

THE WASHINGTON CAPITOL. The capitol fronts the east, and stands on a plateau ninety feet above the level of the Potomac. The southeast corner-stone of the original building was laid on September 18, 1793, by President Washington, aided by the Freemasons of Maryland. It was constructed of sandstone, painted white, from an island in Aquia creek, Virginia, under the direction of Stephen H. Hallett, James Hoban, George Hadfield, and afterward of B. H. Latrobe, architects. The north wing was finished in 1800 and the south wing in 1811, a wooden passageway connecting them. On August 24, 1814, the interior of both wings was destroyed by British incendiaries, but they were immediately rebuilt. In 1818 the central portion of the building was begun under the architectural superintendence of Charles Bulfinch, and the original building was finally completed in 1827. Its cost, including the grading of the grounds, alterations, and repairs, up to 1827, was \$2,438,844.13. The corner-stone of the extensions to the capitol was laid on July 4, 1851, by President Fillmore, Daniel Webster officiating as orator of the day. Thomas U. Walter was architect, and subsequently Edward Clark, under whose direction the work was completed in November, 1867. The materials used for the extensions were white marble from the quarries at Lee, Massachusetts, with white marble columns from the quarries of Cockeysville, Maryland. The dome of the original central building was constructed of wood, but was removed in 1856, to be replaced by the present stupendous structure of cast iron, which was completed in 1865. The entire weight of iron used is 8,900,200 pounds. The main building is 392 feet four inches long in front and 131 feet six inches deep, with a portico 160 feet wide, of twenty-four columns on the east, and a projection of eighty-three feet on the west, embracing a recessed portico of ten coupled columns. The extensions are placed at the north and south ends of the main building, with connecting corridors forty-four feet long by fifty-six feet wide, flanked by columns. Each extension is 142 feet eight inches in front by 228 feet eight inches deep, with porticos of twenty-two columns each on their eastern fronts, and with porticos of ten columns on their ends and on their western fronts. The entire length of the building is 751 feet four inches, and the greatest depth, including porticos and steps, is 324 feet. The area covered by the entire building is 153,112 square feet. The dome is crowned by a brown statue of Freedom, modeled by Crawford, which is nineteen feet six inches high, and which weighs 14,985 pounds. The height of the dome above the base-line of the east front is 287 feet eleven inches, the height from the top of the balustrade of the building is 217 feet eleven inches, and the greatest diameter at the base is 135 feet five inches. The rotunda is ninety-five feet six inches in diameter, and its height from the floor to the top of the canopy is 180 feet three inches. The Senate chamber is 112 feet in length by eighty-two feet in width and thirty feet in height. The supreme court room was occupied by the Senate until December, 1860, the court having previously occupied the room beneath, now used as a law library. The Library of Congress was burned by the British in 1814, and was partially destroyed by an accidental fire in 1851. The present center hall was finished in 1853, and the wing halls were finished in 1867.

Buzzards in a Southern City.
A Charleston (S. C.) correspondent says: Well do I recall a visit made early in the morning to the city market one year ago, and my surprise to see such flocks of these ungainly birds hopping about, picking up the scraps. The market-keeper, noticing my interest, communicated to me marvelous stories of their intelligence, and what I then saw was really corroborative in part of his story. The birds were collected on the peaked roof of the market-house, and they did not seem to be in any hurry to come down to the street to gather the scraps of meat which the butchers had rejected. I asked him why they did not—were they afraid? "He hasn't come yet, sur!" "Who?" "Why, the inspector, sur. Them buzzards don't dare touch nothin' till he inspects," and presently he spoke up, "Here he comes," and I looked up the street, marveling much what kind of a yarn I was getting, for what had a market inspector to do with a lot of carion birds? My confidence was fast vanishing. "Not there, sur, up there; don't you see him?" All I saw in the direction he indicated was a few buzzards flying toward the market. "That's him—watch him." I saw a buzzard alight on the roof, and the color of his head was different. It was reddish, and I did see this fellow hop around, and then down he came to the street, and presently the whole of the flock followed. The market man, still pointing out the "inspector," suggested to me that if I would buy some meat at a neighboring stall he would show me how tame they were, and perhaps they suspected that I came from a land where man was not on friendly terms with the buzzard family. "Them birds," said he, "knows mo'rn some men; they knows the day of the week, and when Sunday comes just like a Christian, and up at the slaughter pens they can pick out the fat cattle and wait for him." The scraps of meat being purchased, he selected two of the toughest chunks and tied them at each end of a string about six feet long, casting this in the street. The birds fought in bunches for the chunks, one trying to pull one way, another the other way; they would hold the cord with their feet like a dog, till finally one more courageous or hungrier than the rest swallowed one chunk, the string hanging out of his mouth; the rest tugged at the other chunk of meat. Our gourmand brood himself and tried to keep his chunk where it was doing the most good; but his grip was not strong enough; he could not bite off the string. A strain at the cord by the other side—a distended neck. "He's lost it," cried the market man—and the much-coveted morsel returned to terra firma, to be once more fought for, and so this black, unamiable company of birds, hopping sideways, jostling each other with their distended wings, fought and quarreled for their breakfast.

It Was for the Cow.
At the Little Rock (Ark.) Telephone Exchange, lately, a call came in from a residence for a feed store. "Hello!" "Hello! What is it?" "Mamma says send up a sack of oats and a bale of hay," in a child's voice. "Who is it for?" inquired the feed man. "Why, for the cow," drawled the youngster, and closed up, leaving the man to cuss the telephone. **Women in the Soudan.**
In the Soudan, where there is so much trouble, the women of the wild tribes are the water-carriers. Villages are always built on a hill, the water is in the valleys below and sometimes a distance away. The water is brought in baskets made of braided palm leaves, liquid-tight. The women slung a pole across their shoulders, at each end of which is a basket of water. They go in for muscular development.

Every base occupation makes one sharp in its practice, and dull in every other.
There is a class of men ever ready to jump you to any extent, if you only give them a handle.
Honest and courageous people have very little to say about either their courage or their honesty.
Where the people are well educated, the art of piloting a state is best learned from the writing of Plato.
As ceremony is the invention of wise men to keep fools at a distance, so good breeding is an expedient to make fools and wise men equals.
Oh, strange caprice of fate, that a ship which has outlived the lightning and tempests of the sea, should be wrecked in a quiet harbor at last!
Whether religion be true or false, it must be necessarily granted to be the only wise principle and safe hypothesis for a man to live and die by.
To be happy, the passions must be cheerful and gay, not gloomy and melancholy. A propensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow, real poverty.
The every-day cares and duties, which men call drudgery, are the weights and counter-weights of the clock of time, giving its pendulum a true vibration, and its hands a regular motion.
Art Regions and Tribes.
Raymond Lee Newcomb, the naturalist of the Jeannette expedition, in the Long Island Historical society's hall in Brooklyn, gave a familiar talk about "Arctic regions and tribes." Mr. Newcomb first described the natives of St. Michael's island. Their habits, he said, had in a great measure been explained to him by Alexai, who was himself one of the natives, and who became a member of the crew. He described Alexai as so much of a man as to have laid down his life for his commander. The inhabitants of St. Michael's had, like people all over the world, a place of general resort or rendezvous, where they took it easy, smoked, danced or worked on skins, according to their inclinations. The lecturer gave a description of their huts, which, he said, were rough, barren structures, with a hole eight feet square in the middle for the fire, and seats made of logs on which the occupants perched themselves. The women in sewing used knives instead of scissors. Tobacco was in great demand among the natives. Except in rare instances it was not manufactured tobacco. They wore amulets and pieces of bone in different parts of the face. He remembered Alexai to have put a collar button in his mouth, and to have seen it come out of one of the holes in his face. The children wear beads of all colors and kinds. He saw little girls with strings of glass beads hanging from their noses and ears. As far as work went the women did their share. The administration of public affairs was looked after mostly by the men.
An ordinary day on the Jeannette was then described. There was a sameness about everything that transpired on board. For breakfast they had oatmeal and canned mutton, and for a great while potatoes. Then there was St. Michael's salmon, and while it and the potatoes lasted the meals were immensely enjoyed. When they had to rely altogether on the canned mutton their appetites fell off. Fresh fish was aboard and the steward knew how to make excellent bread. After leaving the ship the butter, bread and sugar disappeared from the meals.
How a Big City Was Bought.
A Melbourne letter to the San Francisco Chronicle contains this: Recently, in the Melbourne public library—a magnificent institution—I inspected two formal legal deeds, by which eight chiefs conveyed to John Batman, the "William Penn" of Victoria, 600,000 acres, "more or less," of land, in consideration of "20 pairs of blankets, 30 knives, 100 tomahawks, 50 pairs of scissors, 30 looking-glasses, 200 handkerchiefs, 100 pounds of flour, and six shirts," for 500,000 acres of tract, and for the other of 100,000 acres "20 pairs of blankets, 30 knives, 12 tomahawks, 10 looking-glasses, 12 pairs of scissors, 50 handkerchiefs, 12 red shirts, flannel jackets, 4 suits of clothes, 50 pounds of flour." It was added that a certain number of similar articles were to be given annually as a rental, such as would amount to \$1,000, and finally it is said to be "dated according to the Christian era, this 6th day of June, 1835."
That was the year in which Melbourne was founded. Not yet fifty years old already the ninth city of the British empire in population! Batman was a fairly good man, but his ideas in the way of buying land were too large in proportion to his ideas for paying for it. His purchase was not much respected; worried to death by litigation, he died four years after his contract with the chiefs. His descendants are poor, toiling people. His story ought to be written on a monument, in order that they who go forth to New Guinea and other regions may remember that there is an ambition that o'er-leaps its "sell," or saddle, and falls on the other side. At the same time there is a respectable fact beneath this new agitation for annexing the adjacent islands; it is that the Australians are growing a Monroe doctrine and that they can rest it on much the same grounds as our Monroe doctrine rests on.

It cost \$250,000 to bring home the bodies of the Jeannette explorers, and to search for the ship.

WISE WORDS.
Colored silk gloves will be much worn this summer.
Parasols covered with whalebone fringe in all colors are novel.
Printed Spanish lace with colored figures is to be much used.
New silk stockings have a treble note embroidered on the instep.
French lace is more used than any other on the imported wraps and dresses.
Many of new children's dresses are made of spotted net over colored satin.
Lydia J. Caldwell, of Chicago, has patented a process for desiccating eggs.
They have a Woman's Agricultural Fair association in Effingham county, Ill.
Mrs. Barrows, of the Christian Register, is one of the most expert phonographers in America.
A bias-fold of mull or fine French lawn is frequently worn on the neck instead of the stiff linen collar.
Soft French nainsook, plain or embroidered, is the favorite material for white summer dresses.
Parasols are covered with squares of silk, and made highly ornate with embroidery, lace and ribbon.
New silk stockings come in ribbed, vertical striped and checked effects, in colors that match the new goods.
One of the richest stuffs for wraps and parts of costumes is silk grenadine brocaded with fringe (uncut) velvet figures and flowers.
Society ladies in London, "without very large fortunes," spend \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year for their dresses and change their costumes three times in an evening.
A lilac ottoman foulard dress recently seen had a design of plums. It was made with long pleated drapery opening in front over a knife-pleating of plain lilac satin.
The present unparalleled industrial movement among women is making progress in the South. Five thousand girls earn their own living in Atlanta, Ga., in factories and elsewhere.
Mrs. Anna O. Cook, State librarian, of Kentucky, recently died. The House of Representatives passed resolutions of regret, and a committee of five were appointed to attend her funeral.
Miss Beatrice Parsons, of London, was the winner of the highest honors of the recent Cambridge university examination, in which no less than three thousand bright British girls competed.
A new dress material is called ring-cloth, because, like the India shawls desired by English dames, it can be drawn through a ring. It is of black silk and wool, and is forty-eight inches wide.
The lace curtain has disappeared even from Parisian drawing-rooms, in which it lingered so long. Silk and woolen are the only materials used, even in bedrooms, unless they are those of young girls.
At the commencement of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, one member of the graduating class of twenty-four was a woman, Mrs. Merrell. When the lady's name was called to receive her diploma, her gallant fellow students in the school gave her a hearty round of applause.
One of the novelties in parasols are those of which the covers represent two squares, only the corner of the under ones showing. One parasol of this style had the under square of pink satin; the upper one of white embroidered in chenille and pink satin roses. Both squares were bordered by deep Oriental lace.
A new imported mantle has a front falling to the bottom of the skirt, of black jetted grenadine bordered by a flower of French lace; the entire back is of lace; there are no sleeves, but a mass of lace is gathered at the back, held by lace ornaments, and passes in folds over the shoulders, crossing in front and falling in long tails.
Women are beginning to be employed very successfully in the field of artistic decoration. It is their natural bent. They show especial excellence in wall, panel and upholstery designing and decoration. They have one fault, however, an art writer says. They are apt to sacrifice massiveness and harmony of design to mere fussy prettiness. It is the same fault they display in decorating their person.

Ancient Dyeing.
The use of colors was certainly known to the Americans from the most remote antiquity. The ochres, soot-black and lime doubtless furnished them their first coloring elements, and there was nothing in the idea of using these pigments above the most primitive conceptions. Experiment induced a rapid progress, and men learned to extract vegetable colors from leaves, fruits, roots, stems and seeds. A coloring-matter was also borrowed, like the Tyrian purple, from sea-mollusks. The Heruvians and the Mexicans knew how to place the colors upon their cloths. The goods were then exposed to the action of the light, and tints varying from a delicate rose color to a dark violet were obtained. The colors were so well fixed that they were not even modified by the decomposition of dead bodies. In the collection of cloths from the Peruvian huacas at the museum of the Trocadero in Paris, wrappings of mummies that have been prepared for centuries still retain the primitive color on their time-eaten threads.—Popular Science Monthly.
A Belgian is breeding red canaries.

How to Shorten Life.
The recipe is simple. You have only to take a violent cold, and neglect it. Abernethy, the great English surgeon, asked a lady who told him she only had a cough: "What would you have? The plague?" Beware of "only coughs." The worst cases can, however, be cured by Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs. In whooping cough and croup it immediately allays irritation, and is sure to prevent a fatal termination of the disease. Sold by druggists.

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