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The Iowa State Register thinks that a school book ought to be sold as cheap as a Sunday paper.

The Atlanta Journal says that language fails, when it comes to speaking the praises of the Georgia watermelon.

One of the progressive signs of the times is the agitation for better country roads. Several of the States have passed laws favorable to this improvement.

Marion Crawford, the author, says that his experience in the East convinces him that the Americans are the "sharpest, shrewdest and trickiest of all Eastern peoples."

Goldwin Smith, the Canadian publicist, says that he has but a short time to live, but he is afraid that it will be long enough to see the last poet, the last horse and the last woman.

Marshal Prim in 1867 said that all Spain could expect was to get out of Cuba in a dignified and honorable manner. But it appears to the New Orleans Picayune that his advice was not taken in time.

The mixture of languages in New York City is extraordinary and there are said to be miles of territory within the city limits where English is comparatively little spoken and then, for the most part, only brokenly.

Here is a nice little story, told by Harper's Weekly: When the two Princeton students were shot, about a year ago, it was determined that an immediate operation might save the life of the one whose case was worst, and Dr. Bull, of New York, was summoned by telegraph.

The South is beginning to devote less of her time to agriculture and to take a deeper interest in manufacturing pursuits. Maryland has led the column of Southern States, but Georgia is only a short distance behind.

The theory of the decadence of the English-speaking race as the predominant race of the world is carried too far, protests the New York Mail and Express, in its pursuit of the problem of the future when it includes America in its hypothesis.

LIBERTY'S EMBLEM.

HE flag of the United States, that glorious emblem of red, white and blue which every Fourth of July proudly waves on the tops of hundreds of flagpoles, cupolas, domes and scores of other slightly places in both city and country, is not as old by almost a year as the independence of our land.

Every true American surely ought to be as well acquainted with the history of his country's flag as with the main events which called forth that remarkable document, the Declaration of Independence.

occupied by a Mrs. Munday, who, besides showing patriotic visitors the room in which General Washington gave Betsy Ross the rough design for the flag, dispenses over a small counter in front of the house pipes and tobacco.

fore, but this was objected to by many on the ground that twenty stripes make the flag too clumsy. At this point Captain Samuel C. Reid offered the suggestion which won for him the honor of being styled the father of the Stars and Stripes as it exists to-day.

structed in flag lore and what "Old Glory," as it has been fondly called, really stands for.

grew to provide a suitable design for the flag consisted of George Washington, Hon. George Ross, and Robert Morris, the great Pennsylvania financier, who freely gave all of his great wealth in the cause of his country.

State, but the star is not added until July 4, following the admission of the State. Beyond these few facts comparatively little is known regarding the "Stars and Stripes."

THE BIRD OF FREEDOM.



ON THE GLORIOUS FOURTH HE IS MUCH IN EVIDENCE.

A point of interest that may not be generally known is that Captain Reid lies buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. His grave is plot 13, 108, near Cypress avenue and Zephyr path, but the little mound is unmarked by even the simplest headstone.

THE GRAND UNION. The Grand Union Flag was about the first attempt to provide for a National emblem. It was the design of Benjamin Franklin and two others while in the camp of the Continental troops at Cambridge, in the winter of 1775.

WHERE THE FIRST FLAG WAS MADE.

ional emblem. It was the design of Benjamin Franklin and two others while in the camp of the Continental troops at Cambridge, in the winter of 1775, and it is said to have been first raised over the camp, January 2, 1776.

What was called the New England flag was also used quite extensively. This was a plain blue flag with a white field in the upper left hand corner, divided into four squares by a red cross.

Jerry Fusk's 4th of July Speech. "In Iowa, when I was a youngster," said the Hon. James S. Clarkson, "the Fourth of July was celebrated in the cities, country towns and villages and at the cross roads, and the celebrations were sincere demonstrations of popular affection for the flag.

That was the most popular speech of the day. In less than a minute the music was heard, and led by Uncle Jerry, the boys and girls began to dance around the handkerchief.



I heard it ring all through the night In joyful tones supreme As though from freedom's far-off height The melody did stream: And Liberty O' Liberty— Its only constant theme, And Liberty O' Liberty— Who'd shout through my dream.

A Fourth of July Conversation. Foreigner—"So eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Native—"That, sir, is the regular price, but without having made especial investigation, sir, I have no hesitation in saying that you will doubtless find our great department stores offering heavy reductions."

In the History Class. Teacher—"What great event occurred on the Fourth of July?" Scholar—"Columbus discovered America." Teacher—"Oh, no, he didn't." Scholar (in surprise)—"He didn't." Teacher—"Of course not."

A Patriotic Thing. "The horse thief who broke into my shop last night," said the false-hair merchant, "reminded me very much of a fire-cracker."

An Accompaniment. Mrs. Parke Row—"Now that the Fourth is here, I think I shall have to make some Washington cake." Parke Row—"It's the same kind that you had last year, you'll want a hatchet to go with it."

The Difference. What does it mean to one little maid? Popovers and peanuts and pink bonnets, What does it mean to two little boys? Torpedoes and fire-crackers, racket and noise.

An Up-to-Date Celebration.



HOW TO CELEBRATE.

The question will be, How to make the Fourth of July a true festival, a National solemnity, without forgetting the claims of the young to be amused, as well as to be instructed.

I would have processions, but I would have them less military in character and more pacific in suggestion. Congregations of the various religious confessions might walk, in order, headed by their ministers, who should all exchange the right hand of fellowship with each other.

On the evening of the 3d of July quiet gatherings in halls and churches, in which the true love of country should be explained and illustrated. How many a name, half or wholly forgotten, would then be recalled from oblivion, and with it the labor and sacrifice of some noble life, some example precious for the community!

His Cup Overflowed. Gimlet—"Did you have a good time on the Fourth, Johnny?" Johnny—"Did I? Well, say! Ma ain't got over the hysterics yet."

The Small Boy's Fourth. Mrs. Parke Row—"Now that the Fourth is here, I think I shall have to make some Washington cake." Parke Row—"It's the same kind that you had last year, you'll want a hatchet to go with it."

TIMES HEALING.

They say that "time assuages." Time never did assuage; An actual suffering strengthens As sinews do, with age. Time is a test of trouble. But not a remedy. If such it proves, it proves, too, There was no malady.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The doctor's bill is the sum total of a man's ills.—Adams Freeman. In Kentucky they never miss the water when the well runs dry.—Pack. "Necessity is the mother of invention," and a good many inventors show the relationship.—Pack.

"Have you seen that new-woman barber just around the corner?" "Do you mean to tell me that the new-woman has begun to shave?"—Indianapolis Journal.

"Alas, father I have lost my heart," wailed the heroine. The villain bowed: "Careless girl!" he exclaimed between his clenched teeth.—Philadelphia Record.

Little Tommy—"Why does the leader of the orchestra wear his stick out of it in that manner, mommer?" His Mamma—"To keep the flies off of the music, I suppose."—Boston Times.

"Energy," said the professor, "is never wasted." "I guess," said young Fresh, "that the old man never fanned the air so hard that he almost pulled his spine in two when two men were out and the bases were full."—Indianapolis Journal.

Mr. Spriggins (gently)—"My dear, a Boston man was shot at by a burglar, and his life was saved by a button which the bullet struck." Mrs. Spriggins—"Well, what of it?" Mr. Spriggins (meekly)—"Nothing, only the button must have been on."—Boston Traveler.

"I thought her father was so enraged over the elopement that he would never forgive them, and now he has given them a brand new bicycle apiece." "Of different makes, mind you. They will be fighting like cats and dogs before a week."—Indianapolis Journal.

In the Par Beyond: Lord Saporias—"It is a fact, as you say, that we Englishmen have a habit of standing with our backs to the fire. I wonder why it is?" Miss Starzen Strypes—"I suppose it is because you know you will have to face it some day."—Brooklyn Life.

"Remember, my son," said the prudent father, "that politeness doesn't cost anything." "Yes," was the reply. "I've heard that." "You don't doubt it, do you?" "Well, it certainly costs me about \$2.50 a week to get any politeness out of the waters at our hotel."—Tit-Bits.

It was a pretty little love scene, the picture they were looking at, and the title was, "The Old, Old Story." "What is the 'Old, Old Story'?" she asked, artlessly. "Oh, I reckon it is something about getting robbed by the umpire, or something of the sort," he answered.—Indianapolis Journal.

"If you're a good boy"—the parent began. But the young man interrupted: "Excuse me, but I know what you are going to say. I have a new proposition to offer. If you are real kind to me, I'll let you take me to the circus instead of Uncle Richard or Aunt Jane, or the gentleman who lives next door."—Washington Star.

Cecil Rhodes holds the record for having paid the largest passage-money from Suez to Beira. The steamer he was on ran aground, and after waiting two or three days, he chartered the steamer Orites to complete his journey at a cost of \$17,500.