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A MEDIAEVAL NAVY.

The Queer Implements of Attack and Defense That Were Used.

Very strange to modern eyes would be the armament of Great Britain's mediaeval navy. The very names of many of the implements of attack and defense sound queer. According to the books, in the year 1337 the vessels of the navy were furnished with "espringalds," ancient spring guns; "haubergeons," coats of mail; "bacinets," small helmets; bows, arrows, doublets, targets; "pavises," large shields placed at the sides and serving the double purpose of protection against the sea and against the enemy; lances and "firing barrels." As early as 1338 cannon formed part of the armament of ships, and about 1372 guns and gunpowder were commonly used. - Among the stores belonging to one vessel of that time were three iron cannon with five chambers, a hand gun and three old stone bags, probably for shot. Another ship had an Iron cannon with two chambers and one brass cannon with one chamber.

Among other implements of war used at that time were "cannon paviors" or stone shot throwers and murtherers," which were smaller and threw any kind of shot. There were also "basilisks," "port pieces," "stock fowlers" "sakers" and "hombards." The bombards were of hammered iron, made of bars welded and bound together with Iron bands. They threw stone shot weighing between 140 pounds and 195 pounds. A battery of these erected on a slip of land at the naval battle of Chloggia (1380) between the Venetians and the Genoese did great damage. They were loaded overnight and were fired in the morning.

Froissart tells of a bombard used at one of these ancient sleges that "might be heard five leagues off in the daytime and ten at night. The report of it was so loud that it seemed as if all the devils in hell had broken loose." Brass ordnance was first east in England in the year 1535. The pieces had various names. Many of different callber were mounted on the same deck, which must have caused great confusion in action in finding for each its proper shot.

THE ESKIMO CANOE.

It Is a Carlous Little Craft That Is Cranky, Yet Safe,

It is in Greenland that the bunting ability of the Eskimo reaches its highest development. He has a fine me chanical skill. Bones, ivory, stones, a little driftwood, skins and the sinew of the reindeer are the materials from which he must make his boat and weapons. There is nothing else. Says a Greenland traveler: "Of these the Eskimo builds a canoe, its frame of bones and driftwood, its covering of translucent scalskin sewed together with sinew. This kayak is decked over, except for a hole in the middle framed with a westen ring. The Eskimo wriggles into this hole, his legs extended into the fore part of the boat.

"Round his waist there is a cylinder of sealskin, the lower edge of which draws over the wooden ring and is pulled tight with a thong, making all water tight to the armpits. For heavy weather the cylinder is part of a skin shirt with a bood. Strings tighten this hood to the face and cuffs to the wrists, while a pair of long sleeved mitts protect the hands and arms.

"So rigged a good man can turn his cance bottom upward and right himself again with sliding strokes of his paddle, for he is as waterproof as a duck. Moreover, his vessel is so flexible that it is almost safe from being crushed in the ice drift and, being lim ber, is extremely swift when propelled by the double ended paddle.

"On the other hand, the vessel is so cranky that only about two-thirds of the native men have nerve and balance enough to hunt. Only three or four Danes in all Greenland have dared use a kayak."

To Be Discovered by Experience. Furious Old Gentleman (to new Scotch footman)-Do you take me for g fool sir? Footman-Weel, sir, I'm no lang here and I dinna ken yet .-Dundee Journal.

Always remember that it is easier to kill time than to make up time.-St. Louis Star.



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THE DUTCHWOMAN'S CAP.

It Is Not Only Pretty, but It Denotes

the Wenrer's Wealth, The caps of the women of Holland are not only beautiful, they are full of significance and eloquent through their decoration and jeweling of the worldly estate and condition of their wearers. The wealthy burgher's wife in Amsterdam or The Hague or in Dordrecht, who lives perhaps in one of the numer ous fine old sixteenth century houses. who is of ancient and respectable linenge, who has a retinue of buxom handmaids to do her will and to keep her home in order, tells of her good fortune when she walks abroad to take the air, for she wears beneath a modern bonnet her Muts, the lace of which is old, rare and costly and was perhaps made in Bruges or Brussels or some famous Flemish convent. Be neath its delicate gossamer gleams the heavy gold Krullen, and from its horns or Spiegels depend hanging ornaments of rich gold set with great gleaming pearls.

The jeweled Krullen is often of great age, having been handed down from mother to daughter for a succession of generations and it is on that account an object of great value to its wearer.

But if one is impressed by the beau-

ty of the headdresses in the large and important towns of Holland, it is only when visiting the smaller towns and the villages that the full significance of the cap makes itself felt. Especially is this the case in the provinces of Zealand and Beveland, though in the north and by the shores of the Zuyder Zee there are many fascinating caps in evidence. Thanks to the work of modern artists, the little village of Volendam has been immortalized, and the world is well acquainted with the costume of its women and its sturdy men Cleanliness is the keynote in the harmony which Volendam stands for. It is strikingly apparent in the spotless cap, as in every detail of the costume, down to the white or black polished Klompers which are universally worn. Her home, the pride of every Volendam woman, is a pattern of cleanli ness belitting its mistress. Her snowy cap and broidered kerchief are mir rored in a bundred sparkling brasses or polished plates of china or delft, and there is not a cranny or corner which does not bear testimony to the thoroughness with which she has wielded

broom or duster. Wherever one travels in Holland one finds the cap telling its story. In the southern provinces in the island of Bevel one may gather from its length whether the wearer follows the teachings of Luther or is a member of the Roman Catholic church. Is the child an orphan? Then by her cap her condition shall be made known. Has some one member of the family gone to join the great majority? The plain soft white headdresses of the women folk shall tell the pathetic story through the depth of their linen borders and their lack of lace.

At the kermis, at the weddings, at the jolly country dances where men and maids gather to make merry, the young marriageable women tell of their single state, for on their foreheads they wear an ornament of gold called the naald. This piece of jewelry is fastened to the Krullen: it covers the left temple and broadens out to its end on the forehend between the eyes. Thus a glance at the young women's caps is all that is needed to acquaint the interested swains as to whether the fair charmers are in the marriage market, which simplifies matters considerably.—Delineator.

The Properties of Cocaine. Travelers in Peru and countries where coca grows chew the leaves of this plant for the purpose of allaying the sense of hunger and the feeling of exhaustion that accompanies it. At first the leaves were thought to possess food elements, but now it is known

that the cocaine they contain merely

allays the irritability of the nerves

that produce the sense of hunger. Cocaine is an alkaloid made from the coca leaf, which has the effect of completely destroying the sensibility of nerves. The discovery of this active principle of the coca leaf explained fully and satisfactorily the effect produced by chewing the leaves. An infusion of the leaf might be used with good results in allaying the gnawing appetite that follows some forms of fever or in cases where the sense of

of the stomach. Cocaine should never be used except on the prescription of a trustworthy physician, because it is dangerous. The cocaine habit is more readily formed than either the morphine or liquor habit and is far more rapid in its work of destruction.

hunger is due to a diseased condition

Beautiful Comparisons.

The horse shares with woman the gift of the greatest animate physical beauty, and the classification does the lady no discredit. As for man, his partner in pulchritude is away down be line, probably a mule and maybe burro.-San Francisco Call.

The Last Word. "Does your wife insist on having the ast word?" said the man who asks im-

pertinent questions. "Certainly not," answered Mr. Meekton. "She doesn't have to insist."-Washington Star.

THE LOOK OF A CHILD.

Its Pleading Power Was Too Great to Be Resisted.

"The look of a little child is sometimes a wonderful thing," said the man who had risen high on the ladder of "I remember that the greatest lesson I have ever learned in my life was pointed out to me by my daughter, who was only five years old at that time. That was fifteen years ago, when I had just attained some measure of distinction in the business world, and I felt that I could afford to rest on my oars awhile. I had never been a drinking man, but frequent conferences at hotel lobbles and after theater talks with my associates began to tell on me and I am asturmed to confess that I came home many a night slightly the worse for wear and booze.' The habit of imbibing grew on me, in spite of tearful entreaties from my wife, until I took a bottle of whisky home one afternoon. After I made for that bottle, which dinner I had left in my study, poured out a glass and raised it to my lips, when I caught a reflection in the polished woodwork of the wall. I turned quicky, and there was my little daughter standing in the doorway looking at me. I could never describe the expression on her face. If one might say t of a child, it was a commingling of reproach, pity and disgust. Probably she had overheard conversations be tween her mother and myself-perhaps the mother had instilled that feelingperhaps it was instinct. I have not taken another dripk from that day to this."-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

THE PHENIX.

Legend of How It Lived and Died and Lived Again.

The ancient tradition concerning the phenix has introduced into nearly every language the habit of applying that name to whatever is singular or uncommon among its kind. According to ancient writers, the phenix was a bird of great beauty about the size of an eagle. A shining and most beautiful crest adorned its head, its plumage contained nearly every tint of the rainbow, and its eyes sparkled like diamonds. Only one of these birds could live at a time, but its existence covered a period of 500 or 600 years. When its life drew to a close the bird built for itself a funeral pile of wood and aromatic spices, with its wings fanned the pile into a flame and therein consumed itself. From its ashes a worm was produced, out of which another phenix was formed, having all the vigor of youth. The first care of the new phenix was to solemnize its parent's obsequies. For that purpose it made a ball of myrrh, frankincense and other fragrant things. At Heliopolis, a city in lower Egypt, there was a magnificent temple dedicated to the sun. To this temple the phenix would carry the fragrant ball and burn it on the altar of the sun as a sacrifice. The priests then examined the register and found that exactly 500 years or exactly 600 years had elapsed since that same ceremony had taken place.

Modern Card Playing.

The gambling of today is a mild affair compared with the extant records of English society. We shall never again see the days when General Scott won a fortune of £200,000 at whist, chiefly by dint of keeping sober. And high play, it must never be forgotten, is a relative term. When Lord Stavordale gained £11,000 by a single coup at hazard, his only comment was that if he had been playing "deep" he might have won millions. When the dimensions of modern wealth are taken into account the wildest excesses ever witnessed at the card table would have a timid and parsimonious aspect to the bucks of the regency.-Times of India. Bombay.

Women's Tempers.

I recently saw it stated somewhere that "women are much better tem-pered than men." This, of course, is a self evident proposition-up to a certain point. Women, as a rule, are altogether more self possessed and have a greater control over themselves than men, who want everything their own way, resent all trouble, cannot endure the smallest discomfort and are rarely unselfish

But in justice to men it must be said that, generally speaking, they have very much more to try their nerves .-

An Ancient Steam Man.

There are a host of authorities on hydraulies and mechanics that could e quoted to support the assertion that the steam engine is not a modern invention. Carpinl in the account of his travels, A. D. 1286, describes a species of acophile, or steam, engine made in the form of a man. This contrivance was filled with "inflammable liquid" (probably petroleum) and made to do terrible work in the battles between the Mongols and the troops of Prester

Human Nature. "It's funny," remarked the thoughtful citizen

"What's funny?" "The way a man who spends all his spare time praying for the regeneration of his party will get indignant at the suggestion that he vote the opposition ticket for once."-

POP GOES THE WEASEL.

The Meaning of These Words in the Old English Song.

How many people know the meaning of the words "Pop goes the weasel" in the song? Many of us have probably regarded them as a meaningless tag, having some dim Cockney bearing on the animal. Such a bearing they have, but in an unexpected way. A writer in Notes and Queries affirms that the words refer to a purse made of weasel skin which opened and closed with a snap. This brings the line out of irrelevant jargon into the main sense:

Up and down the city road, In and out the Eagle; That's the way the money goes— Pop goes the weasel.

The "popping" or snapping of the

purse is declared to be the equivalent of "Bang went saxpence." But this explanation is not, perhaps, so inherently probable as another which makes "weasel" a slang term for silver plate, prize cups, etc.-articles which, as the result of gadding in the City road, were pawned or "popped." This idea is repeated in a story of an Islington tailor who, through fre quenting the Eagle tavern, had to pop his "weasel," an instrument used in the cutting of cloth. Whatever the weasel may have been, the song went round the world, and many a boy in faroff Brazil or Cevlon received his first idea of London's streets in its reference to the City road.-London Globe,

BIRD CUSTOMS.

The Habit of Billing and the Stock Doye's Bow In a Fight. An Englishman, Edmond Selous, has been watching doves at play and in combat. Of the habit of "billing," in which so many birds engage when they are nesting, he says: "Where birds now merely 'bill,' they once, in my opinion, fed each other, or the male fed the fe male, but pleasure came to be experienced in the contact alone, and the passage of food, which was never necessary, gradually became obsolete. think it by no means improbable that our own kissing may have originated In much the same way, and that birds when thus 'billing' experience the same sort of pleasure that we do when we

kiss must be quite obvious to any one who has watched them." Of a peculiarity of the stock dove Mr. Selous writes: "When these birds fight they constantly interrupt the flow of the combat by bowing in the most absurd way, not to one another, but generally, so to speak, for no object or purpose whatever, apparently, but only because they must do so. The fact is the bow has become a formula of courtship, and, as courting and fighting are intimately connected, the one suggests the other in the mind of the bird, who bows all at once under a misconcep-

THE WORD "LOBSTER."

In Its Slang Sense It Has Been In Use For Centuries.

In letters from Sir Walter Scott to William Clark of Eldin, under date of ent 10 and 20, 1792, are found allusions to the word "lobster" as a playful sobriquet for the redcoat officers and soldlers of the British army. In this case a boiled lobster is meant, as per evidence of the following couplet. once familiar to the English street boys, and quoted whenever a rifleman in green was seen walking arm in arm with a soldier in red:

There go two lobsters, claw in claw; One is boiled, and t'other's raw.

Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, in Cromwell's time, commanded a regiment of cuirassiers, who "from their complete armor obtained the nickname of lobsters.' (Baldock's "Cromwell as a Soldier.") What was mere raillery in England may readily have grown into an expression of hatred and contempt in America at the time of the Revolution, and, in point of fact, Bancroft's "History of the United States" relates that 'lobsters" was one of the abusive epithets applied to the soldiers by the mob on the occasion of the Boston massacre.-Philadelphia Press,

A Taste of Fame.

When Thackeray was a candidate for parliament from the city of Oxford some one remarked to him that he must be well known to most of those whose votes he sought. "Now," said Thackeray, laying down his knife and fork and holding up a finger, "there was only one man among all that I went to see who had heard my name before, and he was a circulating IIbrarian. Such is mortal fame!" That was in 1857 and "Vanity Fair" had been published ten years.

Might Be Worse. Winks-What makes you look so blue? Jinks-I have six daughters, hone of them married or likely to be. Winks-And you are blue over it? You are the most ungrateful mortal that ever breathed. I have six daughters, all married, all have children, and I've got to support the whole crowd.-New York

"I wish, Mrs. Brown," said the boarder to his landlady, "I wish you'd give me the receipt for that pudding we had yesterday."

"I'd much rather give you a receipt for the board you had hast month," retunned the landlady tartly.

CHINESE MONEY.

Some Is Good and Some Is Counterfelt, but It All Goes.

Emile Bard, a Frenchman, has an interesting chapter on the money of China in his book, "Chinese Life In Town and Country." He explains that the unit of Chinese money is the tael, which is not a coin, but a weight of silver-the ounce, of which there are sixteen to the catty and 1,600 to the picul. The commercial tael is that of Canton, which should weigh 87.788 grains, but usually weighs 37.58. Then there is the tael of Shanghal, which weighs 36.6, and the revenue tael, used in valuing imports and exports, and each large city has its own, that of Tlentsin worth from 4 to 6 per cent more than that of Shanghal. Business estimated in tacks is carried on by the use of Spanish dollars or silver ingots. The former are weighed and stamped by every south China merchant and have to be remitted continually. The ingots of silver are cut from burs into pieces that the operator estimates will weigh 50 taels. Naturally each one who handles them weighs them.

"Banks store their money in cellars, in boxes carried back and forth by coolles," says M. Bard, "This explains the item of transportation which is deducted from the face of a Chinese check when it is cashed at a bank One can judge of the complications consequent upon this system of conversion of taels of different values into ingots of dimerent weight and purity. especially as assayers of different locallties refuse to honor the stamps of other cities." In places where the dollar is not used small payments are made by cutting up an ingot. "The scale used in weighing these fragments has two sets of markings; one for recelpts and one for payments,"

Chinn's national coin is the cash, a round copper coin with a square hole through it. The cash or sapak dates from at least 2300 B. C. Eight pounds' weight of each makes a dollar. Years ago an emperor decided to double his funds by giving copper cash double its value. In certain parts of the country this performance is still in effect. In other parts 77 or 85 cash are counted ns 100.

In Honan the Chinese go to market with two kinds of money, one real, the other counterfelt. Some articles are bought with one, some with the other, Certain articles have two prices, one In good money, one in had.

AMERICAN LANDSCAPE.

How It Differs From That of Eng-land and the Continent.

The American landscape, even in the older paris of the country, is generally unkempt and does not lend Itself as readily to formal treatment as does the typical English or continental landscape. The owners of big estates rarely appreciate the scale on which the landscape architecture should be laid out and the patience which is necessary to obtain a complete and consummate effect. They want ready made estates. Finally, the leading American house architects have, with a few exeptions, a good deal to learn about the technique of landscape design. So far as the large house itself is concerned, a convention has been established which is in the main a good convention, but the designing of gardens is still in an early experimental stage. The stage properties are collected in abundance. There is no lack of pergolas, fountains, well heads, gazebos, statuary and pottery, but as like as not they are indiscriminately placed. The architectural features are, however, generally somewhat better managed than the planting, which frequently looks as if an Irish gardener had been given some vague general directions, or as if the lady of the house had considered that it was a woman's business to make the garden green. As a matter of fact, however, the lady of the house, in case she has her own way, generally paints the garden yelow and red rather than green. Her idea usually is merely to get as much bloom as possible, and this she does at a sacrifice of those masses of follage which are absolutely necessary to give mass, body and depth to a large garden.-Architectural Record Magazine.

The River Kongo. Tropleal rivers vary greatly in volume in the rainy season sweeping to the sea in vast torrential floods and near the end of the dry season flowing slowly and only in the central and deeper portions of their beds. Kongo, however, the largest river in Africa, rises and falls very slightly. and Commander Cameron accounts for this peculiarity, which was at one time considered inexplicable, by the observation that the basin of this great river extends on both sides of the equator. and therefore one malety of its tributaries are in flood while the other are at their minimum volume.

Smallest Bird.

The golden crested wren is the smallest not only of British, but of all European, birds. Its average weight is only about eighty grains troy, so that it would take seventy-two of the birds to weigh a pound. The length of the feathers is about three and a half inches and the stretch of the wings about five inches, but when the feathers are taken off the length of the body does not exceed one inch.