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AT HOME

ERRORS OF HISTORY

FICTIONS THAT FOR CENTURIES HAVE POSED AS FACTS.

Why the Colossus of Rhodes Could Not Have Spanned the Harbor-The Force of Leonidas at Thermopylæ. The William Tell Myth.

There have been woven into history many interesting stories that time and investigation have proved myths, but in spite of the efforts of the iconoclasts Dr. Pierce's Fa- these mistakes of history still pass current with many people.

Probably one of the most affecting

scenes connected with the making of literature is that described in the oft repeated story of the blind poet Milton dictating "Paradise Lost" to his daughters. Dr. Johnson, however, has been quoted as denying it. He said, further-more, that Milton never even permitted his daughters to learn to read and

A favorite "piece" with western and southern schoolboys on recitation and exhibition days was a set of verses telling of the heroic stand of Leonidas and his brave "300" at Thermopylæ. The Abbe Barthelemy, who asserted that he had inquired minutely into the subject, wrote that, according to Diodorus, Leonidas had 7,000 men under him and that Pausanias gave the number of Leonidas, arms as 12,000 onidas' army as 12,000. Did Cæsar say to the pilot: "Why do you fear? You have Cæsar

Many trustworthy historians declare

that Cæsar never used the words

The inside of cigar box covers are sometimes orname ed with a picture of the Colossus of Rhodes, with ships in full sail passing between the out-stretched legs of the gigantic statue. These pictures reflect the popular and what for centuries was the historical idea of the Colossus, which was accounted one of the seven wonders of the world. It may be interesting to know that all drawings of the statue are purely imaginary and, what is more, are modern, not ancient, efforts. The Colossus was erected in 305 B. C. The most trustworthy of ancient accounts of it is contained in a manuscript dating about 150 B. C., in which the height of the statue is given as 105 the height of the statue is given as 100 feet. The entrance to the harbor of Rhodes is 350 feet across, so that it was manifestly impossible that the legs of the Colossus should span the en-

trance to the port or that ships should sail beneath it.

As a matter of fact the Colossus was not built across the harbor, but on an open space of ground near it; but, for all that, it was a wonderful statue. People whose sympathies are easily aroused have wept over the wrongs of Belisarius, the conqueror of the Vandals, who, many were taught, "begged his bread at the city gates" after having commanded victorious armies and been of much service to the state. The good old general was unquestionably an unfortunate and much abused man, but there is no proof that he begged his living at the city gates or elsewhere. Yet Van Dyke engraved him and David, the great Frenchman, painted him, and tragedies and romances were written around him in the belief that he did sit at the city gates a forlorn and discon-

The facts are, a conspiracy agains the Emperor Justinian being discovered, two of Belisarius' officers confessed under torture that the old general was in the plot. He was condemned with-out further hearing, his property seuestrated, and he suffered impriso questrated, and he suitered impressorement for six months. His innocence being established, Belisarius was released, and he died about a year later. But that he ever was reduced to the extremity of begging is declared to be absolutely untrue. The schoolbook tale of William Tell

The schoolbook tale of William Tell shooting an apple from his son's head is also without foundation in fact. Tell's name doesn't even appear in the chronicles of Zurich, and the most ancient writing in which the story is mentioned bears date some 200 years after the event it pretends to describe The story is a variation of an old Scan-dinavian saga. A similar bit of "history" is related of William of Clouds-ley in England in the twelfth century. It is denied also that Emperer Charles V. of Spain on his abdication adopted the habit of a monk and occu-pied himself in the manufacture of locks. It is declared that he never ceased to be emperor de facto, and he never surrendered control of affairs of

Coming down to later times, the peo-ple of three different countries claimed three different men as inventors of the steam engine. In America there is a popular belief to this day that Robert Fulton built the first successful engine and steamboat. In England the Marquis of Worcester, who published an account of a steam engine in 1663, has received credit for the invention. In France Solomon de Caus (1615) was regarded as the genius who had given to the world a new motive power. Each of them may have conceived and worked out the idea of a steam engine without the slightest knowledge of what had been done in that direction before their day, but none of them might rightly lay claim to being the first in

On April 17, 1543, Don Blasco de Garay launched a boat of 200 tons burden at Barcelona in the presence of the Emperor Charles V. The boat was propelled by steam and made ten miles an our. She was called La Sanctissi Trinidada. The emperor gave to Don Blasco a handsome present, but did not regard the invention as practicable, and nothing came of it. From this it would seem that Fulton was centuries behind the times.—New York Mail and

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en acres. Allegheny twp, Harry, owner or reputed owner, sold to mmissioners by Cyrus Harper June 13, 1898, bounded north by ndrew Campbell, bounded east by

d south by lands of J B McLaughlir dest by lands of Rev. Peters. Tota deseated the land of Rev. Peters. Tota west and costs, \$44.38.

—Lot or tract of land in Butler bore B Hant, owner or reputed owner county commissioners by John treasurer. June 8, 1896. bounded to tas by the Pittsburg & Western Rall Total tax, Interest and costs, \$22.21.

—House and Jot, Butler boro. To mery, owner or reputed owner, solly commissioners by John T Martin Grant of the State of the State

5-Two lots, Butler boro, Sam rd, owner or reputed owner

ny Broad street. Tax, interest and is-76.

18—One lot, Fairview boro, R W McKee or reputed owner, sold to county comers by John T Martin, treasurer, June bounded north by Union Hall, bounded by an alley, bounded south by Petro-etc, bounded west by Main street ax, interest and costs, \$23.08.

31—Lot, Petrolia boro, I Rosenburg or reputed owner, sold to county comers by John T Martin, treasurer, June bounded north by Central hotel de ast by T Denholm, bounded south to the county comers, interest and costs, \$16.62.

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