MAKING OLD GLORY.

The Way Flags Are Turned Out With Modern Machinery.

By the aid of modern machinery only an hour is required for the manufacture of a silk or wool bunting American flag 6 by 10 feet in size. This task includes fourteen different operations and twenty years ago required a day and a half to accomplish. The last decade has witnessed the introduction of splicing and cutting machines as well as improved sewing machines. These have revolutionized the flag making industry.

The first step in making a flag, says the New York Sun, is to cut the stripes from huge rolls of red or white silk or wool bunting. Machinery accomplishes most of this, although some operatives equipped with huge shears are still employed. The stripes are given over to the machine operatives, by whom they are sewed together with lightninglike rapidity. The lock stitch is used and the thread fed from spools, each of which holds 24,000 yards.

The strips sewed together, the flag is ready to receive the union. The union is the blue field at the left upper corner of the flag bearing the forty-six stars, a star for every state, although most of the flags seen for some months will show only forty-five stars.

Stars of wool bunting flags are of muslin, although the union itself is of the same material as the body of the flag. A star is always half the width of a stripe of the flag it adorns.

Muslin stars are cut out by machinery at the rate of 3,000 an hour. A star is five pointed, each being precisely like its fellow. As fast as the stars are cut out they are passed to girls who, standing at long tables, arrange them on the unions. Then they are basted in place by hand and turned over to the machine operatives.

Placing the union in position follows, two unions being required for each flag, one on either side. Stripes and union joined, the finishers take the flag in hand. Strong canvas bands are sewed across the headings, the bands having grommets, or eyelets, in the corners. In the case of large flags for staffs the halliards run through these grommets.

Although every year more than 4,000,000 American flags are made in the fashion described, they form only a small proportion of the total number manufactured. Millions of printed flags come into existence every year, and their number is constantly increasing.

Blaine and an Appropriation.

When James G. Blaine was speaker of the house he cleverly got through a resolution appropriating $12,000 to the needy widowed daughter of President Zachary Taylor. This lady got as far as Washington on her way to Paris to see a sick daughter and, being destitute of money, appealed to her only friend at the capital, General Sherman. His purse was always open to the distressed, but he had not funds at all adequate to relieve her necessities. In this emergency he thought of Blaine. The man from Maine entered into the spirit of the occasion as soon as he heard General Sherman's statement. He called another to the chair and made a five minutes' speech that fairly electrified the house, which passed the resolution Blaine had penned only a moment before. He took the resolution in person to the senate, where it was also immediately passed, had the president to sign it the next day, and on the following day the beneficiary got the money. General Sherman always insisted that Blaine would have made the grandest actor that ever lived and in adapting his career to politics he robbed the stage of a born star.

Horses and Furs.

"Never ship horses to New York in the fall or winter if you want to make a good sale," was the advice that was handed out to a western man who had a number of horses that he wished to dispose of at the Horse Exchange. "They'll make a better showing in the spring or summer," explained a trader on the exchange, "and impress the prospective trader with a sense of safety. It is more difficult to break in a western horse in New York ways in the winter than the summer. It really doesn't take him long to become used to the crowds and noises of the city at any time. The thing that throws him into panic is the sight of fur. In his mind furs are associated with some enemy or tormentor of the animal kingdom, and the sight and smell of fur garments arouse former fears. Some horses never do get over this weakness, and many dealers can vouch for cases in which horses that are otherwise perfectly satisfactory bring complaint from the purchaser on account of their dislike of furs."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Not One Cent For Tribute."

The copper piece with the legend, "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute," is not a coin at all, but a medal commemorating our troubles with France during the Napoleonic wars. Resenting our Jay treaty with Great Britain, made while George Washington was president, and angry because we would not take sides in those wars, France, in 1797, began to attack our merchant ships, and we came very near becoming involved in war with her. We sent a commission over to try to arrange the trouble, and the French prime minister, Talleyrand, gave them to understand we could arrange it only by paying a bribe or making a loan to the French government. To this it was said that Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of South Carolina, a member of our commission, replied in the words noted on the medal. This he denied, however, his reply being simply, "No, no; not one sixpence."—St. Louis Republic.

When a Man Lies.

"If you want to tell whether or not the man you are talking to is telling the truth, don't look him in the eyes," said a Denver bank teller to some friends last night. "I thought it was just the other way," said one of those present. "I've always understood that it made it harder for the liar if you looked squarely in his eyes." "That's a wrong impression," continued the bank teller. "The man who knows how to lie knows how to look you in the eyes when he's doing it. And the man who isn't a regular liar, but who has made up his mind to lie to you, decides first that he must look you straight in the eyes. It is the voice, when you don't look at the eyes, that tells you whether the other fellow is lying. We use the system frequently in the bank. A man will come in to tell us some business tale. We look at his feet or his hands or his knees, but never in his eyes. If he's telling the truth his voice will be firm and straightforward, and the absence of your gaze in his eyes will not affect it, but if he's lying he'll be confused by your action, and his voice will tremble. He'll hem and haw and clear his throat. You may rest assured then that he's stringing you."—Denver Post.

Rare Ben Jonson.

The epitaph, "O Rare Ben Jonson," engraved on the tablet marking the burial place of the celebrated playwright in the "poets' corner," Westminster abbey, is said to have originated with Jack Young (afterward knighted), who, "walking there when the grave was covering, gave the fellow 18 pence to cut it." Dr. Brewer in his "Phrase and Fable" says Shakespeare called Jonson "Rare Ben," but does not say where. According to Chambers' "Book of Days," the phrase formed the concluding words of the verses written and displayed in the clubroom of Ben's clique at the famous Mermaid tavern. The epithet "Rare Ben Jonson" is said to have been first uttered after the appearance of his highly successful farce, "Bartholomew Fair." The epitaph has been copied once at least. When Sir William Davenant was interred in Westminster abbey the inscription on his covering stone was "O Rare Sir William Davenant."

Deception of Wild Birds.

Falcons—hawks, the largest species—can compress their features and look very thin if they think it necessary to do so. As to the owls, they can hump into any position they think most suitable. It is useless to look for these self preserving traits in any of the family kept in zoological collections, for the birds are so accustomed to see large numbers of people passing and repassing or standing in front of them that they treat the whole matter with perfect indifference. They know that at a certain time their food will be brought to them and that they are otherwise perfectly safe. The raptures in a wild state have a bloom on their plumage, like the bloom on a bunch of grapes, which is not so often seen when in captivity.

A Train For Tyler.

During Mr. Tyler's incumbency of the presidential office he arranged to make an excursion in some direction and sent his son Bob to arrange for a special train. It happened that the railroad superintendent was a strong Whig. As such he had no favors to bestow on the president and informed Bob that his road did not run any special trains for the president. "What!" said Bob. "Did you not furnish a special train for the funeral of President Harrison?" "Yes," said the superintendent, "and if you'll bring your father in that condition you shall have the best train on the road."

A Canton Clock.

The famous clepsydra or watch clock of Canton is housed in a temple on the city walls. Three big earthen jars on successive shelves and a fourth and lowest one with a wooden cover constitute the whole clepsydra. The water descends by slow drops from one jar to another, the brass scale on a float in the last jar telling the hours as it rises. Every afternoon at 5 o'clock since 1321 A. D. the lowest jar has been emptied, the upper one filled and the clock thus wound up for another day.

Iron In the System.

It is often said that there is iron enough in the system of an ordinary man to make a plowshare. The statement is exceedingly wide of the truth. The amount of iron contained in the animal tissues of a man weighing 150 pounds is about 100 grains, or a quarter of an ounce. Yet so important is even this small amount to the system that a difference of a few grains more or less may produce serious constitutional disturbance.

A Dilemma.

"Then, Maurizio, tomorrow I will come with my wife to see you both."

"Delighted! But look here. Tell your wife not to wear her new diamond earrings or my wife will at once want a pair."

"Oh, the mischief! And my wife was only coming for the purpose of showing them off."—Il Diavolo Rosa.

It Couldn't Be.

Dean Farrar quotes Tennyson as having related to him the remark of a farmer who, after hearing a fire and brimstone sermon from an old style preacher, consoled his wife by saying: "Never mind, Sally, that must be wrong. No constitooshun couldn't stand it."

America's Failings.

America has little of the economic sagacity of England, intellectual acumen of Germany or social rhythm of France.—A. E. Winship in Armenia.

BENEVOLENT VERDI.

His Generosity to Old Friends and to All Aged Musicians.

The population of the little Italian village where Verdi was born was made up of uneducated, hardworking laborers, and his surroundings were of the most prosaic kind. But the fire of genius was in the lad, says his biographer, and these unsympathetic environments were powerless to extinguish it.

The honor of first drawing attention to the boy's gifts lies with a poor itinerant violinist, Bagasset by name. In his wanderings he frequently visited Le Roncole. Little Giuseppe and he struck up a friendship, and it was Bagasset who suggested to the boy's father that the lad should be allowed to follow music as a profession. In after years when Verdi had become famous he found Bagasset again, then a very old man and poor, and, remembering the past, did all in his power to help him.

When Verdi was eight years old he became the proud possessor of an old spinet. This instrument he regarded with the greatest affection, and to the day of his death it occupied a place of honor at his estate near Busseto. There was an interesting and quaint inscription written on a part of it. It gives particulars of certain repairs which had been effected and ends: "This I do gratis in consideration of the good disposition the boy Giuseppe Verdi shows in learning to play on this instrument, which quite satisfies me for any trouble. Stephen Cavaletti, A. D. 1821."

This spinet meant everything in the world to the boy at this time, and it was his enthusiasm in subjecting it to the expression of the latent music that was in him that caused the damage and necessitated the repairs referred to.

Once he was playing chords on it and was delighted at having discovered the major third and fifth of C. Trying to repeat this the following day, he was unable to find the chord again. Try as he would, he could not succeed, so in childish rage he picked up a hammer and proceeded to bang the spinet. His father came upon the scene at this moment, and, taking the part of the spinet in this unequal encounter, he gave his son a lesson which doubtless sounded chords in the boy's brain which were a revelation to him.

The benevolence of Verdi after his success was a byword, and toward those less fortunate ones of his profession his help was at all times freely given. But everything was done in the most unobstrusive way. When his old librettist Piare was stricken with paralysis Verdi paid all the costs of his illness, made him an annual allowance and at his death met the expenses of the funeral. In addition to this, he provided for the support of the old man's daughter.

One day when he was chatting with Carducci, the famous poet, an organ outside struck up an air from "Trovatore." Thinking that Verdi would be disturbed, the poet went to the window to send the man away, but the composer pushed past him and, beckoning to the organ grinder below, threw a handful of silver out, saying to his friend:

"Let him go on; it pleases me, and, besides, we must all live somehow."

The perusal of his will shows that he never forgot those who had been kind to him in his struggling days. The bequest which is most widely known in his own country is the Home of Rest For Musicians in Milan.

It had always been a great idea of Verdi's to found some institution for the care of aged musicians whose labors had not resulted in making them independent in the years when their work had come to an end. In his will he devoted a large share of his property to this scheme, and his generous gift affords a home to 100 old musicians.—Youth's Companion.

Carbonic Acid Springs.

In the Auvergne region of France a large amount of carbonic acid gas comes from the soil and is one of the last traces of the former volcanic activity of this region. The springs that yield the gas are found generally in the fissures of the ground which allow the water to rise. One of the Montpensier springs has been known as the "poisoned spring." Animals which descend into the cavity to drink are soon asphyxiated by the gas which is given off by the water and accumulates here. Bodies of birds, rabbits, dogs, sheep and other animals are found, and even persons have narrowly escaped. Vegetation is also affected by an overdose of the gas. Spots can be seen running in a line across the fields, where the plants have suffered from gas coming up through the fissures of the ground at different points. Soundings show the presence of a great quantity of gas, and it is usually in a very pure state.

A Crusher For Conkling.

Roscoe Conkling was a capital boxer and quite proud of his skill. One evening after considerable banter he induced Senator Chandler to "put on the gloves" with him. He played with Chandler for a few rounds, much to the discomfiture of the latter. Chandler bided his time and some time later quietly brought a professional pugilist to dinner where Conkling was a guest. In the course of the evening "Mr. Smith" was induced to engage in a boxing bout with Mr. Conkling. The professional danced around the senator, landing when and where he wished, playing with him as he would with a punching bag. The elegant New York senator was dazed, overwhelmed, humiliated, crushed. When he surrendered and called enough, as he did at last, Senator Chandler smiled blandly and presented the pugilist in his true colors.

Lifting a Kettle of Hot Water.

Some time when the teakettle is bubbling and boiling on the kitchen range lift it quickly by its handle and set it on the open palm of your other hand. This sounds like a very foolhardy thing to do—as if your hand might be blistered in a twinkling—but you will find that you can hold the teakettle which has just come from a roaring fire for some time without hurting you. Try it and then see if you can tell the reason why you are not burned. Be sure, however, that the water is boiling strongly before you make the experiment.

A Kippered Pastor.

A French Protestant pastor was the guest of a Scottish preacher at a manse. One morning kippered herrings were served at breakfast. The French pastor asked the meaning of "kipper." His host replied that it meant "to preserve." On taking his leave next day the French pastor, wringing his host's hand, said, "May the Lord kipper you, my good friend."

Postage Stamps.

Postage stamps are peculiarly liable to become septic and to convey deadly germs, says the British Medical Press and Circular, a fact that cannot be too widely known to the public who find in it a popular substitute for sticking plaster.

Never Missed It.

Teacher — Who discovered America? Small Boy—Dunno. Teacher—Why, I supposed every boy in school knew that. Small Boy—I didn't know that it was lost.

The Spirit of Winter.

The Spirit of Winter is with us, making its presence known in many different ways —sometimes by cheery sunshine and glistening snows, and sometimes by drifting winds and blinding storms. To many people it seems to take a delight in making bad things worse, for rheumatism twists harder, twinges sharper, catarrh becomes more annoying, and the many symptoms of scrofula are developed and aggravated. There is not much poetry in this, but there is truth, and it is a wonder that more people don't get rid of these ailments. The medicine that cures them—Hood's Sarsaparilla—is easily obtained and there is abundant proof that its cures are radical and permanent.

Buy Postage Stamps at Home Says Uncle Sam.

There is considerable speculation among certain postmasters not only in Blair county, but throughout the country—that is in the smaller towns where the postmaster's salary is regulated by the receipts of the office—as to the exact object of the proposed departure of the postoffice department to issue an entire new series of postage stamps, each of which will contain the name of the city or town to which the department sends them.

The salaries of all smaller offices are by law regulated by the sales of postage stamps and money orders. For instance, in Pittsburg the salary of the postmaster is $6,000 per year. If the business doubled the salary would remain the same. But in smaller cities and towns the situation is different—the salary depends on the receipts. It is said that in many of the small offices the postmaster goes to some big firm or firms outside of his jurisdiction where he has or can get a pull and induces them to buy their stamps at his office. Thus the receipts of the office through the firm's stamp and money order business naturally swells the receipts of the office and consequently the salary increases correspondingly. For a long time the government has been bothered with this kind of business and word comes now that the name of the office to which the department sends stamps will be placed on them in order to regulate the salary question.

You must have a foundation before you can build a house. You must have a foundation before you can build up your health. The foundation of health is pure blood. To try to build up health by "doctoring" for symptoms of disease is like trying to build a house by beginning at the chimney. Begin at the foundation. Make your blood pure and you will find that "heart trouble" "liver trouble" and kindred ailments disappear when the poisons are eliminated from the blood. The sovereign blood purifying remedy is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It has cured diseases pronounced incurable by physicians. It has restored health to those who have absolutely despaired of recovery.

Medical.

CATARRH

INVITES CONSUMPTION

It weakens the delicate lung tissues, deranges the digestive organs, and breaks down the general health.

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Being a constitutional disease it requires a constitutional remedy.

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No substitute for Hood's acts like Hood's. Be sure toget Hood's.

"I was troubled with catarrh 20 years. Seeing statements of cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla resolved to try it. Four bottles entirely cured me." WILLIAM SHERMAN, 1030 6th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

——Conceited Actor—You should have seen the audience sitting open mouthed when I was playing Hamlet last night. Critic—It must be dreadful to see an entire audience all yawning at once.

——There are about 185 inhabited British isles, of which Scotland claims over 100.

Medical.

TESTED AND TRIED.

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Mrs. Emma J. Davis, of 246 E. Logan St., says: "I have a great deal of confidence in Doan's Kidney Pills and have already recommended them in a published testimonial in 1897. I told how I had been relieved of kidney complaint and bachache which had kept me suffering for years. Doan's Kidney Pills did this for me when other remedies had failed. Whenever I feel any symptom of my old trouble I sent to F. Potts Green's drug store for a supply of Doan's Kidney Pills and it never requires more than a few doses to get me right."

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We are now going over our whole stock of goods and discarding everything that we find is not up to the standard, and we will, if possible, be better prepared than ever before to furnish our customers with the BEST of everything in our line.

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