#### TREASURES OF PEN AND PRINT

Progress of the Work of Restoring Priceless Books and Manuscripts.

Books and Writings of Great Value in the New Congressional Library -Scientific System of Preservation Employed.

(Copyright, 200,by Ruth Kimbal) Gardiner,) it be true, as certain persons maintain, that the bent of the mind depends on the character of the food taken, the rate and mice and fat brown roaches who live and move and have their being in the capitol at Washington must be of a su perior order of intellect, for until a little more than two years ago they fed on som of the richest and rarest educational food to be found in the whole country. The priceless collections of maps, charts and manuscript which are given so much space in the new building of the library of congrees were little more than food for vermin in the old library. The cramped quarters did not afford space for the books alone, while the less called for, though equally valuable, possessions of the library were tucked away in dusty attics and stowed promiscuously in the dark and damp rooms down in the crypt of the capitol,

Heat, cold, damp and darkness had their way with these priceless things. A tradi-tion of the library has it that valuable maps were actually used to stop ratholes. Noth-Nobody knew what treasures lay hidden in odd corners till the work of removal to the new building was begun and not till months of incessant labor had brought the beginfloors of the rooms devoted to these two important divisions of the library could the havoe wrought by years of unavoidable nestlect be rightly estimated.

Among the manuscripts which had been stored away, for a period in most cases of from fifteen to thirty years, scarcely a tenth of the six hundred and more volumes. was found fit to be handled without rebinding. Among the unbound manuscripts, numumes and two hundred odd bundles, the damage was immeasurably greater, and only a very small number of all the manuscripts in the collection were not in need of the reruin that even the most skillful restoration could make them nothing more than a hint of their former selves.

#### Manuscript Division.

The northeast pavilion of the main floor manuscript division, because of its greater that when the whole is pressed the work ness to the ravages of the days when rats manuscript division, because of its greater that when the whole is pressed the work security. The good luck of the American of restoration can in many cases be depended prevented any considerable loss of tested only after careful scrutiny. valuable papers by theft during all the

them is lined with sheetiron as a protection can. against the book-worms and cockroaches, which are so much dreaded by librarians. Below the glazed cases are cupboards and

process of repair and restoration.

and Dr. Friedenwald Remarkable Manuscript. Whether the manuscripts kept in the safe

of a manuscript is an indeterminate something depending wholly on the point of view, but one of the treasures Dr. Friedenwald guards in the safe is the oldest manuscript in the library. It is a tiny book, only two and a half inches wide by three and a quarter long, but the quality of its paper and ink are so durable, and the outer cover which protects it so cunningly contrived, that it is in better condition than many books only fifty years old, though twelve centuries have gone by since it was made. It is a copy of the four gospels, in Syriac, and was written by one Michael, son of Bar Zauma, of Urbish. He evidently had in mind its use for church purposes. All the fast days are carefully marked, and the various lections distinctly stated not only in the text, but country, the process of restoration is somealso at intervals on the margin. An in- what different, and the superintendent of scription on the outer covering states that that division, Mr. P. Lee Phillips, has solved the book is the property of a certain bishop, John John. The date indented is 639. The book is bound in a pongee-like silk of a Maps have heretofore been a stumbling dult red color, with tiny lines of green, block to librarians, and most collections are and is encased in a silver gilt box, rudely, practically worthless for reference purposes,

agton's Orderly Book, and the diary kept maps in his division only those on exhibition him in 1787, and covering the period of still retain the old-fashioned rod. the federal conventions. It is interesting Perhaps the gem of the map collection o notice that while the diary contains very Bernard Roman's map of Florida, dated 1774

little information concerning the conven-tions, the names of all the people with be in existence, and many bibliographers in-whom Washington dined and supped are sist that no such map was ever engraved. carefully set down. These papers, as well Another map of inestimable value which has is most of the other manuscript relating never been consulted by historians is a map to Washington, are in an excellent state of military operations in America from Auof preservation, and have been practically gust 12, 1776, to 1779. It is a manuscript ntouched by the restorer. The collection map, and with the wording in French. I is especially rich in Washingtonia. Many shows the positions of the British and of the papers came into the library by the American forces in the battles fought dursurchase of Jefferson's library in 1815, ing that time. Only recently the restorer others by the purchase of the leter Force has been busy with a map made in 1774 by collection in 1867, and the remainder by Washington's own hand, of lands granted to our shase at various times and by gift. The him along the great Kanawha river. It convaluable collection of Rochambeau papers, tains six plats and numerous annotations by including letters from French and American Washington. officers and more than thirty with Washington's signature, cost the government \$20,000 tion, has been treated according to Mr. Phil-

Scientific Restoration. Some of the manuscripts have needed a book. The bath that is given to manuittle restoration, but the great majority script is obviously impossible in the case have required careful treatment. The work of maps, the most valuable of which are of restoration as carried on at the library drawn with ink and colored with erayon ix a science, and Dr. Freidenwald is con- and water color. stantly studying and experimenting with a can be used and the restorer tells with view to learning what improvement in his righteous horror of one priceless map which method is possible. He is at present on-gaged along a line of research which would cleaned it with acid and wiped the entire be wholly unintelligible to the layman, and drawing off the face of the paper. Every the result of which he proposes to lay before map is taken from its roller and cut into penings that befell the hardy pioneers who the scientific library world in the near future. Pieces about the size of a large atlas. A pushed the borders of civilization across the process of restoration are state secrets a big table and tacked tightly down about Rockies of the library, and are not permitted to the edges. The pieces of the map are but the greater number of manuscripts are estored under his direction in the simplest manner possible.

muslin between them for folding.

without danger of wearing it at the folds.

dating back to the Sixteenth century have

CAPTAIN PEARY'S METEORITE.

Brooklyn Navy Yard.

people who visit the yard.

could dispose of It.

for the relic is still unoccupied.

and deposited on the cob dock.

ceiving ship Vermont.

unlike a huge boulder.

is said to want \$75,000 for it.

apart with explosives.

mercial value it would have to be broken

Pass Temperance Resolutions.

WILMINGTON, Del., March 27.—The Wil-mington Methodist Episcopal conference, which represents Delaware and a portion of Maryland, today adopted a resolution con-demning the army canteen and the use and sale of liquer in our possessions. The tem-

sale of liquor in our possessions. The temperance committee also presented another resolution which condemned President Mc Kinley as a member of the Methodist Epis, copal church for public and private tippling. It precipitated a hot discussion are was finally defeated by a vote of 67 to 4.

A resolution requesting the general conference to censure President Mckinley for setting aside the anti-canteen law and testing aside the anti-canteen law and to

aside the anti-canteen law and him for drinking liquer was adop

Big Shipbuilding Plant.

says that the owners of the Risdon Iron works have practically completed a deal whereby they have secured costrol of the Pacine Reiling Milis, the plant of which covers thirty-two acres and includes 1,700 feet of water front on the bay. It is stated that a dry dock capable of receiving the largest vessel afloat will be built and that the Risdon Iron company will expend about \$1,000,000 in constructing a complete ship-building establishment where at least 2,000 men will be employed. The company will appear as an active rival of the Union Iron works in bidding for the construction of war vessels and other craft of the largest size.

made a special trip to bring home the relic,

It lies near the East river shore of the

ob dock, a short distance beyond the re-

if ever get near the huge pile of steel. In

ing could be done to preserve the papers edges and worn and torn in the folds. The and many of them were almost forgotten. | first thing that is done to it is to give it a bath in warm water. Modern manuscript, written with aplline lak on machine-made paper, would assuredly be ruined by being soaked in water, but our great granding of order out of the chaos piled on the | fathers and their great grandfathers wrote with different ink on hand-made paper that was meant to last. The warm water does not make the old ink "run." It seems, There is no attempt made to remove stains rather, to make it sink deeper into the fiber or marks of any kind and some of the maps of the paper. The dust and many of the stains and finger marks are washed off in thumb prints almost as clear and distinct the bath. After it is taken from the water as they were two centuries ago. the manuscript is carefully dried and pressed for twenty-four hours. At the end of that map of the northwestern boundary of the time the real work of restoration begins. United States, according to the Webster-There is, of course, no attempt to fill out Ashburton treaty, which is signed by the the missing words or letters. When a hole two men for whom it is named, bear valin the manuscript is patched the patch is unble signatures. Many more are quaintly allowed to remain blank. The manuscript illustrated along the edges with engravings is really not so much restored as it is put Some of these names and pictures have been in good condition for preservation. The reinforced by the same means used to proin tatters; some indeed were so far gone in dog-eared edges are pieced out square test manuscript. In all cases the work again and the torn folds reinforced. When- of repairing has been so skillfully done that ever possible the paper of the manuscript time and use cannot destroy the value of is exactly matched in patches and addi- any of these documents, Almost all of them tions. The blank sheets of old letters, other- have been made perfectly legible. Only wise worthless, are used for this. Water here and there a missing piece, or a raggedof the new building has been chosen for the mark is joined to water mark so precisely edged hole cunningly patched bears wit-

When a manuscript is in many pieces and some of the most valuable possessions of years they were neglected in the cubby holes the bits very fragile it is pasted between the library of congress. of the capitol, but nothing is left to chance two sheets of almost transparent, but very in the new library. A burglar would need strong paper. Dr. Friedenwald prefers the all the powers of the slaves of the lamp and use of a certain kind of cloth to the paper. Huge the ring to take him within reaching dis- however, and most of the manuscripts are tance of the treasures of the manuscript now repaired with crepeline. Crepeline is room. To begin with it has walls seven or a thin silken fabric, very much like veiling R. E. Peary brought from the Arctic regions eight feet thick, and massive doors, which or a coarse quality of silk muslin, and costs some years ago, reports the Brooklyn Eagle, are locked every night when the building is the library 11% cents a yard, wholesale. It will continue to repose on the cob dock of closed. An ante-room lies between it and is not an exorbitant price, to be sure, but the Brooklyn navy yard. Rear Admirai the corridor, where a watchman stands so many yards of it are used that this pro- J. W. Philip, commandant of the yard, havard. About, the walls of the room are cases pensive. When pasted tightly on both sides to the concrete platform prepared for it fourteen feet in bright. They are faced of a letter the crepeline can hardly be seen, near the trophy guns of the Spanish-Amer-But they are far of linen. It is made in France, and its use who is trying to dispose of it to some

The collection under Dr. Friedenwald's harge is made up for the most part of ing of manuscript as yet unbound, or in bistory, though very recently manuscript of modern interest has been added. Dr. Fried-All the cases in the room are kept locked enwald has personally visited Porto Rico and the two keys which unlock them all within the year, and has brought back a bert Friedenwald, the superintendent of the pancy of the West Indies and to the Spanish manuscript division. For the greater safety American war. A collection made by him of of the treasures in this division of the li- the autographs of Spanish governor-generals brary three steel safes are provided. The of Porto Rico from 1783 to 1896 has recently combinations of their locks are known to been placed on show in one of the exhibit only two persons-the librarian of congress rocals of the library, but the greater part of the manuscript he succeeded in collecting is still unpacked. The official record of the Ayunamiento, or council, of the city of Manila has been added to the exhibit within are the most valuable in the collection it would be impossible to say, as the value the last few months, as has also the facsimile of the conditional agreement between Brigadier General Bates and the sultan of Jolo, a most interesting and unusual docu-

Dr. Friedenwald says that the valuable manuscripts to be added to collections like the one under his charge, hereafter, will consist almost wholly of typewritten papers. Most of the letters written today, he says cannot be preserved half a century. The lak will fade and the paper drop in pieces. In typewritten manuscripts, those which have been press copied will outlast all the rest. as the moistening of the ink in the copying process seems to make its color more perma-

A Great Map Collection In the map and chart division of the li the problem of arranging maps in such a way that they can readily be referred to. but intricately, chased, with a madonna owing to the difficulty in arranging and handling them. Mr. Phillips has done away

WILD RIDE ON A BUCKBOARD

Thrilling Experience of an Indian Agent in Northern Utah.

Four Miles of Narrow Mountain Road Traversed at Gait that Cheeked His Breath and Carled His Hate.

Since the course of empire has taken way so completely westward, the east and hairbreadth escapes in the land beyon the Mississippi have passed. Although lips' own method, which makes it possible men no longer go about as walking arsenals, to refer to any map as easily as if it were looking for opportunities to devour their fellow-men, the west is yet capable of furnishing tales of hardship and adventure as thrilling as any that have come down from

During the last two years, relates the Washington Post, Mr. E. R. Harper, a special agent in the service of the Indian office ing, blood-freezing interest rival the hap Certain of the methods he has adopted in sheet of white cotton cloth is stretched on the trackless prairies and beyond the

pass beyond the walls of the restoring room, pasted upon it, leaving a narrow strip of number of times to the wild regions in The northeast Utah, in the neighborhood of paste used here, as in the manuscript divi- Fort Duchesne, to treat with the Utes and sion, is made of simple flour and water. The other Indian tribes. The nearest railroad hands wrinkled, yellow, dog carci at the a stallon of manufacture of flour to station to Fort Duchesne is Price, a disboiled till it is stiff a tablespoonful of pul- try as can be found anywhere on earth verized alum is added and the paste is The trip has to be made by stage, not thinned with water before using. The map the big, cumbersome vehicle so popular in dries over night and is pressed before it is western romance—the country felded and filed away between the folds of rough for that-but a a sheet of heavy manila paper. It can be pulled by four hardy and tireless musunfolded and refolded, after it has been tangs. During the two years covering the prepared in this way, as often as necessary period since Mr. Harper first had occasion to go to Fort Duchesne he has made the trip from Price by stage no less than twenty-two times, and not one of the trips but has furnished him with a story of ad venture well worth telling. He has been spowbound and almost frozen in bliz- @ zards, and the burning sun has cooked him Many of the maps, as, for example, the until the skin peeled off his face. He has been lost in snow storms and sand storms and on one occasion, at least, the possibility | . of an Indian uprising made him feel his scalp-lock with apprehension.

Looked Like Certain Death. But there is one story of close proximty to what seemed a certain and wholly unpleasant death that Mr. Harper doesn't like to tell, doesn't even like to think of. and it was only after much persuasion that he related it to a reporter for the Post It is a story of a wild ride down a mountain trail behind four maddened horses, urged on by a drunken driver.

On a recent visit to the north of Utah the northwest, but, which visit the cast only once or twice in a generation. The one that swooped down on Washington a year ago was a splendid sample of the

Mass of Steel Stored in the The first day out they fought desperately against wind and drifts and when The \$50,000 meteorite which Lieutenant night fell but little more than twenty miles of the distance had been covered. Exhausted and almost frozen, they camped in the snow and supped on their frozen provisions. By morning the storm had spent its fury, and although the trail was lost beneath several feet of snow, the driver, with an instinct all his own, picked out with antique oak, and with their plain and merely gives the paper the look of the glass doorn look very like the bookcases modern modish paper pressed in imitation the world and is owned by Lieutenant Peary. miles to the relay station at Smith's Wells, | @ eived the idea, while mounting the cannon oldier canyon.

taken from the Spanish naval and military A night's rest was taken at the station authorities, to place on exhibition the meand next morning, with fresh horses and teorite which has attracted the attention of new driver, the party, which had been cientists and others in all parts of the The great lump of pure steel is master at Leadville and a noted man in the west, started on the final lap of the jourof the cob dock, where it is seldom seen by ney. The new driver was of the dime-novel type of stage coach drivers, reckless in apmandant's idea was to place the relic from pearance and reckless in his driving, with the Arctic regions where everyone could little regard for his own safety and appar-The platform was prepared for it ently none for the safety of his passenger and then Secretary of the Navy Long was insulted, it being supposed that the mere | Before starting he imbibed freely of wicker mountain whisky and on the journey had ermality of making the request for the removal to the new site was all that would be frequent reference to a bottle of the deadly ompound that he carried with him. It was The secretary informed the comvery important that Mr. Harper should catch mandant that the department had no jurisa certain train for the east and he offered diction over the meteorite; that it was Lieutenant Peary's personal property, the Navy the driver an inducement to get him to department having only given him permission to land it on the cob dock until he tion before an hour had passed and offered o double the amount if the driver would The platform intended refrain from his purpose to "get him there Lieutenant Peary discovered the meteorite or break his neck," but the whisky had near Cape York on one of his early expediaroused the devil in the man and he laughed tions to find the north pole. He subsequently at danger.

The trail from the plateau down into but his apparatus was inadequate and he had Soldier canyon is four miles in length and to return without it. Later he went in the winds, a narrow strip, around sharp corners Hope with stronger paraphernalia and imalong the face of the cliff hundreds of feet mense hydraulic jacks with which he transin beight, perpendicular walls of rock above and perpendicular walls of rock below ferred the steel boulder to the hold of the ship. The Hope arrived at Brooklyn from Not a Pleasant Prospect.

the Arctic regions October 2, 1897, with the The trail is dangerous in the best meteorite, which was taken from the ship weather and with the most careful of drivby means of the navy yard fleating crane ing. In some places, on this occasion, it was choked with snow and in others, where the wind had swept it clean, was a glare of e sloping toward the edge of the precipice It was not a pleasant prospect and only urgent necessity prevented the travelers rom turning back. But the driver said he appearance the meteorite does not look knew the road and gave assurance of landing them safely at the bottom.

original oak timbers on which it was brought When the edge of the canyon was reached. to this latitude. The meteorite is about instead of slowing up and looking carefully four inches thick and between stx and seven into a run, and yelling at the top of his second, Mr. Harper says, he expected to be dashed to death on the jagged rocks hunchisels only the smallest fragments can be rounded corners, the rear wheels would It is said to be worth swing out until they crumbled the rock at \$50,000 for the steel alone which it contains. the very edge of the cliff, and it would Lieutenant Peary believes it would be a seem as if no power on earth could prevent great loss to science to sell the curiosity for them from going over. Pleading and threats its commercial value, and hopes to induce with the driver were alike without avail. some college or museum to purchase it that He was crazed with drink, and only laughed is may be preserved in its present form. He at the fears of his passengers. The whip was applied unsparingly, and under its Scientists who have examined the meteorsharp sting the horses tore along with leaps te say there are few furnaces in the world and bounds. where it could be melted, and to be of com-

"The four wheels were at the ground at once," said Mr. Harper, in telling the story, "and we seemed to be flying through the air. I firmly believed we were going to certain death. I know that my hair literally stood on end. But that kind Providence which is said to care for fools and drunkers men interfered in our behalf, and in some manner, I shall never know how, we reached the bottom of the canyon with no more serious conse quences than resulted from our scare.

"Before we had gone half a mile after reaching the bottom the king-pin in out wagon broke, and driver and passengers alike went sprawling over the ground. It makes me shudder even now to think what would have been the result had the pin broken while we were tearing down that trail. We reached Price in time to get our train, however, and the driver claimed hi

.. Out April 8, 1900 ...

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