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Cincinnati is said to be the greatest saddlery and harness producing city in the world. The industry dates back over half a century.

There are truck "farms" in New York City, avers the Mail and Express, which are assessed at \$100,000 an acre. About forty such acres are to be seen in the vicinity of the Kingdom Come Curve, on the Sixth avenue "L," between the 104th and 116th street stations. They used to be leased for one or two years at a time, but no lease falling in is now renewed for more than six months in advance.

Greater New York, a topographical statistician points out, will cover an area of 317 square miles; three times the size of London and twelve times that of Paris. Rome, Babylon and Memphis are not to be mentioned in the comparison, and the only real competitor, contemporaneous or historic, will be Chicago, which, according to the New York Tribune, spreads its municipal outlines as far out on the prairie as it chooses and is not going to be left behind in any race for bigness.

The Emperor of China is not content with the respect shown him by his subjects, and recently issued the following peculiar order: "After bringing our sacrifice recently to the highest being, we heard upon our return to the palace, near the gate leading to the Imperial quarters, a rather loud noise caused by talking. This shows that the people have not the proper regard for the majesty of the ruler, and also that the officers of the bodyguard have failed to do their duty properly. The officers who were on post at the particular gate must be punished, therefore, by the Ministry of War. In the future, however, all officers, high or low, must see that a noise so improper shall not occur in our presence."

Dr. Salmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Agricultural Department, said recently that there had not been any pleuro-pneumonia among cattle in the United States for more than two years, but that tuberculosis is to be found everywhere more or less. "It is not confined to any one locality," said Dr. Salmon, "nor is there an unusual prevalence of the disease. It has existed from time immemorial, but it can be lessened, and can probably be eradicated by adopting proper measures. It is a disease of the lungs among cattle and contagious, being communicated by germs. It is most prevalent in dairy cattle which are raised and kept under conditions where contagion can be easily communicated. The disease is more apt to spread among cattle kept in stables than among those in a pasture or on a ranch."

The beet-sugar crop of 1893 was manufactured at seven factories, the largest being in California, and others in Nebraska, Utah and Virginia, the latter only recently established and with a production for the past year of only eighteen tons. The amount of capital invested in the seven factories is about \$2,000,000. Tributary to these factories, under cultivation in beets are about 20,000 acres of land, the best of the California farms being rated at \$200 an acre. The average yield of the lands was ten tons of beets to the acre, for which the farmers received, delivered at the factories, an average of \$1.50 per ton. Apparently this is a profitable crop; but not only is fertile soil required, but high fertilization, and a great deal of hand culture; so that, on the whole, the crop is seldom heavy enough to be profitable except on fertile land which is too valuable for ordinary crops. These requirements, and the fact that sugar-beet cultivation must be in the line of scientific farming, if satisfactory results are to be reached, will always have a tendency to confine this branch of agriculture to certain favorable climatic or other localities and conditions.

"OLD GLORY'S" DAY.

A Timely Account of the Origin of the Flag.

First Colors Used Before the "Declaration."

The Star-Spangled Banner was born June 14, 1777. The colonial flag chiefly used by the colonies of New England previous to the Revolution, was red, with a field of white crossed by a red bar from top to bottom and from right to left.

At the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, the flag displayed by the Americans was similar to the one described, except that its color was blue, the white field with the red crossed bars remaining the same, while a pine-tree was shown in the upper corner of the field. The Pine-Tree flag of the navy, used by our ships during the early part of the Revolution, was white, with a pine-tree, and the words, "An Appeal to Heaven."

Early in the Revolutionary War the patriots showed their earnestness by using what is known in history as "The Rattlesnake flag." While it cannot be claimed that this emblem was very mystic, yet it was typical of the resolution of the Americans in their struggle for independence. The flag was yellow in color, and showed a coiled rattlesnake in the centre,

no distant day the increasing number of stripes would destroy the beauty and symmetry of the flag. The stripes were fixed forever at thirteen, the field was elongated, making it rectangular, and it was ordered that a new star should take its place in the field from the Fourth of July succeeding the birth of each new State.

The Star Spangled Banner is the most beautiful flag ever devised. As you will observe, the flag of 1777 contained a square field, in which the five-pointed stars formed an endless circle. The arrangement of the stars, as the new States were admitted, sometimes required study and skill, but it invariably retained its impressive beauty, and will always be the most striking among all the emblems of the different nations of the earth.

The new arrangement was originated in 1816, by the naval hero, Captain Reid. On April 13, 1818, "Old Glory" was hoisted over the Hall of Representatives, where it shall float through all the coming ages.

Some countries have so many anniversaries to celebrate that they lose a great deal of their significance. The boys and girls will agree that the fault of the United States lies rather in the opposite direction, and that we do not have enough of them. While I am not prepared to say this, yet I do insist that there should be one more national holiday added to the calendar; that is, the birth day of "Old Glory." Little heed was paid



EARLY AMERICAN FLAGS.

underneath which were the words, "Don't Tread on Me."

The first national flag used in 1776, before the Declaration of Independence, contained thirteen red stripes, alternating with white, signifying the thirteen colonies. The field was blue, crossed with red bars, as in the colonial flag, and crossed again diagonally by two narrow bars of white. As I have stated, the first Star Spangled Banner was unfolded to the breezes of heaven June 14, 1777. Congress was then in session in Philadelphia, and there were well-founded rumors of an invasion of the colonies by Burgoyne, from Canada. Congress appointed a committee, of which John Adams was Chairman, to examine the various designs submitted, and to report on a suitable flag for the new nation, then in the throes of its first existence. The report of the committee, made June 14, 1777, was the recommendation:

"That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white, in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

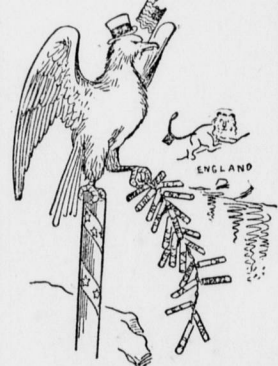
The report was adopted unanimously, and a sample flag of silk was prepared for Congress. The number of stripes was made to correspond with the number of States, and the colors—red, white and blue—were chosen because of the distinctness with which they can be seen at a distance. Fifteen years later, the Republic of France, emerging from the Reign of Terror and tempest of blood, adopted the same colors for its flag. The pretty conceit was that the red represented the blood of the patriots, white the purity of patriotism, and blue the smiles of heaven.

The first idea of the American patriots was that a new star and a new stripe should be added to the flag for each new State admitted into the Union. May 1, 1795, Kentucky and Vermont having been admitted, Senator Bradley, of Vermont, offered a resolution, adding two stars and two stripes to the flag.

This would have answered if our Union had been content to grow slowly, but as many new States were continually knocking at the door for admission, it became apparent that at

to this anniversary until the Centennial year, since which time the idea has steadily taken a stronger and deeper hold upon the American heart.—Blue and Gray.

A Fourth of July Episode.



American Eagle—"This is the day I celebrate."
 British Lion—"Excuse my back."

Nearly a Quarrel.

"Excelsior is my motto," said the rocket.
 "Oh, come off," said the punk.
 "You're no match for me," retorted the sky-scraper.
 "Well, if I were to light on you, where would you be?" queried the punk.
 "Ah, but you don't light on me. I light on you," insinuated the rocket, with a shrug of his shoulders. And the fireworks nearly exploded with mirth.

After the "Fourth."

Full many a boy this quiet morn,
 All bandaged, poulticed and forlorn,
 On bed of anguish tossed
 Feels numb
 And blue
 He wishes he had ne'er been born
 To monkey with a powder horn,
 For yesterday he lost
 A thumb
 Or two.

It has been calculated that at least 3800 complete works, written in the various languages of the civilized world, have been devoted to the study and description of the horse.

A FORMIDABLE WEAPON.

THE TORPEDO WHICH SUNK THE WARSHIP AQUIDABAN.

The invention of a United States Naval Officer—Method of Working the Deadly Machine.

RECENTLY from Brazil has come, in the sinking of the well-known battleship Aquidaban, an event that promises to shed more light upon the powers of the torpedo than all the experiments of the last two decades. The first news concerning the downfall of the Aquidaban was to the effect that the vessel was sunk by an auto-mobile torpedo, but the naval department has recently been led to the suspicion that it was not an auto-mobile, but a dirigible torpedo that did the effective work. That is to say, a torpedo that is operated and controlled from a base, instead of one which when launched relies upon its own mechanism for its subsequent action.

The affair accumulates special interest, not only to Americans but to Bostonians, for the only dirigible torpedo in the possession of the Government forces of Brazil was the invention of an officer now resident in Boston. The officer in question is Lieutenant N. J. L. Halpin, U. S. N.

A few words regarding this remarkable weapon. Not the least interesting thing concerning it is the fact that it is a torpedo but little known. It is the result of many years of study and experiment by its inventor, and is better known outside of this country than it is here. It has been used by at least three South American nations, although the Brazilians, as far as known, are the only ones who have subjected it to the conditions of actual war.

Unlike other torpedoes, the Halpine weapon is not destroyed after it is exploded and its mission is accomplished. Its explosive charge is separate, and after it is emitted by automatic means, the torpedo itself, which is operated by electricity, withdraws and returns to the operator. Herein is a merit that at once appeals to the economist. The explosive charge, which is in the form of a cartridge, costs but \$9, and the torpedo itself being used over and over again, this is the only expense attending its use. Other forms of dirigible torpedo cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a shot, as they are themselves destroyed thereby.

The following is a brief description, not too technical, of the Halpine torpedo, which is in reality a hybrid, between a torpedo proper and a torpedo boat. In fact, it may be regarded in the latter light, as it is but the vessel carrying and discharging the deadly missile.

It is cigar-shaped, seventeen feet in length and two feet in diameter. It contains a storage battery of thirty-three cells, weighing 300 pounds, and from these is obtained the power which by means of a two-horse-power motor, drives the screw propeller, which is brass, one foot in diameter, and is protected by a circular metallic guard. A balance rudder is also attached by which the torpedo is steered. In the forward end, pointed obliquely downward, is the chamber for the charge, which is 125 pounds of any high explosive, gelatine, dynamite or gun cotton. The charges furnished the weapon carried by the Netheroy were wet gun cotton.

The cartridge is also cigar-shaped, four feet long and ten inches in diameter, and is inserted by the mere removal of a hand-hole plate on the top of the torpedo.

At the station occupied by the operator there is a battery of 160 dry cells, and communication is had with the torpedo after it is launched by means of an extremely fine and carefully insulated wire, which is rolled on a reel inside the torpedo as the latter advances. All the operator has to do is to watch the torpedo travel through the water, its progress being observed by means of two tiny masts upon it, and by means of a switch-board he can cause it to advance or retreat, or pursue any path he wishes. He can also discharge the cartridge, but there is likewise an automatic method of doing this upon impact with the vessel attacked.

The operation of the torpedo presents some very interesting features. Projecting from the front of the torpedo is a spar, with an arrow-head, and automatically released arms. When this comes in contact with any resisting object, the cartridge is released and advances toward the object. By means of an ingenious system of springs and clutches, the cartridge upon being released, dives down and then ascends, describing a curved path, concave upward. Thus the torpedo nets with which most of the battleships are provided, would not avail, as the spar would meet the net while the cartridge would dive down beneath it and then proceed direct to the vessel's hull.

The same act of impact that discharges the cartridge also reverses the motor in the torpedo, which rapidly recedes and returns to its base, to be again charged, if needed, and again sent out on its mission of destruction. The Halpin torpedo has some merits not possessed by any other kind. In the first place, it is the only one that can be used successfully against a vessel protected by nets. It is not injured or destroyed in operating; it can be operated from a moving base, such as a boat, as the operator's plant is so simple and light; its motive power does not suffer by being stored or delayed, and it is not of such a nature as to be in itself a source of danger to those handling it; it can be loaded with the facility of a breech-loading rifle; should it be captured, the operator can make it destroy itself by exploding the charge within it.

The American officers of the Netheroy, who returned to this country

about a week ago, speak in high terms of this torpedo, and they incline to the belief that its many advantages offset its lack of simplicity. However complex it may be, experiments held with it indicate that it is quite as reliable as any other kind of dirigible torpedo. The one on the Netheroy, indeed, had already been used, and its cartridges discharged with success over fifty times.—Boston Herald.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Dwarring trees is a fine art in Japan. Church bells were first suggested by Paulinus, an Italian Bishop.

The photograph was recently put to use as a witness in a London damage suit.

Next to the lion and tiger the jaguar is the largest member of the cat family.

Twenty-eight big ocean passenger steamships belong to the British auxiliary navy.

The people of England and America average taller than any other representatives of the human family.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, is the oldest hospital in the United States. It was built in 1875.

A copy of the first Chinese dictionary, made by Chinese scholars in the year 1109 B. C., is still preserved at Peking.

The tambourine is a combination of the drum and rattle. It is found represented on Egyptian monuments 2000 B. C.

A small boy at McCool, Neb., caught two catfish in the Blue River. Their combined weight is reported as thirty-two pounds.

The largest artificial stone in the world forms the base of Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty, Bedloe Island, New York Harbor.

In New Zealand there are miles upon miles of forests of kauri trees, which average over 200 feet in height and fifty feet in girth.

The oldest epitaph in England is found in a country churchyard in Oxfordshire, dated 1370. Its obsolete language is almost unintelligible.

The germ of the trumpet, and all instruments of the trumpet family, was the cow's horn, used by savages as a signal to furnish a noise at their feasts.

A very large American eagle has been killed at Landers, Col., after making havoc among the lambs thereabouts. It weighed fourteen pounds and measured eight feet from tip to tip.

H. H. Piper, a painter, fell from the steeple of St. Mary's Convent, in St. Louis, and suffered no other injury than a scratched cheek, although the fall was sixty feet and Piper weighs 175 pounds.

A rainbow trout weighing six pounds and twelve ounces dressed was caught by George Plummer at Melrose, Wis., the other day. This is said to be the largest fish of the sort ever caught in Wisconsin.

The Laconia (N. H.) State Fish Hatchery will turn out about 1,200,000 trout fry this year. New Hampshire doesn't propose to lose the summer boarding trade if plenty of trout can avert such a misfortune.

In 1745 Dr. Watson stretched a wire across the Thames, in England, and sent an electric shock through it from one observer to another. He was accused of witchcraft and had much trouble in proving his innocence.

There are six continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Australia. Some geographers say that there are only five continents, giving Europe and Asia as one continent; but the number first given is the usual number.

The Question of Ivory.

The ivory question is important, because ivory is the wealth of the slave trader far more than are his slaves. Ivory is now found almost exclusively in the Congo State. The elephant is exterminated in Uganda and in Nyasaland. Some 500 tons of ivory reach London yearly, but the supply is decreasing. It is estimated that 75,000 elephants are being killed every year, and, if this is true, even the Congo herds cannot long survive such slaughter.

It is generally agreed that, as the she-elephant has only one calf every two or three years, the destruction is going on much faster than the breeding. Meanwhile it is to be remembered that ivory is essentially a slave trade product, and comes from the lands of Tippeco. The sale of arms and ammunition must be prevented from all sides. The sale of spirits offers less temptation to the European trader, because these Arabs are Moslems, and do not drink.—The Edinburgh Review.

Recording Color.

An ingenious instrument has been brought into notice, called the "tintometer," by which a permanent record of any colored substance may be secured by means of standard glasses of various degrees of color. This instrument has proved to be of immense value in gauging the colors of flours, oils and similar substances, and now its use has been extended to chemical work. By its use the color of a solution of unknown strength can be estimated, and the strength can at once be determined by means of tables provided for the purpose. This method can also be employed for estimating the amount of lead in a solution, which, if free from interfering substances, gives a definite color with cuphuret of hydrogen. In fact, wherever colorimetric determinations are desired, the tintometer may be looked upon as the best instrument for obtaining accurate results.—New York Telegram.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

The Paternal View of It—The Regular Thing—Police Court Humor—Boggles's Sense of Humor, Etc.

"What a beautiful child," exclaimed Miss DeGush.
 As she gazed at the bundle of clothes, "And you—happy father—think it is the one finest baby on earth I suppose?"

"Well, yes," replied dad, as he thought of the night.
 He had walked the cold floor in distress; "I really must say, my dear Miss DeGush, I regard it a howling success."
 —Philadelphia Life.

LET US HOPE IT WAS.

Amy (dressing)—"Say, Mabel!"
 Mabel—"Well?"
 Amy—"Is my hair on straight?"—Judge.

NOT A WARM RECEPTION.

"Don't be in a hurry to go," said the stove to the coal.
 "Oh, I can't stay," replied the coal.
 "I just dropped in to see the fire, but I find he's out."—Life.

CONVERSATIONAL MUSICALS.

"Do you admire Professor Svegli's playing?"
 "Oh, immensely! He plays such good accompaniments for conversation, you know."—Puck.

QUITE MOUNTAINOUS.

Shesed—"It's odd about a mountain, isn't it?"
 Hessed—"What is?"
 Shessed—"That it never wears its spurs on its foot."—Detroit Free Press.

POLICE COURT HUMOR.

Judge—"Name?"
 Prisoner—"Smith."
 Judge—"Occupation?"
 Prisoner—"Locksmith."
 Judge—"Officer, locksmith up."—Truth.

BOGGLES'S SENSE OF HUMOR.

"I used to think that story of mine about the mule was a pretty good one," said Woody Witte, with a sigh.
 "And what changed your opinion?"
 "Boggles laughed at it."—Washington Star.

A BUSY MAN.

"Old Peachy is a very busy man. Does nothing but cut coupons all day, I understand."
 "Coupons from his bonds?"
 "No; coupons from the newspapers."—Puck.

NO SENTIMENT INVOLVED.

He—"Why will you treat me so coldly? Has your heart grown cold toward me?"
 She—"No, Harry, my heart is the same as ever. I have only changed my mind."—Boston Transcript.

BAIT FOR A BORED PUBLIC.

First Deaf Mute (speaking on his fingers)—"What chance is there for you and me in the business world, I'd like to know."
 Second Deaf Mute—"Plenty, plenty. Let's start a barber shop."—Life.

THE REGULAR THING.

President of a Bank—"Has anything unusual happened during my absence?"
 Clerk—"No, sir, nothing unusual has happened. The cashier ran away last night with \$50,000."—Texas Siftings.

THE GREAT TEACHER.

Lyddy Ann (indignantly)—"She ain't shed a single tear—and him such a nice man, too!"
 Sarah Jane—"Well, now, this is her third—and I guess she's found out how salt water do spot up black!"—Puck.

BEYOND HIS DEPTH.

"Dobson—"There goes Jones, the expert accountant. They say he's going crazy."
 Jobson—"What's the trouble?"
 Dobson—"He's been trying to straighten out his wife's household accounts."—Puck.

SUMMING HIM UP.

"You don't mean to say the cashier has gone?"
 "Yes," replied the bank official.
 "Dear me! He had such a pleasing appearance."
 "Yes. And such a displeasing disappearance."—Washington Star.

NOT ABOVE SUSPICION.

Missouri Judge—"Stand up, sir. Have you anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be passed on you?"
 "I'm not the prisoner, yer honor, I'm a detective."
 Judge (fiercely)—"Is that any reason?"—Cleveland Plaindealer.

A BRIGHT BOY.

"The gentlemen that came to see papa said I was one of the most intelligent children they ever saw," said little Jack.
 "Indeed," said the proud mother.
 "Did you recite 'Little Drops of Water' for them?"
 "No'm. I refused to."—Washington Star.

NAUTICAL IDIOMS NOT UNDERSTOOD.

"Is it true that they weigh the anchor every time the ship leaves port?" said Mrs. Trotter to her husband.
 "Yes."
 "Dear me! How very unnecessary! Why don't they make a memorandum of its weight?"—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

SAGACITY.

The Pretty Housemaid (angrily opening the door two inches)—"Well, what do you want?"
 Sharp (the peddler)—"Oh—or—pardon me, madame. I'm sorry to disturb you—it was one of your servants to whom I wished to show my goods."
 [The pretty housemaid buys \$5 worth of things she can never use.]—Chicago Record.

VERY PUNCTUAL.

Jimson—"Is Mr. Noodles in?"
 Boy—"Not yet; but I expect him every minute."
 "It's ten o'clock, isn't it?"
 "Most. The clock will strike in half a minute, if not sooner. There she goes!"
 "All right! I promised to be here at ten o'clock and pay him some money. Tell him I called and he wasn't in." (Rushes off.)—New York Weekly.

RECOGNIZED A FRATERNAL SOUL.

He was a commercial traveler of the more flashy type and had just finished telling a startling story to his newly-made acquaintance in the car.
 "That reminds me of one of Munchausen's yarns," remarked the victim, for want of something better to say.
 "Munchausen, who is he?"
 "Why, don't you know about him? He is the most colossal example of mendacity that civilization has produced."
 A brief painful silence ensued, which was broken by the traveler in a tone that was almost timid.
 "Excuse me, my friend," he said, "if I seem inquisitive. But would you mind telling me what house he travels for?"—Washington Star.

A MEAN TRICK.

Binthare—"That's a mean trick old Pimpleton's been playing, isn't it?"
 Hetoo—"Don't know. What is it?"
 Binthare—"Well, you know that all the fellows used to take their girls walking down Pimpleton's street, because it is so secluded and nice and quiet?"
 Hetoo—"Yes."
 Binthare—"They don't do it any more."
 Hetoo—"No? Why's that?"
 Binthare—"Old Pimpleton got tired of seeing 'em going, and what has he done and done but put a sign across the sidewalk in front of his house, with 'Ice Cream and Soda Water' painted on it in letters big enough for even a near-sighted girl to read more than a block away."—Browning's Monthly.

A DELSARTE TRAGEDY.

"Julia," said the young man in a low, impassioned tone, "I have long sought the opportunity to tell you how deeply—how sincerely—
 The expression of amazement upon her features checked his utterance. He looked down and hesitated.
 "Proceed, sir," she said, in a reassuring tone.
 "O Julia! surely your heart tells you what I would say. I love you, Julia! Will you be my—but no! I read too well my answer in your face. Adieu, then, forever! But the time will yet come when you will bitterly regret—
 And he dashed wildly from the apartment.
 "Harold! Harold! Come back; you have misunderstood," she called after him. But it was too late.
 "Oh! what have I done?" she exclaimed in anguish. "Yes, yes; I see it all now! I have assumed the wrong Delsarte expressions. Instead of 'Joy succeeded by Deliberation,' as I intended, my features expressed ' Astonishment and Aversion.'"
 —Puck.

The Language of Ants.

It has long been believed that ants have means of communicating with each other, and Lubbock and Landois gathered from their researches on the subject that the insects do so by means of sounds, too high in pitch to affect the human ear. Janet, a French naturalist has recently shown that certain ants make stridulating noises analogous to those of crickets, produced probably by the rubbing together of some of the many rugose or rough surfaces to be found on their bodies. These noises, too slight to be heard when made by only one insect, may be detected by imprisoning a lot of ants between two pieces of glass in a space surrounded by a ring of putty. On holding this to the ear, one may hear, by listening attentively, a gentle murmur likened by M. Janet to that made by a liquid boiling slightly in a closed vessel, varied now and then by distinct stridulating sounds. These sounds are heard only when the ants are disturbed.

The Age of Steel.

The Eiffel Tower, built wholly of metal, is an example, and a good example, of a step in the direction which architects will be driven to follow in the future. The great railway stations, exhibition buildings and other structures of steel, concrete, paper and glass, which the needs and inventions of our day have called into existence, show which way flows the stream of tendency. The new building material has come to stay. In another century houses may not merely be built with steel girders; they may be made of metal frames bolted together, and gridding walls of papier mache. Then the age of the tent will return. A man will buy his house from a manufacturer and will hire a site to set it upon. When he moves from one place to another he will take his home with him. Building leases will die a natural death. Towns will wander about, and a great many curious results will arise.—St. Louis Star-Sayings.