times as heavy as the moon, whereas Saturn is 4,600 times as heavy as its satellite Titan, itself by far the largest satellite in the solar system. It seems, then, that there may be reason to suspect that the mode of genesis of a satellite relatively so large as the moon may have differed materially from that of all other satellites. Such a suspicion is confirmed by the investigation of the part which tidal friction has probably played in the evolution of our planet. The present article would be expanded to undue proportion if I were to attempt to touch further on this point, but the argument would have seemed weaker than it is if it had been entirely passed over.

Accepting, then, the substantial correctness of the nebular hypothesis, I throw out the conjecture that there is a second type of



E. A. MAUST & SONS.

PHONE NO. 38.

A GREAT DEAL

Of satisfaction in small space is what you get with every lump of Coal you get from us. Satisfaction sells more Coal than all the boasts that were ever made, and the satisfaction that Our Coal gives the customer is what we depend upon to hold his trade.

birth in which the subordinate body is born all in one piece. It is easy to imagine a continuous gradation between these two extremes, for we may imagine a lopsided ring, and if the absence of balance were extreme it might be more exact to regard it from the first as being a single satellite. When, then, I say that the birth of the moon was probably unlike that of all the other bodies of our system, I mean that we shall be near the truth in classifying the origin of the planets and of the other satellites as belonging to the Laplacian type, while that of the moon should be regarded as more nearly resembling the second type.

RUNS BY PNEUMATIC POWER.

Small But Marvelous Machine Displaces Fourteen Men.

A new enemy has invaded the great pine forests that fringe the base of Mount Shasta and spread away for hundreds of miles in every direction. Great trees, three, five, seven feet in diameter, that have all but defeated the slow work of the woodsman, who with ax and saw on shoulder marched against the forest giants, are falling before the modern engines.

The axman is bound to disappear from the forests of the coast range. The new "lumberman," in the form of a pneumatic engine, has come into the forests and is displacing scores of the brawny wielders of the ax.

Several of these engines are now in use in the forests of Shasta county, some 12 or 14 miles from Mount Shasta. Each crew of seven men does the work that formerly required 25 woodsmen. Each gang has a traction engine which carries a compressed air reservoir. Long rubber tubes lead from the tank to that part of the forest where the gang is working. To the far end of the tubes are attached pneumatic engines, which drive great cross-cut saws at a terrific speed.

One of these saws will cut through a pine tree five feet in diameter in five minutes, whereas the same work done by two men consumed at least one hour. When the trees have been felled two or more of these pneumatic saws are set to work cutting the tree into logs, and the work that woodsmen could not do in three hours is now

done in 15 minutes. Two men with one of the saws can easily cut 75,000 feet of logs in a day.

Of the seven men in a gang the first two go among the trees after they are felled and fasten on the trees hooked frames which hold the saw. The third man comes along and spades out the earth beneath the log, directly under the frames. The next two men in turn attach the saws and engines, and following these come two more, who watch the saws as they eat their way through the trees.

THE MADNESS OF HOOPS.

Ridiculous Fashions in Dress of Forty Years Ago Recalled.

Dress reformers who think that women's garments still do not conform to good sense and hygiene surely have forgotten what they wore 40 years ago. Justin McCarthy, in some personal recollections published in Harper's Magazine, describes women's dress in the early sixties in terms that are not exaggerated, as those who are now becoming elderly will testify.

If these years had not been so rich in claims to historical recollection, he remarks, crinoline would yet have secured them an abiding-place in the records of human eccentricities.

No one who has not seen it can have any idea of the grotesque effect produced on feminine costume by this one article, the hoop. It defied caricature because the reality was more rich in burlesque effects than any pencil could possibly realize. A whole school of satirical humor was devoted in vain to the ridicule of crinoline. The boys in the street sang comic songs about it, but ladies walked unmoved, monopolizing the pavement. It was a strange madness of fashion, and, like a fever, it had to run its course.

Professorial Dinner Taster.

A most curious occupation conceived by a woman is that of a dinner taster. She spends a part of each day visiting houses and tasting dishes intended for dinner. She suggests improvements and shows the cook new ways of preparing dishes.

Charity.

It is well enough for charity to begin at home, but it has no excuse for sitting down there and going into a trance.