RARE GEMS IN BOOKS.

LITERARY TREASURES IN THE ASTOR LIBRARY IN NEW YORK.

Volumes That Are Storehouses of Scholarship and Are Worth Small Fortunes. Ancient Illustrations in Priceless Manuseripts.

Even many otherwise well informed people are not aware that the public libraries of this city contain some of the choicest literary gems extant-books for which wealthy bibliophiles have offered fabulous sums. If New York is not the literary center of America, then books immense in number, rare in antiquity and almost priceless in value are not factors in the competition.

There are thirty-four public librarios In New York, and the number and value of the volumes within their walls have grown so rapidly that Paris, Munich and even London will be surpassed in their library collections if the present growth continuos.

The day when the citizen of New Amsterdam was content to sit outside his door, drink beer, smoke, grow fat and die in the firm belief that he had enjoyed life, has given way to an entirely different state of affairs.

Twenty-five years ago one public library collection was considered sufficient to meet the demands of every class, calling or profession. Today nine institutions can be picked out, each one of which is patronized by a single class.

The Astor is the richest of all our libraries. One million dollars' worth of books repose upon its shelves, but not without frequent disturbance. From fifty to 100 studious men and women are delving into the enchanting mysteries of some favorite theme every day that the reading rooms are open to the public.

The library contains nearly \$200,000 worth of rare books and manuscripts, which are seldom allowed to go into the hands of the public, Perhaps the largest and finget single volume in New York may be found there. If any one thinks that the contemporaries of Shakespeare and Milton would marvel at the superb product of modern illustrators he is very much mistaken. Nothing has been produced in the last century that can equal. much less rival, the illustrations in a Seventeenth century manuscript entitled "Antiphonale." It contains 228 pages of vellum, adorned by 272 small and 53 large miniatures in the highest style of the French art of that day. Some of its illustrations have been attributed to Le Brun, the great painter of the time of Louis XIV. The larger paintings for the most part are scenes from the Scriptures appropriate to the various church festivals, and many of the initial letters which accompany the stanzas are illumined in a style wholly unknown at the present day. This volume, bound in purple morocco, with gilt mountings and ornamented with the flower-de-luce, was designed for the coronation of Charles V. At a public sale it would easily command several thousand dollars.

Another valuable work is Sylvester's "Universal Paleography," in two volumes, containing upward of 300 finely executed facsimiles of mediæval works of art. This sumptuous work is said to have cost the sum of £20,000 for its execution alone. Among other rarities is a copy of the first letter written by Christopher Columbus after he discovered America. There are only six copies of these in existence. The letter consists of these in existence. The letter consists of flowering shrubs, vines and trees of only four leaves, but at a London auction their own state. Returning they often sale in 4872 it brought \$700.

Another rare volume to be found only in this library is Lloyd's "History

At first blush it would seem to be an impossible feat for a pedestrian-a poor, defenceless woman, at that-to successfully bar three entrances to the Brooklyn bridge. It took place on the Brooklyn side one morning last week, when the wage workers were hurrying to the

A Momentary Delay.

metropolis, and a large assembly was kept in a state of suspense for minutes that seemed ages. To explain the feat accomplished, you remember how the entrances are arranged-a ticket office on either side, between them two iron parallel bars to guide you through. Fotween these railings is a space through which you pass on to the "chopping boxes," where tickets

chase them you pass between a rail and the box. She was a gray haired old lady and she wished to buy a ticket. There would have been less difficulty had it not been for the umbrella. It was thrust under the old lady's arm as a man poses his umbrella when going up the "L" stairs -point to the rear and breast high.

The old lady stepped into the middle space, and while the umbrella swung round like a tollgate bar, closing the space behind her, she reached over to the ticket office and calmly proceeded to | to sell it for \$1.40 per ton. open her purse, fumble a roll of bills, finally select one, and with both arms stop the passing of pedestrians until a disgusted lot of humanity was dammed. With the umbrella posed like an in-

fantryman's bayonet fixed to repel cavalry the old lady and her gray hairs held the fort. At last her pennies and tickets had been picked up one by one. She gave way and the crowd surged around her like the floodtide around a shad pole in the North river.-New York Herald.

The Great Rule of Life.

We have to be governed very largely by the analogies of nature whenever we venture into the realm of the possibilities and the unknown, and there is no analogy in nature of something being given for nothing. The seed has to push through the ground to find the san; the tree has to draw its sap up from unseen sources to whirl forth its buds; the bud itself has to force its way through obstacles of bark and fiber; the bird has to build its nest with careful endeavor and many journeys ere it feels the little wings beneath its breast; the gold has to be mined, the precious stone dug from the matrix; the diamond has to undergo fierce processes of grinding and scouring before its facets shine like living light. Struggle is the rule of life. Were it otherwise it would seem as though we might all of us have been put upon the planet in conditions of luxury and ease

and eminence that would require no effort on our part, and leave us free for all the enjoyment the world affords. But what soft, untempered, worthless metal we should be in such case! It is hammer that welds it; the grinding, whirling stone that brings it to an edge. -Harper's Bazar.

A Poor Folk's Garden.

So early were collectors in California, and so universal was the interest felt in Europe over the new plants of the Pacific coast, that many trees of sequoias and other superb conifers were planted in the parks of England, France and Italy long before the discovery of gold. Wealthy Californians, as early as 1855, visiting Europe, were surprised to find how popular were the brilliant annuals, urged neighbors to cultivate more of the native plants, but with little effect.

In Alameda county, a plain, une

An exchange says that coal for the taking is the go now for people living along the banks of the North Branch of the Susquehanna and even along the banks of the big river for a good distance. It is a well known fact that for years coal that has been washed down from the mines at Hazieton and some from the Wyoming region has been accumulating along the river bed for a hundred miles and more un il now many people enjoy the luxury of burning free coal. The getting is all that is required. The coal taken from the river is washed smooth and round by the action of the water It are deposited, but if you have to pur. is said that very little slate is found among it, and that when used in the stove it makes an excellent tire. Some of the gatherers of this coal get it for their individual use and some get it to sell. The proprietors of Savidge's sand digger have been taking twenty tons a day from the river at Johnson's

run above Northumberland by using the digger. It is said that Jere Savidge disposes of the black diamonds at the rate of two tons for five dollars while a Shamokin Dam party is said

Bull's Head Flavoring Extract, the ouse-wife's indispensable companion are rapidly displacing all worthless goods. They are cheap as a good article can be made. Price 10 ctc.

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The first pipe organ was made by Archimedes B. C. 220.

Quick and sure ! One-third of a bottle cures neuralgia and backache. Mr. W. H. Gill, Byesville, Guernsey Co., O., writes: "I had a severe attack of neuralgia and pains in my back and shoulders, and after using onein all California to make a home garden third of a bottle of Salvation Oil was

A Woman's Back. It is the mainspring of her life.

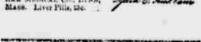
What can she do, where can she go, so long as that deadly backache saps every particle of her strength and ambition?

She cannot walk, she cannot stand; her housework is a burden; the hours behind the counter or in the factory are crushing; she is miscrable.

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letters grate-ful for physical salvation. The same salvation 95 is for you. Don't hesitate. All druggiste sell ft. or sent by mail, is form of Fills or Lotrespindence freely an-wered. Address in confi-dence, Lynka E. firsk-fram Menotcat. Co., Lynk, Mass. Liver Fills, 18.



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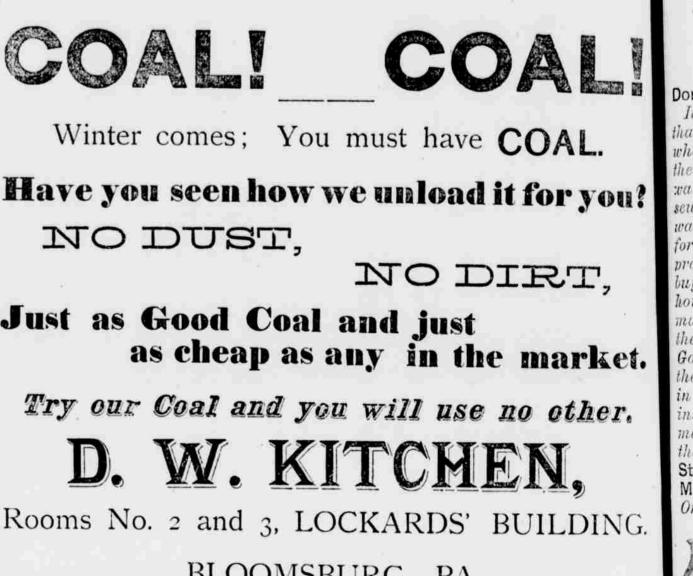
NO DIRT.



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B



Columbia, Now Called Wales," published in 1654. It contains the legendary narrative of the expedition of Prince Modoc and a Welsh company that voyaged to America prior to Columbus, but never returned. Many foreigners have sent to this country for abstracts from this rare volume.

The earliest known editions of Ptolemy's geography repose on the shelves of the Astor. The dates on their title pages range from 1478 to 1621. There is also a superb specimen of the "Biblia Sacra Latina" of 1462, the first edition of the Bible bound in old crimson morocco, with gilt edges, which is worth \$10,000. Inside the covers are the names of these "immortal printers," Johann Faust and Peter Schuffer. The oldest polyglat edition of the Scriptures, executed at the order of Cardinal Zimonsa, which cost 50,000 ducats in gold, and fifteen years for its preparation, is also at the Astor. The oldest manuscript of all is the "Lectiones Evangellis," printed on velian and containing whole pages of diant dians. This manuscript was executed by the monks in A. D. 1470. and is almost priceless in value. No oth willing in America possesses such a trusture. Next in point of antiquity is John Wyclif's English version of the Nes sincut, written in 1300, and contributer ine autobiography of Humphysy, dale of Gloucester. There are also two risks Persian manuscripts of the Fib. enth contury, besides manuaeripta of a off model white.

compotent Exprologists, Second in die Inte Miss Amelia B. 1983 ile. visit to this cuty, have pro-Banka ... library especially rich in which The groun work of THE: James Academan on the "Elists of Amerime" count my of four volumes, would schubby bring \$5,000. Ellistr's Indian 1912a, dated 1661, the first Bible printed in A merica; the Geneva, or the Breeches diffie of 1500; a copy of the papel Built eminst Lutier, 1520; rare Sinmese measurely b, and the valuable and in-mestion collection of autograph latters rom emperors, poets, statesmen, presilents, soldiers and authors are included in this collection .- New York Herald.

A Sunday Suit.

Mr. Constant Squabbler-What kind If a suit do you think I had better get br Sundays?

Mrs. C. S .- Well, if you want one to match your usual Sunday disposition, you had better get a pepper and salt mit.-Exchange.

cated Englishwoman of Lancashire yeoman stock was one of the first persons of wild flowers from field and hill. I able to go to work. remember in my boyhood the passionate devotion that she showed to this pursuit. "It do be the best land the sun ever

shone on," she declared, "for poor folk to have a garden .- Charles H. Shinn in Century.

The Juice of the Papaw Tree,

In his "History of Barbados" Griffith Hughes mentions that the juice of the papaw tree is of so penetrating a nature that, if the unripe peeled fruit be boiled with the toughest old salted meat, it quickly makes it soft and tender. Kersten also tells us that boiling meat with the juice of the papaw is quite a com-

Malagasy oren, we were in the habit of hanging the ration under the leaves themselves, and if we were in a hurry for a very tender piece of fillet, our cools would wrap up the undercut of the sirloin in the leaves, when the newly killed meat would be as tender as if it -Chambers' Journal.

A Baronet as a Constable.

Among the constables in the Royal Irish constabulary stationed at the depot in the Phenix park, Dublin, is Constable Sir Thomas Echlin, Bart. According to Debrett's baronetage the Echlin family is of ancient Scotch origin, and formerly possessed princely estates in Scotland, and also large domains in the counties of Kildare, Carlow, Dublin and Mayo, The third baronet dissipated a large portion of the family estates, and the fourth. fifth and sixth baronets managed to get through with the remainder. Then the present baronet found himself landless and entered the Royal Irish constabuhary .- Yankee Blade,

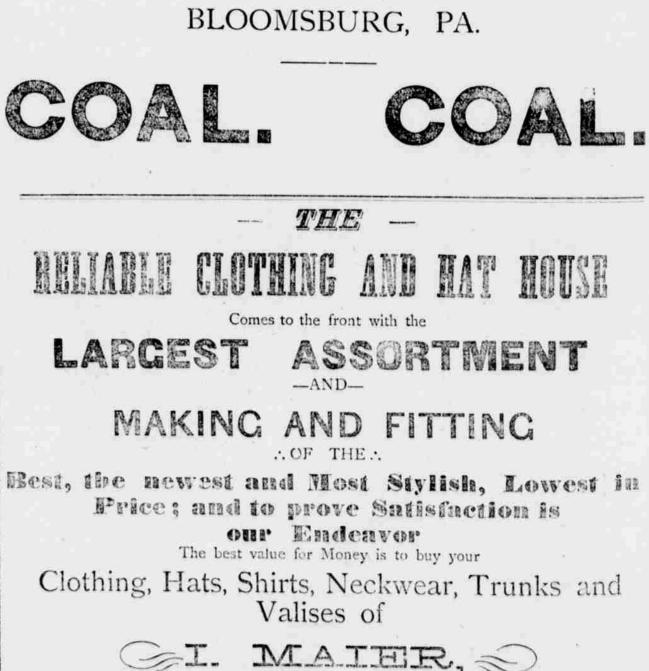
The Giant's Organ.

One of the most interesting features of the Giant's canseway is "The Giant's Organ." This huge "instrument" consists of a group of pillars of various lengths set spart on the side of the main cliff. The larger columns being in the center and the smaller ones tapering off on either side, after the fashion of organ pipes, admirably sustain the iden which the name "Giant's organ" conveys .- St. Louis Republic.

An Irresistible Appeal.

Men and women who understand the art of bending others to their will give due importance to the passion of vanity, and do not scruple to play upon it. A young French officer who was ordered to fire upon a French revolutionary mob, begged his general to let him try first to persuade them to withdraw, "It is uso-less to appeal to their reason," said the general. "Certainly," answered the officer; "and it is not to their reason, but to their vanity, I would appeal." The officer rode up to the front of the mob, doffed his cocked hat, pointed to the guns and mon thing in Ouito, Captain S. P. Oliver, writing in Na-Captain S. P. Oliver, writing in Nature, July 10, 1879, says, "In Mauritins, where we lived principally on ration beef cut from the tough fieth of the Malarity of the idea o During the agrarian riots which disturbed England in 1832, a mob of rickburners and machine-breakers appeared at the old mansion of two elderly maiden ladies. The walls of the hall were decorated with suits of armor and antique weapons-pikes, halberds, swords and had been hung for a considerable time," , battle axes. The mob clamored for the weapons and for drink. The ladies courageously refused their demands, and when the mob seemed ready to resort to violence, Miss Betty, the elder of the ladies, went up to the leader, a hideous-looking man, and said: "You, too, of all the people in the world! I'm not sur-prised at these poor misguided creatures. But that such a good looking, intelligent man as you should attack two defenceless women does astonish me! You are the man I should have looked to for protection. But you are not the man I took you for! Never again will I trust to good looks!" There was no standing up against that compliment. The man took off his hat, and said : "Come, old lady, we ain't so bad as all that! only give us some beer. We would not harm a hair of your head!" "No: I know that." retorted Miss Betty. "You can't: I wear a wig!" The mob roared with laughter, and retired without another word. Womanly tact had won the day.

> A gentleman is distinguished from a churl by the purity of sentiment he can reach in all these three passions-by his imaginative love as opposed to lust; his imaginative possession of wealth as opposed to avarice; his imaginative desire of honor as opposed to pride -Ruskin.



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