

NEARLY FOUR CENTURIES OLD.

St. Augustine, Fla., Has Oldest House in America

The oldest house in America is in St. Augustine, Fla. This building, by comparison with the winter resort hotels in that town, is not a pretentious structure, but when it was built it was undoubtedly one of the principal structures of the town.

It is built of coquina rock, a mixture of sand and shell, which is the same material used in the building of the Ponce de Leon hotel and the Alcazar.

It is not known in what year this building was put up, but it was short-



Oldest House in America.

ly after the landing of the Spanish, which was on the 8th of September, 1565.

The building is in a fairly good state of preservation. The interior is beautifully finished in highly polished wood.

It was occupied by the Spanish officials during the time Florida was a Spanish colony, and was later the home of the attorney general during the English possession. It is not now inhabited.

Cravats of Wood Pulp.

A syndicate of English capitalists is engaged in an endeavor to promote a market in this country for the silks made chiefly from wood pulp. This product is principally obtained in South America, Paraguay furnishing a large supply. The vegetable silk has its origin in trees and is readily adaptable to native looms. The woven threads are supercalendered, which process presents a silky finish resembling mercerized goods. For several years past this glossy material has been sold in piece lengths to the upholstery trade, by which it is utilized for filling purposes. The selling test of artificial silk for cravats is anxiously awaited by local manufacturers.

A Thanksgiving Serenade.



Collecting Bird Statistics.

The bird club at Bellows Falls, Vt., had been divided into two sides with the object before them of seeing which side should see and name the largest number of birds during the season of 1904. One side saw 89 different varieties and the other 83. Six varieties not seen by the winning side but seen by the others makes the total number of birds named by the club 95.

Ignorance in Coal Region.

A student of the population of the anthracite region of Pennsylvania reports that there are 630,000 people inhabiting that section, of which 430,000 are foreign born. Of this number over 50,000 cannot read or write.

BIRD LIGHTED STREET LAMP.

Simple Solution of Incident That Puzzled Authorities.

In a suburban town, where the streets are lighted by gas lamps, a curious thing happened. A gentleman noticed that for several nights the gas was not lighted in front of his house and reported the matter to the gas company. The lamp-lighter who had the street in charge was sure that he had lighted it each night. Later the gentleman noticed that the lamp was often lighted through the day and decided that some mischievous boy was responsible for it. Keeping a close watch for the offender, he was astonished to see the light flash up when not a soul was near it. He placed a ladder against the post and climbed up to investigate the matter. He found that the two chains which turned the light on and off moved so easily that the slightest touch was sufficient to send them up or down. But they could not move of their own weight nor by the wind. Still more puzzled, the man returned to his watch at a discreet distance and was soon rewarded by seeing a wren fly to the lamp, perch itself on the ring at the end of the chain, and give it a pull which lighted the gas. He then remembered that a wren had reared a brood in the lamp that year.

Newest Style of Lighthouse.

The Ram island ledge (Maine) lighthouse, now practically finished, will,



Ram Island Ledge Lighthouse.

it is claimed, be the best in the world of its class. The appropriation was \$166,000.

The tower is of hewn stone, and the exterior is nearly as smooth as marble. It is lined with white enamel tiling, and the interior is finished in quartered oak of the finest quality. The glass is diamond shaped. The lantern is of bronze, cost \$10,000, and the salt air will have no effect upon it. The \$7,000 lens for the lamp was made in Paris.

The photograph shows the tower as it looked just before the staging was removed.

Seven men are at work on the interior.

The light will be of the third order, and will be a flash. The lighthouse is as firm as the great rock on which it stands. It will be of the greatest possible advantage to all masters of vessels entering or leaving Portland.

Wood Cut During Coal Strike.

The last of the wood that the city cut several years ago around Woodward pond and hauled into Keene, N. H., at the time of the coal strike, is now being burned at the fire station and at city hall.

Potatoes.



New York, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania lead all states in the production of potatoes. Diagram shows relative production in millions of bushels.

NEITHER DIALS NOR HANDS.

Novelty in the Clock Line That Has Some Advantages.

The latest development in the clock line has resulted in the elimination of dials and hands. The result is a timepiece that serves admirably for certain purposes, but will hardly prove a formidable rival to the familiar clock



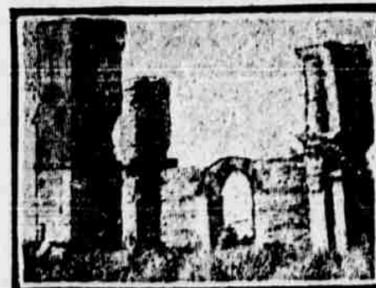
with its dial and hands. The special claim made for this new timepiece is that the correct time is always exposed in hours and minutes and in Arabic figures. As a novelty this dial-less clock is certain to win a certain amount of favor, but there is an undeniable charm about the old-fashioned timepiece that insures its preservation as an essential adjunct of household decoration and equipment, despite innovations.

Street Shaving in China.

The topsy-turvy methods of China are curiously illustrated in the case of the Pekin barber, who, instead of waiting for customers, goes out to seek them. He carries his shaving apparatus and a stool with him, and, rings a bell to attract the attention of likely customers. The man who wishes to be shaved hails the barber, who places his stool on the ground for the customer's use, puts a bowl of water on the little stove he carries, and having lathered his brush sets to work. The charge is not high. For a sum equivalent to a cent he shaves the customer's head and smooths out his eyebrows.

Palace of a King.

The palace of Alexander the Great was an imposing structure in its time, and the wonder is that any vestige of it stands to-day. It was built in a manner much more substantial than



that of to-day, though advocates of steel construction claim that the modern structure will defy time as long as any of those built by the ancients. Time alone will determine how much truth there is in this contention. On the Asiatic plain are the massive remnants of an ancient gateway fringed with weeds, and, vaguely knowing who he was, the natives tell that this is all that is left of the palace of Alexander.

Cigars for Russian Soldiers.

A Prussian firm has received an order from the Russian government for 4,000,000 cigars for the army in Manchuria. They are to cost \$1.20 per 100.

ODD INCIDENT OF WRECK.

Collision of Such Force That Two Cars Are Made One.

In the recent railroad accident on the Worcester, Nashua & Portland division of the Boston & Maine at East Barrington, N. H., when an extra freight train from Nashua crashed headon into an extra freight from Portland that was waiting there to meet it, a Boston & Maine car on the train standing still disappeared and for hours the efforts of the railroad men to find it were unavailing.

The accident occurred a little after midnight. From that time until daylight the railroad telegraph operators along the line from the scene of the wreck to Portland made the wires hot in their efforts to trace the missing car, as it was thought that it might have got uncoupled and jumped from the train, or had been left at some station.

The mystery of the lost car was solved at dawn, when the car was found driven completely into a car of the Pennsylvania railroad. The cars had been telescoped in such a way that by lantern light they looked like one whole car, and had thus escaped notice.

The telescoping of these cars was regarded as remarkable, inasmuch as they were in the train standing still. So tremendous was the shock that the engine of the stationary train was forced back against the Boston & Maine car powerfully enough to send it through the Pennsylvania car.—Boston Globe.

Long Finger Nails.



They belong to a wealthy native of Annam, who prides himself on their length as proof that he doesn't work.

Reported Meteoric Display.

John M. Skofield, a clerk in the steamship office at Bath, Me., whose duties required him to rise shortly after midnight, reports that at 3 o'clock on a recent morning he was dazzled by a meteoric display in the northeast in the form of an object about the size of a barrel. It was straight up and down and illuminated the entire sky with a brilliant light, lasting several seconds. The same flash was reported by the officers and men on various craft along the coast.

Frame from Historic Wood.

Capt. C. A. Hoffnagle recently presented the Seth Warner chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at Vergennes, Vt., with a frame for its charter. The frame was made by Capt. Hoffnagle from wood taken from one of the boats of Arnold's fleet which was sunk in Arnolds bay, a few miles from Vergennes, Oct. 11, 1776.

Record of Missouri Church.

Antioch Presbyterian church, Callaway county, east of Mexico, Mo., has a remarkable record. During the eighty-five years of its existence it has never been without a pastor more than a month at a time, and in all that time it has had only three pastors.—Boston Globe.