THE STORY OF THE GREAT LONDON

Its Original Erection Buried in the Mists of Antiquity-No Other Bridge Like it Anywhere.

The original building of the bridge, writes Walter Besant in *Harper*, cannot be discovered. As long as we know anything of London the bridge was there. For a long time it was a bridge of timber, provided with a fortified gate-one of the gates of the city. In the year 1095, the chronicler relates that on the feast of St. Edmund the Archbishop, at the hour of six, a dreadful whirlwind from the southeast, coming whirlwind from the southeast, coming from Africa—thus do all authors in all ages seize upon the opportunity of parading their knowledge—"from Africa!" all that way!—blew upon the city and overthrew upward of 600 houses and several churches, greatly damaged the Tower, and tore away the roof and part of the wall or St. Mary le Bow, in Cheapside. During the same storm the water in the Thames rose with such rapidity and increased so violently that London

Bridge was entirely swept away.

The bridge was rebuilt. Two years afterward it narrowly escaped destruction when a great part of the city was destroyed by fire. Forty years ago it did meet this fate in the still greater fire of 1135. It was immediately rebuilt, but I suppose hurriedly, because thirty years later it had to be constructed appear.

Athong the clergy of London was then living one Peter, chaplain of a small church in the Poultry—where Thomas a Becket was baptized—called Cole-church. The man was, above all others, bridge-building, He was perhaps a mem-ber of the fraternity called the Pontific (or bridge-building) Brothers, who about this time built the famous bridges at Avignor, Pont St. Esprit, Cahors, Saintes and Rochelle. He proposed to build a stone bridge over the river. In order to raise money for this great enterprise, offerings were asked and contributed by King, citizens, and even the country at large. The list of contributors was written out on a table for posterity, and preserved in the Bridge Chapel.

This bridge, which was to last for six hundred and fifty years, took as long to build as King Solomon's Temple, namely, three-and-thirty years. Before it was finished the architect lay in his grave. When it was completed the bridge was 926 feet long and forty feet wide—Stow says thirty feet; it stood sixty feet above high-water; it contained a drawbridge and ninety pointed arches, with massive piers varying from twenty-five to thirtyfour feet in solidity, raised upon strong elm piles covered with thick planks. The bridge was curiously rregular; there was no uniformity in the breadth of the arches; they varied from ten feet to thirty-two feet. Over the teath and longest pier was erected a chapel dedicated to the youngest saint in the calendar, St. Thomas of Canterbary. The erection of a chapel on a bridge was by no means uncommon. Everybody, for instance, who has been in the south of France remembers the chapel on the broken bridge members the chapet of the broken bridge at Avignon. Again, a chapel was built on the bridge at Droitwich, in Cheshire, and one on the bridge at Wakefield, in Yorkshire. Like the chapel at Avignon, that of London Bridge contained an upper and a lower chapel; the latter was built in the pier with stairs, making it accessible from the river. The bridge gate at the southern end was fortified by a double tower, and there was also a tower at the northern end. The wall or parapet of the bridge followed the line of the piers, so as to give at every pier additional room. The same arrange-ment used to be seen on the old bridge at Putney. The citizens have always regarded

London Bridge with peculiar pride and affection. There was no other bridge like it in the whole country, nor any which could compare with it for strength or for size. I think, indeed, that there was not in the whole of Europe any bridge that could compare with it; for it was built not only over a broad river, but a tidal river, in which the flood rose and ebbed with great vehemence twice a day. Later on they built houses on either side, but at first the way to clear. The bridge was endowed with clear. The bridge was endowed with broad lands; certain monks, called Brethren of St. Thomas on the Bridge, were charged with the services in the called es for the maintenance of the fabric.

The children made songs about it. One of their songs, to which they danced, taking hands, has been preserved. It is modernized, and one knows not how old it is. The author of Chronicles of London Bridge gives it at full length, with the music. Here are two or three verses:

London Bridge is broken down, Dance over my Lady Lee; London Bridge is broken down, With a gay ladee.

How shall we build it up again?
Dance over my Lady Lee;
How shall we build it up again?
With a gay ladee.

Build it up with stone so strong, Dance over my Lady Lee; Huzza! 'twill last for ages long, With a gay ladee.

A Big Fir Log.

A mammoth fir log is to be sent to Chicago as a specimen of Washington timber. It was selected by D. Soper, of Chicago, who came to Puget Sound for the purpose of shipping one of the fa-mous trees. The one selected was found at North Bend, King County, and measured, after being squared, fifty-three by fifty-one inches across the butt. When placed on the trucks it was 113 feet

SELECT SIFTINGS

A machine gums 20,000 envelopes an

The barge is rising into favor as a yacht in England.

The Chilian Chamber of Deputies numbers 126 members, the Senate forty-

Nicaragua is the largest of the Centra American States. Area, 51,600 square

An egg pickling concern in Michigan has over half a million of the fruit stored away in vats.

Eda Davis, a child, fell over a precipice 150 feet high, in Washington, and was only slightly hurt.

A remarkable freak that is making its way toward Paris is a two-headed maiden, joined at the waist, having four

De Lesseps commenced work on the Suez Canal in 1860, and on September 28, 1861, sailed through it in a small steamer.

A grain of musk will scent a room for twenty years, and st the end of that time will not show it has diminished in the least.

A grain of carmine or half a grain of aniline will tinge a hogshead of water so that a strong microscope will detect coloring matter in every drop.

A recent survey has established the number of glaciers in the Alps at 1155, of which 249 have a length of more than four and three-quarter miles.

Equatorial France, Africa, as defined in the Berlin Conference, comprised the Gaboon and Ogowe Congo regions, a tract of some 174,000 square miles with about 2,000,000 inhabitants.

A collision between a ship and an omnibus is something rare; but one is just reported from Hamburg, Germany. The bus was crossing a bridge and the vessel poked her jib-boom into it, but nobody Berlin's Society for the Homeless last

Berlin's Society for the Homeless last year provided shelter for 100,000 men and 15,000 women. In the eleven years of its existence it has furnished lodgings, food and medical care to 2,200,-000

A vast "banyan" tree, covering be-tween six an seven acres, has been dis-covered on the tiny Lord Howe Island, 300 miles from Port Macquarie, in Australia. It is surpassed in size only by the greatest of those in India.

The American archæologists who are at work at Platea, Greece, have come upon the remains of an ancient temple, parts of which apparently go back to the sixth century B. C., or within a hundred years of the authentic beginning of Greek history. Developments of great interest are expected.

Among the multifarious presents re-ceived by the little Fife baby, grand-daughter of the Prince of Wales, were nine cradles, some of them costly affairs, in ebony and gold. A manufacturer of baby powder sent half a ton of his wares in a large square chest, and there was nearly a wagon load of feeding bottles, baby blankets and infant's chairs.

A new parlor entertainment in London is reading the past and future of subjects by inspiration. The operator holds the subject by the left wrist and looks fixedly into his or her eyes. The most celebrated of this class of entertainers affirms that she sees after a few seconds her subject actually in the conditions and under the environment she describes. Men, she finds, are more easy to read

A colt was born on a farm near Rich-A colt was born on a farm near Rich-wood, Ohio, which is certainly a curi-osity. Instead of having one eye located in the usual place at each side of the face, it had both eyes merged together in the centre of the forehead, and the mouth is cut in across the face, more like a human mouth than like that of a horse. It was almost devoid of anything like nostrils, otherwise it was well shaped. It only lived about four hours.

Children Sold for Old Clothes.

If an Esquimau family is very poor they sometimes give away to childless neighbors all their children but one. Thus during childhood a boy may pass from one to another to be adopted by several families in turn. Children are sold by their parents, the usual price being a sealskin bag of oil or a suit of old clothes.

old clothes.

During infancy children are carried under the parka, astride of the mother's back, being held in position by a strap under the child's thighs and around the mother's body across the chest. When out from under the parka they are carried seated on the back of the mother's neck and shoulders, with the child's legs hanging down in front on both sides of the neck. The children are given the names of various animals, birds, fish, sections of country, winds, tides, heavenly bodies, etc. Sometimes they have as many as six names.

Children are rarely punished, generally having their own way, and are usually treated with great kindness by their own or foster parents. Prominent events in the life of a boy, such as having his hair cut for the first time like a hunter, his first trip to sea in a knak, his first use of snow-shoes, etc., are celebrated by a feast, if the family are not too poor.--New York Journal.

A New Hypnotic.

Somnal is the name of a new hypnotic recently discovered by a Berlin physiciau. Its effects are far less depressing than those of chloral, and in other characteristics it has the same advantages. So many of the new hypnotics have one or more objectionable features, and their continuous use results in so many new placed on the trucks it was 113 feet continuous use results in so many new drug habits that it is a great boon to the in order to ship it, and it is now 111 feet long. It is a fine specimen of Washington yellow fir, and, examined by a glass, showed 441 rings. This would seem to make it 441 years old, if the generally accepted theory may be relied en.—San Francisco Call.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

Bead necklaces are seen again White cloth costumes grow in favor

New York has a Woman's Press Clut. Sashes of all kinds are being used

In Sweden you get a competent hired girl for \$14 per year.

Bows of white cocks' feathers are new and striking, but trying to mature faces. Mrs. James Codman has been overseer of the poor in Brookline, Mass., for this-

The first gymnasium or college for women in Rome, Italy, was opened April 1, 1891.

Of the fifty-three members of the re-cently formed Water Color Club, in New York, over half are women.

A feminine inspector of primary schools has been appointed in France, and there are more to follow.

The Babylonian women of the time of the deluge are said to have worn headgear like that of the present day. About 100 women stenographers and typewriters in New York City are organ-ized to improve their condition profes-

sicnally. Jeweled trimmings and jeweled fringes are much worn and are suitable upon all gowns, whether for the street

Straw hats have enormous brims, pro-truding very much in the front, and a wn, trimmed in front with a tuft

of feathers. A new occupation for women in London is that of "conversation crammer," whose business is to coach up ladies for

dinner parties. Veils, according to the latest Parisian verdict, must float and not be confined by a single pin. They must not touch the face but hang away.

Elegant parasols of crepe de Chine, in the fashionable pearl-gray tint, richly flounced and tasseled, with handles of natural wood, are shown.

Mrs. Carry Steele, a colored woman of Georgia, has founded a colored orphan asylum where destitute children may be cared for and taught trades. Linen collars are a thing of the past,

which is an infinite relief to those whose throats have been rasped by constant contact with starched neckwear. Crepons are likely to be even more

popular this season than last. These beautiful textures are embroidered with sprays of flowers throughout their entire London has 40,000 young seamstresses under twenty, who come from the country, live in homes for working girls, and,

with their utmost efforts, can only eara \$1.12 a week. In February, 1877, the Queen of England received from the Empress of Brazil a dress woven entirely of spiders' webs, which for fineness and beauty is said to surpass the most splendid silk.

The first literary society ever formed in India for native women is the Bombay Sorosis, formed on the model of the New York society of the same name. Two hundred members are on its rolls.

A serviceable dress for a girl of fourteen or fifteen to wear is made of blue serge worn over a cotton blouse, which can be exchanged for another of a different color if the wearer wishes to vary her

Wash-leather gloves with ventilated palms are now being sold for wearing at night. They are put on after the hands have been well rubbed with glycerine. This treatment is supposed to make the hands very white.

The Japanese Minister at Washington has placed the officers of the Board of Lady Managers in communication with three of the first ladies of his country, with a view of obtaining for the Fair a good exhibit of Japanese women's work.

It is a woman doctor who recommends shopping or working women to eatice cream for down-town lunch in hot weather. "When you are tired or feel little appetite, an ice cream is good for you; much better than to try to eat something heartier," she says.

Bonnets still continue to be studies in nonnets still continue to be studies in natural history, one of the latest being of fine open straw with a few upstanding loops of black velvet at the back, against which a lobster sprawls its long legs—or whatever you call them—twined lovingly about the crown.

Perhaps the most harmless artificial method of beautifying the complexion is to get a red beet, fresh from the mar-ket, and cutting it in half, rub it gently on the face, which will at once assume the delicate flush unobtainable through the use of chemical preparations.

Trains have become narrower. They consist of little more than a plait at the back of the dress and are cut so as to appear very narrow until rounded at the end, where they have a rather broad sweep. Street dresses have all a slight train, or are at least cut to touch the street in walking.

In fashionable Parisian hairdressing of the moment the distinctive feature is the solitaire curl, which leaves the wavy front hair and is brought low down on the forehead or is worn at the left temple. The rest of the bang is drawn loosely back to meet the small coil into which the long hair is twisted.

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Trivial Causes of War.

Among the curiosities of history is the oft-recurring fact that many of the great wars of the past have been indirectly brought about by trifing circumstances. One of the wars between the Turkish Empire in the zenith of its splendor and the Venetian Republic was havened tabout Empire in the zenith of its splender and the Venetian Republic was brought about by the desire of the Sultan's physician to marry a rich Spanish heiress. The lady and her mother escaped to Venice, and the Sultan sent an official after them to bring them back to Constantinople. The Venetian Repul lic was at first willing to comply with the Sultan's request, but the ladies succeeded in making their escape to Ferrara, and from thence to Lyons, in France. The Porte complained ons, in France. The Porte complained that the Venetian Republic had not used due diligence, and ultimately a terrible war broke out over this trivial circumstance. A contemporary historian says
"The agent of the Venetian Government at Constantinople informed the council that the reason of the dispatch of the Turkish Envoy to Venice was, to require on the part of the Grand Signeur, that a Spanish lady, named Mendez, with her daughters, should be delivered up to the Envoy, and by him brought to Constantinople. The common rumor was, that the Lady Mendez had promised to marry one of her daughters to the son of a man named Rodriguez, doctor to the Grand Signeur. The lady, however, changed her mind, and fled with her daughters to Ferrara, where they remained under the protection of the Duke for some time. It is now said that they have gone from Ferrara to Lyons in order to realize funds invested there by the late husband of the Lady Mendz. The emissary of the Grand Signeur was by no means content with the loss of his prey, and there was trouble in consequence." This information is contained in a latter written from trouble in consequence." This informa-tion is contained in a letter written from toon is contained in a letter written from Venice in July, 1549, by M. Morvillier to Henry II. of France, the object being to induce the King to use his authority for the purpose of sending the Lady Mendez and her daughter to Constantinople. The King sent to Lyons for this purpose, but found that the ladies had again taken flight, and were supposed to be at Antwerp.—American Register.

A Clock of Bread Crumbs.

The Milan museum has recently come into the possession of a remarkable clock. This unique timepiece is made entirely of bread crumbs. A poor Italian workman made it. Every day he set apart a portion of his modest meal in order to carry out his curious project. apart a portion of his modest meal in order to carry out his curious project. The bread crumbs saved by him he hardened by the addition of salt, and at last his tedious tssk is completed.—Chicago Herald.

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what he says:

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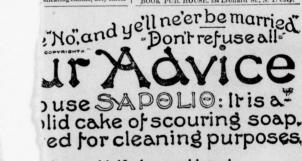
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