

STATE OF ATALANTIS.

CONSTRUCTING AN ISLAND IN MID-OCEAN.

A Project Which from All Accounts is Decidedly Interesting.

Just seventeen miles due east from the great blinking eyes of the Navesink Highland's twin lights, and eleven miles south of the Long Island shore, or to be more accurate still, in latitude 40.24 north and longitude 73-37.30 west, the foamy green waves which roll over the shoals known to all fishermen as the Cholera Banks, toss up and down an anchored buoy, upon which floats the flag of Atalantis. This spot, or rather the sand beneath this buoy, and the water which surrounds it, is the site of the very newest nation on the face of the earth, for Atalantis will be a nation just as much as Hawaii or any other island which is outside of the three-mile limit of the nearest continent's jurisdiction, and owes no allegiance to any power.

That there is no land on the spot selected for the new country is of small matter in these days of nineteenth century science, and the com-

pany of shrewd speculators which intends to found the new Atalantis has already given out a contract for the construction of an island to make up for the omission of the Almighty when the universe was created. That there will be a legitimate island on this spot some day, clever engineers feel quite confident. The intention is to have the early settlers in the new colony live on huge iron spiles for a generation or two, but the action of the waters in piling up sand around any obstruction, and the dumping of ashes and other refuse from the original buildings on stilts, will not take many decades to form around Atalantis an island of as solid a formation as Long Island, for it was through a similar process that the largest part of the shores of old Coney, and its suburbs were created.

Seriously enough, a number of daring speculators have undertaken to build a huge iron structure on great steel cylinders out on the Cholera Banks, and, furthermore, they hope to have the place open for the reception of guests within a little more than a year. The undertaking would have been laughed at not very many years ago, but to-day some of the most expert engineers in the country say that the plan is perfectly feasible, and the promoters have already contracted to spend several millions of dollars in the erection of Atalantis, so they, too, must feel confident of success.

But the first building (of which an excellent picture from the engineer's plans from which the contract was made is herewith printed) is only the first part of the undertaking. The promoters of the company claim that they have already much more capital at their command than they can use for the first building, and that a second will be started within three years. Of course, the financial outcome of the first undertaking would undoubtedly influence the subsequent actions of the capitalists, but they apprehend no chance of failure now, and boldly say that they intend to build a long chain of similar structures and connect them with bridges. They have already drawn rough plans for a second building, and are considering a third.

The deepest water on the shoals selected is 11 fathoms 4 feet, or 70 feet in all. It is the intention of the engineers to sink thirty-six hollow iron cylinders, 15 feet in diameter, at regular intervals, on the spot selected. They will go down thirty feet into the bedding of sand and seashells and be cross-braced with countless iron girders to give them strength and stability. From the surface of the sand they will be surrounded for thirty feet or more of their length with cement, which, when hardened, will leave the supporting posts firmly imbedded in a material nearly as hard as rock. The average depth of the water is sixty feet, so that there will be about thirty feet of these pillars exposed to the water between the cement and the surface of the water. It is intended to have the flooring of the building thirty feet from high water level, so that the pillars will thus have sixty feet of foundation and sixty feet of exposed length.

This foundation for the mammoth superstructure which it is intended to build will be laid systematically. The pillars will be cast over in Jersey City and their lower ends stopped up. They will then be set on end and braced in their final position with cross-girders. This great iron framework will be floated with pontoons, if, indeed, their own buoyancy, from their contents of air does not float them, and towed out to where the buoy is now anchored, and put in place. Once the lower ends

of the great cylinders are opened they will sink fast enough, and the sand and shells can be sucked up through them until they sink to the desired depth in the loose bottom. They will finally be filled with cement and made as solid as it is possible for anything of the kind. The idea of building a railroad on stilts seemed a "wildcat" scheme only thirty or forty years ago, yet today the largest part of New York's local transportation is done over elevated railroads. Many are found now who say they would not dare to live in a hotel built on stilts out in the ocean, just as others said they would be afraid to ride on a train run over tracks on stilts, but they will probably become used to it as they have to the other. The stability of the structure will doubtless be demonstrated in a very short time after its completion, while the danger from storms seems very small.

No wave has ever been measured which was thirty feet high, and then the measurements were taken from hollow to crest. The hollow before a wave is generally as deep as the actual height of the water which follows it. An ocean wave is really only half its apparent height. It is said that even tidal waves, which are practically unknown in this latitude, could not injure Atalantis. The danger from fire is always one of those most to be feared on the water; but the plans of the new structure call for the use of practically no inflammable material at all, and its promoters claim that the building will be absolutely fireproof. Only iron, steel, glass, tiling, cement and other non-combustible materials will be used in its construction.

As to the plans of the superstructure they call for a most commodious building. The actual floor space will be 200 feet square and the building two stories high, except in the towers. There will be four towers, one at each corner, and they will be four stories high. The principal part of the space in the great building will be used for a great Summer hotel, with all its usual accessories of dining rooms, parlors, cafes, billiard rooms, bars, telegraph and telephone facilities (for it is intended to connect Atalantis with Long Island by cable at once), a Turkish bath establishment, a drug store, a fishing pavilion and a cigar store. All of these privileges will be let out by the Atalantis Company, for it is not intended by the owners of the colony to conduct any business at all on the premises.

There will also be a huge amphitheatre seating between 15,000 and 18,000 people, which will be rented to some responsible manager or let out by the night. The transportation facilities will also furnish another source of revenue to the company which owns the place. There will be four landing stages, or floats, moored to the four sides of the structure, and at these the ferryboats from New York, Brooklyn, and other places will land. It is intended to allow any vessel to land, and there will be smooth water on one or another of the four sides of the building, even in the worst storms. The details of transportation are not yet fully matured, but it is intended to have a line of fast steamers run from New York and Brooklyn all day and night. The trip will take about two hours.

Suppose a murder is committed in Atalantis, what can be done with the murderer? Suppose, for the sake of argument, he is caught red-handed, will he be hanged then and there without a trial on the spot? If so, a hangman and a gallows will have to be provided. If not, a jail will be needed to confine the prisoner. But he cannot be tried in the United States for a crime committed outside of its jurisdiction, so he must be punished in Atalantis. But how? Either criminal courts will have to be maintained and judges and juries employed to try criminals, or they must be punished without a trial.

Then, again, suppose a crime is committed and the criminal escapes to the shore, an extradition treaty will be necessary to bring him back for trial or punishment. Uncle Sam would not give him up without extradition papers and probably not then if he were not to receive a trial before punishment. Take it the other way. A man commits a crime here in New York, jumps on a ferry-boat, and in two hours is beyond the jurisdiction of any court in the United States.

But the Atalantis people claim that our government will be glad to

order the proprietors of Atalantis could order what they want from abroad and then take off in a small boat from the steamer when she comes in what they have bought without paying tribute to the Government or avoiding the Custom House inspectors. Their floats will be large enough for a small ocean steamer to land at Atalantis, so dutiable goods can be landed direct if it is preferred. The Custom House laws allow any one to bring into this country anything which is personal property, and for one's own personal use. It may be easy in five years from now to sail down to Atalantis and buy Worth dresses and wear them back to New York the next day without having to pay for the duty.

But, leaving all questions of unusual complications to be dealt with when they actually come up, there is little doubt but what Atalantis, or, at least the first building of the new colony, is a practical certainty. The company which is promoting the scheme closed a contract with Anderson & Barr last Thursday for the construction of the foundations and superstructure of the first building, and the work of casting the hollow cylinders for the foundations will begin in a few days.

One of the features which Capt. Patterson dwelt on in a talk with the Recorder reporter was the value of Atalantis to navigation. At night it will display, besides its thousands of little electric lights all over the building, an enormous light in one of the towers, as strong as a government lighthouse. This, it is said, will be seen before any of the shore lights or coast lightships can be made out, and bearings can be adjusted from Atalantis. The new colony is only a few miles south of the regular track of the transatlantic steamships, and the great structure will be seen in daylight long before the shore will be visible. The first of the buildings of Atalantis will face the cardinal points of the compass.

The Atalantis Company has already adopted a national—or, if Mr. Coen is admitted to be the king of Atalantis, a royal—flag. It is blue with a red border and a white star in the center of the blue ground. Should it be annexed by the United States, either by act of Legislature or by formal conquest, the single white star might be added to the already well-filled field in "Old Glory" to represent the new State of Atalantis.—[J. P. P. in N. Y. Recorder.

Mnemonics.

Mnemonics, or the art of rendering artificial aid to the memory by associating in the mind things difficult to remember with those which are easy of recollection, is of very ancient origin. It is said to have originated with the Egyptians, but the first person to reduce it to a system was, according to Cicero, the poet Simonides, who lived 500 years B. C. His plan is known as the topical, or locality plan, and was in substance as follows: Choose a large house, with a number of differently furnished apartments in it. Impress upon the mind carefully all that is noticeable in the house, so that the mind can readily go over all its parts. Then place a series of ideas in the house; the first in the hall, the next in the sitting-room, and so on with the rest. Now when one wishes to recall these ideas in their proper succession, commence going through the house, and the idea placed in each department will be found to readily recur to the mind in connection with it. It is related that the mnemonic plan was first suggested to the poet by a tragic occurrence. Having been called from a banquet just before the roof of the house fell and crushed all the rest of the company, he found on returning that the bodies were so mutilated that no individual could be recognized, but by remembering the places which they had severally occupied at the table he was able to identify them. He was thus led to notice that the order of places may by association suggest the order of things.—[Pittsburg Dispatch.

Timepiece in a Shirt Stud.

Theodore C. Rohrer, of Newcastle, Penn., who constructed a wonderful automatic clock a number of years ago, containing many figures, and which attracted great attention all over the country when placed on exhibition, has nearly completed another timepiece which displays marvellous mechanism. This clock exhibits scenes in the revolutionary war, and Mr. Rohrer considers it even a more remarkable piece of work than his former effort. In addition to these clocks Mr. Rohrer, a number of years ago, constructed one of the most ingenious pieces of miniature mechanism to be found in the world. This consists of three gold studs, in one of which is a diminutive watch which keeps most excellent time. The combined weight of the three studs—which are all connected together by a strip of silver metal which passes on the inside of the shirt bosom—is only one ounce and a half. The stud in which is contained the watch has a base about as large as a 3-cent piece, and, with its surroundings of gold, presents much the appearance of a very diminutive mariner's compass. When the stud are on the shirt bosom they are about two inches apart. By revolving the upper one—in much the same manner as a stem-winding watch is wound—the little timepiece is wound up for action. In setting the hands the lower stud is revolved.

Infant waists with deep puffed sleeves and a lace collar are liked for small girls. These have skirts, either plainly gathered or in flat plaits or in accordion-plaiting as one may fancy.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

SEASONABLE HINTS AND MATTERS OF MOMENT.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

ABEL BIGWEN, of Carroll County, Ohio, has a razor hog which he has trained to run under his buggy like a coach dog. The animal has developed considerable speed, and can now hump himself along, and keeps up with the vehicle when the horse is going at a 4.15 gait.

About four miles outside the City of Mexico, a large hairy spider was discovered, which had on one of its legs a gold ring with the initials Q. Y. to J. J. The ring would fit the finger of a two-months-old child. The ring appeared to retard the spider's movements considerably.

COLUMBIANA COUNTY, Ohio, is once more to the front, and this time with a mite cat that clucks like a setting hen. The chicks in the barnyard are so completely deceived that the cluck will bring them running in an instant. One of the sober old roosters squawks like mad and flaps his wings whenever the cat makes the unnatural sound.

A YOUNG woman in Dijon, France, lost her upper lip in a railway accident, and a skillful surgeon successfully grafted strips of skin from a man's face. The patient is much mortified because a mustache has made its appearance. She could withstand this if the hair didn't tickle her nose and cause her to sneeze. This has ruined her complexion absolutely.

MARLON GRIMES, of Gardiner, Me., never saw an elephant until last summer. He was so astonished at the manner in which the animal controlled his trunk that his lower jaw dropped and was dislocated. It cost Grimes \$3 to get his face fixed, and when he found he had been robbed of his grandfather's silver watch, he said he didn't think a heap of elephants anyway.

SOMETHING new is the idea of taking a carrier pigeon with you when you start for Europe, and letting it loose with a message far out at sea, to be carried back to some loved one. There is a woman in Philadelphia with a loft of carrier pigeons, who loans the birds for this purpose. A few days ago Dr. T. H. Andrews, of the Bryn Mawr Hotel, got a message at noon attached to a carrier pigeon which had been written by a friend 150 miles out at sea early the same morning.

ISAAC HOOD, colored, sixty-eight years old, of Philadelphia, laughed so heartily at an alleged joke that he dislocated his jaw. He was sent to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where the doctors, after much difficulty, put the bone back in its place. Hood, who is generally known by the sobriquet of "Pop," is a good-natured old man, and when Sam Johnson came along and said something funny Pop started to laugh and could not stop until his jaw bone got out of place. At the hospital Pop told the doctors he could not remember exactly what the joke was, but said that it was mighty funny anyhow.

THE sting of a honey bee resulted in the sudden death of James D. Godshalk, a leading business man of Lansdale, Penn. Several days ago he was extracting honey from a hive, when a pugnacious little bee lighted upon his chin and sank his poisonous laden weapon through the skin. Godshalk at once suffered the most intense pain. He had often been stung in handling bees, but had never experienced such agony before. He applied a few simple remedies, such as all agriculturists know of, and then went to a physician. The doctor said the bee's fang had penetrated the pneumogastric nerve, and that the heart and lungs were greatly affected by the poison. Godshalk grew worse all the while, suffering the most intense pain. Medicine failed to relieve him, and he died in a few days.

An attendant at the Rome (N. Y.) State Custodial Asylum a day or two ago found a hen with singular maternal tastes. The hen had shown a great predilection to sit, and was finally found on a nest in the barn. The attendant took her out of the nest, and was amazed to find that she had been sitting on five wee kittens. The hen evinced so strong an affection for her queer family that it was almost impossible to keep her away from the nest. In spite of the pains taken she was back on the nest again the next day, but all except one of the kittens had been taken away. It is supposed that she came across the kittens in their home and, after driving the mother away, adopted them as her own, and that when she was taken off the nest the old cat carried all but one of her kittens away.

THERE is a bright young boy in Chicago who has struck out an entirely new line of business for himself, and is said to be making a comfortable living out of it. His occupation is securing seats for ladies in street cars at the crowded corner of State and Madison streets. The thoroughfare is always crowded there during the daylight hours, and more people board the cars than they will hold, and many always have to stand. Women have their rights in Chicago. They cannot get a seat in a car, and the youth takes advantage of it. He makes arrangement with some well-to-do woman, who has an armful of bundles, or perhaps a baby, to get her a seat. He runs around the block, and boards the car before it stops, getting a seat, which he turns over to

the lady when she gets aboard, taking as a reward whatever change she has a mind to spare him.

A RICH old man has lately died in Paris leaving his fortune, valued at 500,000 francs to a young woman who was perfectly unknown to him. This millionaire was extremely eccentric and had sworn to enrich the first person who would give proof of undoubted honesty and the following is the means he employed to find his future heir. From morn until eve he passed the day riding out in trams and omnibuses, and always sat near the conductor to pass him the money which passengers at the other end sent forward. When it so happened that he had to give back change he always added a piece of money to the value of fifty centimes and waited to see the result. This little game lasted for eight years, during which time not one passenger returned the surplus money he had received! At last one day he had the pleasure of hearing a young lady say to the money-taker: "You have given me fifty centimes too much." He at once set about making inquiries concerning the paragon and made his will in her favor.

"ONE of the most ingenious devices for smuggling was detected in Russia not long ago," said O. L. Ratovitch, of St. Petersburg, to a reporter. "A great number of false bank notes had been put into circulation within the dominions of the Czar. They could only have been imported, and, although the strictest search was made habitually over every vessel entering a Russian port, no trace of the smuggling of false notes was discovered. Accident, however, at last brought the mystery to light. It happened that several cases of lead pencils arrived one day from England, and while being examined one of them fell out from a package, and the Custom House officer, picking it up, cut it to a point, and used it to sign the order which delivered up the pencils to the consignee. He kept the loose pencil for his own use, and a few days afterwards, because it needed a new point, he cut it again, and found that there was no more lead. He cut still further, and was surprised to find a thin roll of paper nested in the hollow place where the lead was supposed to be. The paper was one of the false notes, and in this way they had been smuggled into the country."

AN amusing story is told about the construction of a telegraph line from Bagdad, in Asia Minor, to the Persian capital of Teheran. The frontier line between Turkey and Persia was so indefinite that a tract of no less than seventeen miles of land over which the telegraph would have to be carried was in dispute, each of the two countries claiming the right to its possession. Now, the engineering stores supplied to the Turkish government differed from those supplied to the Persian government. The former had wooden telegraph poles; the latter iron ones. The Persian government, in their jealous hatred of the Turks, feared that if wooden poles were erected across the disputed territory, posterity would regard them as proof that the territory was Turkish. On the other hand, the Turks objected to iron poles being used lest in the far future they should be accused by Persia as evidence that the land was hers. The way the superintendent of the work contrived to get out of the difficulty did credit to his ingenuity and resource. He set up first a wooden pole, then an iron one, then another wooden, then an iron again, and so on, alternating wood and iron for the whole seventeen miles.

By a curious combination of chances a diamond which was lost more than twenty years ago at Birmingham has been discovered, and is now in the hands of the Chief Constable, says an English paper. Some days ago one of the workmen in the employ of Messrs. Taunton, safe manufacturers, was engaged in repairing a safe and came across a piece of paper in a crevice, in which was a large diamond, estimated to be worth at least \$500. The condition of the paper indicated that the stone had been undisturbed for a long time, and the finder considered he was entitled to what he had found. Some inquiries were afterward made, which resulted in the discovery that the owner of the safe bought it four years ago from the late Mr. Davis. S. J. Davis, the son, explained that some twenty years ago his father gave his mother a huge diamond, which she placed in a piece of paper with the name of her son, and then deposited it somewhere for security. She hid it so effectually that it could not be found afterward. The piece of paper in which the diamond was wrapped does bear the name of Mr. Davis, and there is little doubt the stone belongs to him.

For Brave Deeds.

A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in France has founded an order of merit, the insignia of which are bestowed on dogs who distinguish themselves by deeds of bravery. A tastefully designed collar of honor is awarded. Among the animals decorated, one of the most celebrated is Baccus, a large bull-dog, whose specialty is to stop runaway horses by jumping up and seizing them by the bridle. It is said that the intelligent beast has already saved the lives of eight persons in this way. Patard, another bull-dog, received a collar in 1887 for saving his mistress from the attack of a foot-pat; and Turk, a splendid Newfoundland, has had a similar honor for saving three young children from drowning, on as many occasions.—[Boston Transcript.