

THE BRIDGE AT COLENZO.



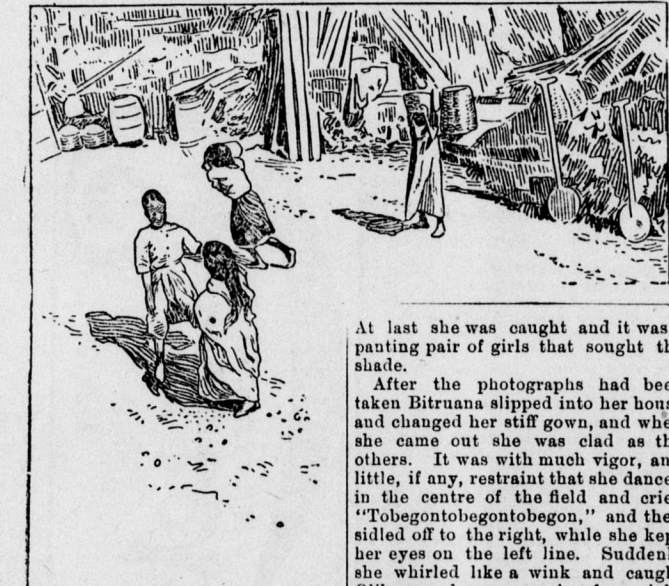
Colenso is on the line of the railroad running from Ladysmith to Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The key to Colenso, and likewise one of the most vulnerable points on the railroad, was the bridge crossing the Tugela River, upon which stream the city of Colenso is situated. This bridge has been the subject of much anxiety to the London War Office, owing to the dependence of the position upon its safety. The bridge is built of iron lattice work and tubing, supported by piers of masonry. Colenso is in Natal, seventeen miles south of Ladysmith.

Laha, Favorite Game of Filipino Children.

How It is Played.

Children are a happy lot almost anywhere, and the Filipino pickaninies are no exception to the rule. They laugh and shout just like other children and play their games. Something like "tag" is very popular, and then there is a play called "laha" in Tagalog, which is the language of the country folk and the fishermen and all the natives who are not living in Spanish families.

Laha is the game some of my little neighbors were playing Saturday after school, writes Harry A. Armstrong, the Manila correspondent of the Chicago Record. I went to take a picture, and when they saw the camera there was a scattering, and it appeared as if I had broken up the game. But this was not so, for presently the lively troop came back. One little girl, however, was very tardy and the others waited for her. After awhile she came, all dressed up in a "husa" cloth gown, which trailed out behind. Over her shoulders she had thrown a pina shawl. She seemed very proud of her finery and her poses appeared very self-conscious, but perhaps that was due to the stiff gown, which reached to the ground. The accompanying picture shows her and her gown as the children threw the shoe to see who should "stand." The toe of the shoe was to tell, and it fell pointing to Eness, a graceful girl of eight years, and full of life and sport.



PLAYING THE GAME OF LAHA.

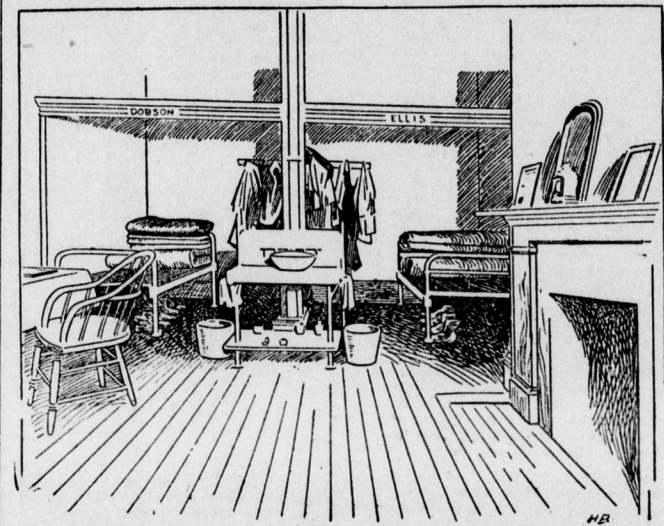
Eness ran to the center of the square and sang her challenge, which sounded very much like "Tobegontobegontobegon," but when repeated slower for my benefit it sounded like "to be gone," thrice repeated.

The square in which the game was played was something like the accompanying diagram, only it was in the sand and the "laha" lines were made by a bare foot. When the toe of the shoe declared that Eness was "it" the rest gathered about her—Bitruana and Bralsidis and Olihay and Vahedis. Then Eness shouted "Tobegontobegontobegon" and the other girls darted away to their corners. The game was for Eness to touch one of the others as she passed over the "laha" lines, and then that one should be out of the game. The last one caught should "stand" the next time. And I want to say that it was just a jolly play, and one out of which each player got lots of exercise.

First Bitruana sidled up to the line and Eness made a dash at her, and as she did so Olihay skipped across on her side, and when Eness darted back that way, Vahedis and Bralsidis crossed sidewise and Eness was where she started. Each girl screamed with excitement, but the hand of Eness did not touch anyone, and all straightened up to catch breath.

Eness was probably the most supple one there and she danced out toward Olihay, crying defiantly, "Tobegontobegontobegon!" but Olihay took a backward step and was out of harm's way—in the part marked "safe" in the diagram. This gave Bitruana a chance, and she flounced her pretty skirts across the line just

as Eness reached the limit on that side, and she screamed at her narrow escape. Eness was back again to the center, and this time she caught Bralsidis fair and square. There was a slap on the shoulder and a cry of delight from Eness as Bralsidis slowly walked over to the shade of one of the nipa huts. From here she joined the shouting and jumped up and down in

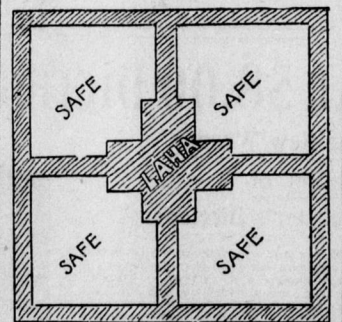


TYPICAL QUARTERS OF UNCLE SAM'S FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS.

excitement as one of the players slipped past "laha." Shortly she was joined by Olihay, and after awhile by Vahedis, and Bitruana was darting about to keep out of reach of Eness.

At last she was caught and it was a paunting pair of girls that sought the shade.

After the photographs had been taken Bitruana slipped into her house and changed her stiff gown, and when she came out she was clad as the others. It was with much vigor, and little, if any, restraint that she danced in the center of the field and cried "Tobegontobegontobegon," and then sidled off to the right, while she kept her eyes on the left line. Suddenly she whirled like a wink and caught Olihay as she was crossing from right to left, not knowing that Bitruana was looking. So the game went on, and this time Vahedis was the last and by and by she was caught.



THE "LAHA" GROUND.

(The one who "stands" may run anywhere on the dark portion, but usually stands in the center, ready to run in any direction.)

The little girls named live in bamboo huts with their parents, who are fisher folk, and who, to be close to the bar, have built their huts in the back yard of some wealthier person. The little girls often go out in the surf and enjoy the sea to the fullest extent, for the Filipino children learn to swim early in life.

Wasted Effort.

"When my wife gets to jawing," said the man with the frayed cuffs, "I preserve a dignified silence." "Yes, I heard about it," said the man with the blue overalls. "I heard your hired girl telling our hired girl that you was the best hand at settin' round an' sulkin' she ever seen."—Indianapolis Journal.

Simplicity of Cadet Life at West Point Academy.

Spartan simplicity is the predominant feature of cadet rooms at West Point. They are furnished alike. There are no decorations in one that cannot be found in all the others. A millionaire's son has no more privileges than the poorest lad whose brains and physical perfection secured his appointment.

No furniture or ornaments are allowed in rooms except those called for by the regulations. Everything in a cadet's room is purchased out of the pay he receives from the government. No ornaments are allowed on the walls, but a few photographs may be placed on the top shelf of the clothes press. Each cadet must make up his bed after reveille. Mattresses and blankets are folded neatly and piled against the head. Shoes are lined parallel to the floor by the side of the bed. An alcove furnished with hooks provides a place for uniforms. The hooks are numbered for each garment. Night clothes and one clothes bag for each cadet hang on pegs next to the bed. A small clothes press, having four shelves, stands against the wall near the door. This press holds the remaining belongings of the occupants.

The mantel ornaments consists of a neat frame giving the hours of instruction, copies of the army regulations, U. S. M. A. regulations, blue

book, and a small mirror. At the foot of the bed is a washstand, with two bowls and a few toilet articles. On the transom of the alcove is each cadet's name, which must also appear over his clothes press and pegs. Guns have a separate rack.

Two cadets occupy a room. The selection of room mates is left to the cadets themselves, the authorities claiming no jurisdiction.

Each cadet takes his turn as room orderly weekly. The orderly is responsible for the general order and cleanliness of the room. He must see that the ventilation is perfect, that the lights go out at taps. Upon him rests the responsibility of dust appearing on the shelves. He must not allow his room mate or any visitor to stand at the window in shirt sleeves, and whatever is done in the room he stands accountable for.

Formerly cadets were compelled to scrub the floors of their rooms, but civilians are now employed for that purpose. This is the only evidence of luxury that is cropped up at West Point during the century of its existence.

Two Stories of Lawyers.

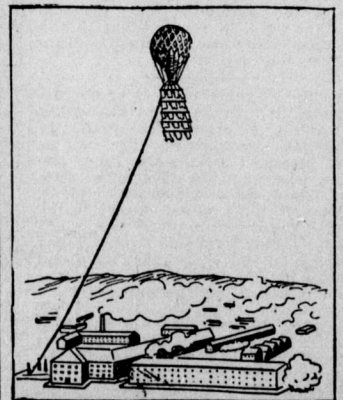
The logic of wit is the most destructive logic that is employed against error. This was aptly illustrated at a public reception given a few nights ago, at which a learned lawyer, who is slightly lame in his right foot, was present. The advocate overheard a lady say to her companion, "That is Mr. C—, the lame lawyer."

Turning around he replied, "No, madam, I am a lame man, but not a lame lawyer."

An amusing incident occurred in one of the common pleas courts the other day. The lawyer for the defense was making a very lengthy cross-examination of an old lady, when he was interrupted by the judge with the remark: "I think you have exhausted this witness."

"Yes, judge," she exclaimed, "I do feel very much exhausted."—Philadelphia Call.

Drying Clothes by Balloon.

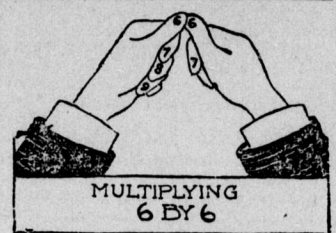


One of the large laundries in the suburbs of Paris has adopted this means of hanging its clothes up to dry above the contaminated atmosphere of the French metropolis.

TO MULTIPLY WITH THE FINGERS

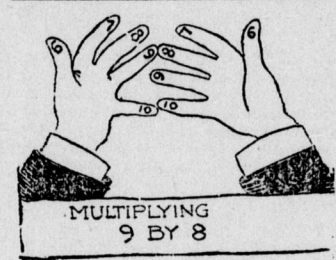
An Ingenious System Used in the Echo of Poland.

A Polish mathematician has invented an ingenious system whereby large sums may be multiplied on the fingers with much less trouble than with per



or pencil. The system bears the name of its inventor, Procopovitch, and has been introduced into the schools throughout Poland. A little study of the illustration will enable any one to do sums. Children are required first to mark the numerals on the ends of their fingers that they may remember them more readily, but adults can get along without this aid by memorizing the position of the numbers.

The system is not used for multiplying numbers of less than six, since such problems can readily be done mentally. The fingers are numbered as follows:



The two thumbs represents 6, the index fingers each represent 7, the middle fingers 8, the ring fingers 9, and the little fingers 10.

To multiply any two of these numbers the fingers representing the multiplier and the multiplicand are placed together. Beginning with the fingers placed together, one counts the number of fingers, including these two and moving toward and including the thumb. The sum will be the number of tens, or the first numeral of the product.

A certain number of fingers still remain below the fingers which have been joined. The fingers remaining on one hand multiplied by the number remaining on the other will give the number of units, or right-hand unit of the product.

In multiplying 8 by 9, for instance, the middle finger of the right hand is placed against the ring finger of the left hand, as shown in the illustration. Counting the number of fingers above



those placed together and including these, we obtain seven fingers, or 70. There are now remaining two fingers on the right hand and one on the left, which when multiplied give two. These two, added to the number of tens, give 72, the product 8 by 9.

The New Government Printing Office.

The new Government Printing Office will cost about \$2,000,000, and it is said that even after its completion it will not be large enough to meet the demands upon it. The new building will be eight stories in height, and its floor space will be about nine acres. The floors will sustain a load of 85,000,000 pounds. The building will be constructed in such a substantial manner that the entire space can be filled with paper and books without injuring its stability in any degree. Access to the various floors will be obtained by twelve electric elevators. The building will be lighted with 7000 incandescent lights. A refrigerating plant will furnish cold filtered water on every floor for drinking purposes. A large crematory will destroy all the refuse material, and this will aid in heating water, etc. It is hoped in time that Congress will appropriate the money for modern typesetting machines, but it is probable that when the census is complete and the reports published, the equipment of the census printing office will revert to the Government Printing Office.—Scientific American.

His Impartiality.

"What I want to see," remarked the man of theories, "is an equal distribution of wealth."

"That's exactly what I want to see," answered the man with so much money that he could never find time to count it. "Did you ever meet my partner in business? He's a fine man I'd like to see all the wealth in existence divided so that he'll have one half and I the other."

The Men Who Shout.

The men who are too anxious to fight before the battle opens are often conveniently absent when the firing begins.—The Pathfinder.

In consequence of the law allowing wild ducks to be killed nine months a year, those birds are said to be on the point of extermination in the marshes of Michigan.

ANCIENT BOLIVIAN CHAQUIS.

Trained Runners Who Carried News With Amazing Swiftness.

When the Spanish invaders entered Bolivia, writes W. E. Curtis in the Chicago Record, they wondered at the manner in which their movements were anticipated by the natives. Every act appeared to be instantly communicated over the entire empire almost as swiftly as if sent by telegraph. After a few months they discovered that there was an organization of runners who carried the news with amazing speed over the snow-covered mountains and across the scorching sands. They were known as the chaquis and were selected by reason of their physical qualifications and trained for speed and endurance. When they became incapacitated by age or accident, they were given less arduous duties in the army or about the court.

As the Incas had no written language, their messages were always oral, so the memories as well as the muscles of the chaquis were trained. Sometimes the Inca communicated with his subordinates in other parts of the country by signs—a ring, a piece of molded clay or a leaf might be transmitted—which meant nothing to the man who bore it or to the people who saw it in his hands, but was very portentous to him for whom it was intended. As proof of the speed of the chaquis it is said that the royal table at Cusco was often served with fresh fish caught in the sea fifty or sixty hours previous—a distance that now requires from six to ten days travel by railways and stage. Along the highways and the mountain trails, at frequent intervals, were established station houses, usually erected upon hillocks and other points of observation from which the approach of messengers could be detected. As one arrived, heated and breathless, a fresh chaqui would be ready to receive the message and carry it to the next station without an instant's delay.

The chaquis still exist, but they are no longer organized and there is little use for them. In time of war they are useful, as they have many of the instincts and much of the skill of scouts, and being familiar with the byways as well as the highways are able to slip through the lines of the enemy without danger. Some years ago I saw a chaqui of the name of Quinahambo (bird chaser), who was very swift of foot and almost incapable of fatigue. He had been employed for several years by General Caseras, then president of Peru, and had carried a message 250 miles without rest or sleep through the enemy's country and had returned with the answer within a week.

The chaqui never carries food with him, but depends entirely upon the cocoa leaf, nor are his movements impeded by clothing. He goes as nearly naked as possible, but carries a poncho and paints his legs with a vegetable dye as a protection against poisonous vines and the bites of insects.

Novel Fishing for Sharks.

This being the season of fish yarns John Ritchie, who has for years conducted most of the shorthand work at national conventions, sprung this story at the Press club: "About the funniest thing I saw," he said, "was while on a vessel down off Hatteras Inlet or some point near there. One day we ran into about 40,000,000,000 sharks. There was a lot of them, and I wondered if they were all there for me. I do think sharks give everybody a sort of creeping feeling. We had some fun with them. There was a passenger on board who had some experience with the beasts before. He went to the cook and got him to make a lot of dumplings. He came on deck with three or four dozen of them and he began tossing them to the sharks. They snapped them down eagerly. Now you must bear in mind that these balls in coming from the cook had time to cool on the outside so that they slipped down the shark's throat he did not notice anything out of the way. But the inside of that ball was like a fiery furnace, and in a minute after it had been swallowed the heat began to act. I don't believe there is anything hotter than hot dough, and if not exposed to the air it keeps hot. Well, you should have seen those sharks jump and plunge and throw themselves. I never saw anything like it in my life, and while I am always opposed to cruelty, it doesn't seem as if there was any harm in doing anything to a shark."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Gift of a Famous Flag.

One of the most interesting characters in Martha's Vineyard, Mass., is Mrs. Harriet Rebecca Stafford, or "Mother Stafford," now 80 years old. In her cottage is a room devoted to patriotic relics and antiques. But the pride of her museum—the ensign of the Bon Homme Richard—is there no more for she has presented the precious flag to the United States government.

One of her heirlooms is a gold wedding ring worn by her grandmother 118 years ago. Harriet Rebec wore this ring herself in 1855, when she became Mrs. John Barnum Ames, and the ring is of such potent virtue that she couldn't resist wearing it again when James Stafford proposed to her. James Stafford was the son of Lieutenant Stafford, who rescued the flag from the British in the fight between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis, when the intrepid Jones told the British captain to sink him if he could, adding by way of emphasis: "If I just go to the devil I had rather strike to him than to you."

It was through the marriage with Mr. Stafford that this genial old lady came into possession of the flag.—Boston Globe.

FOR THE HOUSEWIVES.

For Damp Cupboards.

Damp cupboards and rooms can be made dry and airy by placing a basin of fresh lime where the moisture penetrates to the detriment of food, linen, etc. The lime quickly absorbs the unwholesome humidity and the remedy need only be repeated every now and then. In living rooms, which are not to be depended upon as being as dry as would be desirable, it is advisable to place saucers containing salt under sofas, etc. This will absorb the moisture in a wonderful manner. If thoroughly dried, the salt can be used again for the same purpose.

How to Wash Silk.

All colored silks should never be steeped, but washed and ironed as expeditiously as possible, to prevent the color going. Squeeze it in warm, soapy lather (not hot) until clean, rinse in warm and then in cold water. To the latter add one tablespoonful of salt and the same of vinegar. This is done to preserve the color. Squeeze out tightly, fold evenly and roll in a clean cloth; beat well between the hands. Iron at once with a moderately hot iron, under muslin, until nearly dry. Finish without the muslin. White silk must be steeped in borax water and then washed in the same way as colored silk except in the last rinsing water a large teaspoonful of methylated spirit is put to each pint of water instead of salt and vinegar. The methylated spirit imparts a gloss to the silk, and should it be liked stiff, put one teaspoonful of prepared gum water to each pint of rinsing water.

To Clean Gems.

Talking of gems reminds one that comparatively few people ever think of cleaning them, but allow them to get extremely grimy and then send them to a jeweler. This accumulation of dirt is very injurious to the stones. Every few months all rings, brooches and such articles as are in constant use—less frequently for those seldom worn—should be brushed with a toothbrush which has been dipped in eau de cologne, if the setting is open it must be brushed from the back. Then lay the article in a heap of boxwood sawdust which has been slightly heated beforehand and leave them for some thirty minutes. Gold chains may be washed in soapsuds, drying them on a soft towel by pulling the chain backward and forward, but care must be taken to pull it in the right way of the curb or link. These may also be placed in sawdust, the particles of which can be easily blown away afterward. The least damp be when the links is very likely to cause them to wear more rapidly.

Uncorking a Bottle.

A wise woman sat watching her daughter's efforts to remove a cork (not a stopper) from a bottle.

Seeing that the cork was about to break she quietly took the matter into her own hands, and, with a gentle touch or two, soon had the bottle ready for use.

"You did not know the law of corks?" she said, smiling at the girl's astonishment. "Do you realize that when a cork is put in a bottle the fingers twist in the same direction a screw is turned, and at the same time push it home? This causes the fibres of the part of the cork in the bottle neck to twist and contract and squeeze themselves spirally into a smaller space. When the cork must come out, to turn it in the opposite direction untwists and expands it and makes it hard to move. If you would be successful, just turn the cork in exactly the same direction as you did at first. This contracts it still further, and then it is an easy matter to lift it out."

"If the cork should be held by any sticky mixture it can easily be loosened by plunging the bottle head first into hot water. This melts the glue-like substance, and a little gentle fingering will set the cork free, to be turned as described."

Recipes.

Frizzled Beef with Eggs—Put into a saucepan one cupful of milk and one teaspoonful of butter; add a cupful of finely chopped beef; cook five minutes, then add two well beaten eggs and stir till the sauce thickens. Pour the mixture over slices of fried bread or toast.

Callers' Cake for Teas—Take six eggs and their weight in sugar, flour and butter. Beat all well together in a clay bowl for half an hour and add the grated rind of one lemon; cut after rolling the paste into small lozenges and bake in a moderate oven a yellow brown. These keep in a tin canister nicely.

Seringa Fritters (French)—Five gills of water, sugar to sweeten, four ounces of fresh butter, the rind of a lemon grated to powder, and a pound (or more if needed, according to the absorption) of fine sifted flour. Beat half an hour, add a gill of orange flower water, then chill the mixture and beat in one at a time five eggs. In the season seringas picked free of any grass are put in the paste. Fry in hot fat, drain and dust with powdered sugar. Serve with lemon.