

LAUNCHING A BATTLESHIP.

It is a Complex Problem, and a Slight 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 Indiana, so far the only vessel of this class we have in our navy.

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.

The launch over, the machinery is lifted in and fitted, and then come the board of government experts, who look the vessel over inch by inch, the fires are 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.

When the four hours are passed and the strain is over, a sigh of relief from everyone on board, and even from the vessel herself, goes up, and the ship passes from the contractor to the government, and day after day while she is in commission the flag will be saluted, and the scores 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 overpowered by an uncontrollable desire to live in the country, writes Robert J. Burdette in the "Ladies' Home Journal." A railroad man, who doesn't know for the life of him which end of the plow you hitch the horses to, is always 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 little 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 fond.

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 Journal. When dents and scratches do not go entirely through the polish they may sometimes be removed by rubbing over with flannel oil and rotten stone, using a small piece of flat felt to do the rubbing.

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

SINGING MOUNTAIN.

Nevada Has a Musical Wonder, Whose Sweet Strains Puzzled Prospectors. In the Truckee mining districts, down the Truckee river near Pyramid lake, is situated Nevada's musical mountain. This mountain was first discovered by the white settlers in 1853, at which time there was some excitement in regard to the mines found in its neighborhood.

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 quiet, a mysterious concert began. Out from the face of the big mountain were wafted soft strains that seemed 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 silver bells, there would be a fresh gust of sweet notes from the mountain.

At all events, the strains heard at the foot of the mountain in the evening's stillness seemed to be produced by the rattling and blending of the myriads of bell-like tinklings proceeding from the immense beds of slaty tubers creeping, glacier-like, down the slope.

How Mehrmann Became a Lion-Tamer. Mr. Mehrmann, who is perhaps as high an authority on the subject of wild-beast taming as there is, says that the only special qualities he knows of that are requisite to the tamer, are a perfect freedom from nervousness and an inexhaustible patience; and he holds that almost any man who will take the necessary time and trouble can become one.

Explained At Last. He—"Why do you women always begin 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 marriage comes in, and we naturally want to get the disagreeable part of the story disposed of, so we are free to enjoy the lovemaking."

Mrs. Sherwood's Quaint Idea. Mrs. John Sherwood, not being able to send expensive presents to the weddings of her friends, has a quaint idea of her own. She will write upon parchment some original lines apropos to the occasion, tie them daintily with white ribbons and send it, with gracious words of congratulation. One of last fall's brides had one sent to her framed, and she thinks as much of it as if it had been a parure of diamonds.

French Schools to Be Clean. Scientific cleanliness and health are to be promoted in France. Boiled water to drink, school rooms cleaned with soap and water, and dry dusts used instead of dry dusts, and an antiseptic cleanser used once a week, are the orders given by the prefects of the French educational departments of the various schools.

What's In a Name. "This is a beautiful moonlight scene you have here, isn't it?" "Miss Brewster—"I will see in just a moment, when I find the little book that I keep the names in."—Chicago Daily Ocean.

The Widowed Farmer.

Since Hanner died the sun don't shine so bright, The stars don't twinkle near so keen at night, The church bell Sunday mornin' ain't the cheer.

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 hoesweeds are skillin' 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 chopped the wood with all these years, I wet it with my tears, Since Hanner died.

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The favored high protectionist, no matter what his politics or whether his favored industry he located in the north or south, is apt to ouch, whine and rebel whenever for the general good and for the sake of equity it becomes necessary to somewhat curtail his benefits. "Splitting the solid South" is what Republicans call withholding bounties from those of the south who want of course to monopolize the sugar making industry by controlling the output and regulating the prices.

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