

NAVIES' OF OLDEN TIME.

The Precursors of Modern Guns Were Weapons of a Very Odd Sort.

Strange to modern eyes would be the armament of Great Britain's medieval navy. The very names of many of the implements of attack and defense sound queer.

As early as 1338 cannon formed part of the armament of ships and about 1372 guns and gunpowder were commonly used.

Among other implements of war used at that time were "cannon pavors," or stone shot throwers, and "murderers," which were smaller and threw any kind of shot.

Froissart tells of a bombard used at one of these ancient sieges that might be heard five leagues off in the daytime and ten at night.

EARTH'S GREATEST CITIES.

Probability That New York Will Before Long Be the Greatest of All.

There are now in the world nine cities of more than one million inhabitants each. Three of these—namely, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia—are cities of that new world which was only dreamed of 500 years ago.

The new state census will probably show a population in New York city of close upon 4,000,000 inhabitants. The unrevised figure is 3,987,696.

For ten years past the opinion has been gaining ground that the rapid growth of great cities in the nineteenth century will not continue throughout the twentieth.

The unfortunate disaster by which a life has been lost on the Welsh mountain known as the Devil's Kitchen has drawn attention to the curious but seemingly universal practice of past times in naming peculiar natural formations after their satanic majesty.

First American Millionaire—What in the world are you going over to see all the English cathedrals for?

FIGHTS GREAT VICE.

CRUSADE IN MEXICO AGAINST PULQUE DRINKING.

The Habit Is Firmly Rooted Among the Peons and Is Dangerous to the Entire People.

Reform laws have just been promulgated in the republic of Mexico with a view to striking a deadly blow at the great national vice, the consumption of pulque.

So firmly rooted is the habit among the peons of Mexico that they would sooner relinquish two meals a day than their glasses of pulque.

Even more difficult to combat than the longing of the lower class for the drink is the influence of the planters, who make fortunes through the cultivation and sale of maguey.

The reform laws are not intended to prohibit absolutely the sale of liquor or to make the interdiction extensive in its application.

Outside the zone the sale of the liquor is greatly limited. Sanitary regulations are imposed, which require absolute cleanliness, not only of the saloons, but of the employes within the saloons.

At its best, the pulque habit is dangerous in the extreme to the people of the country. Americans are especially subject to mental derangement from indulgence in the use of the liquor.

Pulque has been selling for some time past at four cents a liter. The daily sales have averaged \$20,000 in this city.

Men of great wealth in the district surrounding the City of Mexico have made their fortunes raising maguey. Within a radius of 100 miles of the city there are scores of planters whose business would be practically ruined if the market for maguey were cut off.

"Whatever the immediate outcome, the republic must take steps to combat the further advance of the pulque-drinking habit," declared an official of the government.

A large proportion of the population, that part of our nation which ought to be its bone and sinew, is well-nigh worthless, as the result of slavery to the pulque habit.

Family of Twins. In the village of Woppmannsdorf (Oberpfalz) lives a family consisting of four pairs of twins eight brothers and eight sisters, whose united ages amount to 520 years.

Catching a Tartar. Arvine's cyclopaedia states that in a battle between the Russians and the Tartars a Russian soldier called to his captain saying he had caught a Tartar.

DISLIKE THE GAYER BIRDS..

Those of Dark Plumage Seem Always Ready to Attack the Brighter Ones.

Birds of brilliant plumage in these parts not only fare ill at the hands of men, but are the objects of suspicion and apparent dislike even to their feathered brethren of plainer attire.

The bluejay is one of these. He is a special victim of the pot hunters, but his vigor and energy protect him from other birds.

Of the regular summer residents of considerable size the scarlet tanager or blackwinged redbird is the most brilliant. These birds are scarce in some years and relatively plentiful in others.

One has only to watch the conduct of other birds in the presence of the male tanager to realize how uncomfortable is the life of a gaudy bird among the hosts of his plainer fellows.

The tanager made no effort to charm the intruders, for he sat in utter indifference to their presence, and it was evident that his splendid coat excited either their curiosity or their dislike.

A pair of scarlet tanagers built a nest this spring in a pin oak standing in a suburban garden. All through the nest building they were disturbed by the visits of curious or unfriendly robins.

It is more than likely that they took to the comparative safety of a wood-land hard by.

DIGNITY AT FRONT DOOR.

New Fashion in Servants Is Robbing Clubs of Old-Style Attendants.

There is a scarcity of the old-fashioned English and Irish servants who used to be the attendants in all the chief New York clubs.

Servants of this kind are in demand in the hotels for service at the doors, in the halls and in other capacities which demand a certain amount of dignity.

The result has been an increase of the Italian and other continental servants in the clubs. The Greeks, who are making their way rapidly as domestic servants, are seen now in many clubs, and the sight of a club servant struggling to understand an order given in English is frequently met with.

The house committees are disposed to deal very leniently with the derelictions of any old servant. Such attendants are becoming too scarce to quarrel with. They are cherishes, something like the reverence felt for old china or furniture.

To keep their old servants it will either be necessary for the clubs to raise wages considerably—they are already higher than in restaurants—or to allow the men to accept tips.

Questions About Birds. There is still a great deal unknown about the birds migrating. Why do they leave when there is still food enough for all and pleasant weather?

Experiment. "I have been married twice, once for love and once for money." "Are you satisfied?" "Not quite. I should like to try marrying for a little of both, if I may."—Puck.

HOW CZAR WAS TATTOOED

A Japanese Artist of Hong-Kong Fricked Pictures Into Russian Emperor's Skin.

A young American artist and the emperor of Russia have both been tattooed at Hongkong and the tattooer was a Japanese.

His name is Noma. He has a studio in Hongkong, near the harbor, where he receives calls from visitors of all nationalities. He is so popular that it is necessary to make appointments days or weeks in advance.

"I have had the honor of tattooing his royal highness the duke of York, also his imperial majesty the emperor of Russia," said Noma.

For their own use in tattooing the Japanese have the same designs that are found on their china, and a Japanese whose entire body has been tattooed looks like a beautiful statue of fine porcelain.

Pilgrims to Loretto have the image of "Our Lady of Loretto" tattooed by the sacristan of the church for three-fourths of a lira, and a lira is only 19 1/2 cents in United States money.

An army officer invested \$200 in having the upper part of his body tattooed. It was a Japanese who tattooed a small lizard upon the forehead of a man with such skill that it was said the flies shunned his vicinity.

A Japanese artist charges a little more than one dollar an hour for his work.

DIDN'T NEED HUSBAND'S AID

Mormon Woman Had Already Made Complete Arrangements for Glory.

Even after a very slight acquaintance with the average Mormon family one can see that superstition, brought to the perfection of fanaticism by Brigham Young, blinds them to their church in chains unbreakable.

To show something of these characteristics a story may be told of a Mormon woman of my acquaintance who was protesting against her husband's taking a plural wife.

"You mean you will not call me in the resurrection?" "Well, remember," said she, "it wasn't you, it was Elder — who passed me through the veil. He knows my new name and he will let — into glory without your aid."

"You Is, Ain't You?" This conversation is said to have taken place between a Guthrie ball player and a bartender.

His Sage Counsel. "I been thinkin' 'bout gittin' married," said a member of his flock to Brother Williams. "You reckon I could git a marriage license for a dozen watermelons?"

Beyond the Limit. "Bell—I never understood how that ugly Miss Passay got a man to marry her." "Well—I didn't, either—till I saw the man."—Detroit Free Press.

FRESH SALT-WATER FISH.

How Gilbert Islanders Transform Them by a Peculiar Process.

In the Gilbert and other equatorial islands of the north and south Pacific—in most cases low, narrow ribbons of sandy soil, clothed with cocoa palms, and inclosing lagoons of seawater—the chance visitor is sometimes surprised at being asked by the local trader if he would like some "fresh water fish" for breakfast.

For, as these equatorial isles possess neither rivers, creeks nor springs, one would naturally wonder from where the fresh-water fish would come; yet they are to be had in plenty, and very excellent fish they are.

When westerly winds prevail and rain falls, the work of turning salt-water fish into fresh-water fish begins. First, of all, the smaller ponds for the reception of the fry are cleaned out, all debris being removed by the women and children; this is usually done when rain is falling; so that in a few hours a pond will have been emptied of the old, partly stagnant water, and a fresh supply of rain water has run into it.

When the cleaning out began are then replaced or transferred to a large and deeper pool, according to their size. Then the ponds being in readiness, the women and children, carrying wooden bowls and small-meshed scoop nets, set out for the lagoon beaches and sandy flats, and wait for high water.

When a sufficient number have been taken to restock the "nursing" ponds, the women return to the village, where the fry are thinned out from the respective bowls or transferred to larger ones, in which is brackish water, that is, half sea and half rain water.

After transference to the ponds these fish increase in size very rapidly, and become very fat on their diet of cocanut. It would be incorrect, however, to speak of the water in these artificial ponds as being absolutely fresh, for it is subject to the rise and fall of the tides.

Nowadays the sharks' teeth spears and daggers are made only for the purpose of selling them to the white visitor, and muskets, rifles and revolvers are articles forbidden by the British resident. But the fish cultivation goes on as usual.

IMPROVED BY MARRIAGE.

"Did you ever notice how it improves a man to be married?" This query was propounded by a young southern woman here. "You can always depend upon it, that it is a married man who shows you all the small courtesies in an elevator; it is a married man who stands up for you in the street car, and it is a married man who does all the chores at a picnic."

Mikado's Allowance. The yearly allowance of the mikado, which is at the same time that of the whole imperial family, is now \$1,500,000. Besides, he has the yearly incomes of \$500,000 from the interest on the \$10,000,000 which was given to him from the war indemnity received from China ten years ago.

Easy. "How in the world could you remember that your wife wanted dark brown stik?" asked the friend. "O, I just kept my mind on the taste I have in my mouth this morning," replied the man who had been to a banquet the night before.—Detroit Tribune.

Baseball Fever. Manager—So your grandmother died yesterday. What was her last word? Office Boy—Don't get hurt in de crush on de bleachers.—N. Y. Times.

Obit 1906. Jimson—Why is Smiley wearing that black band around his leg? Grimson—He's mother-in-law was buried yesterday.—N. Y. Times.

THE CONTROL OF MOROCCO

A Subject Which Is Straining Diplomatic Relations Among European Powers.

For a long time past the ambitions of the French, British and Spanish have clashed in Morocco. France desires to control northwestern Africa, but Spain has interests in Morocco, and the British have long objected to the extension of the boundaries of French Algeria to the west.

Last March France, in pursuance of the treaty, asked the sultan to agree to a plan under which he should deal with foreign powers through French agents.

It is useless to predict the outcome of this refusal of Germany to recognize the right of the French to assume a protectorate over Morocco, but it is likely that the disagreement will be settled through ordinary diplomatic channels rather than by an appeal to force.

ENGLAND'S POOR-TAX BILL.

System of Providing for the Indigent of All Classes Is Expensive.

The operations of England's poor-tax bill, designed for the relief of the poor of all classes in England and Wales, as reported to the state department by United States Consul Swalm at Southampton, show that during the last half of 1904 there was expended "in maintenance" \$7,972,790; for "out relief," \$7,699,740; making a total of \$15,672,530, an increase of \$440,000, as compared with similar expenditures for the corresponding period of 1903.

On July 1, 1904, the number of persons in England and Wales in receipt of poor relief (excluding pauper lunatics) was 754,046, an increase of 24,804 over the number on the corresponding day in 1903.

"This plan," says Consul Swalm, "of maintaining the children of the poor—or such as may be in the poor-houses or 'unions'—in cottages and homes of that character, is happily finding a very general adoption, no less than 128 'unions' now maintaining the children away from the pauperizing effects of poorhouse associations. The county of London paid out 72 cents per head of its population for the half year on poor account."

CENTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Marked in Several Countries by Sacred Stones Set Up by Natives.

When the Japs captured Mukden they found there the sacred black stone of the Manchu dynasty of China. This, says the New York World, is the center of the universe, according to old Chinese superstition, and added veneration comes to Mukden from the graves of the emperors near by.

Another center is the Kaaba in Mecca, a dirty black stone let into the wall of the most sacred mosque and polished every year by the lips of thousands of worshippers. The Arabic word for stone, "Hajar," appears in Scriptural writings as a proper name. The Mecca pilgrimage is a "haj," and those who have taken it are known as "Hadjis."

Even so sane a people as the ancient Greeks came pretty near worshipping a stone—the "omphalos" or center of the earth at Delphi. The Romans set up a stone of great consequence in Rome, but for purposes of measurement, not worship, and so the "London stone" of to-day is used.

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