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"After the torpedo boat destroyer what?" asks a London paper. The Gloucester.

With a few battleships as interpreters Admiral Dewey can make himself understood in any language.

It is perfectly safe to assume that the flag of the United States looks remarkably handsome floating over Santiago.

The chief imports into China from the United States are cotton goods, cigars and cigarettes, flour, ginseng, machinery, medicines, kerosene oil and timber.

Heroes are as thick as grasshoppers in the army and the navy. If the hand of authority is laid upon any common-place fellow unknown to fame, he responds with some startling deed of valor.

The aggregate of subscription for the war bonds was \$1,365,000,000. It is interesting to compare this fine large sum of available cash with the scanty coins which were fished out of stockings and old teapots by the people of Spain.

The spectacle of Captain Glass being obliged to courteously inform the Governor of the Ladrone Islands that Spain and the United States were at war before demanding his surrender imparts that touch of humor which is rarely lacking in even the most tragic occurrences.

A little girl in Kansas City found a pocketbook containing \$150 in cash and \$500 in promissory notes, and returned it to the owner. Instead of sending her away with the usual thanks, accompanied with good advice, the owner presented her with a fine bicycle. This action was a tangible acknowledgment of honesty.

General Miles ordered veterinary surgeons to accompany troops into action, so that the sufferings of the horses and mules injured in battle might be ended. That may seem like a small matter, but it shows that in small things, as in great, Americans are kind hearted, and it helps to make the world understand that we are really capable of carrying on a war of humanity.

According to conservative estimates, nearly one-third of the native population of Cuba perished during the three years that have elapsed since the insurrection was born. What does this mean to the Cubans? It means precisely what the loss of 20,000,000 Americans by battle, disease and starvation would mean to the Republic. It is a blow equal in proportion, trifling as it may appear by comparison of figures.

The New York Tribune observes: Some German missionaries went to China and got killed by a mob; whereupon Germany, by way of indemnity, seized a Chinese port and the adjacent territory. And now a German Consul-General, in an official report, dwells upon the desirability of getting still more Chinese territory, and says the easiest way to do so is to send more missionaries! Talk about cold-bloodedness! That suggestion is enough to send cold shivers down the spine of the most heartless cynic in the world.

According to the revised report of the Census Board of the Russian Interior Office, the Empire of the Czar has a population of 129,000,000 inhabitants, of whom 94,000,000 are in European provinces. China alone surpasses this number, having from 350,000,000 to 400,000,000 of population. According to area, the provinces which have the greater populations are Caucasus, with 9,000,000, and Poland, with 9,500,000. Since 1885 the population of the Russian Empire has increased from 108,000,000 to 129,000,000, or at the rate of over 1,500,000 a year.

Learned men have been discussing the question for ages whether anything in the way of hospitals was known to the ancients. Now it is announced that one has actually been discovered at Baden, Germany, containing fourteen rooms, supplied with many kinds of medical, pharmaceutical and surgical apparatus, probes, tubes, pincers, cauterizing instruments and even a collection of safety pins for bandaging wounds. There are also medicine spoons in bone and silver, measuring vessels, jars and pots for ointment, some still containing traces of the ointment used. The latest date of the coins found appears to be the reign of Hadrian, who was Emperor A. D. 117-138, from which it is inferred that it was a military hospital. Verily there is nothing new under the sun.

HE'S THE HIRED HAND.

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IN BALLAST.

Outwitting a Spanish Man-o'-War.

By GEORGE P. HAWTRY.

There is one thing," said Williams. "We shall not be able to put all the coal into the coal cellars."

"Coal cellars" was not the expression which George actually used. He said "bunkers." But such a word as that would convey nothing to people who had been carefully brought up, and I should not think of employing it myself.

"We shall have to put some of it into the hold," continued Williams. I am sorry to say you can only have little slices of this conversation at a time. It requires so much comment and explanation.

The hold is that part of the ship in which the cargo is put. It did not seem to me to have been quite the proper place for coal. I only hope that George was careful to have the hold washed before the next cargo went in. It may have been fruit, you know, or ladies' hats. However, I have no wish to find fault. No doubt George Williams knew his own business.

The Crocodile made a successful journey to Naples, and the cargo was landed there. As Mr. Harrison had foreseen, the Neapolitan had nothing which they wanted to send back, and so George Williams began the return journey with his ship in ballast. According to his instructions he called at Cartagena, a Spanish port, in the hope of finding a stray cargo there.

As soon as he arrived he went to the custom house and explained that, as he had not brought any merchandise with him, there could not be any duty for him to pay. I think that this showed great politeness and good feeling on George's part, but I am sorry to say, the custom house officials did not meet him in anything like a friendly spirit. They were not content to accept his word, but asked him to produce his papers. Fortunately, George happened to have these with him, and so he very kindly allowed the chief custom house officer to look at them. A ship's papers give a number of statistics as to cargo, destination and so forth, calculated to satisfy even the most inquisitive mind. In the case of the Crocodile the papers contained nothing that George Williams did not know by heart. So, after all, they might have taken his word. As it was, however, the chief custom house officer examined the papers with an eye keen to detect the slightest irregularity. Among the first things to attract his attention were those unlucky coals. The quantity carried was evidently far more than the cleverest captain could have squeezed in the ship's coal cellars.

"Oh!" he exclaimed, in excellent Spanish. Many writers in recounting a conversation of this sort, would endeavor to heighten the description by putting in a number of Spanish words, and assuming that their unfortunate readers understood the meaning of them. In my opinion this is bad art. I never assume that my readers understand anything. It is safer not to do so. Therefore, although the custom house officer spoke in Spanish because he knew no other language, and George Williams got as near to it as he could, I shall not give the conversation as it was spoken, but carefully translate every word.

"Oh!" said the custom house officer. "What is this?"

"Coals," said George.

"You have large cellars."

"Yes," said George.

"But not large enough for all this coal."

"No," said George.

"Where, then, have you put it?"

"In the hold," said George.

"In the hold! Ah! Then it is merchandise. You are going to sell it. It is smuggled! Your must pay a fine."

"A fine!" shouted George. "What for?"

"You have endeavored to deceive the custom house. You are a smuggler! You will have to pay three times the value of the coal!"

"I shall do nothing of the kind," said George.

"Then I shall put your ship under arrest," said the custom house officer. And, sure enough, when George went back to luncheon he found two Spanish officials in charge of the vessel. The Crocodile was a prisoner until the fine should be paid.

George Williams was annoyed. It was bad enough to be fined when you were innocent but to be fined when you were innocent was simply disgusting. Besides, the fine was a heavy one, and if the owners had to pay it, their feelings toward him might undergo a change. This would be unpleasant. To pay the fine himself would be more unpleasant still. What was to be done? There was a Spanish man-of-war lying in the harbor, and immediately

took possession of the Crocodile. There was nothing for George to do but to submit, and so he and his ship were taken back to Cartagena.

But directly they arrived there, George telegraphed the British ambassador at Madrid to say that the Crocodile had been illegally arrested by a Spanish man-of-war. For the sea within three miles of the coast is held, by international law, to belong to the nation which owns that coast; and, as George had been within three miles of Gibraltar at the time when he was caught, his ship had been seized in British waters. He also sent a similar one to Messrs Evans and Harrison in London.

In matters of this kind the British foreign office acts with great promptitude and firmness. They communicated at once with the authorities at Gibraltar, who confirmed George's statements in every particular, and in less than forty-eight hours the Crocodile was released. In addition to the pleasure of paying twenty-five thousand dollars' damages for illegal capture and detention.

And, strange to say, George Williams is still a great favorite with his employers, Messrs. Evans and Harrison.—To-Day.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The heart weighs nearly twelve ounces.

Milk is not rendered less favorable to digestion by being sterilized.

Fine coal or slack coal has proven very effective in England as a filtering material for sewage.

A person walking at the rate of four miles per hour consumes 2300 cubic inches of air per minute.

The cost of fuel on steam railroads is about ten per cent. of the operating expenses and on electric roads it is about five per cent.

The Austrian Government serum factory in Vienna for the treatment of diphtheria disposed of 30,434 bottles of the remedy last year.

In Germany, 50,000 acres are used for growing willows for basket-making, and in France willow culture is a still more important industry.

A simple method of cleaning iron from rust, suggested by M. Carl Hering, is to immerse it with a rod of zinc in an acid bath, the two metals being electrically coupled.

The tip of the tongue is chiefly sensible to pungent and acid tastes, the middle portion of sweets or bitters, while the back is confined entirely to the flavors of roast meat and fatty substances.

A French experimenter, Camille Daresse, has found that the germ in the hen's egg is not destroyed by an electric current that would kill an adult fowl, but that the germ is so modified in most cases that a monstrosity will be hatched.

The human system can endure heat of 212 degrees, the boiling point of water, because the skin is a bad conductor and because the perspiration cools the body. Men have withstood without injury a heat of 300 degrees for several minutes.

Was a Highly Esteemed Friend. — "A Worcester man," says the Worcester Gazette, "who makes frequent trips to Europe fell in with a fascinating stranger the last time he was across. The stranger, who may be designated as Ferguson, because that does not sound at all like his real name, was an American, his manners were those of a gentleman, and he seemed to be well supplied with money and to know a great many people worth knowing. In conversation with the Worcester man one day Ferguson said: 'Worcester is a charming city, and I have some very dear friends there. I presume you know Colonel E. J. Russell? He is an old and highly esteemed friend, to whom I am deeply indebted for many favors.' When the Worcester man returned home he met Colonel Russell one day, and in course of conversation remarked that he had met a man in Europe who said that he was an old friend. Colonel Russell thought for a moment, and then he replied: 'Oh, yes, I remember Ferguson very well. I ought to, for he lived with me for seven years once. It was when I was Warden of the State prison at Charlestown, and I will say that Ferguson was one of the quietest and best behaved prisoners that I ever had.'

A Welsh Name Translated. — A correspondent of a London paper says: "I met recently with a translation into English of the name of the village in Anglesey which boast the longest name in the United Kingdom. I send you a copy below, thinking it may interest your readers: Llan - fair - pwll - gwyn - Church | Mary | a hollow | white | gyl - goger - y - chwyrn - hazel | near to | the rapid | drowll - Llan - Disilio whirlpool | church | (saint's name) | gogo - goch - eave | red - That is, the Church of Saint Mary in a hollow of white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool, and to St. Disilio near to a red cave."

Snakes as Rat Catchers. — They appear to be turning snakes to a good account in Brazil, for rats have become so abundant there that a domestic snake, the giboia, which has about the circumference of the arm, is sold in the market place in Rio Janeiro to be kept in the house as a protection against rodents. It would seem that the serpent pursues its prey more for the pleasure there is in it than from a sense of hunger, since it is said that rarely eats the rats caught. Similar in its habits and attachments to the domestic cat of our more Northern latitudes, the giboia will, it is said, find the way back to the house of its master even if transported to a considerable distance

THE MERRY SIDE