

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

INTERESTING HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The recent sale of a large amount of stock held by the city of Philadelphia, has concentrated public interest on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and this sketch of it will be found worth reading.

Pennsylvania embarked in the work of constructing her public improvements in the year 1822, when an act was passed authorizing the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal at the expense of the State. In 1827 the Canal Commissioners were authorized to make examination for a railroad to connect sections of the canal already partially connected. In 1828 they were directed to locate and put under contract a railroad from Philadelphia through Lancaster to Columbia. Millions of dollars were spent on the canal and railroad improvements, the expenditure being made necessary by the completion of the Erie Canal, which was taking the commerce of Philadelphia to New York. In 1832 portions of the Columbia Railroad were completed, and cars were run upon it. In 1834 the entire line, partly canal and partly railroad, between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, was opened to trade and travel. It consisted of the railroad from Philadelphia to Columbia, 82 miles; the eastern division of the canal from Columbia to Hollidaysburg, 172 miles; the Portage Railroad from Hollidaysburg to Johnstown, 36 miles, and the western division of the canal from the latter place to Pittsburgh, a distance of 104 miles, making an aggregate length of 394 miles. Horse cars were for several years run over the Columbia road, occupying nine hours in traveling 82 miles. About 1836 locomotives were regularly put at work on the road to the exclusion of horse power. The cost of the line to the State was nearly fourteen and a half million dollars. Several abortive attempts were made toward the construction of a through railroad from the Ohio to the Delaware, but it was not until 1846 that the project assumed tangible shape by the incorporation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The charter was granted on February 25, 1847, and the law granting to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad the right of way to Pittsburgh, was abrogated in August following. Mr. J. Edgar Thompson prosecuted the work of building the road from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh with energy. September 1, 1849, the first division from Harrisburg to Lewistown, a distance of 61 miles, was open to travel; a year later the line was opened to the Mountain House, one mile east of Hollidaysburg, and on the 10th of December, 1852, cars were run through from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, connection between the eastern and western divisions being formed by the use of the Portage (State) Road over the mountains. The Pennsylvania Company's road over the mountains was opened early in 1854. In 1857, after a long discussion, a law for the sale of the State Works was passed, and the Pennsylvania Railroad became the purchaser of the "Main Line," and was thereby released from the payment of tonnage, freight and certain other specified taxes. The section of law releasing the Company from the payment of taxes was decided by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional, and in 1861 an act was passed "for the commutation of the tonnage tax."

During the years immediately following the completion of the road it was greatly improved, the tracks doubled, other lines leased or bought, depots and extensions built, and more recently almost the entire line has been relaid with steel rails, the line straightened and regraded. During the war the Pennsylvania Railroad was largely used for the transportation of troops and supplies, and its present President, Col. Scott, was charged by the Government with the special duty of furnishing transportation for large bodies of troops and immense quantities of army supplies.

Twenty-five years ago the Pennsylvania Railroad was but a link between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh—extending from Harrisburg to the latter city; now it has an eastern terminus at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and unites them by its own direct lines with Pittsburgh, Erie, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, and St. Louis.

Connections are also made with St. Paul, Duluth, Omaha, Denver, the cities of California and with Memphis, Mobile and New Orleans. To transport its extended and diversified business, the Company now owns and runs upon its own lines 1100 locomotives, 1000 cars devoted to passenger traffic, and 26,000 in freight service. It owns 2,000 miles of complete road. Its workshops cover an area of more than 500 acres. It employs an army of men, many of whom are mechanics and experts of the highest skill. It has 222 foreign ticket offices and agents, (independent of those at its own stations) established in thirteen different States. Along with this great extension of the road there has been a great improvement in the rolling stock

of the Company and its bridges. Its chief officers have been civil engineers and they have employed in the service of the company some of the best engineering talent.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

THE WOMAN OF GENIUS WHO DESIGNED THE AMERICAN FLAG.

From the Bradford Star.

Now that the modern Penelope is stabbing her white fingers with the point of a cruel needle and getting the aesthetic burrush in faithful Kensington colors on screens and panels, it is interesting, says the Washington Post, to recall the achievements of our grandmothers in that direction. In the quiet old days before the sewing machine, noisy and aggressive, forced dainty and womanly handicrafts from the field, they did some work that was greatly to their credit, and one of them at least has been embalmed in the amber of history by means of her needlework. She was the genius of the scissors, and with that good blade Excalibur she cut her way to fame and fortune. General Washington himself was roused to enthusiasm by the deftness with which Mrs. Betsey Ross, of Philadelphia, folded and cut at one fell stroke, a white satin star. For forty-six years she made flags for the army and navy.

At the request of Dr. Franklin, Mr. George Morris and Colonel George Ross, she made the first flag of the United States, and Thomas Paine, who seems to have had a finger in every pie in those good old times, showed her how to set the stars on the flag.

It was at one time proposed to omit the eagle from the Navy flag, but against this Paul Jones protested. Besides being flag-maker to the General Government she was an artistic upholsterer, and furnished parlors, theatres and hotels. She not only worked herself, but gave employment to all of her relatives and friends. She upholstered the ocean steamers that plied between the new England and the old. For all these purposes she herself imported the richest fabrics, and nothing, says the sketch of her life which has come down to us, could be more bright and beautiful than the draperies she designed. Probably Miss Ross did not say "designed." She would have been more likely, in the sensible phraseology of the day, to say that she "cut them out" and "made them up." She would look with scant admiration on the dubious colors and half and quarter shades of modern panels. For herself she liked something bright and decided, and always combined with primary colors. Her proudest victories were won by that solid phalanx of the seven uncompromising shades.

THE LAW OF TRESPASS.

From the Lancaster New Era.

What constitutes trespass is a question that arises continually, especially among farmers and owners of smaller tracts of real estate, and the ideas concerning it are about as vague as they well can be. An interesting article on the laws governing this question appears in the last quarterly report of the State Board of Agriculture, which deserves to be read by every farmer in the land, as they are often called on to face the troubles arising out of such cases than any other class of men in the community. Trespass is defined as "any transgression or offence against the law of nature, of society or of the country in which we live, whether it relate to a man's person or his property." This is its widest meaning. Ordinarily, however, it has reference only to an entrance on the property of another without authority, and in doing damage while there, whether much or little. The laws give the owner exclusive control over his property. Any infringement of his rights without his permission, or justified by legal authority, therefore constitutes a trespass. It does not need that the land should be enclosed by fences. The law supposes an imaginary enclosure, which answers every purpose, and the simple act of passing it constitutes trespass, although no harm should result to crops, cattle or aught else. Even a person legally authorized to seize certain goods on a man's premises dare not break open doors for that purpose; if he does his authority avails him nothing, and he becomes a common trespasser. Neither is a person justified in so arranging spouts as to discharge water on another man's land, even though he never step off his own grounds, nor to permit filth to pass a boundary line without due permission. When a spout first discharges on a man's own premises and the contents then find their way to a neighbor's premises, it does not constitute a trespass. Hunting and fishing, however, constitute the most common and annoying sources of trespass to which our farmers are subjected. No matter that neither grass nor grain are trampled down, whether gates are left closed, bars left up, and no rails broken, the pursuit of game on the lands of another without permission is trespass. To even enter an unclosed piece of wood, where there are no crops to be injured, in pursuit of game, which may have taken refuge there, is a violation of law—quite as much as if a wheat field in car had been trampled down. In fishing, as in hunting, the ordinary ponds and streams are the exclusive property of those through whose hands they flow or in which they happen to be situated. In the case of navigable

streams, any one may boat up and down them and fish in them, but has no right to land on the shores and do so.

MASONIC ANTIQUITIES.

EMBLEMS OF THE MYSTIC TIE IN THE FOUNDATION OF CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The State Department has received a telegram from Lieutenant Commander Gorrige of the United States Navy, now at Alexandria, Egypt, superintending the removal of one of the monolith columns, in which he states that when the obelisk was taken from the base he had discovered Masonic emblems in the foundation, of which photographs would be taken and forwarded to Washington at once, while the originals would be carefully preserved. This information has greatly encouraged the belief of those Masons who have claimed that the order ante-dated the records of the world's happenings, as it is hoped this discovery may supply for them the missing links of Masonic history, while the general effect upon the Order cannot but prove beneficial in the fullest sense, as Masons of every degree, so far as the information is communicated, receive the news with pleasurable expressions. Many very eminent members of the Order, however, are very cautious in their opinions regarding the genuine Masonic character of the symbols which Lieutenant Commander Gorrige has discovered, but await with no little interest fuller particulars after more thorough and skillful scrutiny by recognized experts.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The World, which has been in peculiarly close relations with Lieutenant Commander Gorrige, has received the following communication:

ALEXANDRIA, JANUARY 17, 1880.—Immediately under the pedestal of the obelisk and in the east angle formed by the steps I found a block of hewn syenite granite, forty inches in the cube, representing a perfect Masonic altar. Under this and immediately below I found a white marble slab, representing the apron, extending across the foundation of polished syenite granite, one hundred and two inches long and fifty-one inches broad and twenty-five and a half inches thick, the upper half hewn into a perfect square. At the same level, and touching the short section of the square and in the west angle of the foundation, I found another block of syenite granite, markedly regular in form, the surface of which represented rough ashlar steps, and the foundation of which was composed of white granite. Besides these four pieces, I found other less noticeable and important but equally significant emblems.

H. H. GORRIGE, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N.

Washington's Bible.

SOME VERY INTERESTING STATEMENTS CONCERNING IT AND THE CHURCH. To the Editor of the Post.

Old Christ church, Alexandria, is in possession of the family Bible of Gen. Washington. His name is written therein by himself: "George Washington, Mount Vernon, 1794." On the same fly-leaf appears, "Presented to the Vestry of Christ church, Fairfax parish, by George Washington Parke Custis, April 6, 1804." And then follows in Mr. Custis' handwriting, "The Family Bible of George Washington, used at Mount Vernon." Application was made to the vestry, in behalf of the Mount Vernon association, to purchase this Bible, to be kept at Mount Vernon. The church being in debt, and this valuable and interesting relic not being very safe in the church building, the vestry were disposed to listen to the proposition. This led to some discussion in the Alexandria Gazette. In a communication in that paper of December 30, over the rector's signature, he says: "In their financial needs, caused by the repair of the building, which even now is suffering through the lack of funds, the proposition to buy the Bible for the Mount Vernon association was presented to the vestry by request. Necessity, and no desire to remove an ancient landmark, caused the favorable consideration of the proposition." The facts are, that during the past five years the small and by no means wealthy congregation of the church has expended in necessary improvements and repairs a sum amounting to nearly \$10,000, all of which has been paid excepting the present debt of about \$1,000. After such a heavy expenditure the payment of this debt bears heavily upon the congregation, and they are very anxious it should be discharged, and speedily. The church has been already taxed to the extent of their ability. The current revenues are barely sufficient for current expenses. Christ church is considerably over a century old; it is the church in which Washington and his family worshipped—in which as a vestryman he occasionally read the service to the congregation, and in which his pew still remains of the same size and form as when occupied by him. It is unlike any other church in the State or country, and is, so to speak, the property of the whole country, and should be so looked upon and should be sustained by all as the link more nearly binding the past and present than any other building in the country, and it should be kept in repair and good preservation. The above facts present an appeal for aid in paying off the debt of the church which we think irresistible, and we trust will be liberally responded to. As regards the Bible of Washington, we believe the vestry are

willing to loan and deposit it at Mount Vernon, in charge of the Ladies' association, where it will be safe and accessible to all. Contributions may be sent to the rector, the Rev. Henry Suter; or to the treasurer, Mr. Jackson Entwisle, Alexandria, Va.

Mme. De Maintenon as a School Mistress.

HOW SHE WROTE OF AND THOUGHT ABOUT HER CHARGES AT ST. CYR. From the London Spectator, December 13.

The only character in which Mme. de Maintenon becomes really loveable is as a school-mistress. Her first foundation at Rueil was chiefly for poor children, and to do her justice, she loved and tended them as carefully as ever she did the young ladies of St. Cyr; but in the end the greater and more aristocratic establishment swallowed up the less. Her children are to be well fed; to have as much bread as they can eat. This she insists on several times. They are to be warmly clad, in uniform, if possible, for Mme. de Maintenon loves order in all things; but if the expense would be great she will be content with a partial one—as that all the girls should wear the same head dress and aprons, or handkerchiefs of the same cut and color. She wishes them to be gayly dressed, and indeed this element of brightness and cheerfulness is a leading feature in her scheme of education. "I think the black aprons very lugubrious," she writes to Mme. de Brinon; "let's give them green or blue serge." St. Cyr was brilliant with light and color and song. Madame has a hearty contempt for "the meannesses and littlenesses of convents." She wishes her dear children to grow up to be "reasonable persons." They are to live in the world, and accordingly even their school frocks are to be cut in the fashion and their "coiffure" to be that of the day. When the so-called "reform" took place at St. Cyr she thought it very hard that "the tailors" were henceforth excluded. We find muslins and ribbons and even "a trimming of lace" as part of the uniform. Nays, pearls and girdles were not unknown. The education was as unconventional as the dress. "A solid piety, far removed from the trivialities of the convents, perfect freedom in conversation, an agreeable spirit of raillery in society, elevation in our religious feelings and a great contempt for the ways of other schools." The young ladies read Moliere and Scudery; the religious world held up its hands in holy horror. There was a reaction for a time, but the blow had been struck; a new ideal rose before the world, and the sable throne of Ignorance and Routine received a shock from which it will never recover. Madame is always writing little notes to Mme. de Brinon. Now it is to beg a holiday, now to announce a sudden visit and to ask "for some little treat for our Sisters of Charity. Let me see them dine properly." When the children were ill she sends M. Fagon, the first physician in Europe, to prescribe for them and a whole list of curious remedies for their disorder. When they are well she dispatches by bearer "one pot of butter and eight pots of jam," but the careful soul begs to have her jam-pots returned, and the "demoiselles" are to get twice as much jam as the little peasants, for is not noble blood to be respected in all things? No wonder the children were free with her, as she boasts with pardonable pride. She has a special fondness for the naughty girls. "I don't too much dislike," she says, "what are called naughty children—I mean self-satisfied, boastful, quick-tempered children, a little wilful and obstinate, for these faults may be corrected by reason of piety." However, they won't get those rosaries they are so anxious for, if they are not "better than they were Monday at work-time." They must have been better behaved when Madame wrote to the school-mistress, "Haven't you some pastry-cook at Noisy or Bailly whom you can help to a job when your children are to have a collation?" The woman who habitually wrote and thought in this strain cannot have been altogether bad and heartless, as her enemies would have us believe. It is in trifles like these, where there can be no hope of publicity and no desire to deceive, that we can best discern the natural working of Mme. de Maintenon's heart. "These things which seem nothing and which are nothing really mark character too much to be overlooked." This pregnant sentence from her arch foe must be our apology, and with it we close our article on one of the most interesting characters in modern history.

TRY IT.

Take an oblong phial of the whitest and clearest glass, and put into it a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea. Pour some olive oil, heated to the boiling point, upon the phosphorus; fill the phial about one-third full, and cork it tightly. To use this novel light, remove the cork, allow the air to enter the phial and then recork it. The empty space in the phial will become luminous, and the light obtained will be equal to that of a lamp. When the light grows dim, its power can be increased by taking out the cork and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter the phial. In winter it is sometimes necessary to heat the phial between the hands in order to increase the fluidity of the oil. The apparatus thus prepared may be used for six months.

Honesty the Best Policy.

Dodrick Dodd in San Francisco Post.

The other day, as a keen-looking business man, with his hat worn on the nape of his neck, was standing on Clark street, a simple, gawky-looking country lad of nineteen, with a big envelope in his hand and his mouth and eyes wide open, came sauntering along, looking anxiously at all the signs, which he was apparently spelling out. The business man, being naturally kind hearted and desiring to do a friendly turn to a stranger, said to the boy: "Hi, sonny, what are you looking for? Let me see that letter."

"No, I can't let you have that letter; there's bonds in it," said the boy; "but p'raps you can tell me where Mister Smith lives round here. The boss told me the number, but I've forgotten it, and the letter has got bonds in it, and so I ain't to give it to anybody but him."

"Why, I've been waiting for you this half hour," said the keen business man, as his face brightened up, "waiting for you to bring me those bonds which I bought of What's-his-name."

"Be you Mr. Smith?" said the boy. "Well, now, I'm right glad I met you, because I'd clean forgot what was the number where the boss said you lived, and I wouldn't have liked to go back to him without finding you; it would have looked as if I was careless."

With these remarks the lad took out a big envelope marked "J. Smith, Esq., present," in the upper corner "\$2,500 U. S. 5-20's," and in the lower corner "Commission due, \$5. Please remit by bearer."

"That's all right, sonny," said the keen-looking business man, as he hauled out a scantily furnished purse, gave the boy a \$5 bill and a quarter, and said, "There, sonny, that quarter is to reward you for your cleverness and fidelity," and, putting the envelope in his breast pocket, he walked leisurely round the corner, ran to Dearborn street with the speed of a deer, skipped lightly round to Madison, and hailing a car, was whirled away at a comparatively lightning speed. Not till he had reached Union park did he draw the precious envelope from his pocket, and, with the remark, "Pray heaven they be not registered!" tore it open. He then found that the envelope contained a copy of the Chicago Tribune, which he could have purchased at the office for five cents. Meanwhile the simple country lad, entering a beer saloon in the vicinity of the Sherman House, has absorbed a beer, salted away the \$5 bill with seven others in his pocket-book, and, with the remark, "The fish is biting very numerously to-day," takes another big envelope from his pocket and once more sailed forth in search of a keen-looking business man.

A Big Trout.

A Fort Missouri correspondent furnishes an account of Col. Gibson's fishing exploit in Bitter Root. On Friday the Colonel, armed with a light cane rod, to which was attached an oil silk line of less than twenty-four yards, a leader of single gut, and quite a small hook, started out to the river, halting at a point about two miles below the post. The water along the shore was comparatively shallow. Observing some small trout jumping some distance below and near the water's edge the Colonel reeled out nearly all of his line so as to let his bait (a grasshopper) float down among them. In a moment something took the hook and spryly made off with it into deep water. Then followed a most interesting fight, lasting about half an hour, intensified as it progressed to an almost painful degree. Tackle and skill—the Colonel is a science angler—were put to the severest test. Finally the funny opponent was worried out, and the Colonel steered him to shore, Post Adjutant Williams and a drummer boy who happened to be near, "rallied on the center," and seized the catch by the gills and rushed him up a steep bank, throwing him into a field, the Colonel launching the rod after him. You can imagine the excitement at post when the trout was found to weigh nine pounds and to measure thirty-one inches. Was not that a fish sure enough—a truly royal trout? Previous to this the largest known trout caught by any person in this section was one taken by the Commissary Sergeant, which weighed seven pounds. Larger trout than these have been sent from the Jocko, taken, however, by the Indians in fish baskets or traps, the largest of which weighed thirteen pounds and measured thirty-six inches.

"I AM now in my eighty-fifth year, and very infirm. Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the Creator of the universe. That He governs by His providence. That He ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we can render Him is by doing good to His other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all religion."—Benjamin Franklin.

A GENTLEMAN asks us, "What shall I do to make my house warmer?" Buy more brooms. If your wife with half a dozen brooms at her command can't make the house warm enough for you, then her early education in affairs domestic has been sadly neglected.

Longevity of Fishes.

From Washington Letter in Hartford Times.

Some days ago I had occasion to make some inquiry into the age of fishes, and was surprised to find that they lived so long. Thinking that there are others who know as little about the subject as I did, I append a letter I received from Professor Spencer W. Baird, United States Fish Commissioner, who is the best authority in the world on fish. He writes: "There is, I believe, authentic evidence to show that carp have attained an age of two hundred years. There is a tradition that within the last fifty years a pike was living in Russia whose age dated back to the fifteenth century. The first is said to have been eighteen feet long. This, however, is not considered very reliable. But there is nothing to prevent a fish from living almost indefinitely, as it has no period of maturity, but grows with each year of life. In species like mammals and birds, where there is a limit, a definite term of years is generally the rule." There are now some gold fish here, in the aquariums of the United States Botanical Garden, that are fifty years of age. A gold fish dealer in Baltimore showed me some gold fish that he had kept in his aquarium for thirty years.

A Cash Business.

The idea of a cash business is one that ought to be more generally adopted. The following suitable remarks from an exchange are good: Some say that a cash business cannot be done; let us cite you instances where it is the basis of every transaction. How many persons are there who, when they get freight from the depot, tell the agent to charge it? And when you get on the train, do you say to the conductor, "I will pay you the last of the week?" You go to the telegraph office and send a message, and ask the operator how much it is. When the answer comes do you tell him to wait a month? When you attend a theatre or circus, do you remark to the agent, "As soon as I sell my hog I'll fix this?" A farmer takes a load of potatoes to market; after it is unloaded he is not in the habit of hearing the dealer say, "Just charge it, I'll pay it in a day or two." The farmer expects cash for his produce and it is right that he should have it. Cash is required in mailing letters. They are only three cents but we don't ask the postmaster to charge it. Readers, please remember these things when about to say cash business cannot be done.

The Great Pyramid.

Professor Proctor, the astronomer, holds strongly to the opinion that the Great Pyramid was built for astronomical purposes, and he advances some facts (by no means novel!) which must be regarded as either conclusive of that theory or as coincidences which are more wonderful than the theory itself. For example, the exact level of its base, its great stability, the horizontal and other definite lines favorable to the observation of heavenly bodies, constitute important considerations; but, what is more remarkable, the sides of the Pyramid are true north and south, east and west, and it is located on the exact latitude which makes the altitude of the pole star one-third of the way to the zenith, and the altitude of the sun two-thirds of the way to the zenith, at the spring equinox. These conditions would enable the observer to make calculations by the use of large angles, without logarithms. The Professor is inclined to think that the Great Pyramid was built about 3,300 years before Christ. It is 762 feet on each edge at the base, and according to Herodotus a fresh set of 100,000 men was employed every three months in building the two pyramids.

It is related of a well-known merchant of a neighboring city that, after making his will and leaving a large property to a trustee for his son, he called the young man in, and, after reading the will to him, asked if there was any alteration or improvement he could suggest. "Well, father," said the young gentleman, lighting a cigarette, "I think, as things go nowadays, it would be better for me if you left the property to the other fellow and made me the trustee." The old gentleman made up his mind then and there that the young man was quite competent to take charge of his own inheritance, and scratched the trustee clause out.

Mr. SWING, Chicago's noted preacher, made a remarkable discourse last Sunday on the future of the Catholic church. He stated that the Church is becoming every year more and more liberal, that it is marching in progress like Protestantism; that the child is born, who will live to see Catholics and Protestants exchange pulpits for Sunday service; that the spirit of liberalism is going to melt all churches into one great brotherhood, and whether they go by the name of Catholic, Methodist or Presbyterian they will be essentially one.

Is drinking the "good health" of your friends take care you don't get too much in the habit of swallowing your own.

HERO making is a woman's work. Even your sensible and practical woman must take to hero making sooner or later.