An anonymous donor has given $500,000 to the city of Edinburgh for the purpose of building a town hall. "Auld Reekie" has received $1,900,000 in gifts during the past few years, and the Scots are not backward in publishing the fact to the world.

Surgeon Colonel W. Taylor, principal medical officer of the southeastern military district in Great Britain, declared in a recent lecture that the medical arrangements of the Japanese army for saving life were perfect, no expense being considered too great to save a soldier's life.

The water supply of Philadelphia is said to be the most impure of any first-class city in the country. It is now proposed to remedy the evil by "tapping" the Delaware river above Trenton, the water to be conveyed in steel tubes, capable of furnishing 175,000,000 gallons per day.

It takes over $200,000 a month to pay the police of Chicago, and it is claimed that the wagon which carries the money around has never been held up. From the number of "hold-ups" in that city of late, the New Orleans Picayune thinks there is reason to believe that the police may eventually be minus their pay.

The Society of Friends in Philadelphia are opposing a bill to introduce military tactics into the public schools of Pennsylvania. They urge that instruction of this character will tend to promote the belligerent spirit. This attitude of the society is entirely consistent with its principles, states the New York Advertiser.

The Italians in London are sufficient of themselves to form a large town. There are as many as 14,000 of them; 2,000 of these are ice cream venders, and 1,000 are organ grinders. The other 11,000 are chiefly engaged as plaster bust sellers, artists' models, cooks, valets, teachers, artists, restaurant and hotel keepers, and so on.

The tremendous increase in the use of copper is attracting general attention. "Its consumption," the London Statist facetiously remarks, "could not be greater if it were used for bicycles." It is fortunate for the world that the metal exists in great abundance, and that the increasing demand for it acts as a constant stimulus to the opening of new mines. There is a probability that copper prices may feel the effect of the enormously increased consumption, but they will never rise sufficiently to deter its use.

Says the Philadelphia Inquirer: While engaged in the hunt for the north pole and the exploration of Africa it is generally overlooked that nobody has yet traversed Australia from east to west. At the London Geographical congress Mr. Logan Lobley read an interesting paper showing what portions of the earth remain unexplored, and according to him the extent of these is 20,000,000 square miles; 6,500,000 square miles in Africa, 2,000,000 in Australia, 2,000,000 in America, 200,000 in Asia, and 400,000 in islands in the Pacific are absolutely unknown. Besides, in the arctic regions there are 3,600,000 and in the antarctic regions 5,300,000 square miles that are unexplored, but which, being uninhabitable, are of scientific rather than of practical interest. Moreover, only a small portion of the earth is well known. The seas have been explored, but of the land there are vast regions in South America, Australia, Asia and Africa which have been traversed by white men, but which have not yet been taken possession of. For many years there is work ahead for geographers in mapping these regions which will at a still later period in the future become capable of sustaining a population of many millions. It would be interesting to know whether the essential movement to these now unexplored or uninhabited regions will be gradual, as it has been toward Africa, or whether it will be a sudden exodus, as it was toward colonies of the United States in consequence of dissatisfaction with existing governments or social customs. Speculation on this point could only be continued by an effort to ascertain whether there is now existing any power likely to grow so oppressive as to cause people to flee to other lands in order to escape it. Apparently there is no such power. The power of the church and the power of kings and petty hereditary rulers has been broken and man is free except as he creates his own masters. Overcrowding may some day force the people to scatter, and it is encouraging to know that there are such vast extents of earth still remaining unoccupied.

### Let Silence Fall.

Let silence fall across the past;
Its fitful moods of storm and rain,
Its weary hours of joy and pain;
Let never heart or speech recall;
If memory needs must break the spell,
Remember that I loved you well,
And o'er the rest—let silence fall.

Let silence fall between our lives,
The one, sunlit with youthful dreams,
Flushed with the future's hopeful gleams,
And held in proud ambition's thrall;
The other, worn with anxious tears
And tired grown with gathering years;
Between them now—let silence fall.

And let us part, as those who love
Are parted by the hand of death,
And one stands hushed, with reverent breath,
Gazing on funeral bier and pall;
But ere we close the coffin lid,
Let bitter memories all be hid,
And o'er the grave—let silence fall.

—James Clarence Harvey.

## THE CAPTAIN'S STORY.

BY ALYS HALLARD.

It was just after the scandal at our club, and a little group of us were talking in a very animated way of the affair. Captain Joubert did not join in the conversation, and did not even seem to be listening to us.

"What will you take for your thoughts?" I said to him, at last.

"Oh! they are not worth much. I was thinking just then of an incident which occurred once at a club in a small provincial town where I happened to be staying."

"Tell us about it!" exclaimed one of the other men, and the captain lighted a cigarette and, putting his elbow on the mantel-shelf against which he had been leaning, began his story:—

"Well it was when I was in garrison at M——, one of the dullest and most stupid of provincial towns. There was nothing in the world for a fellow to do with himself there, no theatre even, only a low music-hall.

"When I was off duty I gradually got into the habit of turning in to Union Club, which, bye-the-bye, was the only one the town possessed.

"It was called the 'Union,' I should imagine because there was always a dispute of some kind or another going on there. There was very little play at this club except at the time of the three annual fairs, each of which lasted a week. One autumn afternoon, just at the opening of one of these fairs, I happened to go to the club rather early. There were a fair number of men there that day who were strangers to me, wealthy farmers of the neighborhood, who rarely came into town, and the various owners of the country houses round.

"'They are playing high to-day,' said one of the habitues of the club to me. I turned round towards the table to watch the game, and was so surprised at the sight of one of the players that I almost exclaimed.

"It was a young man of some twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, whom I knew by sight. I was very much interested in him, for his father had fought courageously at Magenta, and had been killed on the field of battle, leaving his widow and son by no means well provided for. The young man came very rarely to the club, and I had never seen him touch a card before. I was stupefied therefore to see him holding the bank, and a good bank it was, too, for there were plenty of notes and gold coins heaped up in front of him.

"'How much?' called out one of the players.

"'Oh!' laughed a wealthy farmer, 'M. de Mertens is in luck's way; he can safely keep his bank open.'

"I noticed that the young man's face was deadly pale, and there was an excited look in his eyes.

"'Open bank,' he said, and it seemed as though the very words had changed the luck.

"Ten times running Mertens lost, and in a quarter of an hour his bank was cleared out. Another man took his place and the play went on. It got so exciting that I, too, was fascinated, and joined in. There was no room to sit down at the table, so I continued standing, holding my hat in my hand and throwing my winnings into it. I had a run of luck, and went on playing in the most excited way until I was startled by someone calling out: 'You are being robbed, Captain!'

"I started, and instinctively seized a hand which had knocked against mine through my sudden movement. It was M. de Mertens' hand, and he held the forty-pound note which he had just taken out of my hat. The wretched man's face was convulsed with emotion. Our eyes met; his were dilated with terror, and there was a look in them that seemed to hold me spell-bound.

"'M. de Mertens is my partner,' I said, haughtily, to the man who had warned me; 'and I am surprised that you should dare to bring such an accusation against a gentleman whose reputation is so well known.'

"The individual who had called out had never been to the club before, and did not know M. de Mertens at all. We had all been standing round the table close to each other, and on seeing another player putting his hand into my hat, it was very natural that the man should have thought it his duty to warn me. On hearing my explanation he apologized most humbly to M. de Mertens, and several acquaintances of the latter gathered round and expressed their regret that such an insult should have been offered him.

"We then continued our play, and M. de Mertens soon after left the club. Three days passed, and I heard nothing more of the young man. In shielding him as I had done, my first thought had been of his father and I had determined to save from disgrace the name of the brave soldier of Magenta. Of course, I could quite understand that the young man should now shrink from seeing me again, but still it struck me as rather strange that in some way, either direct or indirect, he did not attempt to express his thanks.

"One evening, however, just as I was going out to pay some visits, my orderly informed me that a lady wished to see me. I went into the drawing-room, and there I found a woman of about forty-five years of age. She was very dignified-looking, and there was an open, honest expression about her face which fascinated me.

"'I am Madame de Mertens,' she said simply. 'My son told me everything about the affair at the club, and I have come to thank you with all my heart for having preserved for us intact the honor of our name.'

"'Madame——' I began; but she interrupted me in her emotion and nervousness.

"'My son had got entangled in various ways, and in desperation had taken to play. It appears he had lost every penny he possessed that night. You know the rest, alas!'

"I felt very much embarrassed, for the poor mother's grief was terrible to witness. She was still standing there in front of me, her face was deadly pale, and the tears were trembling on her long, dark eyelashes.

"'He is young, madame; you must not take it to heart so,' I stammered. 'It was just a moment's weakness. I will see your son, and— '

"'No, Captain,' she said, shaking her head sadly, 'he is no longer here . . . he has enlisted, and is already on his way with the regiment.'"

We had all been listening attentively to Captain Joubert's story, and when he stopped speaking there was silence for a few minutes.

"And what happened to M. de Mertens, captain?" asked one of our group. "Did you ever hear?"

"He is dead. . . . Six months ago I received a letter from Kelung—a pitiful little letter written with very pale ink, and on a sheet of paper that was all crumpled and yellow with age. There were only a few lines for me to read. I know them by heart. They were as follows:—

"'I am mortally wounded. . . . Admiral Courbet has just brought me the cross; but . . . I am dying. I am sending it to you, my poor cross . . . for you saved me, and I should like you to wear it. . . .'

"This is why, my friends, instead of wearing the decoration which I received from the Chancelor, you always see me with the sergeant's cross which poor Mertens sent me. Poor boy! To think that he started as a thief, and died a hero's death at Kelung."—From the French in Strand Magazine.

### Origin of County Lines.

Every state in this country, except Louisiana, which is still divided into parishes, has counties, even Rhode Island, which would be lost in the corner of a Texas county, having five, and Delaware, which is not much bigger, possessing three of these minor political sub-divisions. It cannot be doubted that the county system is the expression of the love of our people for local self-government, the right to manage their neighborhood affairs in their own way. The system itself, however, was borrowed from England, where the county lines often follow those of ancient Saxon kingdoms. The same curious circumstance may also be noted in Germany, France and Italy, where the provincial and departmental boundaries frequently mark the limits of principalities, dukedoms and kingdoms that many years ago lost their individuality by being merged into the larger state.—St. Louis Republic.

### The Chesapeake Mill.

The famous old Chesapeake was taken to England during the early part of the century. In 1820 her timber was sold to a miller by the name of John Prior, who pulled down his old mill and erected on the spot a new one from the timbers of the Chesapeake. The deck beams were thirty-two feet long and eighteen inches square, of sound Virginia oak. These were used without alteration, just as they were taken from the vessel. Many of the timbers still bear the scars of battle received by the Chesapeake in her celebrated encounter with the Shannon. "The transformation of a sanguinary warship into a peaceful and life-preserving flour mill," says the Washington Post, "more than fulfills the scriptural prophecy of the sword beaten into a plowshare and the spear into a pruning hook." In speaking of the mill a celebrated American clergyman who recently visited the spot makes the following observation: "Nothing shiplike or of the sea was discernible from without the mill. A handsome young Englishman of eight and twenty years of age was coming forth to join his cricket club, and this proved to be the owner of the 'Chesapeake mill.' A large cigar box, constructed from the polished pine of the old ship and bearing the inscription 'Chesapeake' in small brass nails, stood upon the table. The beams were marked in many places with grapeshot. The mill was merrily going, but as I stood in the midst of this peaceful scenes I remembered that beyond all reasonable doubt on one of these planks Lawrence fell in the reeking anguish of his mortal wounds; on another, if not the same, Watt's head was carried away by a shot, while near by the young and brave Ludlow poured out his life's blood. Thus I stood pondering and still the busy hum went on, wheat passing beneath the stones, flour pouring forth and the merry millers passed around their kindly smile and blithesome jests."

### The First Money.

It is difficult to realize that prior to B. C. 700 there were no true coins, that ingots or buttons of gold and silver were weighed at every mercantile transaction. The Lydians of Asia Minor are credited with having been the first to cast and stamp with an official device small oval gold ingots of definite fixed weight, an invention strangely delayed, but of inestimable importance to industry and commerce. A coin has been described as "a piece of metal of fixed weight, stamped by authority of Government, and employed as a medium of exchange." Medals, though struck by authority, are only historical records and have no currency value.

The bright, far-flashing intellect of Greece saw the import of the Lydian invention and adopted it quickly, and every Greek State, nearly every city, island, and colony, established a mint, generally at some one of the great temples, for all early coin types are religious in character. They bear symbols of some god, as a pledge of good faith. The offerings, tithes, and rents of the worshipers were coined and circulated as money. Temples thus become both mints and banks. Our word "money" is said to have been derived from the Roman shrine of Juno "Moneta," the earliest Latin mint.

The first shape of these early coins was that of an enlarged coffeeberry punched on the rounded side with official letters, or sinkings, as they are called.—Good Words.

### The Benefits of Early Rising.

It was once laid down by a celebrated writer and historian that the difference between rising at five and seven in the morning for the space of forty years, supposing a man to go to bed at the same hour every night, is nearly equivalent to the addition of ten years to the life. This consideration should carry very great weight, and be sufficient to induce those who have not hitherto practised this habit to commence to do so, more especially the people who are always complaining that life is not long enough for them to transact all the work that they have to perform. There is much foundation for their complaint if they persist in wasting so many valuable hours of the day in bed. The advantages and benefits of early rising cannot be overestimated; in the early hours of the morning the brain is clearer and more ready to work, and after a night's sleep we should be ready to attack the work of the day.—New York Ledger.

In 1800 the amount of wages paid out in manufactures alone was about $2,300,000,000, affecting nearly 5,000,000 working people.

## NEW FACES MADE.

### Facial Deformities Are Now Reduced to a Minimum.

### Operations for Correcting Some Common Defects.

Whether or not a man is born into the world with a homely face, or whether accident causes a facial deformity, there is in these days no reason for his going through life without having almost any defect remedied. Perhaps one may not be changed from a Caliban to an Adonis, but at least science and the inventive genius of man have provided the means of reducing deformities to a minimum.

What seem to be almost miracles are now performed in the operations of plastic and dental surgery. If a man is not satisfied with his nose, if it be too much of a Roman to suit his face, he can have it transformed into a delicate Grecian. Should the eyes be afflicted with a horrible squint, or be almond-shaped or otherwise unnatural, they can be corrected with a simplicity of operation that almost causes a smile when the method of treatment becomes known. Let it be what it may, a misshapen limb or a hideous face, the result of either a freak of nature or an accident, the means of straightening the one and of beautifying the other are at hand.

As regards the face, the hare lip is the most common defect. This trouble is due to the failure of union between the margins of the maxillary and the front nasal bone. It not only causes a total disfigurement of the face, but it makes speaking an unpleasant matter, both for the speaker and the hearer. The defect is ordinarily seen in the upper lip, and is often double, the lip on both sides of the centre being painfully drawn up. Bad as it looks and inconvenient as it is, the remedy is as simple as can be imagined.

It merely consists of a triangular incision made under the nostril. A silk ligature is then put through the incision and drawn downward. This inverts the flap and brings together the opposing surfaces, which may at once be secured with sutures. A slight projection is left on the border of the lip but it soon disappears.

The operation for the double hare lip is practically the same, entailing a little more work for the knife. The hare-lip deformity is seldom found on the lower lip, and when it is it extends down on the chin, practically dividing it. This, however, can be remedied as easily as the other.

Next to the hare lip in the line of frequency comes the absence or the deformity of the nose as a congenital defect. In the making of the nasal organ plastic surgery has achieved wonders. The bow in a Roman nose, for instance, can be effectually reduced.

This operation is performed entirely from the inside. The instrument is introduced into the nostril and the bone is cut away, great care being taken not to fracture the skin. The surplus cuticle readily contracts, and, accommodating itself to the reduced space it is required to cover, the bridge of the nose is left entirely smooth on the surface, while a straight and comely organ has been produced.

The same operation can be performed on a pug or turned-up nose. This work is also done from the inside. Enough of the cartilage on the tip is taken away to reduce the excessive protuberance, and the same result as in the case of the bow is attained.

But the making of a new nose to take the place of the missing one is a different matter. It is easy to form these organs in any shape or size desired out of celluloid aluminum, or even pasteboard, and have them fastened by adhesion or held on by spectacles; but they are not good noses. The owner cannot blow them, and if some one should, in a moment of excessive hilarity, tweak one it would be likely to come off.

Surgeons, however, now make noses that perform all the functions of the natural organs. After the solid portion is completed, it is, of course, necessary to have it covered with cuticle. This is done in various ways. The most ordinary manner is to cut a triangle of skin from the forehead, and bring it down over the false bridge. The edges are inserted in slits made on each side, where, in the course of time, being alive and retaining vitality from the natural circulation of the blood, the piece grows fast, and a perfect nose is the result. This is called the Indian method of treatment, but, although it leaves a scar on the forehead, it is not so painful as the Italian method. In this latter, the skin is grafted from the arm, but in order to preserve the circulation, that member is bent up with the forearm on the top of the head, and securely bound there, and kept in that position until the parts have grown together. This operation is very painful, and is not frequently used.

### The Scouts of the Sea.

Torpedo-boats, however, are designed for a wider service than simply to carry and discharge the frightful weapon from which they take their name. They are to the navy what scouts and skirmishers are to a land army. They form the cavalry of the sea, of which the cruisers are the infantry and the battleships and monitors are the artillery arm. They must spy out the position of the enemy's fleet, hover about his flanks or haunt his anchorage to ascertain what he is about and what he intends to do next. They must act as the pickets of their own fleet, patrolling the neighborhood, or waiting and watching, concealed among the islands or in inlets and rivermouths, ready to hasten away to the admiral with warning of any movement of the enemy.

It is not their business to fight (except rarely, in the one particular way), but rather to pry and sneak and run. Hence they are as small and sleek and swift as they can be made. When the fleet goes upon a cruise, they are carried on the decks of the big warships, although they are able to get about in really rough weather by themselves. A very recent idea is to build them out of aluminum, which would be not only of great advantage toward ease of transportation, but would tend toward increased speed, by adding buoyancy and elasticity to the structure which seems to skim along the surface and fairly leap from wave to wave; but it is doubtful whether it will not be injured by the chemical action of the sea water.—St. Nicholas.

### A Persistent Bird.

The following instance of "blue-tit" determination to get its own way has taken place in the garden here: There is a small pump under a yew-tree, which on April 15, was used in watering. The gardeners then pumped out a mossy nest, and did not use the pump again until April 25, when a second nest—this time with eggs in it—was again pumped out. Early on the morning of April 27 a third nest was pumped out, with one egg in it. The whole thing was then cleaned out by means of a long wire, and a mass of green moss lay on the ground by the pump. That same evening a fourth nest came to grief, being pumped out at the evening watering.

Next morning, April 28, a fifth nest began to be pumped out. When the head gardener found that the little creature still persisted, he ordered the pumping to be stopped, and came to give me the whole history. It was, of course, arranged that the pump handle should be at once fastened up, and, drouth or no drouth, the bird be left in peace. So there she sat till her eggs were hatched, and never minded the curious eyes that so often peered down through the tiny hole at the top, whence the blue head, shining in the dim glimmering light through the spout, might be discerned. For the last few days, however, only a nestful of fluff has been visible.—London Spectator.

### A Monster Magnet.

A monster magnet is used at the British Arsenal at Woodwich to handle the shot for the 110-ton guns. The body or core of the magnet is U-shaped, and in one forging. The winding is mechanically protected by stout brass flanges, and is covered with thick brass trips. The ends of the winding are led to duplicate terminals, duplicated wires, to prevent accidents in case of the wire fouling and breaking, being taken over the pulleys to the switch box on the counter weight at the back of the crane.

A single pole switch is placed in this box and is used, in conjunction with a water resistance, to shut the extra current produced on breaking the circuit to close or open the circuit. The current varies from three to four amperes at twenty or thirty volts. The maximum weight that can be lifted has not been ascertained exactly, but it exceeds 3,000 pounds.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### By Far Too Quiet.

"What made that young man stay so late?" asked the father.

"We got to talking about the coinage question," said the fair daughter. "and did not notice the flight of time."

"I don't think that story will do," said the old man. "People who discuss the coinage question make a lot more noise than you two did."—Indianapolis Journal.