

READING HISTORY.

The One Way to Acquire a Real Knowledge of the World.

Henry James once told me that the only reading of which he never tired was history. "The least significant footnote of history," he said, "stirs me more than the most thrilling and passionate fiction. Nothing that has ever happened to the world finds me indifferent."

I used to think that ignorance of history meant only a lack of cultivation and a loss of pleasure. Now I am sure that such ignorance impairs our judgment by depriving us of standards, of power to contrast and the right to estimate. We can know nothing of any nation unless we know its history, and we can know nothing of the history of any nation unless we know something of the history of all nations.

The book of the world is full of knowledge we need to acquire, of lessons we need to learn, of wisdom we need to assimilate. Consider only this brief sentence of Polybius, quoted by Plutarch, "In Carthage no one is blamed however he may have gained his wealth." A pleasant place, no doubt, for business enterprises, a place where young men were taught how to get on and extravagance kept pace with shrewd finance; a self satisfied, self confident, money getting, money loving people, honoring success and hugging its fancied security, while in far-off Rome Cato pronounced its doom.—Agnes Repplier in Atlantic Monthly.

THE SCARLET TANGER.

He Wears His Gaudy Fireman's Suit Only in the Summer.

The country folk call the scarlet tanager the firebird. His feathers set the woods on fire. Reversing the figure, the firebird puts out the torch of the sun and pales the plumage of the oriole that has come to fly "in tropic splendor through our northern sky."

This tanager of ours is not much of a songster. He does not have to be. All he has to do is "stand on" in the show in order to share applause with the gold tongued wood thrush and the mellow noted meadow lark. Seemingly the tanager thinks that his call is to be preferred to his song, for he calls forty times where he sings once. The tip of a tree gives him the best stage setting for his beauty, and there he perches, looks the sun in the eye and chirps by the hour. His mate is a modestly garbed female, who is willing to attend to home duties while Beau Brummel gallivants abroad.

It is only for a season that the tanager wears his fireman's suit. Nature's rule that he must change his clothes when September is spent may seem foolish to him, but he obeys to the feather. In dun and drab he goes south, where he tells an unbelieving and brilliantly plumaged company of tropic birds of the wonder of his summer dress.—Chicago Post.

The Day of the Carver.
Carving was once a serious thing. The sixteenth century carver was a professional. He had to make the joint fit the guest. The size of his slices was the thing. Then he had to know his guests and cut accordingly. A lord, for instance, at the table, and a pike was dished up whole. Smaller fry, and the pike came on in slices. The same procedure with pig. The rank of the diners decided whether it should appear at table in gold leaf or naked, whole or sliced. With bread, too, there was a difference. New or three days old baked was at the discretion of the carver as he sized up the visitors. And as for the apportioning of the tidbits according to precedence there was no end. The old time carver, in fact, was born and then made.—London Standard.

Difficult Feast.
Two boys stood in front of the entrance gate of a football field. They had no money, but they were determined to outwit the gatekeeper somehow and get in and see the game. They suggested scheme after scheme to one another, and finally the older boy said:
"I got it now! We'll walk in backward, and he'll think we're coming out."—Exchange.

Net Catching.
Mrs. Nouveau Riche—Willie, I don't want to see you play with the Slingsby-Smythe's dog again. Willie Ditto—Why not, ma? Mrs. N. R.—The dog is pedigreed, they say, and there's no telling when it may have another fit of them.—New York Globe.

His Suspicion Confirmed.
How interesting the financial columns in the morning papers can be to the traveled reader! For instance, here's a market report that says "butter was strong." This confirms an impression formed at a boarding house recently.—London Ideas.

Feminine Intuition.
"I thought you were going to send that hat back, Maude. What induced you to keep it?"
"Every girl I know was careful to tell me, as soon as she saw it on me, how unbecoming it was."—Baltimore American.

On the Line.
"You say you have spent hours over a single line?"
"Yes; and sometimes days."
"Then you're a poet?"
"No; I'm an angler."

Unusual Behavior.
Lorette—You look worried, old chap.
Ned—Yes, I'm afraid my wife is going to home all yesterday afternoon. Life.

Old Ironsides.

Old Ironsides is such a cherished national treasure now that it seems incredible that it was once proposed in all seriousness to tear it to pieces for what little value could be got out of the material, remarks the Boston Post. Holmes was a law student at Harvard at the time. He was only a month more than twenty-one years old. He wrote his immortal poem with a lead pencil on a stray scrap of paper, yet it has been said:

"This probably is the only case in which a government policy was changed by the verses of a college student." Originally Old Ironsides was one of four sister frigates, the Constitution, the Constellation, the United States and the President. Of the other three, alas, only memories remain. The Constellation was broken up, as they intended to break up Old Ironsides. One of the others rotted away at a British dock, and the fourth was lost at sea.

Curiously enough, the story of these four sister frigates is one of the least known chapters in American history. Yet it is well worth reading up.—Chicago News.

She Became a Bore.
Most persons who talk about themselves are bores. A writer in the American Magazine says:
"One of the most companionable women I ever knew was so completely transformed by an operation that she unconsciously became a bore to her friends and to her family by tedious repetitions of her hospital experience. Her idea of its importance was so exaggerated that she lost all sense of proportion. Truly her 'operation' became the alpha and omega of her existence. From it all events in her life history dated. It was her sole topic of conversation. No matter how skillfully one might steer the conversational bark away from the dreaded topic, she adroitly brought it back. As a result she became self centered, introspective and a bore to her friends. Her efforts to entertain merely annoyed. Where she hoped to arouse admiration she created disgust, and where she sought sympathy she received only indifference."

The Hope of the Poles.
There are more Poles today in the world than ever before, and their fecundity is unrivaled. Their national feeling was never deeper rooted or more intelligent. If a Pole tells you he is in favor of autonomy under Germany or Russia or Austria, he is lying for expediency's sake. The Pole wants only one thing, and that is independence. In this he is not like every other nation worth its salt? "Are you a patriot?" said Napoleon in 1810 to John Sniadecki, rector of the University of Vilna. "Sire," answered the rector, "from my birth I have learned to love my country, and her misfortunes have only strengthened the love I bear for her." After an additional century of Poland's misfortunes her children, scattered over the whole world, would give the same answer. And there are seven times as many of them now as there were then.—Century.

Very Ancient Warfare.
At the beginning of the Chino-Japanese war one of our military attaches attended a Chinese review. A Chinese regiment took the field and went through a curious performance. The rank of the diners decided whether it should appear at table in gold leaf or naked, whole or sliced. With bread, too, there was a difference. New or three days old baked was at the discretion of the carver as he sized up the visitors. And as for the apportioning of the tidbits according to precedence there was no end. The old time carver, in fact, was born and then made.—London Standard.

First in Something.
According to their own account, the children were first in something at school. One was first in reading, another in arithmetic, another in sports. Bertie alone remained silent.
"Well, Bertie, how about you?" his uncle asked. "Aren't you first in anything?"
"Yes," said honest Bertie; "I am first out of the building when the bell rings."—New York Times.

History Repeats.
Two men were once talking over their respective sons' careers at college, and one remarked:
"Well, I sometimes feel like saying, as did Aaron in the wilderness, 'Behold, I poured in the gold and there came out this calf.'"—New York American.

Prudent Man.
"Had any luck in the stock market lately?"
"The best ever."
"How much did you clean up?"
"Not a cent. I listened to a still small voice and stayed out."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Distance Lends Enchantment.
She—Do you think it will be all right for us after we are married to settle a couple of squares away from my family? He—I was going to say a couple of states.—New York Times.

Optimism.
Wife—John, you'll have to take that ball away from baby. He hit sister on the head with it. John—Yes, dear, but you should have seen the curve the little cuss had on it.—Puck.

Children Cry FOR PLOTTERS'S

Liquid Fire in War.

Liquid fire as a war weapon is thus described in an English journal:
In the earliest models the combustible liquid was propelled by a gas condenser out of a portable or fixed reservoir and was lighted by some automatic device as it escaped from the nozzle of the projecting instrument. Later a double barreled liquid gun was devised, having the upper barrel much smaller than the lower and pivoted so as to turn independently. The fluid is shot from the two barrels simultaneously, but only that from the upper one ignites automatically.

This small burning stream is so directed that it unites with the larger, nonburning one at any desired point and then, of course, ignites the larger jet. The small stream is then shut off, the large one continuing to flow.

The flames do not spread backward along the jet toward the nozzle, but are carried forward to the target and striking the ground, form a veritable sheet of fire which continues to ignite the fluid as fast and as long as it falls.

The Making of Chipped Glass.
Sheets of glass that are covered with a shell-like raised pattern are in use for screens, partitions, electric light fixtures and other purposes. This chipped glass, for the pattern is often really chipped out of the surface, involves a process that is interesting. The sheet of glass to be treated is placed under a sand blast in order to give it a grain. This ground surface is next treated with a solution of dry glue, and the glass is placed in a drying room on a rack, where it remains for some hours. Next the sheets of glass are removed to the chipping room, where they are placed on edge back to back, with the coated surfaces outward. This room is heated by steam coils, and when the heat is turned on the glue reaches its utmost degree of desiccation and curls off the glass in pieces from the size of a dime to that of a silver dollar, but it adheres so closely to the glass that in its effort to get free it tears a piece off the surface, the result being a beautiful pattern.

Why the Baby Cries.
Now we know why the baby cries. For a long time the cause was veiled in obscurity. It might be an inaccessible pin, or it might be the helpless discrepancy betwixt the heavenly kingdom and this world, or it might be a plain case of colic, called by what new-fangled term you please. It has remained for an advertising expert to discover that the baby cries in order to advertise. It is the baby's effective announcement in the imperative mood that he wants to be up and petted or he wants the moon or he wants something else, and "he won't be happy till he gets it." There is no denying that for an infant industry the baby's advertising is a great success. Nearly every time he gets results, and the most astute and alert professional solicitor cannot show a higher percentage of success.—Philadelphia Ledger.

ASKS U. S. FOR FREE HAND
Villa Wants to Wage War on Carranza Unmolested.

Francisco Villa through representatives in El Paso, Tex., has made overtures to the United States government and has promised to cease his depredations upon American property and discontinue killing Americans in Mexico, it was announced today by a government agent in El Paso, Tex.

The report that representatives of Villa have been working here and elsewhere on the border to have Villa spare American lives and property in return for assurances that his movements in Mexico would not be interfered with by the United States army, has been in circulation here for two days.

Villa's friends have pledged him to carry out his part of the proposed agreement, it was said today, if he be not molested in his military operations.

Not to Be Considered.
Any suggestion of an agreement between the American government and Francisco Villa is regarded by administration officials in Washington as unworthy of consideration. No official report of Villa's alleged proposal that an agreement under the terms of which he would cease killing Americans and order stopped the destruction of American property, had reached the state department, and some doubt was expressed that he had made such overtures.

U. S. STEEL MAKES OFFER
Employees May Subscribe to 35,000 Shares of Stock.

It became known that in accordance with the plan in force during the last thirteen years the United States Steel corporation will offer to employees the opportunity to subscribe during January for 35,000 shares of stock at a price somewhat below the market, and also will distribute the usual special compensation. The total amount of the latter has not yet been definitely determined, but it will be calculated on the basis heretofore fixed. Part of this will be paid in cash and the balance in preferred stock in the same proportions and on the same terms as last year.

It is hoped distributions will be made to the smaller salaried men about Christmas and to the others about New Year's. Many employees will receive increases in salaries to take effect Jan. 1.

17 AMERICANS LOST WITH SHIP

Muleteers Go to Death When Torpedo Wrecks Transport

FRENCH WARSHIP DAMAGED

Berlin Reports That Vessel of Patrie Class Was Torpedoed in Mediterranean and Badly Crippled.

Seventeen American muleteers have been killed and eleven of the crew of the British horse transport ship Russian, which was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean on Dec. 14. The British admiralty makes this announcement.

The announcement follows: "The empty westbound British horse transport ship Russian was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean on the 14th. Eleven of the crew were killed, including the chief officer, the first officer and the second officer. Also seventeen American muleteers were killed. Their names have been communicated to the American consul." The transport Russian referred to probably is the British steamer of that name which sailed from Newport News Nov. 16 for Alexandria, Egypt, which would be about due to return. Her net tonnage was 5,753.

French Warship Damaged.
A French battleship of the Patrie class was torpedoed and badly damaged by a German submarine in the Mediterranean Dec. 12 according to an official statement issued in Berlin.

The statement also reports the torpedoing Dec. 11 of the "armed French transport Maghelan," with 1,900 troops on board.

It was stated by the French admiralty that there is no truth in the statement that a French man-of-war of the Patrie class was damaged Dec. 12, and that the loss of the Maghelan already had been reported.

The British steamship Westminster, 9,342 tons, has been sunk, according to Lloyd's. The Westminster hailed from London and was owned by the Westminster Shipping Company, Ltd.

MORE TROOPS TO RETURN
Among Soldiers Ordered Home Are Those of Sixteenth Pennsylvania.

In compliance with instructions from the war department for the return of 16,000 national guard troops from the border, General Funston has designated the organizations to be sent home.

The movement of the units will be carried out in three groups because of the scarcity of transportation facilities. The troops to return are:

Pennsylvania—Sixteenth Infantry, Fourth infantry, one brigade headquarters, division headquarters and signal battalion, group 1, First cavalry, ambulance company 1, field hospital No. 1, group 3.

Other organizations to be returned are from Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Maryland, Nebraska, Illinois, New York, Wisconsin, Virginia, Kansas, North Dakota, Utah and Texas.

It was officially stated in Washington that the order for the return of 16,000 national guardsmen for muster out of the federal service was not to be construed as foreshadowing a movement out of Mexico by General Pershing's column.

Officials also explained that a force of 75,000 guardsmen would be maintained on the border until Pershing was withdrawn, and that the order merely was in pursuance of the previously announced policy to reduce the militia in the field to the minimum necessary.

PESSIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS OF PEACE

A sudden revival of the British "big push" on the western front was indicated by a late German war office statement.

"Protected by strong fire," said the statement, "English detachments tried to enter our trenches near Hannecamp, north of the Ancre. They were singularly repulsed."

Hannecamp lies about nine miles from Thiépval and some two and a half miles south of Arras. The sudden flare-up of fighting in the region indicates that General Sir Douglas Haig is about to initiate a new offensive along the northern extension of the Ancre front. The official German reference to "a strong fire" shows that the attack was well prepared.

General Nivelle's master stroke at Verdun, when French infantry broke the German line for a length of seven miles, carried the tri-color almost to the point from which it moved before the Germans began their great drive for Verdun last February.

According to the official French reports the crown prince lost nearly 9,000 men in prisoners and eighty-one guns are known to have been captured or destroyed, with the enumeration of the war material yet to be completed.

Paris is wildly enthusiastic. The news of the Verdun victory, coming as a most welcome relief from the gloomy tidings from Rumania, was received with the greatest demonstration of enthusiasm in which the population here has indulged in many months. Everywhere General Nivelle is acclaimed as the man of the hour.

If there had lingered any doubt as to the wisdom of his selection as commander-in-chief a few days ago it has been dispipated utterly. His almost unparalleled success is accepted as a splendid augury for the future.

The new front seized in the French drive has been maintained in its entirety, according to the latest advices.

An important local success in Volhynia, on the Kovel-Lutzk railway, is claimed by Berlin. Five officers and 300 men were taken prisoners in the storming of a Russian position about 600 meters large.

In Rumania further progress by the German armies is reported. German and allied troops under command of Field Marshal von Mackensen have crossed the Buzen sector in central Rumania over a broad front, says the German official statement. The invaders took 1,150 prisoners and captured 19 locomotives and 400 railroad cars.

In Dobruja pursuit of the retreating Russian and Rumanian troops has brought the forces of the central powers to the forest district in the northern part of the province, where, it is said, they expect to meet with resistance.

British troops have taken the offensive near Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and occupied Turkish positions on the Hai River, south of Kut-el-Amara, says a London statement. In the offensive movement the British crossed to the right bank of the Hai River and took Turkish trenches near Kalahaji Fahen, two and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara.

The Greek government has accepted the ultimatum presented by the entente allies, says a dispatch from Athens to the Central News agency.

The demands of the entente allies presented to the Greek government were in the nature of an ultimatum. All Greek troops are to be withdrawn from Thessaly, and only a certain number are to be concentrated in Peloponnesus.

The total German casualties, excluding those in the naval and colonial services, reported in the German official lists for November, says a British official statement, was 167,177 officers and men making the total German losses killed, wounded and missing since the war broke out 3,921,879.

ONE DEAD IN AUTO CRASH
West Virginia Man Killed When Machine Hits Train.

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David F. Lynch, aged twenty-three, of near Clarksburg, W. Va., was killed.

Taylor, a chauffeur, was driving an automobile and the men were passengers. On account of the snowstorm he failed to see the train standing at the station. The occupants of the automobile were thrown out, Lynch alighting on his head and suffering a fractured skull and internal injuries.

XMAS TURKEYS HIGH
Birds Will Cost More Than at Thanks Giving.

Dealers in Conneville, Pa., say Christmas turkeys will cost more than the Thanksgiving birds did. The quotations in Somerset county, West Virginia and Ohio are said to be higher.

Christmas trees will cost 15 to 20 cents more than a year ago.

Allies' Losses in War 5,100,000 Men.
Losses of the French army to date have been 3,800,000 and of the British 1,300,000, according to "competent military authority" says a Overseas News agency statement from Berlin a few days ago.

On the other hand the French losses on the Somme to the end of November are estimated at not less than 700,000 and those of the British at 550,000.

A Real Defender.
"Big" brother is reasonably good about defending little sister, but the real serious trouble comes when "big" sister sees some one imposing on little brother.—Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Stingy!
Omar—Miss Almee certainly has a lovely complexion, hasn't she? Hazel—Yes; and the stingy thing won't tell me what brand she uses.—Exchange.

The man who pays an ounce of principle for a pound of popularity gets badly cheated.

CHARLES OF AUSTRIA.
In an address to his troops Emperor Charles of Austria announces the peace offer to the allies, but expresses doubt of its acceptance. He urges his soldiers to continue fighting.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR
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Every Do You Cr... B... POOL Waverly Brands 7 Driving Let us drive the fact that can wash tary a ma which the our laundry We use change the times, use costly soap, clothes in during the It's simple having pro Meyersdal Joseph Funeral Dir Meyer Residence: 309 North Street Economy Phone Lloyd (Scr... Pa., sta captain of the for 1917. Child FOR CAS