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

....

Strange to modern eyes would be ithe armament of Gréat Britain's me-Mineval navy. The very names of many of the implements of attack and defense sound queer. According to the books, in 1337 the vessels of the mavy were furnished with "espringalds." ancient spring guns; "haubergeons," coat of mail; "basinets," small helmets; bows, arrows, doublets, targets; "pavises." large shields spiaced at the sides and serving the double purpose of protection against the sea and against the enemy; lances and "firing barrels.

As early as 1338 cannon formed part of the armament of ships and about 1372 guns and gunpowder were commonly used. Among the stores belonging to one vessel of that time were three iron cannon, with five chambers, a hand gun and three old stone bags. probably for shot. Another ship had an iron cannon with two chambers and one brass cannon with one cham-

Among other implements of war used at that time were "cannon paviors," or stone shot throwers, and and "murtherers," which were smaller and threw any kind of shot. There were also "basilisks," "part pieces," "stock fowlers," "sakers" and bombards." The bombards were of hammered iron, made of bars welded and bound together with iron bands. They threw stone shot weighing between 140 pounds and 195 pounds. A battery of these erected on a slip of land at the naval battle of Chiogga (1380) between the Venetians and the Genoese did great damage. They were loaded ever night and were fired in the morn-

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. The report of it was so loud that it seemed as if all the devils in hell had broke loose." Brass ordnance was first cast in England in 1535. The pieces had warlous names. Many of different caliber were mounted on the same deck, which must have caused great confusion in action in finding for each its proper shot.

EARTH'S GREATEST CITIES. Probability That New York Will Before Long Be the Great-

est of All.

There are now in the world nine eities of more than one million inhabitants each. Three of these-anmely, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia-are cities of that new world which was only dreamed of 500 years ago and was undreamed of when Thebes, Babylon and Nineveh vaunted themselves as important centers of civilization. No other nation than the United States has more than one of these big towns, says the Independent, the others being London, Paris, Ber-

In. Vienna, Canton and Tokio.

The new state ceasus will probably show a population in New York city of close upon 4,000,000 inhabitants. The unrevised figure is 3,987,696. This a gain of over 100,000 a year since 1900, when the first enumeration after the consolidation of New York and Brooklyn showed a population in Greater New York of 3,437,000. London has a population at present of 4.536.641. New York is thus a close second and in all probability will overtake and pass London within another generation. The contention that this is improbable because the metopolitan area of London includes 6,581.372 inhabitants is unfounded, because we have to remember that the actual arban district of New York city insludes Jersey City, Hoboken, Newark. Elizabeth, Paterson and Yonkers. which are not comprehended in the municipal corporation of New York

For ten years past the opinion has been gaining ground that the rapid growth of great cities in the nineeenth century will not continue throughout the twentieth. The new developments already achieved and to be expected in the utilization of elecstricity are undoubtedly to make life melatively comfortable in the country and in the suburban villages. The trolley car and the telephone wonderbully extend the area within which the man whose business is in the city may choose his residence. Electricity is increasing also the possibility of conducting manufacturing operations in relatively isolated spots.

Satan's Kingdom. The unfortunate disaster by which a Me has been lost on the Welsh mountain known as the Devil's Kitchen has drawn attention to the curious but accomingly universal practice of past times in naming peculiar natural formations after his satanic majesty. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that hardly a county in the British Isles is without some place or thing with the designation devil. All of which prompts "the thought that his satanic matesty must be a holder of a considerable amount of property on this terrestrial globe. The Devil's Punch Bowl, the Devil's Bellows, the Devil's Beef Tub, ahe Devil's Frying Pan, the Devil's Lake, the Devil's Dike, the Devil's Cauldron, are a few instances which occur at random, scattered about in various parts of the country. - Dundee Advertiser.

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

Second American Millionaire-I'm mutting up an automobile stable and I'm looking for something handsome in design.—Life.

## 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. Perhaps nothing has done more to retard the advancement of a large proportion of the population of the republic than the habit of drinking pulque. Reformation, however, is regarded as hardly more easily to be accomplished than the elimination of beer-drinking

in American cities. 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. Thousands of them keep themselves in a continuous condition of torpidity from excessive consumption of the deadening liquor. The habit has become a disease and their nerves are powerless to combat.

the craving for the drink. 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 plant from which pulque is distilled. So great proportions have been reached by the trade in pulque that daily four pulque trains run into the City of Mexico with their loads of the intoxicating liquor. The daily volume of the pulque business for the past six months has averaged 62 carloads. The Hidalgo, Mexican and Interoceanic railroads, which handle the bulk of the business, have pooled their interests.

The reform laws are not intended to prohibit absolutely the sale of liquor or to make the interdiction extensive in its application. The purpose of the government is to advance gradually. In Mexico city the laws will first become effective. An inner zone will be established within which the sale of pulque is absolutely prohibited. As the drinking of pulque has been particularly general within this zone, this ruling strikes at a vital point.

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. Rules are imposed as to the handling of the liquor, and many of the evils attendant upon careless methods of storing and selling pulque are struck death-

blows. At its best, the pulque habit is dangerous in the extreme to the people of the country. Americans are especially subfect to mental derangement from indulgence in the use of the liquor, after the use of the comparatively mild liquors of the United States. A few weeks of dissipation, in which pulque plays an important part, is enough to make almost any foreigner a candidate for the madhouse.

Pulque has been selling for some time past at four cents a liter. The daily sales have averaged \$20,000 in this city. The price in some of the lowest dives has not been more than two cents, but the average price is not below three cents. the government has derived a neat revenue from the business of something like \$1,300,000 annually.

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 magney were cut off. They view with alarm the first steps which have been taken by the government to curtail the sale of the liquor. In the pulque district thousands of acres are devoted to the culture of the maguey plant.

"Whatever the immediate outcome. the republic must take steps to combat the further advance of the pulgue drinking habit," declared an official of the government, who has taken an active part in the movement for the reform

"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. Their pennies, few at best, are devoted to the purchase of pulque. Interest in work has disappeared. Those who have small tracts of ground permit it to go to waste. Those who must depend for subsistence on their daily labor will toil until they have a few silver pieces, and they will then proceed to the nearest pulque joint, to become oblivious to the duties of life."

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 620 years. None of them have ever in their lives drunk coffee, tea or beer; their food consists of potates, bread, sauerkraut, milk and milk pundings. They eat meat only once a year at the village church festival. Doctors and physic are unknown things to them; an illness they are acquainted with only by hearsay. The only medicine they have ever taken is a home-made one of dried blackber-

Catching a Tartar.

Arvine's cyclopedia states that in a battle between the Russians and the Tartars a Russian soldier called to his cartain saying he had caught a Tartar. "Pring him along then," was the captrin's reply. "Ah, but he won't let me" said the soldier. It then came cut that the Tartar had caught the soldier. The phrase "catching a Tartar" is said to have been the outcome

DISLIKE THE GAYER BIRDS .. Those of Dark Plumage Seem Always Beady to Attack the

Brighter Ones.

Firds 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 Some of the brilliant birds are mere migrants, seen here only in spring and

tall, says the New York Sun. 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. The ruby throated hummingbird, one of the few regular summer residents of brilliant plumage, is so small and swift that he usually es ; capes molestation. The sparrows and other small birds, indeed, seem to feart the hummingbird. With his long, keer bill and buzzing, invisible wings he is a sort of animated torpedo boat of the

Of the regular summer residents of considerable size the scarlet tanager of tlackwinged redbird is the most brilliant. These birds are scarce in some years and relatively plentiful in others, though their number is always small in comparison with the hosts of the robins, cathirds, woodthrushes and sparrows. The tanagers are always more frequently seen in late spring than in midsummer. Some of them doubtless go further north to nest and others are killed for the sake of their plumage. Some, however, stay the summer through and raise their

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. Nobody knows just what birds think and feel, but they often conduct themseives much like human beings. A male scarlet tanager sat on a rock in a suburban field the other day, completely surrounded by a fluttering flock of sparrows, at least 40 in number. They flew down close to him, poising themselves upon their rapidly moving wings, exactly as sparrows sometimes

hover about a snake. 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. They gathered in greater numbers until he left the rock and betook himself to a neighboring tree. Tunsome of the sparrows followed him. several to alight on the limbs, others to hover near. None, however, touched the splendid stranger.

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, and the male tanager's voice was heard day after day scolding the intruders. Sometimes as his mate sat upon the nest he would run about cover the tree in pursuit of the robins. and finally chase them far away. At the robins had their way, for the tanagers deserted their nest and disapbeared from the garden, nor were they seen any more in the neighboring grounds.

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

DIGNITY AT FRONT DOOR.

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

There is a scarcity of the oldfashioned English and Irish servants who used to be the attendants in all the chief New York clubs. They are too much in demand now in the hotels, says the Sun, to cling any longer to the clubs in which there is no chance of tips and wages are, in spite of the Christmas subscriptions, too

small to tempt them. 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. They find that they are able to command good salaries, and in addition they are certain to get liberal tips.

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 cherishe. 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? What tells them, or how do they know winter is coming-a season of cold and famine? What birds mingle and what journey by themselves? And how do they know their course?—St. Nicholas.

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."-

MHOW CZAR WAS TATTOOED

A Japanese Artist of Hong-Kong Pricked Pictures Into Bussian 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. He is really an artist and represents the third or fourth generation of his family in this profession. At present, however, with their increasing civilization, tattooing has been forbidden in Japan and Noma has set up his studio in Hongkong.

The czar is not the only member of royalty who has been a patron of this artist.

"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 tatooed looks like a beautiful statue of fine, porcelain. It is not an unusual thing for royalty to be tattooed. The present king of England has an anchor tattooed upon his arm. It was done some years ago while, as prince of Wales, he was visiting Jerusalem.

Pilgrims to Loretto have the image of "Our Lady of Loretto" tattooed by the sacristan of the church for threefourths of a lira, and a lira is only 191/2 cents in United States money. The arm is the most usual place for these marks. The czar was tattooed upon his left arm. Other illustrious individuals who have been decorated were an English prince who had the "Goddess of Night" painted with needles upon his back, and a peer of the realm who had his coat or arms upon his fore-

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. Noma is a quick worker, but it takes three hours to complete a small serpent and for larger designs there must be several sittings. The first sitting is not unpleasant, but a second or third treatment, when the flesh is raw and inflamed, is very painful. The design is first done in water colors by quick free hand. The coarser lines are done with a stylo and the finer with an instrument having several needle points. When the design is completed it is brilliant and almost startling in ap-

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

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, binds them to their church in chains unbreakable, writes Marion Bonsall, in the Housekeeper. It binds them in a chain whose links are mysterious ceremonies and oaths of secrecy with terrible threats; temple robes and certain garments never to be removed: the laying on of hands by Mormon elders; secret marriages and proxy bantisms; signs and grips and passwords, which, if known, will admit them into the everlasting glory. There is nothing in Mormonism which so forcefully illustrates the cunning of the priesthood, and its more or less hypnotic influence over the people. than the temple service and its mixture of theatricals, free masonry and mysticism.

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, and was threatened by him that eternal damnation would be her portion if she were not obedient to him. "I suppose," said the woman, "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 well. He knows my new name and he will let into glory without your aid." Sincethis had been the case and that part of the service referred to as passing through the veil had been accomplished by the woman with another man, through some little irregularity. the husband was nonplussed by the argument and never made that particular threat again.

"Yous Is, Ain't You?" This conversation is said to have taken place between a Guthrie ball player and a bartender: "Is you got any smokin' tobacco?"

asked the ball player. The bartender did not reply at once,

and the question was repeated. "I ain't said I ain't," retorted the bartender.

"I sin't ast yo' if yo' ain't. I ast yo' if you is. Yo' is, ain't you?"-Kansas City Journal.

His Sage Counsel. "I been thinkin' 'bout gittin' magried." said a member of his flock to. Brother Williams. "You reckon I could

git a marriage license fer a dozen water-

melons?" "I reckon you could," replied Brother Williams. "But my wholesome advice ter you is to eat de watermelons!"-Atlanta Constitution.

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 coces 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 savs Leisure Hour .-

For, as these equatorial isles pessess 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.

In appearance they are handsome, with a blue and silver "marbled" back and sides, tapering bodies and small fins, and tails of a bright yellow, tipped with blue, and they run up to three pounds in weight. On the Island of in the Gilbert group, the writer ...

seen some taken from the ponds of 51/2 pounds. When westerly winds prevail and rain fails, the work of turning sait-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.

Such fish as may have been in it when the cleaning out began are then replaced or transferred to a large and deeper pool, according to their size.

Then the pools 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. As the tide recedes, they step carefully into the water, and scan the margin for the objects of their search-little, transparent, goggle-eyed fish, about half an inch in length, in shape not unlike a tadpole.

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 brakish water, that

is, half sea and half rain water. Here, for some days the little strangers are carefully tended, feeding beginning in about a week, when the women pound up or masticate the flesh of the very young cocoanut and throw it to

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. At high tide it has, especially during the dry season, a brakish taste, and rises some feet; at the ebb it is fresh enough to be used for drinking or cooking. The natives value the fish very highly, and the ponds are only dragged at intervals of some months, all fish under a certain size being returned to the water.

More than 30 years ago a quarrel for the possession of a large fishpond on the Island of Aspian led to a savage encounter, the women of one village attacking those of another with sharks' teeth swords and daggers; then the men joined in with muskets and knives. several persons being killed and many wounded.

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. The most thoughtful, 'irresponsiblekind of a single man often becomes a. veritable model of amiability after he gets him a wife. I suppose his wifehas so: drummed good manners into: him that he has to keep practicing all the time to keep in trim. I believe business men have more respect for a married man, too. They succeed better in everything they do. Why, only the other day there was a baseball. game between the married men and the single men. Who won? The

ried men, of course. And you can't. tell me their wives did not have something to do with it."-Philadelphia. Record.

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 ingomes of \$500,000 from the interest on the \$10,000,000 which was given tohim from the war indemnity received from China ten years ago, of \$250,000 from his private estates, which amount to \$5,000,000 or more; of \$500.-000 from the forests, covering an area. of 5,124,785 acres and valued at \$512,~ 487,300, at \$100 an acre; in all \$1,-350,000. Thus his yearly net income amounts to \$2,750,000. There are in all 60 members in the imperial family, inclusive of eleven married and four widowed princesses, who are members of the family by marriage, not by

Beyond the Limit. Bell-I never understood how that ugky Miss Passay got a man to marry

Nell-I didn't, either-till I saw the man. - Decroit Free Press.

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 Mosocco, and the British have long objected to the extension of the boundaries of French Algeria to the west. About a year ago, says Youth's Companion, an agreement was made between Great Britain and France, under which the British virtually consented to French protectorate over Morocco, but on what terms has not yet been disclosed.

In these negotiations the sultan of Morocco was not consulted. Indeed, the announcement that the agreements had been made surprised the cabinets of Europe:

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. Before he had replied to the demand the German emperor visited Tangier and made a speech, in the course of which he said that he would always deal directly with the sultan. sard would not allow any other power to act as an intermediary, as he recognized the sultan as an independent sovereign. He wished to protect the commercial rights of Germany. The emperor instructed his minister to negotiate a treaty which should secure to Germany all the privileges enjoy by

the most favored nations. 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

ENGLAND'S POOR-TAX BILL.

System of Providing for the Indigent of All Classes Is Ex-

pensive. 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 Swaim 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. In addition to the sum named the cost for care of insane poor, in asylums, was \$5.784.510, for the same half year; or a general total of \$21,457,040 for the half year. For the year the charge easily reaches

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,sponding day in 1903.

"This plan," says Consul Swaim. "of maintaining the children of the poor-or such as may be in the poorhouses 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 haif 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 Chinese. This, says the New York World, is the center of the universe, according to old Chinese superstition, and added venerability comes to Mukden from the

graves of the emperors near by. The Do-ring in Lhassa, Thibet, is another center of the universe, which, according to the Thibetam priests, isshaped exactly like the shoulder bladeof a sheep. All distances are measureds from it, and it is very secred.

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

Even so sane a people as the ancient Greeks came pretty near worshiping a stone—the "omphalos" or center of the earth at Delphi. The Romana 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.

"How in the world could you re-

member that your wife wanted dark. brown silk?" 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. Reschall Pover.

Office Boy-Don't git hurt in de crush on de bleachers.-N. Y. Times. /

Manager So your grandmother died

yesterday. What were her last words?

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

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

Lot très seandre en Louisians et dans tous les Etats du Sade les publishes offre dons au commerce les avantages exceptionneum. Prix de l'abonnement ser l'anné : Beitieu Orotidienne 112.05 Rdition hebdo madaire. 35.00.