

A LINCOLN RELIC.

Handkerchief That He Carried on Fatal Night Still Preserved.

There was recently exhibited at a leading attraction at a church fair in Philadelphia a large linen handkerchief that has an interesting history. It was in one of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on the night he was shot, and it bears evidence of the great tragedy in four spots of the President's blood. It is now the property of Mrs. Lucile Barry Moon, of Philadelphia, and the North American says of the story of the relic:

"Mrs. Moon inherited it from her maternal grandfather, Isaac Newton. He was one of the leading agricultural authorities in Pennsylvania during the middle of the last century, and when the Department of Agriculture was instituted as a branch of the national government he was appointed its first commissioner by President Lincoln.

"From his large farm, which is now the site of Morton and Rutledge, in Delaware County, he went to Washington, and while the head of the Department of Agriculture was not then, as now, a member of the Cabinet, there soon grew up between the capable Quaker farmer and the great President a strong friendship—a bond which led the former to accede to Lincoln's pressing invitation to accompany him to Ford's Theatre on the fatal night, despite his religious scruples.

"Newton went, as a mark of respect for his chief, but shortly after the play began he said to the President: 'If they will excuse me, I think I will withdraw.'

"Within an hour came the shot that shook the world, and when the Commissioner of Agriculture next saw his friend, it was as a dying man. 'Shortly after the terrible event Mrs. Lincoln gave Mr. Newton a large lock of Lincoln's hair and this handkerchief.

"It is of sheer linen, nearly two feet square and of the tape edge sort then so popular and still carried by some men. The two hemmed edges are hand sewn, and in one corner is the name 'A. Lincoln,' worked in tiny square letters of red.

"Time has somewhat yellowed the flax, and the four small spots of blood, which are still plainly visible, are now brown. It has never been laundered since it came into the Newton family."

New System of Gardening.

The Express of London says that another word must be added to the dictionary of gardening. This is "horticulture," the name of an entirely new system of horticulture, which has recently been developed, and bids fair not only to replace the form of intensive culture of the French school, but to revolutionize the present system of fruit and vegetable forcing. While it is nearly customary to look for extreme and favorable developments in the line of soil cultivation, through French means, says the English American, to us in the United States, who have not the garden habit quite so strongly as obtains in France, it comes as a surprise that the inventor of the new method is a Briton, Dr. F. Alexander Barton, Fellow of the Royal Society.

Plant Breaking Up an Island.

Strength is not a thing usually connected with maidenhair fern, yet if its roots have not sufficient room they will break the pot in which the plant grows. Blades of grass will force the subterranean between which they spring up out of their place, and in a single night a crop of small mushrooms have lifted a large stone. Indeed plants have been known to break the hardest rocks. The island of Aldabra, to the northwest of Madagascar, is becoming smaller through the action of the mangroves that grow along the foot of the cliffs. They eat their way into the rock in all directions, and into the gaps thus formed the waves force their way. In time they will probably reduce the island to pieces.—London Globe.

Most Dazzling Figure.

Wearing a black lace evening gown and a gorgeous blue and gold mandarin coat, Mrs. James Frothingham Hunnewell, of Boston, attracted much attention recently by puffing at a cigarette as she promenade Powell street with her husband and another escort. Mrs. Hunnewell had on her famous pearls, which are said to be the envy of the women of the smart set of the Hub, and as the smoke from her cigarette played in wreaths around her uncovered head she presented one of the most dazzling figures seen in the city district of San Francisco in a long time.—San Francisco Co.

Why 30 Minutes Made an Hour.

The hour is divided into sixty minutes, simply because in old Babylon time was divided by the side of the decimal system of notation, another system, the sexagesimal, which originated by the Sumerians. There is no number which has so many divisors as sixty. The Babylonians divided the day into 24 hours, and each hour into 60 minutes, or hour being divided into sixty minutes. The partitioning of each equal to a German mile, the Babylonians captured the progress made by the sun during one hour in the progress made by a good watch during the same time.

No Two and a Half Cent Pieces.

Some people are better content to be well enough alone. Some follow the United States to leave a two and a half cent piece to meet various quick change straits that would "save the Nation \$30,000,000 a year," as he says. After thinking it over every half of the head has turned silver gray. The holds to the principle that we had best hold on to the dollar system as founded by George Washington as it is, poor. The gold standard and short-changed every once in a while.—The New York Times.

A VACATION THAT PAID.

How One New Yorker Swung Around the Globe Last Summer.

"I am a young man who has had few advantages," writes a correspondent of the Globe, "and when I was granted a month's vacation I decided to visit various parts of this country by the cheapest possible way and learn how all the people live—in city or on farm—and what they thought and how they looked.

"My starting point was New York City. I had \$150, but I didn't intend to spend a cent more than was necessary. I went by trolley to Connecticut and Massachusetts. I didn't dress very well, so was not conspicuous and I stopped at many kinds of village inns and second rate boarding places. A constant panorama of new things opened up before me (most of my life has been spent in New York City) and in Massachusetts I left the beaten track and went into the country. I worked two days on a farm for board, lodging and \$5 besides and I came very near giving up my plan and staying there for my whole time. I went to Boston and spent two days, then bought a ticket for Chicago via the Canada route.

"Arriving at Chicago I had spent \$28 and been on the road nine days. After Chicago I rode by train to Kansas at reduced rates. I wanted to see the prairies and the prosperous middle West. By trolley, etc., I spent five days in the rural districts and then came back to the Mississippi and went down to New Orleans.

"After two days there (perhaps the most interesting of all my trip) I got a job as freight clerk on a steamer running to Savannah. That trip was mighty interesting and actually earned me money. After Savannah I spent three days in Washington and then I went to Gettysburg and from there to Pennsylvania's anthracite coal regions, went down a mine and made the acquaintance of a mining engineer and learned many things and then back to New York.

"Now I am a different man because of that trip. I made it a point to speak to everybody and keep eyes and ears open and I learned how to handle myself among men. I know something of our country now—I can shoot my eyes and see negroes on cotton plantations, farmers sitting on reapers and on huge Kansas wheat fields, clean Massachusetts farmers' wives making butter, black coal miners and steamboat hands playing cards with their greasy pasteboards on the hot freight decks.

"I took my opportunity—I saw this country and I think it's the finest vacation I ever had—and the cheapest, for I came back with \$78."

Horse Dentists.

In every large city there are now dentists who devote their entire attention to horses, and they are kept surprisingly busy the year round. The equine dentist is, of course, provided with special instruments for the extraction and filling of the teeth of animals needing attention. It is rather interesting to observe an operation in horse dentistry.

One of the instruments, called a speculum, presents the appearance of an ivory handle and four small bars of nickel, working on a ratchet and crossing one another in such a manner as to form a hollow square that can be made large or small by the turning of a screw.

Setting this device to the proper size, the horse dentist will slip it gently into the suffering animal's mouth, which, during the operation, is kept partly open by a groom, and when the instrument is fitted upon, say one of the back teeth, the beast's mouth is kept open as wide as possible.—Harper's Weekly.

His Source of Inspiration.

The young women members of an Indiana literary club were one day entertaining a "lion" in the shape of a novelist of that State, when they fell to talking of the sources of inspiration.

"What furnishes your inspiration, Mr. So and So?" asked one young woman.

"It comes from my wife," was the reply. "How charming!" exclaimed the club in chorus. "How lovely and idealistic!"

The novelist smiled sadly. "Yes," continued he, "when my muse sulks, or I feel like kicking a bit, the wife's demand for a new frock or for additional household funds impels me to renewed effort, and my pegasus begins to hump himself in real earnest."

Age of Trinity Church.

The present Trinity Church was built between 1829 and 1846, but the site on which it stands looks back to the beginning of things in New York—1694. At the time it came into the possession of the church New York was but a village clustered around the Battery, with never a dream of its future greatness. The spire atop the church to-day is 285 feet high—something of a wonder in its day, seventy years ago, but surrounded by skyscrapers as it is to-day it appears to be but a dwarf.

London's Apprentices.

The Lord Mayor of London is trying to revive the old system of apprenticeship, and while he shows he knows what he is talking about when he says that many boys are ruined by the lack of some trade, still many parents say that after making great sacrifices to keep their boys four or five years learning a trade, they find that once the boys have served their time, their masters have no further employment for them.

Bad Company.

How do men feel whose whole lives (and many men's lives are) are lies, schemes, and subterfuges? What sort of company do they keep when they are alone? Daily in life I watch men whose every smile is an artifice and whose every wink an hypocrisy. Both such a fellow wear a mask in his own privacy, and to his own consciousness.—Blackburn.

A HARD BED INDEED.

Ground or Boards Soft Compared With a Chain Cable.

"Often," said a man whose life has not been all routine, "I have slept on the ground, and often in hard board bunks with never a mattress or a blanket to soften them, but never on a bed quite as hard as this.

"Along at the base of the side street wall of a building occupied by a waterfront concern dealing in marine supplies you are likely to find low stacks of chain and cable, stocks and chains of various dimensions and sizes, and here now was one such pile of cable with perhaps three inch links that was neatly laid up in a mound maybe seven feet long by two feet wide and two feet high, a stack that would weigh perhaps fifteen or twenty tons.

"The pile was laid up so trimly that it had a fairly level top, in that way inviting; and yet iron in any form is hard, and this surface was covered all over with those hard, rounding protuberances made by the cable's links. It would scarcely seem a bed that any body would want to upon, but it is and the side street was quiet, and stretched out on this cable pile, with his arm under his head for a pillow, lay a man fast asleep.

"Certainly a hard bed. The ground isn't so hard, if it's sandy and dry it may be agreeable and easy; and a hard board bunk with a roof over it may at times be downright comfortable, but I don't know but what I'd sit up quite a little while before I'd stretch myself on a bed of chain cable."—New York Sun.

Tortoise Speed.

According to the fable the hare and the tortoise had a race and odds were decidedly against the latter because of its lack of speed. Now there is a tortoise in Ohio township, Bartholomew county, that would certainly "show up strong." The Ohio township tortoise has only moved about an eighth of a mile in twenty years.

Twenty years ago O. A. Sprague, then a small boy, found a tortoise on the farm of his father in Ohio township and carried his initials on its back. He turned it loose and the incident was forgotten. A few days ago Everett Sprague, a local school teacher and a brother of the man who carried the tortoise, was walking about the farm, when he ran across the tortoise and examined its back. The initials were as plain as the day they were carved and the tortoise had only moved about an eighth of a mile from the place where the carving was done.

Women Prisoners in Japan.

The cells in every Japanese prison are practically sleeping dormitories, as the prisoners are engaged in the workshops all day, or attending lectures and lessons in educational subjects, deportment and morality. The small Japanese woman prisoner is even taught how to serve tea properly, because the Japanese have grasped the fundamental truth that whatever raises a woman's self-respect helps to eliminate bad habits—in a word, to reform her. The keen zest of the prisoners in Japan contrasts with the hopeless, hunted look of our woman prisoners in England. In Japan the women prisoners are learning, learning, learning all the time. They are given prizes and decorative rewards for excellence. They are being encouraged instead of repressed. Everything is done to instill a real desire for permanent reform.

Vulgar Americans Abroad.

A good many of us know charming Americans and are prepared to defend the nation from the attacks of people who don't know. But there is a type of American woman who is "beyond the beyond." This writer saw three of that kind the other day. They came into the choir of Canterbury Cathedral during morning service, guide-book in hand. They took no heed of the kneeling congregation or of the litany, but stared about them as though they were in a circus. When a vergier, with amazing politeness and self-control, firmly conducted them to seats, one saw a surprised air of protest and heard—the American accent. It is inconceivable that people of any other nation could behave like that. Even the most vulgar Englishman abroad is not quite so bad.—London Chronicle.

Increase of News Space.

Seven New York daily papers used 121 1/4 columns in their report of the Jeffries-Johnson fight at Reno. The same papers nearly half a century ago told the entire story of the battle of Gettysburg in 25 1/4 columns. The facilities for gathering and printing news have increased since the war, but not to the extent these figures indicate. The papers gave all the details of the brutal daylight because the people demanded them, and a good many more wanted them than are willing to admit it.

Protecting the Lyre Bird.

So great has been the destruction wrought upon the beautiful lyre bird of Queensland (Hourea superba) that the State has absolutely protected the bird till the middle of 1918; a 25 percent is attached to its capture, or injury, or taking its eggs. Still the bird is getting scarcer and scarcer.

It is the extraordinary lyre form development of the tail feathers which tempts the cordid vandals. The contour of the bird, with its long neck and stout gallinaceous feet, is by no means unlike that of a peacock, and the wonderful tail, possessed only by the male birds, fulfills a corresponding role of vain display. The bird's eccentric antics for a train of female suitors on a raised earthen mound. For a short period of the year, about January, the lyre bird loses its characteristic plumage and has to be content with the sober plumage of its mate. The fully developed male lyre bird is one of the most handsome and notable of the forms of bird life of Queensland.—London Globe.

YIELD OF PEARLS SMALLER.

Western Fisheries Fall Off on Account of Low Water.

Western pearl dealers, who each year visit the American pearl fisheries along the Mississippi, Illinois, Wash and other rivers, were in Maiden Lane recently, and reported that because of the low water in the Western rivers the pearl fishery meet with poor success. The pearl bearing mussels are buried deep in the mud of the river bottom and are not being found in any quantities in the shallow water along the shores. It is estimated that the yield of American pearls will be only about 40 per cent. that of previous years.

The river mussels yield both shells and pearls, but recently the price of shells has dropped to about \$10 a ton, whereas as high as \$30 had previously been paid. This fact, together with the difficulty experienced in reaching the mussels, has discouraged the fishermen and many of them are idle.

Of the fine pearls found in the Western rivers a large percentage is brought to Maiden Lane for sale, but the prices have ranged so much higher this year than formerly that there has not been a ready market for them.

The After Dinner Smokes.

Mr. Gladstone was one who cherished the old view that women and tobacco smoke ought not to be brought into association. Sir Edward Hamilton records that he would recall a detumescence of the fourth Marquis of Londonderry, a magnate of fashion in Gladstone's earlier days, that no man ought to enter the society of ladies until four hours had elapsed after he had smoked a cigar. This was one reason why Gladstone hated the modern fashion of smoking after dinner, though his own dislike of the smell may have counted for a good deal.

But "Cranford" shows us that women and the pipe could be associated by extreme politeness—before the pipe was smoked. The courtly old bachelor, getting out his pipe and spitting after dinner hands the pipe to his former love that she may fill it for him before leaving the table; and it is explained that this was the pink of old fashioned compliment.—London Chronicle.

Strange Action of Northern Deer.

The destitution and starvation among the Indians of the far North is explained in letters which have recently been received from beyond the Barren Lands.

The correspondent states that during last winter reindeer, on which many of the Mackenzie River bands depend for subsistence, made a most remarkable track away across the Rockies through Yukon into Alaska from the Barren Lands, going in directly the opposite direction from that usually followed by the great herds, which have invariably wintered on the shore of the Hudson Bay heretofore.

The Indians repaired to the usual hunting grounds, only to find them deserted, and nearly starved before they could get back empty handed. No explanation has been found for this remarkable freak of the deer.—Pur News.

Modern Sardines.

King Victor's decision to pay Sardinia his first visit since his accession is a reminder that this large Italian island still belongs to the Middle Ages. It is hard to believe that Sardinia, known to the ancient Romans as the granary of the empire and its mineral treasure house, should so recently as 1828 have been entirely without roads. The beautiful highways over which, in Augustin days, golden harvests had been wheeled to the coast, have been lost since the fall of the empire. Even Sardinia retained its hold on the life of the Sardinia till 1858. Pestilence due to neglected soil and undrained swamps has no doubt helped to retard the return to civilization of the island which gave the crown to King Victor's house.—London Chronicle.

Small Farms Increase.

Nearly one million new farms have been created in the United States during the last year. In the last ten years the total number of farms has increased 18 per cent. In the older states, from Ohio eastward, there has been going on for twenty years a tendency toward the amalgamation of farms distant from market into larger holdings. On the other hand, this section has witnessed the cutting up into smaller sizes of many farms nearer to market. There are now almost three times as many farms as in 1870, and an unprecedented increase in the value of farm lands and live stock.—American Agriculturist.

King Arthur's Theatre.

According to report a section of the amphitheatre in King Arthur's round table field in Monmouthshire, England, has been partially exhumed. The Archaeological Society has made five excavations around the walls and the searchers found the main entrance, the sand which formed the bed of the arena, and a corner stone. From inscriptions on the stone they trace the date of the theatre back to 110 A. D. or eighteen hundred years.

Record of Benefactions.

Public benefactions of the larger sort during the year 1908 reached \$145,000,000, which beats the record by \$40,000,000, most of this excess being due to the death of John B. Kennedy, whose bequest figures in the benefactions of the year to the extent of \$35,550,000. Nearly \$13,000,000 is credited to John B. Rockefeller, and over \$5,000,000 to Andrew Carnegie, while Mrs. Gladstone's L. Mago is put down for \$3,900,000. Two millions left to the University of Wisconsin by Colonel Wills, who was in the first Cleveland cabinet, is included. Mrs. Sage gave away nearly two millions, and the bequests of George Crocker for cancer research were between a million and a half and two millions. More than a third of the year's total was given for education.—Philadelphia Record.

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