

FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

MR. TURNIP'S COMPLAINT. Mr. Turnip sat sighing, And this was his moan— "Those tiresome young rabbits Won't leave me alone."

"They nibble and nibble On this side and that— They think I've no feeling, Because I am fat."

So sighed the poor Turnip, With tears in his eyes— "Oh, would that those rabbits Were made into pies!"

—[St. Louis Republic.]

WHAT A POTTED PLANT CAN DO.

A little potted plant was given to a boy by a kind-hearted neighbor. The boy's family was poor, and their manner of living was not as neat as it might have been.

First, they cleaned the window glass so that the plant might get more light. Then, when it was not too cold, they would raise the window for the plant to have fresh air, hoping thus to make it grow better.

When they saw how clean the window was they suddenly found the rest of the room untidy. So they washed the floor, cleaned and rearranged the furniture and "put things to rights" generally.

Gradually it dawned upon the father that several chairs needed mending, as their dilapidated condition did not suit the changed appearance of the room. To mend them he stayed at home several evenings, and the habitues of the "loafing place" missed him. After awhile they missed him altogether, for he had found that it was a pretty good idea, after all, to stay at home in the evening.

He saved money by the change, besides being the better for it in other respects. The whole family was the better for it, too. Can you profit by the moral of this little story and give your neighbor a potted plant, too? Try it. —[New Orleans Picayune.]

THE SOLITARY CHESS PLAYER.

In the early half of the century lived a kind, venerable Turk. His charitable impulses unfortunately being limited by not overabundant means, he had adopted the method of assessing privately the rich of the land a percentage of their incomes, trusting to his persuasion and the noble purpose to collect the bounty wherewith to relieve his suffering fellow-men.

So systematically did he proceed that he kept himself informed of the revenues of the different individuals, and had Ben Ali lost severely at the card-table since his preceding visit, or otherwise met with financial reverses, his contribution was lowered, and that of those enriched thereby correspondingly increased.

Once, when starting on one of his regular semi-annual tours of collection, and riding through a dense forest, he came upon a Turk deeply engaged in a solitary game of chess. Prompted by curiosity he reined in his mule, and after a while opened conversation by asking who was the winner.

The player apparently was too deeply interested to notice him for a few moments, then arising with evident disgust, he replied, "I lost."

"Who won?" "Allah."

"Allah? How much did you lose?" asked the venerable Turk, in surprise. "Twenty piasters."

"And how do you pay Allah?" he continued. Thereupon the Turk explained that it was his daily habit to play a game of chess on that secluded spot with Allah as opponent, he alone being worthy to take his losses, and that Allah at regular intervals sent an emissary in the form of some traveller to collect the bounty due him. In this instance it was undoubtedly the person before him, and accordingly he handed over his purse containing 100 piasters, the losses of five games.

Much pleased at this unexpected contribution to his fund, and mentally resolving to come by the same way on his return trip and collect Allah's further dues, the venerable man rode on.

Returning after an interval of five days, he again fell in with the eccentric player.

"Who won to-day?" he asked, as the other rose. "I won to-day," was the reply.

"How much did you win?" "You see," was the explanation, "Allah is a much better player than I. When I win, it costs me 20 piasters; when I lose, I get 100 piasters, and Allah always sends an emissary to pay his debts. Pay up, old man."

With these words, and leveling a pair of cocked pistols at the stupefied traveler, the brigand captured his purse containing nearly twice the amount that he claimed as his due from Allah. —[Harper's Young People.]

"THE LARGEST KITE IN THE WORLD."

Dudley Hill, Massachusetts, is just the place for kite-flying; and it was here, August 31, 1891, that "The Uncle Sam" was planned and built. It was the result of much studying and calculation by a certain Uncle Sam and his nephew, and its great size, together with its beauty, makes it deserving of more than local reputation.

The frame was made of six ash sticks, split back about four feet from the center and bolted to a hub six inches thick and eight inches in diameter. The sticks were about two and a half by two inches, tapering to one inch by three quarters. The whole frame weighed thirty-four pounds, was twenty-two feet high, sixteen feet wide, and about seventy feet in circumference. With its wire and coarse twine to keep the cover from bagging and to strengthen it, it looked like an immense spider-web. When not in use it was strapped under the eaves of a large barn, as no barn door was big enough to admit the high frame.

The cover was made of unbleached cotton cloth, strengthened in the six corners with canvas; and it took forty yards of material. A quarter-inch manila rope was bound into the edge, and the corners were provided with small snaps which fastened into rings on the ends of the sticks.

The cover alone, when completed, weighed thirteen pounds.

Coarse burlap from cotton bales made the tail, which was one hundred feet long and weighed eleven pounds. The burlap was cut in strips twelve inches wide, sewn together end to end, then knotted with streamers four feet apart.

The flying-rigging was constructed upon certain plans of Uncle Sam's, and was similar to those described in previous numbers of St. Nicholas, with the exception that the upper part of the kite was strengthened by two additional staying-cords. These cords were hooked into rings on the frame half-way from the top to the hub; then the flying-cords of proper length were fixed, like the cover, with snaps and rings, and were snapped together in a common iron ring about one and one half inches in diameter, to which the flying-cord was attached. The flying-cord and flying-rigging were of one-quarter inch manila rope, stout enough to bear a strain of five hundred pounds.

On Monday morning, August 31, we found a strong, steady wind blowing, and, amid much excitement, the cover was laid face downward in one of the largest of Dudley pastures, the frame put upon it and snapped into place. The excitement increased as the six men who handled it took their place to launch the great air-ship; for had there not been plenty of scoffers, who doubted the ability of the wind to raise a fifty-eight pound kite?

"The Uncle Sam" was lifted from its face by two men at the top walking down by its edge and seizing the two lower corners; a third man about fifteen feet from the face of the kite held the flying-line. Three other men were at the reel.

When the word was given, "The Uncle Sam" rose steadily of its own accord, and after hovering on the wind for a few seconds, as if in doubt, finally took the line as it was paid out and rose to a height of one thousand feet, followed by cheers from the enthusiastic spectators, old and young.

Some idea of its pulling power may be gained from the fact that four men were just able to hold it. A large pair of scales were attached to the line, and it was estimated that the pulling capacity varied from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred and fifty pounds. —[St. Nicholas.]

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

NEW TWO-COLOR PRINTING PRESS. — Mr. F. X. Hooper of Baltimore, Md., has invented a rotary printing press which prints two colors at once from Princeton curved stereotyped plates. The press is the first in which this double-color printing has been accomplished by the rotary principle.

KEPT TIME FOR TWO CENTURIES. — For nearly two centuries the clock built by Langley Bradley, in 1703, has been going steadily in the southwestern campanile of St. Paul's Cathedral, London; but, although the works remain in excellent condition, the authorities ordered its removal, and it has been taken down to make room for a clock of modern construction. People in the city are asking why this expense should have been incurred, for St. Paul's clock was one of the few which kept accurate time, and there was apparently no reason why it should not have continued to do so. It was an eight-day clock, and struck the hours and quarters. The pendulum is sixteen feet long, and the bob weighs 180 pounds, and yet was suspended by a spring scarcely the thickness of a shilling. It cost £300. For the present, and probably during the next few weeks, the clock-dials will remain without the minute hands, which are nine feet eight inches in length and weigh seventy-five pounds. The hour hands are about four feet shorter. —[London Telegraph.]

COLORS OF THE OCEAN. — A number of interesting charts, illustrating the colors of the ocean, have been presented to the Paris Museum by Prof. Pouchot, with accompanying explanations. It is well known that M. Pouchot some time ago proved, after extended investigations, that the differences in the color of various parts of the ocean are due to differences in the water itself and not to the presence of vegetation and insects, and the new charts in question confirm this view. It seems that he and his associate, M. de Carfort, watched together the Atlantic from Spitzbergen to Scotland and the Norwegian coast, and with such thoroughness as to admit of nothing escaping their attention. Their observations show that the transition from one color to another is often very rapid; that near Spitzbergen the water is blue, then it changes to green as soon as the Norwegian froids are entered. For such sudden changes no sufficient cause has up to the present time been assigned; and, though it has been known for centuries that blue is the prevailing color in active water, the most recently published observations show that such a color distinguishes other localities also.

VALUABLE RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS UPON ANIMALS. — In a recent article Sir Andrew Clark gives a brief list of the benefits mankind have derived from experiments upon animals. He says: "By experimental research we have discovered the conditions for using with efficacy and safety almost all the stronger and more useful drugs, such as digitalis, chloroform, ether, chloral, nitrate of amyl, nitro-glycerine, and many others. By experiments on animals we have discovered the nature and relations of infectious diseases, and how in some measure to control the development and spread of fevers, cholera, anthrax and septicemia. Through experiments on animals [the] legs of Galvani's immortal frogs. —[Ed.] we have received the electric telegraph, and all the various services which electricity now renders to the conveniences and services of man. And yet with all these services before us, one cannot (in England) scratch the neck of a rabbit for the advancement of knowledge without becoming a legal criminal. But, on the other hand, for your pleasure or for your profit, or for any other object than the promotion of knowledge, you may, without let or hindrance, beat, starve, mutilate or destroy as many animals as you please. Knowledge can only be advanced by experiment. . . . and lastly, if experimental research hardens the hearts of experimenters it is only too plain that an active antagonism to it begets a disregard of accuracy, a violation of charity, and a spirit of calumny that have no parallel among ordinary men." —[Independent.]

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction.

Mr. J. B. DYKE, a Colorado capitalist, cured a case of dipomania the other day very promptly, though unintentionally. Mr. Dyke wears a very curious scarf. It is a tiny chameleon about three inches long, which is confined to his scarf by a fine gold chain. Sometimes the little animal sprays with outstretched legs on Mr. Dyke's shirt bosom, sometimes it clings to the lapel of his coat, and again takes refuge under his vest. In shape it is ungainly; in motion ungraceful, but as it lies peacefully breathing upon his shirt front, scarf or coat lapel, its ever changing flush of colors is beautiful. Through the green sometimes shines the gold; upon an inhalation purple mingles with and drives away the gold; next is a hideous black, and then a glow of red or orange, and so on ad infinitum the hues chase each other until a curious finger makes the reptile seek cover. It is perfectly harmless. A few days ago, while traveling, Mr. Dyke went into the office with some of his friends to take a drink. A party of traveling men were there for the same purpose, and one of them had evidently been there a good many times. He was just raising his glass to his lips with an unsteady hand when he caught sight of Mr. Dyke's lizard. He put the glass down unfastidiously, and remarked to Mr. Dyke: "That is a strange scarf you wear." Mr. Dyke took the man in the situation at a glance, and replied: "What pin? I wear no pin." He brushed his hand over his scarf, and the chameleon ran over on his coat collar. "Great Heavens, man, it's alive!" cried the drummer; "it's on your collar now."

"My dear fellow, you're mistaken," said Mr. Dyke, putting his hand to his collar while the lizard shot under his vest. "There's nothing there. Have a drink with me." The drummer stared at the collar where the lizard had been. "It looked like a lizard on fire," he remarked. "But I guess it is my brain on fire instead. I reckon I'll stop drinking." and he walked away, leaving his liquor untasted.

HEARING the statement made in Holly Springs, Miss., that a remarkable negro woman freak lived only a few miles from this town, a Times-Democrat correspondent determined to obtain the facts in the case. A middle-aged negro greeted the visitor. The woman is quite dark, of a pronounced African type of physiognomy, five feet three inches tall, and in fair health, but has never had any children. She wore a white cotton turban tied about her head and tucked in at the back to support the immense weight of her hair. This she removed and laid upon the table, and unwound the beads of her wonderful hair, which went many times around her head, and dropped it upon the floor. It was, indeed, an amazing sight. Three braids almost as thick as a man's arm close to the head, but tapering to the thickness of a finger at the ends, closely plaited and measuring eight feet six inches, braided as it is, in length. It looks a good deal like Spanish moss, but is darker, crinkled, and grizzled, coarse and almost repulsive to the touch, suggesting ghastly stories of the abnormal growth of hair after death.

DANIEL McKEEL, a young colored man of Helena, Ark., is puzzling the physicians. About a year ago, while having an epileptic fit, he fell into an open fire-place and when found he was lying in the fire in an unconscious condition. His scalp, the muscles of his head and the bones of the side, as well as the tissues covering the left shoulder, were parched. He was in an unconscious condition for two days and recollected no incidents happening prior to his regaining consciousness. The bone and flesh were burned from his head to such an extent that the pulsation of the brain could be felt. Very little medical attention was given him. Only household remedies being applied. The burn removed one-half of the skull. Now, after a year, the bony substance of the skull is being reconstructed and bids fair to completely heal, making almost new bony covering for the brain. The man has fewer fits than he had before the accident. His mind is clear and he now does the work of an ordinary farm hand.

A VERY useful kind of tree to have in one's front yard is reported as growing near some springs about twelve miles north of Tuscarora. Its truly wonderful characteristic is its luminosity, which is so great that on the darkest night it can be plainly seen a mile away. A person standing near could read the finest print by its light. It is about six feet high, with a trunk which at its base is three times the size of an ordinary man's wrist. Its foliage is extremely rank and its leaves resemble somewhat those of the aromatic bay tree in shape, size and color. The luminous property is due to a gummy substance, which can be transferred to the hand by rubbing. The principal objection to the use of this kind of tree for a street lamp would seem to be that its luminosity is probably due simply to phosphorescence, and therefore if it were not planted in a damp place and if the sun did not shine every day, it would not be up to candle-power at night.

A BEAUTIFUL marine phenomenon in the shape of an electrical storm is recorded by the Sunderland steamer Fulwell, on her voyage from Bremen to Baltimore, says Lightning. The electrical display occurred after dark. The most peculiar part of the occurrence was that while the lightning flashed a winter gale was blowing furiously and the sea was running very high. The storm lasted about two hours, and the captain states that it was the most remarkable he ever witnessed. The ship times seemed abate fore and aft, and while no damage was done, it was several times thought that she had been struck. The very beauty of the scene was awful. The blackness of the night was converted into unsurpassed brilliancy. Even the ocean seemed ablaze, and the waves as they dashed upon one another resembled tongues of fire.

Four hunters were snowbound in the mountains at the headwaters of the

Wynoochee River, Washington, for five weeks during February and the beginning of this month. When the storm which snowed them up came they exhausted their stock of provisions and had killed eleven elk. They lost their gun and were three days without food, when they killed an eagle. Later they found an elk powerless in the deep snow. They lived on elk and eagle alone for over a month. The snow was eight to fifteen feet deep, and they could not make any progress through it. Eventually they reached a deserted camp and found an axe, with which they split wood and made rude snowshoes, by means of which they got back to civilization.

The novel charge of stealing a house and the furniture it contained, together with a sheep corral, a load of hay, and other sundries, and carting the whole business away, was preferred against a man in Walla Walla, Wash., the other day. He was formerly a resident of that town, and a year ago he took up a ranch, adjoining a sheep farm, in Yakima county. The owner of the farm alleges that during the absence of his men the accused tore down the house and the sheep corral and removed them, together with the household furniture, a ton of hay, and other things, to his farm, on which he rebuilt the house, putting the furniture into it. The accused says it is a plot to get him out of the country, the sheepmen wanting the water on his farm.

An example of marvellous industry and power to overcome adverse circumstances is given by Max Meyer, who was born blind in Berlin twenty-eight years ago. He received his first instruction from a teacher of the blind and later attended the Sophien-Real-Gymnasium, a scientific college in Berlin. He was always among the best students in the college and passed a brilliant final examination. He entered the University of Berlin a few years ago, to study mathematics, mechanics and philosophy. He took the degree of Ph. D. a few weeks ago, preparing a dissertation upon the differential calculus which excited the admiration of his professors.

An authentic whale story comes from Grand Manan, in the Bay of Fundy, which rivals any told in the country for years, says the Boston Herald. Two Grand Manan fishermen, Cronk and Winchester, cast their anchor off their boat and threw out their lines in quest of cod. Suddenly their boat began to move through the water, and a whale rose to the surface. The anchor was fastened in his blowhole, and with the boat plowing through the water after him he started toward the shore, got into shallow water and stranded. Cronk and Winchester killed his whale with axes and sold the carcass for \$75.

CAPTAIN Frederick P. Cornell died at his home in Warren, R. I., after a brief illness, in the 73d year of his age. He was a native of Dartmouth, Mass., and made several whaling voyages in command of New Bedford and Warren vessels. Once he was dragged down by a whale by a coil of rope encircling his leg. With presence of mind and pluck he drew his sheath knife, and, slashing across his leg at the rope, severed the latter with the second blow when 90 feet below the surface. This blow saved his life.

A STRANGE case is reported from Lewiston, Me., of a man named Whitman who possesses wonderful power at his fingers' tips. When he holds his arms at an angle of 45 degrees he becomes a Samson in strength. He easily lifts cows, toys with fat men on tables as without their caps on. Two of them are more than seven feet in height and the other is a little less. Old Mr. Frank, their father, is remembered as being taller than any one of them. Their occupation is put down as woodmen, farmers, hunters and horse-swallows.

ANOTHER instance of the complete petrification of a human body is reported, this time at Carlyle, Ill. The remains of John Russell, who was buried there six years ago, were exhumed and were found changed to stone, the features and form being faithfully preserved.

Funerals in Mexico.

A funeral is treated with much respect in Mexico. None so proud who will not lift his hat to do it reverence. The burial is on the day of death if possible, and the priest repairs to the house and celebrates divine service for the repose of the departed soul upon an improvised altar of flowers and candles. This is in full view of passers by on the street, who respectfully kneel on the pavement. Others in the distance see them and also kneel, so that for two or three blocks up and down may be seen men, women, and children on the open street in attitudes of prayer. This, however, more correctly describes the practice of the poorer people. The upper stratum of society is more reserved in its devotions.

One street in Mexico, near the National Palace, called the Calle Tolaqueros, is filled from end to end with tobacconists, whose wares, in different stages of completion, are piled on the curb in gruesome confusion. The wayfarer who pauses a moment to look at the unusual scene is immediately surrounded by the tradesmen, who inquire, in voluble Spanish, if he wants a coffin.

Of course he doesn't, but that makes no difference, and he has to run the gantlet until he gets out of the street, just as people here have to do who pass the clothing dealers on Baxter Street. —[New York Times.]

AN association of artists, architects and citizens with artistic tastes is to be formed in the endeavor to raise the artistic standard of the public buildings of New York City and the statues and monuments in the parks and other public places.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ARMOR FOR SOLDIERS.

The six counties in Texas that border on the Rio Grande River between Eagle Pass and Brownsville, although rich in soil, especially the bottom-lands, receive scarcely any cultivation because of the lawlessness prevailing along the frontier. For cotton and semi-tropical fruits there is no better soil in the State. Nevertheless it is given up to stock-raising, and even this industry is not extensive by reason of the raids of cattle thieves. The Dallas News says: "The only way to protect this country without a standing army the entire distance is to build a railroad from Brownsville to Eagle Pass running within a few hundred feet of the river all along the route. It is true this would require a road three times as long as one would be if built on an air line, but no other road would protect the country. Such a road would not be an expensive one, for there would be no heavy grading to do or bridges to build larger than a culvert. With such a road the country could be protected, for the Government could throw troops at any given point along the road in a very few hours, and by showing that such a road would be a military necessity Congress would by an act help build the road, provided it could use the road when needed without further charge than to pay the running expenses for the conveyance of troops and supplies, for it has already expended money enough on that border to build two such roads. With such a road that country would be settled at lightning speed. The charcoal would fall like cornstalks before the reapers, and sugar mills and cotton gin houses would rise as if by magic."

TRINITY CHURCH, Omaha, Neb., has adopted the nickel-in-the-slot idea as the means of liquidating its church debt. At the close of each session of the Sunday school, the superintendent brings forth an artistically shaped red-lettered nickel with a slot in the lid. It is called the birthday box. The man of discretion invites all who have had birthdays during the preceding week to come forward and deposit a nickel for each year of their age. It is supposed, of course, that none but the superintendent and the cheerful giver sees and counts the nickels as they drop into the box, which, as a precautionary measure, is padlocked. The scheme is reported to be a great success, as from one to three persons pay tribute and make silent confession each week. The report fails to state whether the superintendent ever forgets his discretion or whether the bottom of the receptacle is padded to prevent would-be snoopers from counting the nickels as they plink-plunk, plink-plunk into the box.

A PROSPEROUS season would seem to be in store for the farmers and viticulturists of California who depend on irrigation to bring their products to maturity, the snow in the valleys of the Sierras being unusually deep. The total fall for the months of December, 1892, and January and February, 1893, in the townships of Truckee, Cisco, and Boca, for instance, according to statistics of the Government Weather Bureau, was 145, 231, and 148 inches respectively, or about four times as great as for the corresponding months a year ago. The great valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin will be especially benefited, since without abundant water turned into their fields by artificial means the farmer's occupation would be gone. Last year fruit fell unripe from the trees owing to the lack of moisture in the trunks. There is only one thing that might spoil the prospect—a period of warm weather that would melt the snow in the canyons rapidly, and cause the ditches to overflow and flood the lowlands.

"AMERICANS are the most wasteful people in the world," says a man who has been living in China and Japan for some years. "What the American family throws away would keep a European family from starving and would feed a Chinese or Japanese family. It is not merely food that we waste; it is fuel. Look at this," and he produced a cylinder of bronze as large as a "plug" hat. "Here is a Chinese stove, or oven. With four or five pieces of charcoal a Mongolian will make tea and cook rice and eggs over that, while an American domestic would use up at least a hod of coal in the same operation. Lucky we are rich or we couldn't keep up our national extravagance."

The English Horticultural College reports that several applications have been received for women head gardeners, and one for a woman to take entire charge of conservatories and green houses. The students are trained in all branches of fruit, vegetable and flower culture, as well as taught how to make jam and fruit juices, and the science of canning, crystallizing, and evaporating fruit. The course also includes botany, chemistry, horticulture, bookkeeping, and physics.

The London General Post-office will soon be a telephone between London and Dublin. Glasgow merchants will soon be able to communicate with Belfast by the same means. In time it is intended to form a complete circuit by which the cities of Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow and London will all be enabled to have telephonic communication one with another.

ALMOST invariably the latter-day inventions of war materials have tended to increase the destructiveness to life and property of the instruments employed. Now, however, a German genius comes to the front with a preparation to make a cloth cuirass, or breast armor, bullet-proof. This is a pleasant departure—if there must ever again be war.

Music Needed by Invalids.

In the Medical Magazine Doctor Blackman says that the effect of music is transmitted by the reflex action of the nerves which govern the blood supply, that it directly affects the circulation of the blood, the blood pressure sometimes rising and sometimes falling, and that the action of music on animals and man expresses itself for the most part by increased frequency of the beats of the heart. That, hence, music is needed for the invalid and becomes an important factor in restoring the nervous invalid to health.

American Officers Take Little Stock in the Alleged Bullet-Proof Uniforms.

A series of experiments with so-called bullet-proof uniforms has recently been made at Vienna. Dove, a tailor, is the inventor of the new armor. His idea is that soldiers should wear in action a bullet-proof, flexible composition, faced with cloth, and buttoned over or under the uniform. He claims that steel-faced jackets from modern rifles have failed to penetrate the stuff at any distance over 60 metres. At less than 200 metres the shock of a bullet might render a man dead in the armor unconscious. Whatever may be the real value of the invention, it is certain that a Berlin firm has offered Herr Dove an enormous sum for his patent.

Major General Howard, of the United States Army, does not believe that armor will be introduced into modern warfare during the next two decades at least. "For years," he said, "we have been doing experiments of this nature being made. They are favorably commented upon at the outset, but prove failures eventually and are forgotten. The last important battle in which armor figured was Waterloo. You remember the results there? Napoleon's steel-clad cuirassiers were simply cut to pieces by the English. Their armor proved no protection whatever, and although the English and Prussians had armored troops on the field they kept them almost entirely out of the action."

There is nothing in the law of nations prohibiting the use of armor, I fancy there will never be any need for the invention of such a clause. The chief objections to armor are easily summed up. If the armor be strong enough to be really bullet-proof it is sure to be too heavy for marching. If it be light enough for marching, it cannot be strong enough to adequately resist bullets. With regard to Herr Dove's invention, I am inclined to think that it is an improvement on the invention of Herr Karl Scarmed, which was tested in several countries some years ago. Scarmed's armor was of unpressed hemp, stitched together and put under hydraulic pressure. It was thoroughly tested, and found to be useless in time of war. The Dove invention is probably the same stuff, with the addition of a wire netting.

General Howard was asked if any branch of the American army had ever worn armor, and he answered: "Some regiments of Federal troops during the Civil War tried chain armor. It did not turn out to be a success, and was soon abandoned."

Said Lieutenant H. Bean, U. S. A. ex-Government Instructor to State Militias: "Should armor or a modification of armor, ever be re-introduced, the art of war will be revolutionized. Candidly, I do not anticipate any such event. I witnessed the tests made with the Scarmed armored uniform. Scarmed exhibited his hempen material with bullets twisted in its meshes, yet when the armor was placed on a sheep the animal was killed by an ordinary rifle bullet, fired from a distance of somewhat over 100 metres. Armor of any kind would be cumbersome to infantry soldiers. Armor of this kind would be of no use whatever against the bayonet. The cavalrymen might wear armor advantageously enough. If it be introduced at all I should think that the experiment would be made with the mounted branch of the service."

The Scarmed armored material was made to be worn under the uniform. It covered the entire body, saving only the hands, feet and face. Being quite light, it admitted of the free movement of the muscles. The armor was made in three pieces, which overlapped each other and were secured together by hooks.

The Rock of Gibraltar.

The rock, outwardly so harmless in appearance, has been tunneled with wonderful ingenuity and at an enormous expense. There are three tunnels, one above another, and all connected at intervals by heavy iron gates. They contain over two thousand cannon, facing as many loop-holes. The view from some of these loop-holes is unrivaled. Here the eye sweeps over the Atlantic and the beautiful Mediterranean at the same time, and also two quarters of the globe. The highest point is 1,430 feet above the level of the sea, and is called the Signal El-Haeko. The rock is three miles long and from one-half to three-quarters of a mile wide. It is six miles in circumference. The extreme end of the rock facing the sea is "Europ Point." It is crowned by a light-house, and defended by strong batteries. In 1797 it was taken from Spain by the English at the battle of Trafalgar, in which Lord Nelson lost his life. Since then an enormous amount of work has been done by the English government, a million dollars a year being spent there on its fortifications. —[Indianapolis News.]

The Robber-Crab.

The steam tug R. C. Bishop, which returned to this port a day or two ago after an unsuccessful search for the missing boat's crew from the wrecked bark Lady Lampton, brought back with her a monstrous in the shape of a robber-crab. The ferocious looking crawler was captured on Fanning Island. Strange to say, very little seems to be known of the crab around Honolulu. It is a fact, however, that it makes its home in the hollow of a decayed coconut tree, and that it climbs live coconut palms and saws at the stems of the nuts until they drop to the ground. Then the crab descends with marvellous rapidity, and by the aid of its powerful nippers strips the husk from the nut. When the eyes of the coconut are laid bare, the crab inserts its horny claws and bursts the succulent nut, devouring the nut with great relish.

This particular crab was located by the mast of husks and nutshells around the root of the tree where it lived. It managed while being brought to Honolulu to strip the flesh from the finger of a Kanaka who was endeavoring to get on terms of familiarity. The crab, when its claws and tentacles are extended, cover a space of about twenty inches in diameter. —[Honolulu Dispatch.]