

CLAIMS HONOR FOR GEORGIAN

Savannah Newspaper Asserts That Elias Howe Was Not Inventor of the Sewing Machine.

The centenary of the birth of Elias Howe, the modest Yankee who invented the sewing machine, took place on June 9. There was no extended observance of the day, observes Hartford Courant, yet it was Howe who took a good deal of the drudgery out of the lives of millions of American women. He also increased the power of his fellow men to produce garments and other material that formerly needed the patient handwork of individuals.

But it is interesting to observe, in connection with the anniversary, that the Savannah News undertakes the rather hopeless task of trying to convince its readers that it was not Howe, but a Georgian, Francis R. Goulding, who constructed and operated the first sewing machine. This paper says that this man, a Presbyterian preacher living in Liberty county, married a Savannah girl and then began work on a sewing machine in order that he might save his fair wife much hard work. Alleging this was long before Howe patented his machine, and also that Goulding never patented his, they try to show his motives were purely altruistic and not commercial. It all sounds good, but it will take considerable "space" in the Georgia newspapers to convince the world that Goulding takes the prize.

MONKEY CHAIN CALLED MYTH

Recent Travelers in South America Explain Probable Origin of Story Once Implicitly Believed.

An interesting article by Prof. E. W. Gudger, in a recent issue of Natural History, deals with the time-honored story on which most of us were brought up that South American monkeys are in the habit of crossing alligator-infested streams by linking their tails and legs to form a living bridge. Pictures of this feat once figured extensively in the school geographies, and Professor Gudger reproduced such a picture from a Fourth reader published as late as 1897. The story was first told, so far as known, by the Jesuit priest Padre Jose Acosta in a work published in 1589. Several later writers have repeated the tale. The first person to dispute its veracity was Baron Humboldt. Recently explorers of South America, when they mention the story at all, express skepticism. Finally, Messrs. Leo E. Miller and George K. Cherrie of the American Museum of Natural History, who have done so much traveling and collecting in South America, have suggested to Professor Gudger a plausible origin for such tales. They think that the story of the "monkey bridge" has come about through observation of a procession of monkeys crossing a ravine or stream on a pendent liana. —Scientific American.

Why Americans Lost Contract.

"Speaking of Chinese railroads reminds me of the failure of an American manufacturer to obtain a contract for locomotives because his European competitors made a more careful study of Chinese peculiarities," writes Lynn W. Meekins in the Scientific American. "One locomotive was ordered from each of the competing companies. In every respect save one the American product was unmistakably superior. However, it had been painted black before shipment from the works, and on the way across the Pacific it became more or less rusted. "Its appearance, therefore, was far less attractive than that of the European locomotives, which were painted in accordance with Chinese preference, and had been touched up by the manufacturers' agents after arriving in China. Don't get your colors mixed if you want to sell goods to the Chinese."

No Flattery Intended.

"Is that a portrait of your grandmother when she was young?" asked the awkward visitor. "How it resembles you, Miss Ugleton!" "Now you only say that to flatter me. Grandma was quite a beauty, and everybody knows that I—ahem—I make no pretensions of that kind." "I assure you, Miss Ugleton," exclaimed the A. V., "flattery is far from my thoughts. The family resemblance is striking. I've often known cases like that. There were two sisters I knew when I was a boy. They were wonderfully alike, like that portrait's like you, and yet one of them was as beautiful as a poet's dream, and the other was dreadful—that is, I mean, she wasn't at all—or, rather, she was lacking in that—that attractive quality, you know, that constitutes—what a lovely frame this portrait has, eh?"—Edinburgh Scotsman.

India Again Importing.

All restrictions on the importation into India of any American manufactures or products, with the exception of gold and silver coin or bullion and cocaine, have been removed. Importation of cocaine and allied drugs is forbidden at all times except under a license granted by the chief customs officer at the place of import. The importation of gold and silver coin and bullion is restricted in that the government of India reserves the right to purchase all importations of same.

BIBLES THAT ARE PRICELESS

Four Copies of Sacred Book Regarded as Treasures by Their Fortunate Owners.

The largest Bible in existence is in the royal library at Stockholm. The covers are made of solid planks, four inches thick, and the pages measure a yard in length. It is estimated that 190 asses' skins must have been used to furnish the 300 parchment leaves of this colossal book. It is considered priceless.

A well-to-do New Yorker is the proud possessor of a manuscript Bible written by his only son, a cripple. He could only work about two hours a day, so he took over two years to complete his task. It does not contain a single error or slip, for if error or slip occurred the youth discarded the whole page. The verses and headings are all in red ink, and the whole is beautifully written.

In a house in Grafton street, London, there is a shorthand Bible which was written at least two centuries before Pitman was born. It was written by an apprentice in the day of James II, when to possess a "common" or "garden" Bible was rather dangerous.

An American lady cherishes a Bible probably as old as the one written in shorthand, which an ancestress baked in a loaf of bread when a house-to-house search was being made for stray copies of the scriptures. The soldiers came to search the house, but it is not a matter of wonder that they failed to find the book, which now, looking pretty old, is the lady's chief treasure.

WHERE BEDS ARE UNKNOWN

Residents of Merida, Yucatan, Enjoy Repose in Hammocks Which May Be Slung Anywhere.

In Merida, Yucatan, the majority of the people do not use beds, in fact very few of them have even seen one. They sleep in hammocks, which are swung across the rooms at night and with no fuss of bedmaking; the person just goes to bed and is gently rocked to sleep by any passing breeze. The climate is so hot that it is only during the months of January and February that a light sheet may be required as covering.

These hammocks are usually made by the mother of the family, writes Lilly deG. Osborn, in St. Nicholas, and consist of thread, more or less fine, woven together on great frames with a kind of shuttle or needle. Some of the designs are wonderfully intricate and the colors beautifully blended. I saw one very large one, made in the colors of the United States flag, which was to be sent up to the United States for a gift. It was certainly a work of art, made of the very finest mercerized thread; and yet the hammock could easily support a weight of 300 pounds. A servant always brings his or her own hammock, which is very convenient.

Quoits Really Ancient Game.

The quoit is a flattish ring of iron, used in playing. It is generally from eight and a half to nine and a half inches in external diameter, and between one and two inches in breadth, convex on the upper side and slightly concave on the under side, so that the outer edge curves downward, and is sharp enough to cut into soft ground. The game played with such rings requires two pins, called hobs, driven part of their length into the ground some distance apart; and the players, who are divided into two sides, stand beside one hob, and in regular succession throw their quoits, of which each player has two, as near the other hob as they can. The side which has the quoit nearest the hob counts a point toward the game, or, if the quoit is thrown so as to surround the hob, it counts two. The game slightly resembles the ancient exercise of throwing the discus, which has, however, been often translated by this English word.

First Wheat Grown in Canada.

The first wheat that ripened in Canadian sunshine was grown in 1607 at Port Royal, now Annapolis Basin, Nova Scotia. Here Champlain and de Monts founded a post and built a fort. They were joined by Marc Lescarbot, a lawyer of Paris, a poet, and the earliest writer of Canadian history. Love of adventure drew him to Port Royal. Outside the palisades of the fort he cultivated a plot of land in part of which he sowed wheat, brought, of course, from France. His sowing was fall or winter wheat. It grew well, ripened perfectly, and with sickles Lescarbot and his associates cut the crop. That was the first wheat crop harvested on land now within the Dominion of Canada.

The Income Tax.

The English income tax, first imposed by Pitt in 1798 as a war tax, was abolished at the Peace of Amiens in 1801, and again imposed on the resumption of hostilities in 1803. At the downfall of Napoleon it ceased to be levied for twenty-six years—1816-1842—when it was reimposed by Sir Robert Peel, in June, 1842, at seven pence in the pound, and produced about five million pounds. As showing the rapid advance of the country in prosperity, the tax which produced about seven hundred and ten thousand pounds for each penny of tax in 1842 yielded two million six hundred and ninety-one thousand four hundred and twenty-two pounds per penny in 1909-1910, and at the present time considerably over three million pounds for each penny.

FARM NOTES.

Pumpkins and squashes may be kept for winter use in a dry storage room in the basement.

A similar pit may be made for celery, though the dirt should be excavated to a depth of about 14 inches. However, celery may be kept until extreme cold weather in the position where it grew by banking enough earth about the plants to hold the stems in a compact bunch. Just before freezing occurs bank the earth up to the very tops of the plants, almost covering them. As the weather becomes colder, cover the ridge with straw, corn fodder, or pine boughs held in place by stakes or boards.

There may be beans and peas not quite fully matured. If you have space in which to keep them under cover, pull up the vines by the roots, hang them up and let the pods dry out. Then shell the beans or peas, put them in bags, hang in a well-ventilated dry place, and keep them for winter use. This, of course, can not be done if the beans are too immature. Canning is the only means of saving them under that condition. The curing on the vine method, however, is the best plan for curing navy and other bush beans even when they are fully mature.

The cellar, if there is one, otherwise a pit in the garden, may be made to care for most of the other vegetables well into, if not through, the winter. Onions that are mature and thoroughly dried may be kept in the attic or in any dry, well-ventilated place where they will not freeze. A pit in the garden may be made to serve as a storage for potatoes, late beets, carrots, turnips, late cabbage, celery and salsify. If there is no cellar available the earth mound in the garden can be made to serve admirably, saving a lot of money by keeping certain of the late garden vegetables for winter eating.

The late corn patch also, is likely to have a week or ten days of table service in it when the frost warnings come. It is not necessary to lose the green corn. Pluck the ears, leaving the husks on, and place them on the cellar floor with no two ears touching. The corn will remain in good condition for ten days or longer. Even if you have no cellar or other place where the ears can be stored, it is not necessary to lose the corn. Cut the stalks, leaving the ears on, and shock them in the garden. The corn will probably not remain in good condition so long as if properly stored on the cellar floor and it becomes toughened, but the season for using it can be extended several days.

All that is necessary in making a vegetable storage pit is to place some straw, hay, dry grass or fodder on the ground, place the vegetables in it in a conical pile, cover them with the same material used at the bottom and then cover with two or three inches of earth. The hay, or whatever material is used, should be allowed to extend through the dirt at the apex of the cone, thus providing the necessary ventilation to keep the vegetables in good condition. Place a board or piece of tin over the hay at the apex of the cone and weight it down to keep it in place. If the earth

over the entire surface of the mound is firmed down with the back of the shovel and a shallow trench dug around the base of the mound with an outlet so that the water will drain away, the vegetables may be kept practically dry for any length of time. As the weather becomes colder, it will be necessary to put on more earth, increasing the thickness of the earth covering to six or eight inches. In very cold weather it is advisable to put on an additional covering of straw, fodder, manure or other litter.

For cabbages and turnips the earth mound is a better storage place than the cellar. Both turnips and cabbages give off odors that, if stored in the cellar, will permeate the house and become very disagreeable. The method of storing cabbages may vary somewhat from the regular method of pulling the plants, roots and all, and place them in a long pit, either on their sides or with the heads down, then cover lightly with straw and a layer of earth. A few heads may be removed from time to time without disturbing the remainder of the pit. Another good method is to pull the heads, roots and all, and set them side by side with the roots down, in shallow trenches, making a bed of whatever size may be necessary. Around the bed erect a frame of rails, boards, or poles, or by driving down a row of stakes so that an enclosure about two feet in height is formed. Bank the outside of this frame with dirt and place poles across the top, covering them with straw, hay, corn fodder, or pine boughs. Make provision for cutting off the cabbage heads from one end of the pit as needed. When the heads are cut, leave the roots in position, and in the spring these roots will sprout and supply an abundance of greens.

Farmers and the keepers of small garden plots who are anticipating an early frost this year on account of the present cool nights will do well to heed the warning of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the weather bureau and when the first frost is coming get their crops under cover. Much food stuff is wasted annually by being destroyed by frost. Tomatoes are late bearers and, as a rule, many are still green or partly ripe when the first frost comes. By observing the following suggestions you will have vegetables far into the winter, where otherwise they would rot in the garden.

The best way is to pull up the vines with the green tomatoes on them and hang them in the cellar or other sheltered place or pick the tomatoes and place them in a sash covered cold frame, and cover them with straw or leaves, to ripen. Even tomatoes that appear to be perfectly green will, if of good size and seed mature, ripen sufficiently for use as fresh tomatoes. The quality of the tomatoes will probably be better if they are left on the vines and they will continue in usable condition for much longer time, but they may be ripened successfully by putting them in a single layer on a shelf in the cellar. This may be the better plan for some back yard gardeners who have not sufficient space to hang up the vines.

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