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When you are thinking of making a short cut to success remember that there are very few guide-posts off the beaten track.
It is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the czar's drastic policy in Finland may send us a very industrious and desirable class of immigrants.
The wealth of the United States is estimated at one hundred billions of dollars, and yet there are hundreds of thousands of people in the United States who to-day are hungry and cold and ragged and hopeless.

The St. Louis Republic says: "If Admiral Lord Beresford is correct in his assertion that the British navy is as rottenly directed as the British army, then indeed does England need all the alliances she can lay her hands on."
One often hears of queer trades, but perhaps the queerest is one which is controlled in this country by one man. This is the manufacture of shuttle eyes. These are made of porcelain and require to be very carefully made. The solitary manufacturer has acquired his trade wholly by the care with which his product is turned out and the perfect uniformity of his goods, as a result of which every shuttle eye fits the hole into which its predecessor was inserted.

The division of statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture has undertaken the publication for wide distribution of lists of free employment offices and other institutions to which farmers may apply when in need of farm laborers. The co-operation of many charity organizations, societies, settlements, colleges, etc., has been secured, and it is hoped thus to facilitate communications between the farmers who want help and those who are in need of work for the summer months or for the entire year.

The Swiss have no standing army, but the whole population, from twenty to fifty, is enrolled in three classes of the militia—the first and youngest for thorough training as recruits; the next for ordinary military service and the last for use in an extremity. The service is short, but the drill is thorough, and rifle practice is encouraged in all citizens by Government subvention of private clubs. There is a permanent general staff and officers are taught in military schools and appointed and promoted by severe tests. The State provides arms and equipment in all services, which are ample for any emergency, and of the most modern type.

The State of California, now perhaps the closest of the larger States of the country, has seven Representatives in the Fifty-sixth Congress, but, notwithstanding the evenness of the division between the two parties, six of these Congressmen are Republicans and only one is a Democrat. In the Presidential election of 1896 the contest between the two parties was so close that the electors were divided, McKinley receiving eight votes and Bryan one. In the Presidential election of 1892 the Republican plurality was less than 150 votes, and so close was the State that Cleveland received eight of the electors and Harrison one. California divided its electors in 1880 also, when the Democratic plurality was only 100 votes.

Drunkness increasing in France.
Drunkness is said to be increasing in France. Dr. Jaquet, who has carefully examined into the matter, made a round of the Paris hospitals and found that out of 4,744 cases personally investigated by him 1,495, or more than 30 per cent, were persons given to excessive drinking and whose illness when not the immediate result of alcoholism had been aggravated by the abuse of liquor. Among the more serious cases he found the percentage of inebriates to be 46. One of the difficulties in investigating the question was that the patients, and especially the women, endeavored to conceal their excesses.

Between Madagascar and the coast of India there are about 16,000 islands, only 600 of which are inhabited, but most of which are capable of supporting a population.

WHEN DAYS ARE CHILL AND DAYS ARE FAIR,

When the wild wind ripped
Like a maddened thing,
And his ears were nipped
By the fierce frost king;
When the deep pipes froze
And clear drops dripped
From his glowing nose;
When the slow wheels creaked
And the panes were streaked
By the cliche who
Is never seen,
He longed for the days when the skies are
blue
And the fields are green;
"Oh, for the glad, warm days," he cried,
"When the loosened streams may flow,
For a summer day is worth," he sighed,
"More than all the months of snow!"
And if this keeps on," he shivering said,
"I fear the fruit'll be frozen dead!"

Sacred Ben, the Whale of the Cross.

BY JAMES COOPER WHEELER.



SHALL always claim that a better man than Portuguese John never slipped the deck of a whaler with his foot. All of marine New Bedford—thirty years ago—which was fiercely skeptical of Dago virtue, freely allowed that John was the exception which proves the rule. Therefore no one was surprised when old Hank Timrod, master of the Java, signed him as fourth mate. As this officer acts as captain's boatsteerer when the "old man" lowers, and leads the starboard boat when he does not, it goes without saying that he must be good timber through and through.
It was not common, on an American whale ship, for a Portuguese to berth aft, but before the Java had crossed the western ocean on her way to the southern whaling grounds John was accepted by Coffin, Holder and Bigelow, the mates, as an all-around good fellow, and as capable a seaman as ever sniffed brine. His whalemanship was an unknown quantity, for none had sailed shipmates with him before. But they took it for granted, and grew fond of the grave, undemonstrative man who never courted, but always welcomed their rough fellowship.
One day, in the South Atlantic, a "lone" bull whale was raised from the mainmast head. It was breaching a long distance to windward, and it took the bluff-bowed Java three hours to beat up to where the lonely monarch could be seen from the deck. Bigelow, the third mate, was in the slings at the main-royal yard with his glasses. He scanned the whale long and closely, while it lay spouting without thought of enemies. Suddenly he sent his voice to the deck: "I never seen a sperm bull like this 'ere, Cap'n Timrod. He's queer an' no mistake!"
The "old man," pacing his quarter like a penned animal, paused in his swift stride and looked inquiringly aloft: "What do you make of him, sir?"
"I'm blowed if he's a Protestant!" answered Bigelow with a brief chuckle. "He's marked with a cross on his head."
Portuguese John, who stood by the starboard boat near the master, gave a sudden start as the whale was described, and was about to speak, but restrained himself, and Bigelow continued:
"Seems like the cross was painted on with white lead. The long streak goes from the nose to the hump, an' the cross bar reaches clear athwart his head."
(The body of the sperm whale is covered with what may be described as a black pigment. It is slightly thicker than a coat of paint, and may be readily scratched off—bringing to view a dull white skin which covers the blubber. It seems possible that Sacred Ben may have carelessly scratched his head on the rocks at the bottom of the sea in the regions where he is supposed to chase the giant squid. In that way the religious symbol which so astonished Mr. Bigelow may have been produced.—J. C. W.)
Captain Timrod happened to glance at his fourth mate, and to his surprise John's swarthy face had turned that livid yellow which takes the place of emotional paleness in the Latin races.
"What is it, John?" he asked, in surprise.
The Portuguese's voice was husky, and he shivered as he answered, pointing in the direction of the bull: "Sacred Ben, sir! The Whale of the Cross!"
"Hey!" exclaimed the "old man" with an expression of deep interest. "I've heard of him before. He's got a bad record!"
Portuguese John moved nearer, and laid his unsteady hand on the master's arm. "Captain," he said in a strained whisper, "that whale means death. He kill my broth', three year ago, in the Indian Ocean. And many more! He stove three boats of the Mary, an' get away with four 'irons' and all the line. That time I know for I was his mate. My broth', Anton, he steer Misser Brown, the mate; an' all that boat crew Sacred Ben kill. An' many more! I hear of him in other ships. He always kill, an' always get away."
"I heard of the Mary losing her boats. I was in the Okhotsk that year," answered Timrod. "Well, what of it, John?"
"Captain, for Christ his sake, do not lower after the Whale of the Cross!"
The sailor in Hank Timrod quaked because of the superstition begot by the sea, but after a moment the tough Yankee spirit of the New England whale-hunter surged up in his breast. "Sacred Ben will try out like any other whale, I reckon!" he grimly muttered.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

Uniforms Made by Women.
The army clothing stores in Pimlico, London, have presented a scene of unusual activity since the beginning of the war in South Africa. From 8.30 in the morning until about 6 o'clock in the evening nearly sixteen hundred women and young girls stitch away at the "khaki" from which the soldiers' uniforms are made, each soldier receiving one outfit of dark-colored serge and another of the "khaki."
The latter material is a kind of dried cotton, dyed to the regulation color. The uniforms completed at the army clothing stores are turned out at the rate of about twelve hundred each week, and are cut by machinery. Once cut the material passes through the hands of three workers, and is completed in short order. Contractors in Ireland are also turning out uniforms with great rapidity.

The Finishing of Skirts.
Velveteen continues to be regarded as the most wear-resisting skirt-binding, but there is sufficient variety in the accepted methods of applying it to warrant a word of description. The simplest plan is to line a bias strip of velveteen (two and three-quarter inches wide) with stiff crinoline, apply to skirt back smoothly to the lining, employing the herringbone or feather stitch. Where the garment is of cloth a turned-up lined hem is all that is required, and the regulation width of such a finish is two inches. Turned-in hems are not approved of because of their bulkiness, but where there is a possibility of the material raveling, its edge may be bound with lute-string.
The novelty of the moment consists in the inlet cable-cord binding. This is done as follows: Select a heavy cable-cord and baste it into a bias casing of silk, velveteen, or corduroy, the exact shade of the material of the skirt. Now stitch the cable-casing to the outside of the skirt, turn over, and hem the facing closely down to meet the cord. Where desired a row of machine-stitching may be placed as close to the cable as possible, thus securing the cord still more firmly in place. The process is that known to needle-women as "cording." This is an exceedingly useful method of skirt-binding, especially when applied to the renovation of gowns, since it counteracts the tendency to a shortening of the skirt usually observed after the garment has been rebound.—Harper's Bazar.

The Best First Telegram.
Mrs. Roswell Smith, seventy-three years old, widow of the founder of the Century Company, died at her home in New York City a few days ago. It was Mrs. Roswell Smith who, as Miss Annie Ellsworth, then a young girl of seventeen, sent the famous first telegraphic message. "What God hath wrought!" Her father, Henry L. Ellsworth, a son of Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth, was the first commissioner of patents and has been called "the father of the patent office." He had been a college friend of Professor S. B. Morse. Together they had endeavored to induce Congress to pass a bill granting \$30,000 for the construction of a trial line between Washington and Baltimore. Morse had been seeking the help of Congress since 1838, but it was not until the last hours of the session of 1842-3 that the bill was passed by the close vote of 89 to 83, and then went to the Senate. At twilight on the last evening of the session there were 179 bills ahead of it, and, as it seemed impossible that his measure would be reached, Professor Morse, disheartened, went to his hotel and prepared to return to New York City by an early morning train. His friend, the commissioner of patents, kept doggedly working for the bill, and at five minutes before adjournment it was passed, only one measure going through after it.
It was Miss Ellsworth who carried the news of the passage of the bill to Professor Morse the next morning. It was then that he assured her that she should send the first message, and a little more than a year after, at her mother's suggestion, Miss Ellsworth wrote down the words of the Psalmist, "What God hath wrought," and they were sent in triplicate in the dot and dash alphabet from Washington to Baltimore. The original message was given to Miss Ellsworth and has always been in her keeping. The duplicate, which was returned from Baltimore to Washington, is in the Connecticut historical rooms at Hartford.

Queen and Woman Both.
Queen Victoria is a very old lady, but she does not neglect those courtesies that have caused her all her life to be loved by those that know her. Old servants may grow very old in their attendance upon her before she thinks them sufficiently aged to be set aside for younger attendants.
Eighty-two is a good ripe age for a housekeeper, but Miss Thornton, who has been the Queen's housekeeper for more than forty years, would not have felt called upon for so small a cause to resign her position. Unfortunately she grew deaf—too deaf to hear the orders that were given. "I could not say 'I beg your pardon' to Her Majesty and ask for an order to be repeated," she herself said, in speaking of her reason for resigning.

How They Catch Smelts.
Residents of Surry are happy as well as busy now, for the head of the river is frozen and the smelting business began Saturday. The news spread about that smelts had appeared in the bay, and those who were in readiness made quite a catch and several shipments were made. Others employed themselves in getting their tents on the ice, and Monday some sixty-five tents were located and one of the largest catches in the history of smelting in Surry was made, more than two tons being taken. The average quantity was from seventy-five to eighty pounds to a man. The smelts are shipped to Boston and New York via stage to Ellsworth, and sell for from five to fifteen cents a pound.—Bangor (Me.) Whig and Courier.

GIANT TREES THREATENED.

An Effort to Save the Sequoias of California From the Lumbermen.
The San Joaquin Valley Commercial Association is taking steps to preserve the famous Calaveras grove of big trees, owned by J. L. Sperry, but which will probably pass into the hands of a large lumber firm which has secured an option on this famous wonderland of central California. It is the intention of the new owners to erect several large sawmills in Calaveras County, and they will then turn all of the large trees, which have been one of the points of interest to visitors, into lumber, unless immediate steps are taken to save them.

President Buell, of the San Joaquin Valley Commercial Association, has appointed a committee to secure all data possible on the matter, and a report will be presented at the next session of the association at Merced. Buell has also communicated with the California Water and Forest Association, and the Sierra Club, calling attention to the situation, and requesting their assistance in saving this wonderful grove from destruction.
The committee will also communicate with Congressman De Vries to learn if something cannot be done at once by Congress to save the Calaveras big trees, which are famous the world over. He will be urged to have a national park set aside, to include the sequoias, as has been done in Mariposa and Tulare Counties, where lumbermen got within striking distance of the big trees in those sections. No effort will be spared by the Valley Association to keep the trees from falling under the axe of the lumbermen who have secured control of them.

Women Here and There.
One of the best bands in New Orleans, La., is composed entirely of women.
At the Minneapolis College of Agriculture fifty girls are studying scientific farming.
Mrs. Philip D. Armour, Jr., collects plates, and owns more than two thousand exquisite ones.
Miss Helen Gould has contributed the Berrian collection of works on Mormonism to the New York Public Library.
Louise Froebel, widow of Friedrich Froebel, founder of the kindergarten system, died in Hamburg at the age of eighty-five.
Three new assistants have begun their duties at the Central Library of Syracuse, N. Y. With their coming the staff of women workers is increased to ten.
Prussia has decided to try the experiment of employing women as factory inspectors. A large number have just been appointed at a salary of \$570 a year.
The women of Japan are gradually effecting entrance into industrial life. A considerable number have been recently engaged in banks and in telephone and railway service.

Mrs. C. E. Haskell's gifts to Oberlin College now amount to \$77,000. This includes a lectureship endowment of \$22,000, which will enable the college to bring thither famous specialists every year.
Women as train porters are an innovation that is fast becoming popular. The woman who wishes her shoes laced, her dress fastened, etc., is wondering how she managed to travel before without such aid.
Mrs. Mary Bryan Cobb, great-grandmother of William Jennings Bryan, is living near Kokomo, Indiana, at the age of ninety-eight. Her first husband, Louis H. Bryan, was a soldier in the war of 1812 and in the Mexican war.

Mrs. Agassiz has resigned the presidency of the Radcliffe College—sometimes called the Harvard Annex—an office which she had held since the beginning of the institution, her health no longer permitting her to perform its duties.
The only woman oil operator in the country is Miss Jane Stone, who owns 180 acres in Texas which have produced oil. Miss Stone superintends the drilling of her own wells, and has a thorough knowledge of the way to run an oil plant.
Another real daughter of the Revolution has joined the D. A. R. She is Mrs. Rachel M. Fernald, of Kittery, Me. She was born in East Eliot, Me., in 1812. She is the twelfth child of Eliot Frost, who was a private in the continental army.

The Woman's Home Companion points out the fact that women are doing pioneer service in the development of the automobile, their familiarity with the bicycle giving them confidence. A marked improvement in design and simplicity of mechanism is due to the interest of women in the motor carriages. There are twelve women in Chicago who run their own vehicles, and twice as many in New York City.
Cleanings From the Shops.
Children's caubrie dresses finished with cluster tuckings and embroidered yokes.
Double-breasted fur jackets fastened with extremely large jeweled buttons.
Boys' blouse and vestee suits made of serge or chevrot tastefully trimmed with braid.
Many new ideas in boa, muff, long-nette and neck chains in gilt, silver and enamel.

Stock collars of various colors with broad black ends to be worn with flannel shirt waists.
Dotted Swiss shirt waists trimmed with Valenciennes lace fashioned with handkerchief fronts.
White and delicately tinted batiste corsets showing silk embroideries in contrast and lace trimmings.
Big reductions in staple and novelty laces, also veers, transparencies, garnitures and spangled trimmings.
New collections of floral-sprigged nets and other transparent materials suitable for day and evening wear.
Evening wraps of delicately colored satin or cloth showing rich appliques of lace and bands of ostrich feathers.
Dressing gowns of quilted silk or satin with wide, round collars and cuffs in contrast edged with swansdown.

Very ornate negligees and house-gowns of soft silk or woolen materials, in which great quantities form the distinguishing point.—Dry Goods Economist.
Lyddite Shells.
Although all good people have a horror of war and the terrible tale which it drags in its train, there is a certain amount of fascination about it because of its picturesque and intensely dramatic accompaniments. One cannot, for instance, read without absorbing interest of the work of our Naval Brigade and their awfully destructive Lyddite shells, which, by the way, take their name from Lydd, on the Kentish coast, where the explosive is made and tested. The Naval Brigade has a projectile weighing forty-five pounds, this includes the five and a half pounds charge of cordite which expels it; the weight of the Lyddite in its head, which breaks the shell into death-dealing fragments, being only ten pounds. The entire projectile is in form like a sportsman's cartridge, containing its own propelling charge, with the addition of the bursting charge of Lyddite; deducting these, the weight of metal is only twenty-nine and a half pounds.—Chambers's Journal.