

TREASURED AS HEIRLOOMS.

Handed Down From Father to Son and From Friend to Friend—Engraved and Ornamented, They Were Used as Gifts Instead of Jeweled Swords.

Modern inventions have robbed warfare of much of its romance and the soldier of much of his old time picturesque. Although the powderhorn as an implement of war disappeared long before the magazine of today was dreamed of, it wasn't so very long ago, as a matter of fact, that men were carrying powderhorns. Some of the soldiers in the Mexican war, for example, used them.

The powderhorns carried by the fighters in the early days of this country were often of comparatively simple workmanship, but they were cherished and handed down from father to son and from friend to friend. Strange to say, though cherished in this manner, collectors have had a very hard time in locating any great number of the powderhorns used in this country, and this in spite of the large numbers used in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the French and Indian war the English and Americans carried 10,000 powderhorns, it has been estimated, to say nothing of the number carried by those on the French side. In the Revolution there were, according to the best estimates, about 10,000 powderhorns in use in the American army without counting those on the British side. The European troops had long discarded them, of course, but their colonial allies naturally were equipped with them.

A few years ago Isaac J. Greenwood presented to the New York Historical society a collection of water color pictures of powderhorns he had found still in existence.

Although the search was prosecuted with great diligence, the number of powderhorns actually located and sketched was not much more than 400, showing how quickly the horns have been disappearing.

Powderhorns are supposed to have come into use almost simultaneously with the invention of gunpowder. A way had to be found to carry the powder and keep it dry, and men quickly found that there wasn't anything better or cheaper in mediaeval times for this purpose than the horns of an animal.

They were in general use in the sixteenth century and were brought to this country by the first settlers. The oldest horn whose picture appears in the collection was found near Schenectady, N. Y., and bears the date of 1683.

It was generally the horns of their own cattle that the farmer fighters of America used. The loss of a horn in nowise impaired the usefulness of the animal, and bulls frequently were called upon to make the sacrifice. Such horns were easily obtained and wouldn't rust and could be carried in the rain and through streams without the powder in them getting wet.

They were always worn under the left arm by a strap that went over the right shoulder, the curve in the horn conforming to the shape of the body and serving to keep it out of the way of the wearer. There was a stopple in

the small end, and without being unstrung the powder could be poured into the right hand and thence into the gun. Boiled, scraped and cleaned and colored with an orange or yellow dye, which was the way most of the powderhorns were prepared, they lent themselves more readily to ornamentation by the owner than did any other part of his equipment, and it is this fact which has made them particularly interesting as historical relics. Admiring friends in the days when powderhorns were in general use instead of presenting a hero with an engraved sword gave him a finely decorated powderhorn.

Sometimes the horns were made to order and the engraving done by professional engravers. Many of these horns were beautifully colored, the most popular shade being a sort of orange tint. Perhaps the most remarkable examples of the engraving are to be seen on the geographical horns whose pictures appear in the Greenwood collection. These geographical horns took the place of pocket maps for the early pioneers. They were the work of professional engravers in places like New York and Boston.

Some of the horns in the collection contain practically complete maps of the old trails and waterways. One of the best of these bears the date of 1767 and shows New York with its harbor filled with ships and New York state as far as Lake Champlain and Ontario. The Hudson valley, with its settlements, appears on most of the geographical horns discovered. One horn shows the country between Elizabethtown and Pittsburg, each little settlement being carefully noted.

The horns thus filled a double purpose, supplying the traveler with a map and carrying his powder for him. One of the best specimens in the collection shows Havana, as well as the trail from Albany to Oswego. It is believed to have been owned by a soldier in the English army which captured the Cuban city and who later served in the colonies.—Washington Post.

Make hay while the sun shines, and the sun never shines so steadily and bright as when you are young.

Short and to the Point

A coal merchant who was a man of few words once wrote to an agent the following brief letter:

Dear Jones—" "

In due time the agent's reply came as follows:

Dear Mr. Sinclair—" "

The coal dealer's letter, translated, said, "See my coal on," which is the semicolon expressed verbally.

The agent informed the dealer that the coal was shipped by saying simply, "Col-on."—Scrap Book.

Unless They Are Heiresses. "It's hard to lose a beautiful daughter," said the wedding guest sympathetically.

"It's a blame sight harder to lose the homely ones," replied the old man who had several yet to go.—Boston Transcript.

Not Consistent. "What was I saying when I dodged that automobile?"

"You were saying that life is not worth living. But if you think so why did you dodge?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Man is made of dust, but he is usually out for more.—Exchange.

The old fable of the grasshopper who sang and danced through the summer and starved in the winter is only a parable of life. If we would have strength in old age we must store it in the summer of life. It is important that men in middle age should not allow the vital powers to run low. To prevent this requires something more than a stimulant. It requires a medicine which will increase the appetite, give the stomach power to convert the food eaten into nourishment, and increase the quantity and quality of the blood. Such a medicine is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, purifies the blood and increases the action of the blood-making glands. It is a strength-giving, body-building medicine without an equal.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria.

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Condensed Time Table effective June 17, 1908

Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Lists stations like Bellefonte, Pottsville, etc. with times.

(N. Y. Central & Hudson River R. R.)

Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Lists stations like Jersey Shore, etc. with times.

BELLEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD

Schedule to take effect Monday Jan. 6, 1908.

Table with columns: read down, STATIONS, read up. Lists stations like Bellefonte, etc. with times.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria.

Hats and Caps.

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