The Portable Roof Over the Colosseum—Cæsar's Big Awni Alexander's Enormous Tent.

The ingenious M. Eiffel and the artistic M. Bartholdi have been gravely pondering the Colossus of Rhodes—measuring it and weighing it as per description; and they conclude that the thing was simply impossible. It could not have been set up, to been justice, and when set been set up, to begin with, and when set up it could not have stood the pressure of the wind. This is demonstrated by all the rules of modern science, and he all the rules of modern science, and he who does not admit the demonstration must be prepared to show that two and two do not make four. These antique personages who professed to have seen the Colossus were victims of an ocular delusion or flat story-tellers, and that greater number who mention it incidentally, and we might mention the runs of the Colosseum, were credulous gossips. the Colosseum, were credulous gossips. The fact is that Messrs. Eiffel and Bartholdi argued in the fashion usual with engineers. Not all of them would pretend that they know any law of nature which applies in such a case. But very few would listen patiently if it were urged that the ancients knew some laws with which they are unacquainted. which they are unacquainted.

So it appears, however, to the disinterested student; and we can bring forward evidence enough. If it be true that the Colossus of Rhodes is really proved "impossible," according to the best modern authorities, this is a good illustration to begin with; for its existence is as well authenticated as the Temple at Delphi and the statue of Olympian Zens—or the Tewer of London, for that matter, to Tower of London, for that matter, to one who has never seen it. By some means it was set up, and by adaptation of some natural laws it was made to stand until an earthquake overthrew it. One is embarrassed by the number and variety of illustrations to the same effect which crowd upon the mind. Since the Colosseum has been mentioned, we may choose examples of that class. Is M. choose examples of that class. Is M. Eiffel prepared to put an awning over Trafalgar Square when the sun shines, and remove it promptly, without the aid of a central support, of steam-engines, or even chains? The area of the Colosseum is certainly not less. This may seem a trifling matter to the thoughtless, because they have never considered it. Roman engineers covered in that vast expanse with some woolen material, and panse with some woolen material, and they worked the ponderous sheet so easily and smoothly that it was drawn and withdrawn as the sky changed. The bulk of it must have weighed hundreds of tons, all depending by ropes from the circumference. But the ancients thought so little of this feat that they have left us only one trivial detail of the method. So Julius Cæsar stretched an awning above the Forum Romanum and great part of the Via Sacra in the space of a single night. Have any of our modern engineers pondered the contemporary descriptions of Alexander's durbar tent before Babylon? That, again, appears to have had uo central support. It was upheld, says Phylarchus, by eight pillars of solid gold. Of the glorious plenishing within we have not to speak, since our theme is mechanics. Around the throne and the great courtiers stood 500 Macedonian guards; in a circle beyond them 500 Persian guards; beyond these again 1000 archers, To fix a tent which held 2000 soldiers on duty with arms and accourrements, surrounding, in successive circles, the most gorgeous Oriental court that ever was, with hundreds of satraps, councilors, generals, eunuchs and slaves, would perplex a mechanician of the nineteenth century. He will reply that the story is false—must be, because he could not match it. Happily, the awning of the Colosseum stands beyond dispute, and Alexander's tent is a small matter compared with

But we undertook to deal with the engineering of the ancients in connection with the theater, having chanced on that class of illustration. Pliny tells how class of illustration. Pliny tells how Metellus Scaurus, Ædile, built a wondrous edifice, which stirred his rival, C. to frantic jealousy. It may be worth while, in passing—since we are all so much interested in the theater nowadays and think so much of our new ones—to tell what sort of a building that
Curio set hunself to outdo. It had 360 each thirty-eight feet high and thirty-eight feet apart. About three thousand bronz statues stood among them. The stage had three floors, as was usual; the lowest paved and fitted with marble, the second with glass, the third gilded, boards and all. It held 80,000 people.

This account will seem so fabulous to

steady-going Britons that it is prudent to give chapter and verse. The description will be found, with curions details and passionate reflections on the luxury of the day, in Pliny's "Natural History," xxxiii.,

Such was the wonder which Curio re-solved to beat, and feeling himself unable to vie in outlay, he summoned the engineers of the period to design some-thing to "fetch" the public. They built two enormous theatres of wood, each to contain an audience of 25,000, which stood back to back. When the spectators assembled in the forencon, Curio was chaffed, no doubt, on the issue of his attempt to excel Scaurus. But the audience of the strength of the second dience returned in the afternoon, for these entertainments were devoted to the manes of Curio's father and lasted a month. In the place of two theatres back to back, they found an amphi-theatre holding 80,000 persons, wherein gladiators and wild beasts contended gladiators and wild beasts contended until dewy eve. The two great buildings had been swung round and united; and, day by day for the month following, this colossal trick was repeated. The perfervid indignation of Pliny could not make him altogether indifferent to the ingenuity of the thing. The fact is, in brief, that those who know what ancient engineers did, with their imperfect means, feel a qualified admiration for the works of the moderns. If Archimedes

SOME MECHANICAL FEATS. or Stasicrates had been acquainted with the forces and the laws with which every old woman is familiar in these days, they would have changed the face of the earth and the destinies of mankind.—

Force rules, but opinion govern Method has always a partner—punctu-

Leisure and idleness are the parents of

Prejudice, like the adder, is deaf of both ears.

Those who compel our homage do from a distance. Proximity is fatal to grandeur.

Beauty and grace are twins. Who ever saw a handsome person that was awkward?

The fragrance of spice fields is never borne against the breeze, yet pestulence easily travels to windward.

Pride, like jealousy, feeds only upon its possessors' happiness, and both are born with insatiable appetites. Like appreciation but not admiration.

The first is the offspring of sympathy, the last is the child of ignorance.

Only those know the sincerity and real force of prayer who have loved some one far better than themselves, and have seen such in the extremity of

Combination is the only secret strength. The rope with which the native hunter binds the wild elephant is made of single spears of Ceylon

The opinion of the professional critic is only that of one individual, and were he not armed with type metal would be of no more consequence than that of the green grocer around the corner.—Boston Cultivator.

#### Exercise for the Lungs.

At the present era, when physical culture is a part of the curriculum of our most intellectual schools, and is so generally regarded as a necessary element toward supplying and maintaining the sound body for the sound mind, it is worth while to consider a recent statement of eminent physicians that the mere exercise of singing is a great help oward the prevention, cure or alleviation of lung diseases. In the incipient state of such diseases it is even said to be a powerful aid to a cure. It is, indeed, somewhat curious that the medical fraternity have not exploited the theory of lung exercise by singing more fully here-tofore than they are now doing, for the action of calisthenics in strengthening muscular tissues has for years been a universal practice, although, as a matter of fact, the mere physical exercise of singing brings into play an extraordinary number of muscles that can hardly be suspected of action in connection with the throat expansion. It was disclosed by statistics in Italy some years ago, ac-cording to the New York *Tribune*, that cording to the New York Tribine, that vocal artists were usually long lived and healthy, and that brass instrument players, who bring their lungs and chest into unusual activity, have not had a consumptive victim among them. No matter how thin or weak the voice, whilden on young results the best of the control of the co children or young people should be encouraged to indulge in song. There can be no happier medicine, and if hearers sometimes suffer, they should be encouraged and strengthened to bear the infliction in view of the good it may

## An Odd Bird that Likes Fishing.

Away up on the mountains, near Tacoma, Washington, where the numerous streams find their way through deep, dark canyons down to the pulse-beat of old ocean, is the natural summer home of the water ousel, the strangest of all strange birds. You seldom see more than one of them at a time. They are of a dark blue color, and are easily recognizeed by a peculiar quick, jerking motion, which they never seem to tire of. And as they flit from rock to rock they are continually bobbing up and down, performing such a polite little courtesy as would cause you to smile to see it.

Owing to their peculiar habits and the

isolated spots they select to build their nests, no one but the most ardent sports-men and naturalists succeed in finding them. Hence a water ousel's nest with two or three eggs in it has a commercial lue among always build their nests just back of some aways build their nests just back of some waterfall or under some overhanging bank, where they have to go through or under the water to get to it.

Another strange habit of this bird is

Another strange habit of this bird is the deliberate manner in which they appear to commit suicide. They will start slowly, very slowly, to wade right down into the water until they disappear from view, but if the water is clear and you have a sharp eye you can see the little dark forms clinging to the bottom in search of their morning repast, which consists of periwinkles. — Commercial Advertiser.

Revolution in Naval Construction. Sir Henry de Burgh-Lawson thinks that he will revolutionize naval construction by his plan for constructing ships with three keels, between which their bottoms three keels, between which their bottoms are curved in combination with special internal propellers worked and housed in chambers from which the water is partially excluded, each propeller having a a separate set of machinery, working independently of each other. Sir Henry claims that rolling would be almost prevented, and that the ship's power of climbing waves would be immensely increased.—Chicago Times.

### SELECT SIFTINGS.

Ancient anchors were made of stone More people die in spring than in any of the other seasons.

Charles Fairbanks, of Adrian, Mich. speaks twenty languages.

Cincinnati manufactures
pounds of shot every day.

The number of blind people in the world is set down at one million.

Tea is said to be the only unadulter ated beverage to be found in England. The Indians at the Indian school in Lawrence, Kan., have organized a brass

A bounty of twenty cents a dozen is paid in Ohio for the heads M English sparrows.

The Japanese word for farewell mean "If it must be so;" and the Chinese say
"Go away slowly."

It is calculated that there is property valued at \$50,000,000 at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

There are only seven absolute mon-archies left: China, Madagascar, Morocco, Persia, Russia, Siam and Turkey.

The Argentine Republic has an area as great as all Central and Western Europe combined; about 1,620,000 square miles. The cultivation of sugar cane in this country began in 1751 near New Orleans. The first sugar mill was erected in 1758.

Sheet iron is rolled so thin at Pitts-burg, Penn., that the light of day shines through a single sheet as through a piece of glass.

There is a dog in Philadelphia that has a mania for tearing off door-knobs and plates and wrecking the woodwork of the doors generally.

It is estimated that the number of passengers carried by all the railroads in the world averages six million five hundred thousand a day.

A new cannon just made by Krupp is forty-two feet long, can be fired twice a minute, and throws a two thousand pound shot twelve miles. "The tallest schoolgirl in the world"

lives at Riednaun, near Sterzing, in the Swiss Tyrol. She is in her eleventh year, and is about six feet high.

An ordinary elephant produces 120 pounds of ivory, worth \$300. England consumes 650 tons, for which it is necessary to kill 12,000 elephants a year.

An Indiana cow, five years old, has given birth to eight calves. At three years of age she gave birth to quadruplets and the two following years to twins.

"Old Chabert," one of the best known socialist speakers in Paris, died recently. He spent his days denouncing capitalists, and always appeared in public wearing a blood-red scarf.

A traveler in Japan writes that the Japanese pay more attention to personal cleanliness than any other people in the world. High and low bathe at least once a day and sometimes oftener.

Instead of paying the clergyman a cash fee a bridegroom the other day presented to the divine who officiated a set of vestments and an ecclesiastical ring en-graved on the inside to commemorate the occasion.

## Paths That Become Water-Courses

On the West Coast of Africa, for miles inland, the forests are so choked with impenetrable underwood, that the travimpenetrable underwood, that the traveler can only follow the narrow pains that have been made by the natives. These are only wide enough to allow people to march in single file, and as these paths always become water-courses during the rainy season, they are anything but pleasant to walk on. The forests themselves are chiefly made up of immense bombax or six-cotton trees. immense bombax or six-cotton trees, their smooth, gray trunks standing out like sentinels among the dark, gloomy bush and the quiet, death-like silence. Enormous buttresses stretch out from their bases on every side, often twenty and thirty feet high. Between them, however, one can generally make a good camp, except for those pests of every tropical forest, the ants. One of the worst places to camp in, though looking the most inviting, is in a coccanut grove, owing to the danger of a nut falling and striking one.

In these forests the hum of life at immense bombax or six-cotton trees

striking one.

In these forests the hum of life at night is as great as in the forests of tropical America. One need not go far inland to be awakened at night by the inland to be awakened at night by the sullen roar of the lion, but the most awful cry to be heard in these forests is the cry of the small lemur. These ghosts of the forests begin with a low, plaintive cry that, gradually increasing, sounds as though some human being was in the last throes of torture. In the Ashantee war the writer remembers a sentry who was absolutely paralyzed with fear at the grewsome noise. He stuck to his post, but few men have ever been so frightened as that man was. Snakes, as a rule, cause but little trouble. They will invariably crawl away from man, and only when trod on or attacked do they strike.

—New York Tribune.

# Hood's Sarsaparilla

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Gunter's chain is a measure generally adopted in land surveying. It is twenty-two yards in length and contains 100 links, each link consequently being 7.92 inches long. The length of the chain was fixed at twenty-two yards because a square whose side is twenty-two yards (one chain) contains exactly 1-10 acres; in other words, a rectangular plot of in other words, a rectangular plot of ground one chain in width and ten chains in length contains one acre. Eighty chains contain one mile in length, and concontains contain one mire in tength, and consequently asquare mile contains 640 acres. For surveying and laying out plots and building lots, a chain of fifty feet, or one of twenty-five feet (the usual frontage of a lot) is usually employed by survivors.—

New York Dispatch.

## A Ten-Story Steel Building.

The new ten-story steel building at Chicago, of Rand, McNally & Co., the publishers, will contain, it is announced, fifteen miles of steel railway sixty-fivepound rails in the foundation, besides the twelve-inch and twenty-inch beams. There will be twelve miles of fifteen inch steel beams and channels; two and one-half miles of ties and angles in the roof; seven miles of tie rods; ten miles of Z steel in the columns; twelve miles of steam pipe, 350,000 rivets and bolts, and seven acres of floors, the boards of which would reach 250 miles, if laid

#### Cleaning Stained Books

Often, through carelessness, the pages of valuable books become stained. Ar old grease spot may be removed by applying a solution of caustic potash to the back of the leaf. This may cause the printing to fade, but that can be restored by a weak application of muriatic acid—about twenty-five parts of water to one of acid—A freely stay is removed. and another wenty-new parts of water to one of acid. A fresh spot is removed easily by chloroform or benzine, and ink spots disappear by an application of oxalic acid and hot water, which will also take off rust spots.—New York Telegram.

## The Horned Toad Industry.

One of the peculiar industries of Kern County, is the collection and shipment of horned toads. They are sold to the Chinese, who use them for medicinal purposes. They are considered especially valuable in the treatment of rheumatism. valuable in the treatment of rheumatism. The formula is as follows: Two parts whisky and one part horned toad; mix and let it stand one year. It may then be taken internally or applied externally to the rheumatic parts.—Chicago Herald.

It is said that a bunch of clover hung up in a sitting-room or bed-room clear it of flies.

The illiterate inhabitants of Portugal are officially stated at eighty-two per cent. of the whole.

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mend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known. Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1 bottles by all leading drug-gists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will pro-cure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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