

A Famous Sea-Fight.

BY NOAH BROOKS.

When I was a small youngster, years ago, we boys used to be told thrilling stories of what was called "The Last War." In those later days, we have had a war on our own soil, which let us hope, the last war that we shall ever be engaged in as long as the American Republic lasts.

In 1813, the frigate "Essex," commanded by Captain David Porter, after committing such havoc on the British marine of the Atlantic coast of South America, sailing boldly around Cape Horn into the Pacific Ocean.

Probably few of our readers, while drinking these favorite beverages, have ever thought to ask how the plant producing them grows. Yet its culture forms a large part of industry, not only of the great American valley, but of other portions of tropical South America.

The cocoa (Theobroma cacao)—the name signifying "food of the gods"—is a small tree, or rather large bush, seldom exceeding fifteen feet in height, although we have seen very old trees which were several feet high.

The fruit is, when ripe, gathered by hand, and broken transversely by a large knife; the mass of pulp and seed is taken out, and is either left for a day to slightly ferment, or is at once put into a "tipico" and pressed almost dry.

The juice running from the "tipico" is called "leche de cacao," or "milk of cocoa," and is a most refreshing and delicious drink; it is slightly acid, aromatic, and possesses a flavor especially its own.

Unfortunately, it soon ferments, and can be preserved in its freshness for only a single day; by cooling, however, fermentation is checked, but the delicate aroma of the wine is lost.

The "Essex" carried thirty long eighteen pounders and sixteen thirty-two pound cannon for her armament, besides seven small guns in her tops. She also had 320 men, all told.

Very shortly after, the hawser parted, and, to increase the trials of these determined heroes, the ship took fire below deck. In his extremity, Captain Porter tried to save himself and his crew by jumping overboard.

had received eighteen shots below water-line from the long twelves of the "Essex." Thousands of spectators crowded the shores to gaze on the bloody encounter.

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Only seventy-five men were left to do duty, the remainder being killed, wounded, or missing. So, after an engagement had lasted two hours and a half, Porter with a sorrowful heart, hailed down the America flag, and the wreck of the gallant "Essex" was surrendered to the foe.

Effect of Heat on Hogs. Pigs generally gain very little during the summer on account of the neglect on the part of their owners to provide for their comfort.

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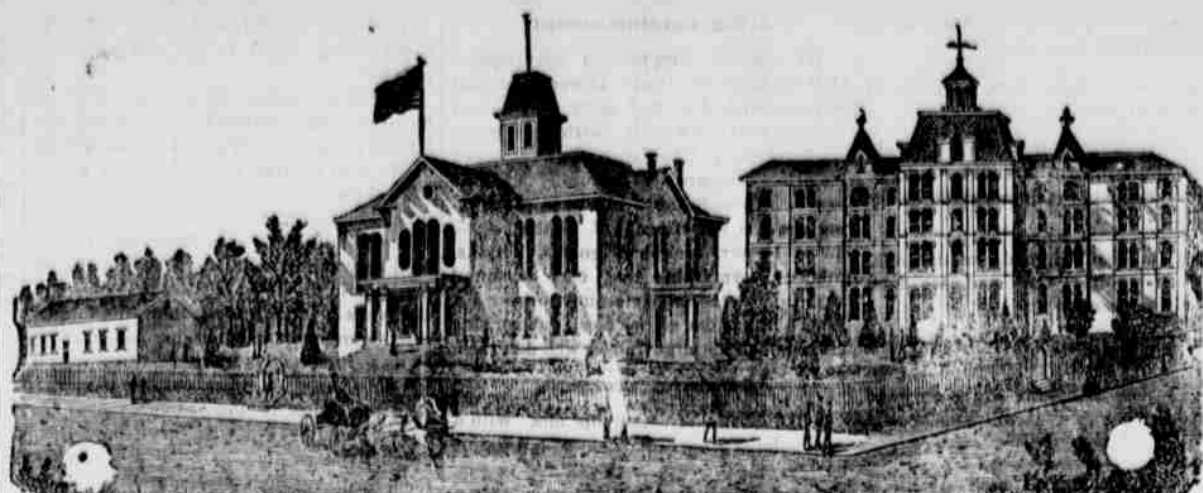
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