

LARGEST DIAMOND EVER FOUND.

Valuable Product of Transvaal Mine Now in England.

The Cullinan diamond, which was found a short time ago in the Premier mine in the Transvaal, and which is the largest diamond ever discovered, is being kept in the closest secrecy. At the office of the Premier Company the only information available is that the stone is not in London.

The Johannesburg Star gives the following description of the great dia-



The large outline shows the actual shape and size of the Cullinan diamond, and was drawn from the stone by Mr. Ralph Stokes at Johannesburg for the African World. The smaller outline shows the exact shape and size of the vaunted Koh-i-Noor.

mond, christened "The Cullinan Diamond," after the chairman of the company. "The stone, which, according to Dr. Molengraaff, has come from a great depth in the pipe, weighs one and three-quarters pounds, and is about four inches by two and one-half inches by one and one-half inches. It has four cleavage planes, which proves that other pieces of this stone are still in the mine, or have already been found. It has two natural planes. The stone is white and resembles a lump of ice. It is of excellent quality, has few spots, and is of great value. The spots which do exist in the diamond are small compared with those observable in the Jagersfontein stone, which is now deposited from its proud position as the record diamond."

Wedding Ring Found on Harrow.

A blacksmith of Aswarby, near Sleaford, England, has made a most curious discovery.

He received from a neighboring farmstead a harrow for repairs, and while these were being executed a 22-carat gold wedding ring was found sticking on to one of the teeth of the implement. It is supposed that the ring was lost on the land and that it was picked up by the harrow in the course of its work.

Whistle Gloves.



These are "whistle gloves," each "finger" of which ends in a wooden whistle. Each whistle, when blown, gives forth one note, so that each player is equipped with ten notes of the total number of those required to make up the tune being rendered.

ESTATE FOR "CALAMITY FUND."

Unique Provision Made in Will of Pennsylvania Millionaire.

The late Robert MacFerren of Ben Avon, Pa., an old time friend of Andrew Carnegie, and who died in Pittsburgh, Pa., a short time ago, left a will which contains a unique provision in disposing of a \$1,000,000 estate. The estate is divided among an unmarried sister, a married sister past middle age, having no children, an unmarried brother of an elderly age. Should they die without issue, which now seems probable, the estate becomes "a calamity fund." Mr. MacFerren's will says: "If the above mentioned legatees die without issue I then direct that the income and proceeds from my estate be placed in the hands of the executors for the creation of a calamity fund, to be called 'David and Eleanor MacFerren fund.' The said fund shall be invested by the said trustee in good and safe securities, and one-half of the yearly income of said fund shall be added to the principal thereof and the other half shall be used for the relief of victims of public calamities in the United States of America; such calamities as are caused by fire, flood, tempest, explosions, epidemic diseases and the like, and which call for prompt relief."

Curios Worth Owning.

George H. Rollins of Franklin, N. H., has an old-fashioned rawhide trunk over 200 years old, a rope braided from horsehair, secured during the civil war, a set of blue china over 100 years old, an old lantern, and a chair 150 years old, which was whittled out with a jackknife.

Novel Sign.

A hospital in London has hit upon a novel scheme for preserving quiet in the streets about it. It happens that there is considerable traffic in the neighborhood and the rapid pace of the carriages increases the noise. A



sign has been hung in front of the hospital on one side of which is a caution to drivers to drive slowly. On the reverse side it reads: "Thank you, drivers." The sign has proved very effective.—New York Herald.

End of Fine Redwood Tree.

At Brookdale, Santa Cruz county, California, a fine specimen of the sequoia, or redwood tree, was blown over in a recent storm. The tree is estimated to be over 330 years old. Ten feet from the top of the tree, and at a distance of 165 feet from the ground, was found a hole somewhat less than two feet deep. It had once been the nest of a woodpecker. In this hole had grown a sturdy, three-stalked huckleberry bush, two feet tall. Its roots, extending six feet into the heart of the tree, had absorbed the sap of the redwood. The huckleberry had flourished and borne fruit.

Iron Lighter Than Wood.

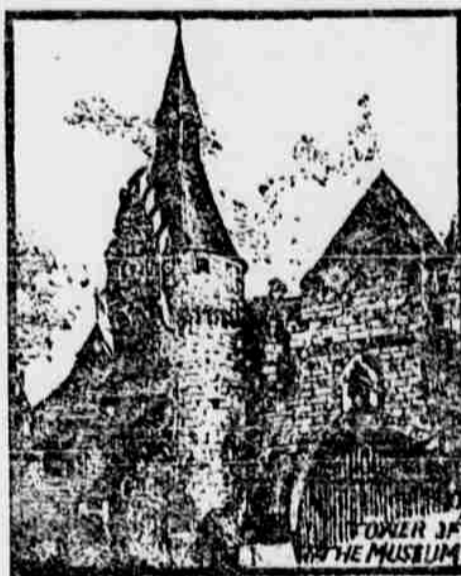
An iron ship weighs 27 per cent less than a wooden one of the same dimensions, and will carry 115 tons of cargo for every 100 tons carried by the wooden ship, both loaded to the same draft of water.

PEACE AND WAR MUSEUM.

Jean de Bloch's Building Definitely Located at Lucerne.

The tourist who has not halted for a year or two at Lucerne, Switzerland, will be not a little surprised when issuing from the railway station he sees hard beside it, and also hard beside the deep blue lake, a new building of medieval aspect, in perfect keeping with the antique Mussegg towers that are a feature of the city.

Turreted, battlemented, bastioned, closer observation shows that despite its warlike aspect it is ivy wreathed, speaking of peace rather than battle,

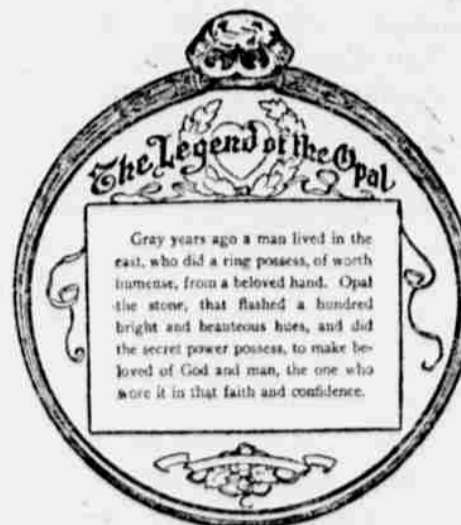


and that moreover it is adorned with frescoes, some of which speak eloquently rather of the olive than of the battleaxe. And where in the outer decorations warfare is indicated, it is that noblest form, the defense of the hearth and home, here adumbrated in William Tell and Arnold Winkelried, the two heroes of Swiss independence.

In a word this attractive looking pile—which, low be it spoken, though it looks as though it were of stone, is only of staff, thus built for the sake of economy—is nothing more nor less than the famous Peace and War Museum of M. Jean de Bloch, the great peace apostle, the kind of museum, only much enlarged, that he had hoped to show at the last Paris exposition, reluctantly abandoning the idea because he could not get the necessary accommodation.

Met Death in Odd Manner.

A Transvaal farmer met his death recently in a very odd manner. Living in the neighborhood of Heidelberg, Du Ploay, for such is his name, left his home one morning with a live hare—intended to grace the table of a friend—under his arm. The hare, however, eventually slipped from his grasp and hid himself in a cleft in a rock near at hand. Du Ploay went after the hare, but in some way found himself caught fast between projections in the rock in such a way that he was unable to extricate himself or help himself in any way. It was not until he was searched for that his plight was discovered and then it was too late, for death had relieved his sufferings.



Coincidence in Deaths.

A singular coincidence is noted in the death of Mrs. William G. Paine of Derby, Vt., in that she died at the same hour of the morning, 1:45, and was buried at the same day of the month as her husband, the space of exactly one year intervening.

SAVED BY SENSE OF DANGER.

Missourian's Strange Warning of Impending Calamity.

In a sermon the Rev. Mr. Rudy, pastor of the First Christian church in Sedalia, used the following anecdote to illustrate a point:

"About ten years ago I talked with a man in Henry county, Mo., who gave me this peculiar experience of his. He said: 'I was plowing corn, and about the middle of the afternoon, when I came to the end of the field, I had a peculiar sense of dread or fear. I unhooked my team and drove home. I could give little reason for what I was doing—quitting my work in the middle of the afternoon—but I was not home ten minutes until I was hurrying my wife and children into a cyclone cave. Our little house was swept away, and had I not followed what seemed a vague impulse my family might have been killed.'—Kansas City Journal.

Put His Will in Rhyme.

"We get some queer wills here," said Deputy Register Stroup of Harrisburg, Pa. "But here is one that beats anything I have ever seen since I have been here."

Mr. Stroup produced a small sheet of paper, which contained: When my wife's a widow, of me bereft,

She shall inherit all I've left; And when she's finished her career

It then shall go to my daughter dear. This document was duly attested as a will and was received for probate. It came from the lower end of the county, and will be the guide in settling an estate.—New York Herald.

Old Irish Coin.

The accompanying cut shows a sample of Irish coin. It was coined in



1805, and is one of the most peculiar coins in the world.

On one side is the harp of Erin, the date of minting and the word, Hibernia. On the reverse side is a picture of George III., with his Latin title.

The copper from which the coin was made is of a very light color, and, unlike copper coins in America, the 1805 piece has a milled edge.

Tree's Strange Crop.

There is a curious sight in the fork of an umbrella tree on Washington street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. It is a fine growth of wheat almost ready to come out into head. The stalks are nearly two feet long and the blades broad and healthy looking. It was at first thought that this growth consisted of shoots from the tree, but on closer examination it was found to be wheat. It has no foundation of earth, or if there is any it is so hidden by the growth as to be invisible. The wheat grains in some way found lodgment in the crevices of the bark and have probably had no other earthy bed than that formed by dust which during the dust storms of the summer was blown there.—Arizona Republican.