## THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

## LAUNCHING A BATTLESHIP.

### It is a Complex Problem, and a Slight Mistake Would Cost Millions.

Mistake Would Cost Millions. Albert Franklin Mathews tells an interesting story of "The Evolution of a Battleship" in the Century. This is a history of the construction of the In-diana, so far the only vessel of this class we have in our navy. After de-scribing the wonderful power of this monster, the most formidable engine of war in the world, and the manner of war in the world, and the mauner of its construction, Mr. Mathews says: So the building goes on until the launching day comes, and two broad ways are built up against the bottom of the vessel, and the keel blocks on which it has been resting are knocked away. In the launch of the Indiana Mr. Nixon ran a row of electric lights beneath the bottom of the vessel, adding another innovation to the details of American shipbuilding. Each taunching way consists of upper and lower planking, between which is spread thousands of pounds of the best tailow. At the bow of the boat these upper and lower planks are clamped together, and when all is ready they are sawed apart and the wessel starts. The upper part of the ways slides into the water with the vessel, and the lower part, with the smoking hot tailow, remains station-

A launch in these days is so smooth, and so soon ended, rarely occupying more than twelve seconds from start to finish, that one scarcely realizes its difficulties. Three things are absolutely necessary; it must be on time when the tidal wave is highest; it nuest be of smart speed, so as not to stick on its downward journey to the water, and it must be accomplished without straining. So complex a thing without straining. So complex a times is a haunch that the careful engineer-in-charge is able to estimate the strain on every part of the vessel for every position it occupies, at intervals of one foot, on its way down the incline. There is one supreme moment. It is when the vessel is nearly two-thirds in the water. The buoyancy of the water raises the vessel, and throws its weight on its shoulders. Here is where the greatest danger of strain-her comes and should the most head ing comes, and should the ways break down the vessel would be ruined, a matter of nearly \$2,000,000 in a ship like the Indiana, when it was launch-

The launch over, the muchinery is Bitted in and fitted, and then come the board of government experts, who look the vessel over inch by inch, the fires nce started and trial trip follows. For four hours amid suppressed excitement that answers nervously to every quiver of the vessel the engines are run at full speed. A premium or a penalty is at stake now. The breakage of a bolt or the disarrangement of a valve may mean thousands of dollars of loss to the contractors. Trained workmen are locked in the fire-rooms, not to be released until the test is over. Cooled drinking water with ontmeal sprinkled upon it is run down to them in a rubber tube from a barrel on the dock. A hose is played on the costly machinery in places where there is danger from overheating, as though it were on fire. Almost every pound of coal used on the trip is carefull selected.

When the four hours are passed and the strain is over, a sigh of relief from everyone on board, and even from the ressel herself, goes up, and the ship passes from the contractor to the government, and day after day while she in commission the flag will be enduted, and the score or more of other ceremonies and formalities observed on a man-of-war will follow.

Sinking an Artesian Milk Well. There comes, in the life of every man who cannot afford it, a time of burning unrest, when he is overpowby an uncontrollable desire to live in the country, writes Robert J. Burdette in the "Ladies' Home Jour-A railroad man, who doesn't nni." know for the life of him which end of the plow you hitch the horses to, is mways longing to go on a farm; a successful merchant, who vaguely knows that you dig potatoes, although by that he rather understands that you mine them, as you do coal; bankers, after a certain time of life, for a cheap iftele place, not too far out of town, where he can sink an artesian milk well and raise his own bananas, of which he is very food. And I once knew an able and eminent lecturer, who had lectured on "The Pyramids, Their Cause and Effect," for twenty years, and who was far more afraid of a horse than a tramp is of work, and who thought that cows shed their horns every spring, from which source the brass bands renewed their supply of instruments. Well, that man left platform at last and invested the spoils of many successful lecture tours in a stock farm. We cannot help it; aut of the dust we came; back to of the earth, and we do love to creep back into the mother-arms, and get our faces down close to the sweet old mother-heart, when the shadows begin to grow long, when the days of second childhood come upon us, and the time draws near when she will take us into her arms for the last time and hush us to sleep on her cool breast.

## SINGING MOUNTAIN.

#### Nevada Has a Musical Wonder, Whose Sweet Strains Puzzled Prospectors.

In the Truckee mining districts, down the Trackee river near Pyramid lake, is situated Nevada's musical This mountain was first mountain. discovered by the white settlers in 18%3, at which time there was some excitement. In regard to the mines found in its neighborhood. The discoverers were a party of prospectors from the Comstock.

They had pitched themselves at the foot of the mountain, and for a few evenings thought themselves bewitched. Each evening, a little after dark. when the air was calm and all was quilet, a mysterious concert began. Out from the face of the big mountain were waited soft strains that seemed to cause the whole atmosphere to quiver as they floated over the camp. The music then appeared to pass over until it was far, far away and almost lost in the distance, when, beginning with a tinkling as of many little sliver bells, there would be a fresh gust of

sweet notes from the mountain. During the daylight bours little of the mysterious music was heard, and It was soon settled that it was not caused by the wind. A spring near which the explorers had pitched their tent afforded the only good camping grounds in the neighborhood, and as each new party of prospectors arrived

at the spot the wonder grew. Some Plute Indians who came along and camped at the spring were found to be acquainted with the peculiar musical character of the mountain. They called it the "Singing MountoIn.

Some of the men collected in the camp became more interested in the mountain than in prospecting, and gave most of their time to an investigation of the mysteries of the musical sounds heard to proceed from it. They found that the whole face of the mounthin was covered with thin flakes of

At all events, the strains heard at the foot of the mountain in the even-ing's stillness scomed to be produced by the uniting and blanding of the myriads of bell-like tinklings proceed-ing from the immense beds of slaty teletis creeping, glacier-like, down the

slope. This solution of the mystery of the musical mountain is the only one worthy of notice. As no mines of value were found, the district was soon deerted and has since seldom been visit. d. Therefore few, except the old-time respectors, knew much about the singing mountain.-Virginia Enterprise.

How Mehrmann Became a Lion-Tamer. Mr. Mehrmann, who is perhaps as high an authority on the subject of wild-heast taming as there is, says that the only special qualities he knows of that favors the highest kind of high that are requisite to the tamer, are a perfect freedom from nervousness and inexhaustible patience; and he holds that almost any man who will take the necessary time and trouble can become one. Five years ago he imself was engaged in business in Germany, and had never so much as thought of entering a lion's cage. He knew nothing about wild beasts except what he had picked up in a gen-eral way from his brother-in-law, Carl Hagenbeck. He had never had any fondness for the society of tigers or lions, and if any one had predicted that five years later he would be one of the most skillful tamers in the world, he would have considered the

## The Widowed Farmer.

## BY ROBLEY D. STEVENSON.

Since Hanner died the sun don't shine so

bright, The stars don't twinkle near so keen at night, The church bell Sunday morain' ain't cheer

It had when she was here, Since Hanner died.

The very chickens misses Hanner's care, And go round with a sorter lonesome air ; There ain't no kind of joy about the place Without her smilin' face, Since Hanner died.

The garden tools hangs in the apple trees, The hossweeds are akillin' off the peas; There's no one here to hoe the taters now. Er feed the hogs an' cow, Since Hanner died.

I s'pose, of course, I'd orter be resigned, But when I go out in the shed and find The ax she chop ped the wood with all these

years. I wet it with my tears, Since Hanner died.

One word describes it-" perfection." We refer to DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve ; cures obstinate sores, burns, skin diseases and is a well known cure for piles .-- W. S. Rishton Druggist. tf.

## Special Favors and Their Ourtailment.

The favored high protectionist, no matter what his politics or whether his favored industry he located in the north or south, is apt to outch, whine and rebel whenever for the general good and for the sake of equity it becomes necessary to somewhat curtrail his benefits. "Splitting the solid South" is what Republicans call witha hard crystalline rock. There were great beds of these flakes. The inves-ignores concluded that the musical sounds heard proceeded from this hose material, huge drifts of which seemed to be gradually working their way down the steep face of the mounof the south want of course is the continued nonopoly that the Republi cans offer not only to them, but to all our arrogant and highly protected industries. If the issue of protecting the few to the injury of the many will not split the solid south, then she is, indeed, politically impregnable. It is said the Louisiana sugar-planters want protection and monopoly of the sugar business a great deal worse than they want a solid south or anything else within the gift of the Democratic party. And, hoping for this special advantage, without regard to what sugar may cost the boardinghouse keeper it is said they have already ceased to be Democrats, and will hereafter affiliate with the party protection for the classes. As for the masses they can kind of look after themselves, and by attending to their own business they will have enough to do, especially if they keep out of debt and pay for their sugar, coal, iron, &c., at the high protective rates that our sympathetic home producers exact from them.

All the talk in the world will not

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We believe this is a time of special advantage for buyers to lay in their clothes. In many instances, at the outlay of just half last year's money you are provided with dependable Clothing for which you have the guarantee of this house that quality is right. The imperative pressure to sell governs all our prices. It's impossible mostly to buy as low. It's impossible to buy lower, unless you waste your money for what isn't trustworthy. Bring back anything you buy from us, if you're dissapointed anyway.

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A trio with which we are not afraid to meet all competition. Look at them before you buy a drill. The price is right.

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Reeping Woodwork Clean. Of all woodwork that with the high

carnish polish is the most difficult to keep looking well-it is so easy to mar it and so difficult to repair, writes James Thomson in the Ladies' Home Iournal. When dents and scratches do not go entirely through the polish they may sometimes be removed by rubbing over with linseed oil and rotten stone, using a small piece of flat feit to do the rubbing. Care, however, should be used so as not to rub too hard.

Hardwood floors, if polished with shellae or varnish, may be first washed with soap and water, and then thoroughly rubbed with a cloth, wet with oil and turpentine or kero-sene and water; this will make them book as well as when new. Floors finished by the waxen method of our uncestors may be revived by the use of turpentine.

A Use. "I don't see what business a kicker has on earth." said the irritable man. "Oh." replied the philosopher, "he is very useful." "How."

"He makes you appreciate the people who are good-natured."

ness failure and was questioning what he should do.

"Why don't you become a lion-tamer?" said Carl Hagenbeck to him one day. "An intelligent man like you ought surely to be able to manage animals as well as the thick-headed fellows who work for me."

man crazy. But he suffered a busi-

Mr. Mehrmann thought it over, and decided that he would act on Hagenbeck's suggestion.

A few weeks later a new consign ment of hons and tigers arrived at Hamburg, directly from Asia and Africa, where they had been but re-cently caught. None of them was as much as a year old. Unless animals taken at less than three years. 320 they cannot be trained. But with these cubs Mr. Mehrmann had no more difcubs Mr. Mearmann and no more dif-ficulty than the most experienced tamer would have had. He entered their cages every day, and at the end of a few months had made them unlerstand that he was their master .-McClure's Magazine.

Explained At Last.

He-"Why do you women always be gin a novel at the end instead of the beginning?"

She-"In the first place, we don't do anything of the kind. In the second place, if we did it would be because the end of the book is where the mar-ringe confes in, and we naturally want the disagreeable part of the 192 story d'sposed of, so we are free to enjoy the lovemaking."-Cincinnati Tribune.

#### Mrs. Sherwood's Quaint Idea.

Mrs. John Sherwood, not being able to send expensive presents to the wed-dings of her friends, has a quaint idea f her own. She will write upon parchmott some original lines apropos to e occasion, the them daintily with hite ribbons and send it, with grawords of congratulation. One of last fail's brides has had one sent to her framed, and she thinks as much of it as if it had been a parure of dia

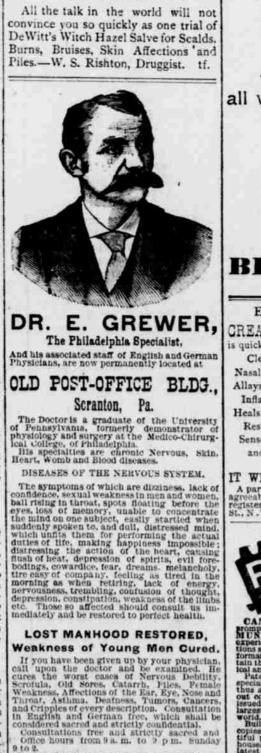
#### French Schools to Be Clean.

Scientific cleanliness and health are alle promoted in France. Boiled water to drink, school rooms cleaned with thup cloths instead of dry dusters i brooms, and an antiseptic cleans by the prefects of the French educadepartments of the various seinonis.

What's Du a Name.

This is a beautiful moonlight scene a wave here, isn't it?"

Miss Bruches—"I will see in just a scient, when I find the little book but I keep the names in."-Chicago thur-Ocean.



2 10 2.

9 to 2. Enclose five 2-cent stamps for symptom blanks and my book called "New Life." I will pay one thousand dollars in gold to anyone whom I cannot cure of EPILEPTIC CONVULSIONS or FITS.

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