UNCLE SAM'S FIRST MINT.

The First Regular Coins Were Turned Out by Horse Power.

The act establishing the United States mint was passed April, 1792, and steps were at once taken to erect a suitable structure in which to domicile the new department. The seat of the federal government was in the state house and other buildings in Independence Square, and it was desirable that the mint be located as near the spot as possible. A site was secured upon the east side of 7th street, above Sugar alley, afterward called Farmer and now know called Farmer and now kn

secured upon the east side of 7th street, above Sugar alley, afterward called Farmer and now known as Filbert street.

Here a plain brick building was creeted in the summer of 1792. The coining presses arrived from England in September and operations began in the early part of October, the material for starting coining, six pounds of old copper, having been purchased a few days before. The machinery of the mint was moved by horse power. The first regular return of coins to the treasury was made March 1, 1793, and consisted of 11,178 cents. The renowned scientist, David Rittenhouses was appointed director of the mint April 14, 1792, within a fortnight after the passage of the expensibility attaching to his office it is related that upon more than one casion he paid bills for mint supplies out of his private funds because he considered them exorbitant. His spacious residence was at the northwest corner of Seventh and Arch streets, but a short distance from the mint. Rittenbused died in 1796, and the second director of the mint was another prominent personage, Dr. Elias Boudinot, whose name is still a well-known one to Philains. The famous Rose Hill estate in Kensington, where the patriot lived, is now being rapidly hidden from sight under thousands of dwellings, but Boudinot school house at Indiana and I streets perpetuates the memory of the family.

As the nation grew older and richerlamily.

As the nation of the continuous died in 1796, and the second director of the mint was another prominent persons travellamily. The pretriest girl will be plain long before the protection of the cuban women is every early; and they fade as rapidly. The pretriest girl will be plain long before the protection made and charmating the decline in the fusions. It is clear the cuban dier the patrich of the dark the leading. It is difficult for a free frequent

streets perpetuates the memory of the family.

As the nation grew older and richer enlarged facilities for coining money became imperative, and, accordingly, a site was procured on Chestnut street, west of Juniper street, and here the present structure was begun in 1829.

The new building was occupied in 1831. The architects engaged upon the plans, William Strickland, John Haviland and others, endeavored to design a structure as nearly classical as the purposes of the building would permit. With the various changes and additions made of late years, particularly the mansard roof put on by Superintendent Fox, the effect has been in a great measure destroyed and

as nearly classical as the purposes of the building would pernit. With the various changes and additions made of late years, particularly the mansard roof put on by Superintendent Fox, the effect abeen in a great measure destroyed and the tiny building is overshadowed on every side by lofty structures which dwarf its appearance and make the most important government office in the country seem mean and insignificant.—[Philadelphia Times.

Story of a House.

The Listener has often passed the Welch house in Somerville, Mass, which for some twenty years has been unoccupied. The story of it, as related by the neighbors, is a tragedy rather than a romance. Samuel Welch was betroted to a young woman and comfortall b rick house in the two points of the marriage, the young woman heads as tight as the very bricks in the walls and then, being a person of stern and unbending American principles, she to that whelch had made his money; and then, being a person of stern and unbending American principles, she to that whe him with his ill-won riches. Welch was not a man to take such a rebuff casily. He boarded up the doors and banished himself, to wander up and down the country. But he took good care taken care of, so that the house abanded nothing of its hermicially scaled look, and the yard was mowed at least once a year, so than not a tree or a shrub grew up there—nothing but weeds and coarse grass. Five years ago the Listene was told by a neighbor that the place had been in this condition for fifteen years. It is draver enough for almost any sort of story about it, and if the house has not the reputation of being haunted, it must be because it has been boarded up so tightly than of the place had been in this condition for fifteen years. It is draver enough for almost any sort of story about it, and if the house has not the reputation of being haunted, it must be because it has been boarded up so to give the exist, now grown to year yeaped by the proportions. If highost has any sense of the fitness or the proportions of thin

The case of Mrs. Elizabeth Woodcock, who survived long burial undersnow, may be known to many readers. This woman, forty-two years of age, of Impington, a village three miles north of Cambridge, lost her way in returning home from market on Saturday evening. February 2, 1799, and was buried seven feet deep in the snow. In this state she continued eight nights and eight days, when she was dug out alive on Sunday, February 10. She retained the full possession of her senses all the while she was immured. She died July 24, 1799. A somewhat similar case occurred in the snowstorm of 1890. A middle-aged woman, named Alliee Jane Lowe, belonging to Wigan, was admitted into Spalding Workhouse in a very weak state, having been found by the relieving officer sleeping out in the snow in the Lincolnshire Fens, near Spalding. She was put to bed, and then stated that she had slept out for five weeks continuously, including, within the last few days, the severest weather of the year, when the snow covered the ground to the depth of nearly a foot. The poor woman's hair was in such a matted state that it had to be all cut off. She stated that hah had tramped from Lancashire, where she had formerly been in domestic service, and at the time she was found in the snow she appeared to have lost her way. The workhouse officials consider it most remarkable that the woman survived the exposure and cold,—[Leisure Hour.

Struck by Lightning.

IVORY CARVING.

Now Few Exponents.

A storage room for many years' accumulation of knickknacks, notions and brica-brace of every description, dusty and dingy, is always full of interest. It was a Gincinnati Times-Star reporter's good fortune to stumble on to two of these places. They were the workshops of ivory carvers and wood-turners.

One was littered with tools of every shape, some covered with the dust of the tools of the storage of the s

fine work."
"Where do you get your ivory?"
"From New York city, and all of the wood I use comes from there. That is where most all of the dine ivory carving is done now."
"Is ivory work cheaper now than it was?"

"Is ivory work cheaper now than it was!"
"The work has to be cheaper, but the ivory costs about the same."
The other antique shop discovered was on a smaller scale. There was not the varied collection of fancy articles to be seen. The workman has given up fancy carving altogether. He turns billiard balls for some big firm. He works in hard wood at odd times. Here, too, there were numerous gambling devices discovered. Diec, large diec the size of a walnut, turned from ivory, were being spotted. This carver talked in the same strain as the others.

"I devote my line altogether to billiard balls and some little wood turning. It used to be a paying business, this ivory carving, but that was years ago."

Diamond Mines.

Diamond Mines.

Diamond Mines.

Geologists have proved that the dlamond mines of South Africa are situated in vents or chimneys, varying from about seventy feet to 1,500 feet in diameter, and descending vertically through the schists which form the ordinary strata of the district. These vents are filled up with fragments of silicated and magnesian rocks, in which the diamonds are scattered, and before the diggings began each was capped by a hillock or "kopje."
They are seventeen in number, and run in astraight line about 120 miles. The question of their origin has recently been discussed by M. Daubree, a well-known French geologist, at a meeting of the Academie des Sciences, Paris. They have, of course, been opeted by an cruptive force from the interior of the earth's crust, but they differ from the usual volcanic cracks of fissures. M. Daubree attributes them to the outburst of imprisoned gases, and has made a number of experiments at the Laboratoire Centrale des Poudres et Salpetres in Paris, to prove his theory. Explosions of dynamite and gun-cotton were made in a steel cylindir or mortar, and the escaping gases made to perforate masses of rock. Limestone, gypsum, slate, granite, porcelain, glass, crystal and steel were all fractured and bored in this manner. It follows from his experiments that gases at a high velocity, say exceeding 1300 metres a second, and capecially when aided by heat, are powerful agents of geological erosion. They are able to bore regular vents or chimneys in rocks, if there is a crack or fissure to concentrate their energy in one spot. The diamond vents of South Africa are, in his view, the effect of compressed gases exploding from the interior of the earth at certain points along a line of fissure; and the striae or grooves observed on the sides of the vent are another proof of this explanation.—"Hoston Transcript. strie or grooves observed on the sides of the vent are another proof of this expla-nation.—Boston Transcript.

Alaska is Rich in Fish.

Sced for the culture of rubber has been sown in Ceylon and the seedlings are reported to be flourishing among the depth of nearly a foot. The poor woman's hair was in such a matted state that it had to be all cut off.

She stated that it had to be all cut off.

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She stated that she had tramped from Lancashire, where she had formerly been in domestic service, and at the time she was found in the snow she appeared to have lost her way. The workhouse officials consider it most remarkable that the woman survived the exposure and cold,—[Leisure Hour.

Struck by Lightning.

"During a heavy storm last September," said Dr. Albert Nays of Itaka, I. T., who is stopping at the Lindell, "three was a young man in our town who was killed by lightning and his body was made the subject of a scientific post mortem to discover how the electric both had done its fatal work.

"His eyebrows and eyelashes vereburned off, his eyeballs were dried upall his left side was scorched and burned in spots down to the ankle, while the right side of his body and right leg were uninjured.

Sced for the culture of rubber has been swafel that a large tract of country could easily be covered that a large tract of country could easily be covered that a large tract of country could easily be covered that a large tract of country could easily be covered that a large tract of country could easily be covered that a large tract of country could easily be covered that the tit had to had the time she was found in the snow she appeared to have lost the cut the clear rubber trees which grows in the slade of the sead of the time the country and the receives of the same than the large to ment and infinitely sure investment

"Yes," said the voluble man to his leighbor in an "L" car, "I always like to alk with you, because I learn somehing. You have something to say, You don't sit like a bump on a log and et another man do all the talking. You have ideas, and you express them."

"I flatter myself," began the other, but he was immediately interferred with.

"That's the way it is, you see. I can att and hear you talk all day, while here are men men I wouldn't listen to a minute."

"I was going to say..."

"I told my wife only last night that I yould get more solid information in learing you talk ten minutes than I yould not listening to some men a week."

"May I remark...."

"There's tjat Smith. I get up and eave the car at once whenever I see him unter. Good enough fellow, too, but he wants to talk all the time, and there's tothing in it. I'm not much of a talker myself, but I do like to get a word in adgewise occasionally."

"If you will allow me..."

"I don't see how you manage to pick up so much information on all kinds of unbjects. I don't want to flatter you, but you seem to be posted on almost werything."

"If you'd would give me a moment..."

"I would talk all the time if I was u good as you are at it. Folks often say

werything."
"If you would give me a monent....."
"I would talk all the time if I was a good as you are at it. Folks often say in me, Jones, why don't you talk?" buil and I know enough to keep still when nen are around who know a plaguey ight more than I do."
"To talk well one must have....."
"That's just it, you see. One must have a good listener. Now what I adnire myself for more than anything else, I'm a good listener. I can ride all he way from Harlem down to the Bailery listening to you as I am doing now, and hardly open my mouth to say a gord. Cause why? I know a good alker when I hear one."
"But you don't..."
"Oh, yes, I do. I understand everyhing you say on the subject, but of sourse I can't dress my ideas up in useh language as you use. You are a latural talker. I am not. You open your mouth and words run out clear as a prook, and I can't help but listen."

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man Syrup among their children. A medicine to be successful with the A medicine to be successful with the little folks must be a treatment for the sudden and terrible foes of child-hood, whooping cough, croup, diphtheria and the dangerous inflammations of delicate throats and lungs. ®

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Investor to \$20 in 26 menths.

Mentlon paper, Address National Homestead Company, 39 Massau street, New York.

Bret Harte is now living in a quiet cottage in Grove End road, near St. John's Wood, writes Eli Perkins. He is getting old, and his hair is white, but the novelist retains all his old fire. His books sell immensely in England—more than those of any American writer. Mr. Harte's family are not with him, and the general impression in London is that he is a widower. Joseph Hatton, a warm friend and neighbor of Mr. Harte, informs me that he is not now in the consular service. No American is invited into the best British society more than Bret Harte. His American stories warm the English heart. They nove than Bret Harte. His American stories warm the English heart. They never tire of the novelist's story about the first jury trial in California, and this is the way he told it the other night:

"It was over in the Mariposa Gulch in 50. They had never had a jury trial there. If a man stole a horse they lynched him, and that settled it. But the people, many of whom came from Massachusetts fellows resolved to give him a good old-fashioned jury trial. They took him into the back end of a board postoflice, selected a jury, and the trial commenced. Dozens of witnesses were called, and finally the jury retired to agree on a verdict. When they had abeut concluded that Bill was innocent the boys outside came banging at the door.

"What do you fellows men?"

innocent the boss outside came banging at the door.

"'What do you fellows want? asked the foreman through the keyhole.

"'We want to know if you han't about agreed on the verdict. If you han't, you'll have to get out. We want this room to lay out the corpse in!"

A Fish with Legs.

Axoloti, or fish with legs, is the name Mexicans give to a queer creature which can swim like a fish or run up a smooth wall like a fly; can live and grow when kept constantly in water like a true fish and yet can live and grow entirely away from water (excepting a little to drink) like a true air-breathing animal.

All this can he do because nature has given him two sets of breathing power. He has gills, looking like branches of soft coral, growing from each side of his thick neck, which enable him to breathe in the water; and he has lungs, which like those of a sheep, or a squirrel, or a man, can breath only in the free, clear air of heaven. Either set can be used as he pleases.

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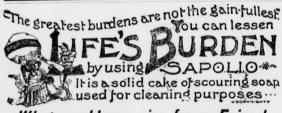
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