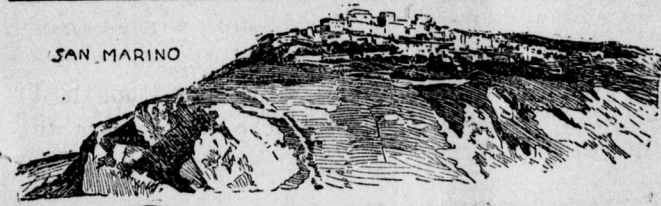


SMALLEST REPUBLIC IN THE WORLD.

San Marino may be territorially minute, but in the assertion of its dignity it will give way to none of its big neighbors. It is the smallest independent republic in Europe, its area being only thirty-three square miles. It lies between the provinces of Forli and Pesaro-Urbino, and it consists of part of the eastern spurs of the Apennines. The two streams Marecchia and Ausa, which pass through Rimini to the sea, rise partly in the north and

DOGS TO RELIEVE MINERS.

Trained Animals to Carry Provisions to the Klondike.
A band of dogs is trained and broken to harness near Livermore, Cal., to convey supplies to Dawson City by way of Dyea and Chilcoot Pass. They will start from Dyea, says the San Francisco Examiner. The owners of the dogs hope to get the supplies into Dawson before the Yukon River is



SAN MARINO



A PEASANT



TYPES

west of San Marino, while its southeastern valleys are drained by the sources of the Marano. The population is only about 8000, and most of the people are engaged in farming and stock raising. The city of San Marino, which has a population of 1800 or 1900, has five churches, an audience chamber, a law court, a theatre, a museum and a library. It is a picturesque little place, with steep and narrow streets and small houses of undressed stone. One of its most notable features is a white statue of Liberty, presented by the Duchess of Acquaviva.

The Velocity of Light.

It requires four years and four months for a ray of light to reach us from the nearest star, and yet light travels at the rate of 186,330 miles in a second. At this rate a first-class express train running at the speed of thirty-seven miles an hour, would require a continuous run of 75,000,000 years to reach Alpha Centauri. It would take 250,000,000 years for a cannon ball travelling at the usual speed of such projectiles to reach this same point, which is our nearest star neighbor.

Got a Fine Instead of a Bounty.

A man in the neighborhood of Marion, Penn., shot a screech owl, and, believing there was a bounty on birds of that kind, took it to a Justice of the Peace to make the proper affidavit. The Justice assured him that there was not only no bounty on the screech owl, but that on the contrary, there was a penalty of \$5 for shooting one. The Justice said that he was sorry, but, as the man had confessed to the violation of the law, he had no alternative but to impose the fine.

open for navigation and make a large profit out of their venture. A supply of provisions will be shipped to Dyea, and the dogs and sleds will be taken up on the steamer so that an immediate start can be made over the snow and ice for Dawson.

Sleds are being constructed upon a special plan. The runners are four-tenths inches wide, by twelve feet long. Moccasins are being made for each dog. The soles are of heavy canvas. The harness and collars will be of canvas.



DOGS FOR THE KLONDIKE.

Leather harness would be eaten by the dogs. Each dog will have a goat skin to sleep in. The men will sleep in rubber bags, lined with fur.

"We expect to carry 200 pounds per dog," said Mr. Smith, "and will have thirty dogs. We will cross Chilcoot Pass and then out across the country by the most direct route to Dawson.

An antiquated case in a St. Louis court was dismissed because everybody that was ever connected with it is dead.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

A woman loves a man and adores a fool.

Content is the true philosopher's stone.

When a man wonders why he loves a woman, he doesn't.

If you let an angry man alone, he will cool off himself.

Some men tell their wives everything that doesn't happen.

An ounce of persuasion is better than a pound of compulsion.

A woman never thinks a man a fool if he has once proposed to her.

Patience is the support of weakness, impatience is the ruin of strength.

Experience—Something everybody gets after it is too late to make use of it.

A man generally asks a woman's advice so he can show her how foolish she is.

Life's pleasures, if not abused, will be new every morning and fresh every evening.

Lots of men have nice necks and shoulders; only it doesn't count them anything.

Honesty may be the best policy, but life insurance is more satisfactory to the widow.

Kindness in the heart is like rose-leaves in a drawer, sweetening every object around.

The woman who marries for a home is apt to find that she has married a pig for a sty.

Idleness is the dead sea that swallows all virtues—the self-made sepulcher of a living man.

Some people are content with being up-to-date, but there are others who borrow trouble two or three years ahead.

Some men keep so busy deciding what women they don't want to marry that they never get time to decide what woman they do.

Farm Owned by One Family Since 1381.

Last Saturday morning J. E. Sogard received a remarkably interesting document from Christiania, Norway, and one which he prizes very highly. It came from the Government Museum at Christiania, and is an exact copy of two deeds of very ancient date, the original deeds having been preserved and placed on exhibition in the museum. The deeds are for a certain farm which the Sogard family has possessed for centuries and upon which two of his brothers—Simon, of Webster City, and John, of Iowa City—were born. The first deed is dated July 1, 1381, or more than 500 years ago. A better realization of the age of this deed is had when it is remembered that the Sogard family was in possession of the farm more than 100 years before Columbus discovered America, and it is probable that their ownership dates much further back than is shown by this deed. The latter instrument was executed in 1548, nearly seventy-five years before the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth. A gentleman from a neighboring town tells the Troy Times that he has seen the ancient document alluded to, but was unable to read it, as it is written in the Norwegian language. He adds that the property is in the town of Oalen, near the town of Hamar, and that the largest city near the place is Christiania, and that the document states it is given in the reign of King Hakon, by the grace of God, King of Norway and Sweden.—Webster City (Iowa) Freeman.

China Cup Watch.

John Curzon, a Polish mechanic, who was presented with a gold medal for his inventions, performed a most extraordinary thing when he succeeded in manufacturing a complete watch in the space of eight hours, and from materials on which another watchmaker would have looked with contempt, says an exchange. It appears that the Czar of Russia, hearing of the marvelous inventive genius of Curzon, determined to put him to the test, and forwarded him a box containing a few copper nails, some wood shavings, a piece of broken glass, an old cracked china cup, some wire, and a few cribbage board pegs, with the request that he should transform them into a time-piece.

Nothing daunted, and perceiving a golden opportunity of winning favor at the court, Curzon set about his task with enthusiasm; and in the almost incredibly short space of eight hours had dispatched a wonderfully constructed watch to the Czar, who was so surprised and delighted at the work that he sent for the maker, conferred upon him several distinctions, and granted him a pension. The case of the watch was made of china, while the works were simply composed of the odds and ends accompanying the old cup. Not only did it keep good time, but only required winding once every three or four days. This remarkable watch is believed to be still in the possession of the Russian royal family.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Paul Revere's Copper Bolts.

At the annual dinner of the Paul Revere Association Mr. Benjamin F. Stevens gave an address, in which he spoke of the connection of Paul Revere with the building of the frigate Constitution. He spoke of the fine work done by Revere, and the secret process that he had for tempering copper, so that it could be drawn into bolts, and by which he secured the contract for supplying bolts and metal work for the vessel.—Boston Transcript.

The Greatest Butter Eaters.

English people, it seems, eat more butter than any other people on the face of the earth. It is partly through this that the British complexion is the purest in the world.

TO WALK ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

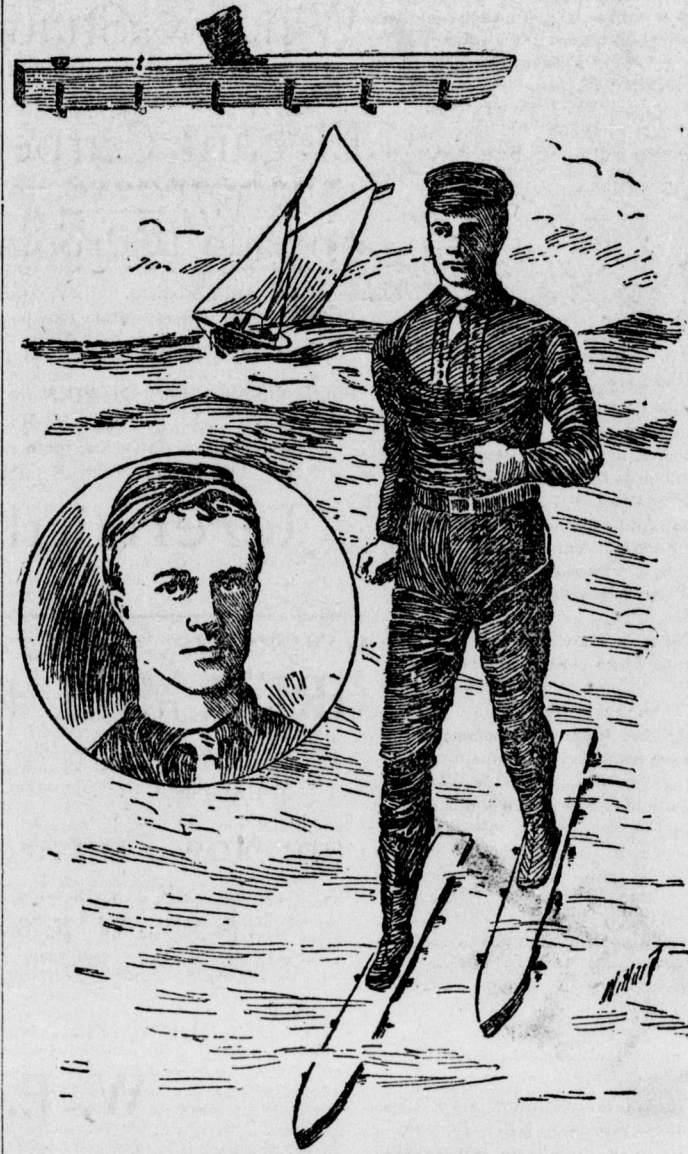
Captain William C. Oldrieve Will Make the Attempt Next July.

Captain William C. Oldrieve, of Boston, has planned to walk across the Atlantic Ocean next July. He will begin his journey July 4, and will be accompanied by Captain William A. Andrews, famous by reason of his voyages across the Atlantic in a small boat.

The seagoing shoes of Mr. Oldrieve

the picture, as intended as a head rest for the occupant, and for the spread to rest on. The cradle is five feet three inches in length. By reason of its continuous service it has been worn very smooth, and its fine polish causes it to resemble ebony rather than fine-grained black hickory wood.

At the time of the World's Fair there was an effort on the part of the Indiana Commission to secure the cradle for an exhibit in the Indiana building, but Mrs. Brandt would not consent to



CAPTAIN OLDRIEVE AND HIS SEA-GOING SHOES.

are the most wonderful part of the whole affair. They are really a pair of cedar boxes five feet long, with fins on the bottom and sides. They are very light and capable of sustaining 140 pounds, but as Oldrieve weighs only 130 they are as good to him as a steamer's deck. Into each of these wooden shoes the water walker's feet are thrust deep down and a rubber gaiter-like affair is fastened to his leg, thus effectually keeping out the water. Rubber boots reaching to the thigh are also worn. When thus equipped Oldrieve is able to walk many miles and to travel over choppy seas, and even the heavy swell of the ocean.

His theory of midocean walking is to slide down the side of a big swell and wait for the next one to lift him up. In this way he says it really requires less exertion to walk on water far out at sea than it does in a sheltered bay. The hardest work of all, he says, is to go in choppy water, as he did in the East River at New York. He thinks he will be able to walk from 500 to 1000 miles of the way across the Atlantic in a period of forty to ninety days. As the course taken will be in the path of steamships, he expects to speak many passing vessels and send back letters written while walking in midocean to his friends in Boston.

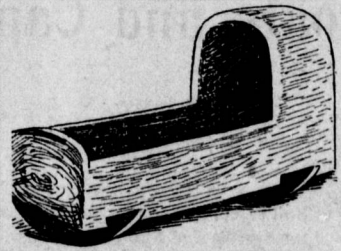
OLDEST BABY CRADLE IN AMERICA.

Was Hewn Out of a Log and Has Been in Use 106 Years.

Valparaiso, Ind., has a cradle yet in actual use in the home of the Rev. John L. Brandt which is 106 years old. In this interesting nursery fixture more than forty babies have been rocked to sleep.

In it was rocked in his infancy Mordecai Hardesty, the first white child born in Indianapolis. The cradle came from Virginia, and was handed down to the Brandt family by the grandmother of Mrs. John L. Brandt, wife of the pastor of the Christian Tabernacle of Valparaiso.

Mrs. George Marquis is Mrs. Brandt's grandmother. She had fourteen children, who were rocked to sleep in this cradle. Mrs. Brandt's



A CRADLE FORTY BABIES WERE ROCKED IN.

father was one of the fourteen. He is now eighty-six years of age.

It is a quaint old relic of the primitive days when cradles were hewn from a log. It was cut from one solid piece, except that the two rockers were mortised in and pegged on with wooden pegs. The head-piece, as shown in

part with it, fearing that by some accident it might be damaged or lost. An effort will be made to get permission to send it to the Paris Exposition of 1900, along with other American curiosities.

Prettiest Girl in Japan.

While we are all willing to acknowledge the Japanese as the most thoroughly artistic of all Orientals, few Westerners believe in the beauty of Japanese women.

"To be beautiful both in reality and



A JAPANESE PRIZE BEAUTY.

in pictures, the woman must be somewhat of pale complexion, with thin, oval face, prominent nose, small oval eyes and a small mouth. The body must be slender and the movement graceful. Although the Japanese women do not disfigure their feet as the Chinese do, yet they must be naturally small and turned inward in walking.

"Using the native figures of speech, the body must be slender and graceful, like a weeping willow branch."

The Great Canals and Their Cost.

The Suez Canal is about 100 miles in length, and cost one million dollars per mile for its construction. The Corinth Canal is four miles in length, and cost completed, with its approaches, one million per mile. The proposed Nicaragua Canal will cost per mile, with its terminals and approaches, certainly not less, and probably more than the sum named. The canals of Suez and Corinth are real maritime canals, built without locks, upon the sea-level. The one, that of Corinth, is situated in the temperate zone, where the rainfall is thirty-seven or forty inches per annum. The other, that of Suez, is located in a region without rain. Neither of these is threatened in its course by streams liable to sudden and perilous floods, so common in the tropical region of Central America. These two great works afford no real parallel to the Nicaragua project, either as to cost or feasibility. The one work parallel to this undertaking is very near, very like it, both in place and circumstance; it is that of the Panama canal across the Isthmus of Darien.—Harper's Magazine.

HELPS FOR HOUSEWIVES.

Mrs. Rorer's Way of Stewing Oysters.
Drain fifty oysters; put the liquor over the fire, boil and skim it. Strain it through two thicknesses of cheesecloth into a saucepan. Add the oysters, bring to a boil, and skim again; add one pint of milk, six whole peppercorns, half a teaspoonful of whole allspice and a blade of mace. Watch this carefully until it just reaches the boiling point; add a tablespoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of pepper, and serve at once with squares of toast, or oyster crackers.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Crisp Breadcrumbs.

Into dainty cookery breadcrumbs always enter largely, and they are naturally best when made in the best way. To prepare, cut some slices of bread and dry them crisp and brown in a cool oven. Roll them under a rolling-pin to crumble. Put some pure, clarified dripping in a fryingpan, let it boil, throw in the crumbs and fry them very quickly. When done remove them at once from the pan and drain from greasiness before the fire. When dry and crisp once more the crumbs are ready for use. They will keep for quite a week if stored in a dry tin box.

Whipped Cream.

This much-needed ingredient of fancy sweet dishes is prepared in the following manner: To every pint of cream allow three ounces of pounded sugar, one glass of sherry, the rind of half a lemon, and the white of one egg. Rub the sugar on the lemon rind and work it in a mortar till quite smooth. Put the cream into a large bowl, with the sugar, wine and egg (beaten to a froth), and begin to whip the whole to a froth. As this rises take it off with a skimmer and place on a sieve to drain. Whipped cream should always be prepared the day before required, and should be kept in a cool place.

To Prepare Oatmeal for the Table.

Where hard coal is used for cooking purposes, oatmeal may be put over the fire at six o'clock in the evening, brought to boiling point, and kept at this temperature overnight so that it may be ready to serve in the morning. Where soft coal, wood or gas is used for cooking purposes, it will be necessary to put the oatmeal over the fire at noon when the luncheon or dinner is being prepared. Put four heaping tablespoonfuls of the steel-cut oats into a quart of cold water; add half a teaspoonful of salt, and put it over the fire in a double boiler; cover, and cook continuously for one or two hours. Then it may be put aside until the night meal is being prepared, and cooked again as long as the fire is burning, and then put aside to be reheated at breakfast time. The kettle should be covered closely, and the oatmeal must not be stirred from the beginning to the end of the cooking, otherwise the grains will be broken. Stirring oatmeal seems to destroy its flavor.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Household Hints.

The hot bath is as harmless as refreshing, if taken in the proper way, merely as a plunge, followed by quick and thorough rubbing and massage.

Celebrated foreign doctors recommend marrow as a tonic and strengthener. It is spread on hot, dry toast, or served on small pieces of beef fillet.

Raw beef applied to the afflicted part affords a speedy relief, when severe inflammation seems to threaten appendicitis. This has been tested recently by a physician.

It is claimed that the perfume of flowers adds activity to all our organs, especially the digestive ones. For this reason, dinner guests in ancient times were crowned with roses.

For a blistered heel, scrape a little yellow laundry soap to a paste with a very little water and apply to the spot. As a preventive, thoroughly soap the inside of the heel before starting out on a long tramp.

Ink stains may be taken out of white cloth by pouring peroxide of hydrogen over the spot, then rinsing with water. New milk is also good, or lemon juice, followed by thorough sprinkling with salt.

Kitchen odors, penetrating to upper sick rooms, may be dispelled by burning dried lavender flowers on sheets of brown paper soaked in saltpeter, and then dried. The burning may be done in the coal scuttle.

It is a truth that will bear repetition that carpets with small figures are the most economical. They can be mended, patched, ripped and turned to better advantage, and they also increase the apparent size of a room.

Oil of peppermint, so widely used in the East, is useful as an external application for neuralgia or rheumatism. When taken internally, much diluted, it is beneficial in gastric troubles, and for coughs and colds. It is also a good antiseptic for wounds or burns and is really no more pungent than ammonia.

The system of the average person demands from two to four quarts of water per day, to be thoroughly cleansed. The purer the water, the greater is its power of absorbing effete matter. Nothing can take its place. Pure spring water is the best tonic and blood purifier, to which will often yield liver and kidney troubles, rheumatism, local heart affections, indigestion and eruptions.

As It Was.

Jack—So after you satisfied her father that you were a stockholder, she consented to be your wife?

Mack—Yes. First she viewed my shares and then she shared my views.

The Ballad of the MERMAIDEN by M. E. BAKER

It was a merry Mermaiden,
All down by the sounding Sea,
She wearied of combing her golden locks,
And of sitting around on weedy rocks,
And for something new sighed she.

Then up rose the merry Mermaiden,
And hid her unto the Shore,
She spied a Cyclist riding past,
His shining wheels went round so fast,
And they pleased her more and more.

Then out spake the merry Mermaiden,
And out aloud she cried;
"Frithee, Sir, lend me that wondrous Shell
On which you travel so fast and well,
For I fain would learn to ride."

Then down got the kindly wheelman;
"I will wait till you learn," said he,
And the Cyclist waits by the sounding Shore
But the Mermaiden comes to him nevermore,
For she scorches beneath the Sea.

—Nickell Magazine.