LACK ARTILLERISTS.

Brough Men to Care for Guns But Not Enough to Man Them.

Fortifications Along the Pacific Coast am Good Condition - Gen. Miles Thinks United States Army Should Be Larger.

Gen. Miles, who has just returned from a long tour of inspection in the

far west and south, says: "The fortifications along the Pacific coast and the gulf are in very good condition. The engineers have done good work. While the harbors are only partly protected, it would not be safe for a hostile battleship or fleet to enter them now. None of the harbors is completely fortified. The four great harbors of the Pacific coast at which defensive works are being erected are Puget sound, the mouth of the Columbia river, San Francisco and San

"There are only enough artillerists stationed on the coast to take care of the guns-not enough to man them. The guns are great pieces of machinery and require very skilled artillerists to take care of them and to handle them. More artillery is needed along the entire coast of 4,000 miles, including the Atlantic, Pacific and gulf.

The garrisons were not sufficiently strong at the posts I visited. This is due to the fact that most of the army be out of the country at present. Congress authorized a regular army of 65.000 men and 35,000 men for the exting emergency. For a good many years I have been in favor of one soldier for every thousand of our people. I think 65,000 men should be skilled in the modern art of war and the use of modern appliances. That would be a very small number as compared with other armies of the world, but yet sufficiently large to keep abreast of the improvements in warfare which are being made.

"Of course, the size of the army should be commensurate with the population and wealth and position of the government. A country like Mexico would not require an army as large as that of Germany or Russia. Our country is nearly twice the size of Germany or France, and a small force of comparatively skilled, educated, trained soldiers would not only be wise and judicious, but would be in the interest of safety and good adminlstration."

SURGERY IN PNEUMONIA CASE.

Seven Ribs Cut Away in Toledo Man for Removal of Abscesses and His Life Saved.

Frank Turley, son of a grocer, owes This life to the skill of Toledo (O.) surgery. He was given up to die. His trouble first was pneumonia. Several consultations were held, and he was notified that he could not recover. Physicians said an abscess had formed in the membrane outside the lung. The doctor visited Ann Arbor and consulted with several medical friends. The only chance of the young man's life was thought to be an operation such as is rarely performed.

Before the surgery was finished seven rlbs were cut away, there being two abscesses. One of these was between the ribs and lungs, and the ribs were cut away at the back for its removal.

The young man remained in the house all winter, the physicians holding the operation a secret until the result might be learned. Young Turley is now at work. He has increased in weight in a few weeks from 112 to 140 pounds. His case is regarded as one of the most remarkable pieces of surgery ever attempted.

HISTORIC TREES

A Group of Thirteen Elms Planted by Alexander Hamilton to Be Cut Down.

The group of 13 elms, planted over a century ago by Alexander Hamilton, at New York, are to be felled and soon a row of modern houses will stand on the ground once occupied by the grove in front of the old Hamilton grange, of which the 13 elms are the sole remaining vestige. The trees, which now stand in Convent avenue, near One Hundred and Forty-first street, were planted by Hamilton in commemoration of the union of the 13 colonies. The property has recently been divided and sold as building lots. A flimsy picket fence, in which there are many gaps, surrounds the trees now. The original 13 trees stand, but only one put forth leaves this year. Of the rest there remain but scarred and blackened stumps, threat-

ening to fall. TEACHING NEWSBOYS TO SAVE

Plan of a Topeka Philanthropist to Make Them Bank Depositors.

J. E. Nissley, of Topeka, Kan., made a unique offer to the newsboys at the Thanksgiving dinner which he gave them. To each one who deposits in a savings bank in Topeka an amount ageregating \$25 he will make a present of 100 per cent. interest on the sum. He will give a smaller premium to the boys

who cannot save that amount. Mr. Nissley points out that the boys have only to save a little more than 50 cents a week to get this premium, or about ten cents a day. He has provided passbooks for the 80 newsboys of Topeka.

A year ago Mr. Nissley organized the mewsboys into an organization and gave them a Thanksgiving dinner and new snits of clothes.

As to Hair and Whiskers. Why does a man's hair fall out before his whiskers? Because it is at

A COSTLY WEIGHT.

Used by a Lawyer in South Carolina-Its History.

Its Original Owner Gave \$12,000 Tox It—Bought It for a Gold Brick, But It Proved to Be Brass.

The leading member of the bar in Spartanburg; S. C., has recently attracted a great deal of attention by using an extraordinary hitching block for his handsome trotters, and, as by degrees the story of the cube of yellow metal that he attaches to his horses' bits by a golden chain when he stops on the street has become known,

the interest has increased. The history of the horse block that cost \$12,000 necessarily carries with it a story of how the man credited with being the shrewdest bargainer and best financier in that section was victimized by an extraordinarily clever fellow, who was ably seconded by a. North Carolina jeweler. S. T. Mc-Cravey is a lawyer who has added this unique block to the equipment of his fine driving horses. He obtained it several months ago when the estate of John T. Cantrell, of Spartanburg, was settled, he being the family lawyer. Mr. Cantrell had succeeded during his

life in keeping the matter a secret. The old gentleman dreaded having it known that any man had gotten the best of him. He lived a long life in Spartanburg, and by frugality and acute business sense amassed a handsome fortune. One day a man of pleasant address dropped into town with messages for Cantrell from a kinsman who years before had gone to the Pacific coast and had made a fortune in gold mining. Cantrell had the gold fever; he loved the looks of it, and wanted to have some around him. When the visitor informed him that he had a block he was willing to sell the old man went with him to another city to have the gold tested. The jeweler bored down into the block, which weighed over 50 pounds, and showed Cantrell that the shavings were all gold. They returned to Spartanburg, and Cantrell, having only \$12,000 in cash, paid that over, took the block of gold, giving his I. O. U. for \$2,000 more, which was to be paid within a week. The former owner of the block failing to come for his money, suspicion was aroused. Another jeweler tested the block and found it brass. It was coated with gold, and had a plug of real metal set in, which the first jeweler had bored through.

This happened four years ago, and Mr. Cantrell kept the "brick" in his home till he died-a reminder of his one folly. Lawyer McCravey uses only half of the block, all of it being too heavy.

SCIENTIST WINS NEW HONORS.

The Paris Academy of Sciences Awards Its Medal of Honor to Prof. W. R. Brooks.

Dr. William R. Brooks, director of Smith observatory, Geneva, N. Y., has just been awarded by the Paris Academy of Sciences the Grand Lalande rize for his numerous and brilliant astronomical discoveries. The prize is a gold medal worth 500 francs.

Prof. Brooks is the king of comet finders. His total is 20, and he has five times been awarded the comet medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Eleven of the comets he discovered with a telescope of his own construction, even to the grinding and polishing of the lenses. He has been awarded over \$1,000 in prizes, and has received numerous medals. Brooks was born in 1844 in Maidstone, England, the son of a Baptist minister. With his parents he came to this country in 1857, settling in Darien, N. Y. He has been an ardent student of astronomy since he was 13 years old. The Royal Astronomical Society for the Advancement of Science has elected him to fellowship, and he is a member of the Liverpool and British Astronomical societies. Hobart college gave him the

degree of M. A. In person Prof. Brooks is of medium stature, wears a well-kept full beard. with hair combed backward, disclosing a fine forehead, and dresses in a semiclerical garb. He is refined in appearance, an entertaining lecturer and a genial conversationalist. He married

GIVES LIFE TO SAVE A SOUL

A Kentucky Man's Prayer Is Followed by His Death and a Conversion.

A private letter from eastern Kentucky tells of a peculiar incident in Wolfe county. Frank Miller was at the point of death after a long illness. His brother John was offering up a prayer for him, having come to realize that death was near at hand. In the course of his prayer John Miller said: "O Lord, I am willing to give my life, if it be required, to save my brother," and a moment later John Miller had fallen dead. His brother died the night of the same day and the two were buried in the same grave. The brother's prayer was answered, as Frank Miller shortly before his death confessed faith in the Lord.

Royal Embroidery. A new kind of embroidery used by fashionable dressmakers is said to be the invention of the queen of Madagascar. It is of many colors, on-a dark ground, and it appears to meet with great approval from searchers after

novelty. Big Socialist Gathering Next Year. Socialists will hold at Paris next year the largest congress in their his-

DISTRICT SERVANT GIRL.

An Invention of the Household Economic Association That Filis a Long-Felt Want.

The American district servant girl, invented by the Household Economic association, has gone into triumphant effect at New York city. She reported: at the only district office which has been established, at 1772 Broadway, to await calls. The first day's business showed the plan to be a success. Everyone con-nected with the association regretted that the American district servant girl was not invented before.

Many servant girls registered their names at the office, and soon were running about town to do work at the rate. of 20 cents an hour.

The first call was from a family in West Sixty-eighth street. Their cook had resigned in a rage, and an American district servant girl was summoned. to cook the breakfast. She did the work in three hours, collected 60 cents, and returned to the office delighted with the arrangement.

"Under this scheme we get the benefit of a variety of places," she said, "and the pay is excellent. We have our evenings to ourselves, and we don't have to eat in the houses where we work, but take our own meals in restaurants or in our own homes, ordering what we please."

It is believed that the new possibilities, with the improved compensation, will tempt many girls from factory life.

DEAD LETTER LIBRARY,

Books Formerly Sold Are Now Seleeted and Saved by the Librarian After Being Kept Two Years.

All the effects of the post office department at Washington have been moved from the old building on F street to the new post office on Pennsylvania avenue, except the dead letter library. It requires more room than has yet been arranged for. This library is the result of the carelessness of people in sending literature through the mails. The books were formerly sold for a few cents at the annual dead letter sale. They seldom brought more than ten cents a volume, while they were not infrequently worth several dollars. In: 1887 Postmaster General Vilas passed an act requiring the books to be put at the disposal of a librarian, after having been kept the two years required by law, that the choicest might be selected for a post office library. Prior to 1887 the purchase of a valuable book formed an epoch in the department, and this book is the nucleus around which the rest of the post office library seemed to form. This is the original journal of Hugh Finley, the first post office inspector, in 1773-1774. It was bought from the Astor library in 1869 for \$250. It was displayed at the centennial in Philadelphia in a specially constructed case. It is kept under lock and key, and is shown to strangers as one of the greatest treasures of the post office.

KENTUCKY'S TARS.

They Serenade Crowds on Brooklyn Bridge as the Big Battleship Passes Out to Sea,

Far up in the military masts of the battleship Kentucky two jackies perched and sang a midnight serenade as the ship awung down East river from the navy yard the other night on her way to Tompkinsville.

On the Brooklyn bridge the trolley cars had come to a standstill owing to an accident, and hundreds of passengers alighted, and peering through the guard rails saw the oncoming battleship, and many observed that her tall military masts reached nearly to the flooring of the bridge. They did not know her name, however, and a passenger put his hands to his mouth and shouted in sailor fashion:

"Ship-ahoy, ahoy." Scarcely had the cry been given when back came the reply: 'Ahoy, my hearties. We're the Ken-

tucky, seaward bound, and-'She was bred in old Kentucky. Where the meadow grass is blue, There's the sunshine of the country

In her face and manner too." The crowd listened a moment and then gave wild cheers. The Kentucky passed quickly beneath the bridge, but the clear voices of the jackies could be heard until the battle ship was lost sight of far down stream.

KITES FOR WAR SIGNALS.

William A. Eddy, After Experimenting, Believes He Has Arrived at Satisfactory Results.

While pursuing his experiments in kite flying, at Bayonne, N. J., William A. Eddy has arrived at a result which he believes can be made serviceable in war signaling aloft. According to Mr. Eddy, in his latest experiment, in which he sent aloft electric light drawn from the surrounding atmosphere, he has achieved a result hitherto unknown. It was at Bayonne that the experiment was conducted. At 7:40 o'clock & steady electric light emanating from a clear sky and without a battery, friction machine or dynamo, began to glow at the earth, and five minutes later it was paid out upward to a height of about 400 feet, where it remained for about half an hour. It was then hauled in for the purpose of changing the apark gap. This sparking apparatus operated by Mr. Eddy was suspended from a steel wire sustained aloft by one kite six feet in diameter, the wire being attached directly to the kite, which carried it upward without other cable or flying line.

Many Editions of German Books. Germany is a more bookish country than either Great Britain or the United States. The historical novel "Ekkenhard" is now in its one hundred and forty-sixth edition, and Scheffel's "Trompeter Von Sakkingen" in its two hundred and thirty-seventh.

HE SAVED THE BABY.

The Intelligent Act of a Newfoundland Dog in Stopping a Runaway Perambulator.

An old resident of a Nova Scotia town is the proud owner of a Newfoundland dog for which he has been offered large sums. The dog's intelligence has always been rated high, but two years ago he added to his reputation by an act which seemed to indicate a power of rapid reasoning equal to that possessed by many human beings, says Youth's Companion.

His master lives on the side of a hill, the street sloping rather abruptly down to the water's edge. One day a little girl, left in charge of her baby sister sleeping in its small carriage, turned away to talk with a schoolmate, and forgot the baby for a moment.

In that moment a sudden gust of wind took the little carriage and bore it rapidly along down the hill toward the water. The two children ran shrieking after it, but the wind was too fleet for

The big Newfoundland, lying at the foot of his master's walk, as usual, raised his head when he heard the cries, and saw the carriage skimming by him. Unlike the children, he made no attempt to overtake it by a direct chase, but dashing across three or four lawns he came out at a curve of the road ahead of the little vehicle, and planting himself firmly in its track stopped it, and held it safely until some of the neighbors, who had been roused by the cries, hurried to the spot.

Then he walked up the hill again, apparently unmoved by the praise and petting which were surely his due, and resumed his nap with the air of a dog that had done his duty as best he knew how, and was content.

HER MANNISH SHOES

She Was a Little Slender Woman Weighing Only 103 Pounds, Rat Rad Sense.

A woman who is the victim of the big-shoe habit says that when she took a trip west a few weeks ago she wore her "comfortable," heavy-soled, rubberheeled calf-skins. In the sleeping car she gave orders to the porter to black them, says the Philadelphia Press. As her berth was the first one from the little chicken-coop place in which the porter attends to his odd jobs, she had no difficulty in overhearing a little conversation that took place between him and two of the men passengers.

"They calls 'em golf shoes, don't they?" the porter remarked.

"I guess so," replied one of the men. "They're just strong-minded shoes. The women are getting sensible. High

"Look lak they made out o' cowhide," the porter commented. "Lawd, look at them soles; 'bout four inches thick."

"Must be a mighty big woman," put in the other passenger. "Bet she weighs 200 if she weighs a pound. I never saw such shoes in my life. Think she'd have to have derricks to lift them up with."

But the eavesdropper fell asleep right there. In the morning three pairs of eyes looked curiously at her feet and then took in a slender little 103-pound. figure. She said it was really very amusing.

SCHOOL BOY BAROMETER.

A Philadelphia Tencher Says by Their Actions She Can Foretell Rainy Weather. __.

It looked like rain, and naturally he had on a pair of light shoes and carried no umrella. The car stopped on the far side of Girard avenue, and a young lady got in, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. She bowed, and sat down beside the Saunterer, who recognized in her a school teacher friend.

"What do you think of this beastly weather?" queried he, disgruntedly. "Is it going to rain, or isn't it?"

"I can't tell you to-day," answered the young lady, smiling an acceptance of whatever might come. "If it were a school day and you were willing to come to school with me, I could tell you in a very few minutes with absolute certainty. It'll sound funny to you, but it's true. I have noticed that you can always tell what the weather is going to be by the children. They're regular barometers. If there's going to be a storm they get restless, and I have the hardest kind of work to control them. Particularly the boys. The girls aren't so bad, but there seems to be some mysterious quality about approaching rain that always affects the former. I've got so now I don't blame them, because I don't believe they can help it. So you see," she concluded, as she got out at Chestnut street, "chil-

dren have their uses, after all." Emigration from British Isles. . According to the returns issued by the London board of trade for the last quarter 72,000 emigrants embarked for places outside Europe from the various places of the United Kingdom at which emigration offices are stationed. The proportions in which England, Scotland and Ireland took part in this exodus may be roughly stated as being for every two Englishmen, three Scotsmen and 12 Irishmen.

Next Belipse of the Sun. The next total solar eclipse will be May 28, 1900. The duration of totality ranges from one minute thirty-six seeonds in Portugal to one minute six seconds in northern Africa. General scientific expeditions will proceed to Algiers

on account of its low cloud ratio and

ease of access. An eclipse committee in-

London is getting up a grand excursion

party. Foreign Capital in Russia. A good English authority estimates that \$1,000,000,000 foreign capital is now operating in Russia in manufacturing, industrial, steamship and other enter-

PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE.

A Cornell Student Who Found Cse for Mechanical Information Acquired at School.

One never knows where a piece of practical information will come into play. The safe rule is never to neglect an opportunity to learn an art or a science, lest at some time or other we should find ourselves greatly in need of it. An interesting story from Good. Cheer emphasizes this lesson.

At Cornell university all the students of mechanical engineering are obliged. to learn seven trades. One of these, that of the blacksmith, is very distasteful to some young men, but it has to be learned, nevertheless. One young fellow, who was averse to soiling his hands, begged to be exempted from wearing the leather apron, but the professor took special care that nothing was lacking in the thoroughness of his training at the forge.

Last fall the student went to the professor and thanked him for compelling him to learn the blacksmith

"You see," he said, "I am now superintendent of a mine 'way back in Colorado. Last summer our main shaft broke, and there was no one in the mine except myself who could weld it.

"I didn't like the job, but I took off my coat and welded that shaft. It wasn't a pretty job, but she's running now. If I couldn't have done it I should have been obliged to pack that shaft over the mountains, and the mine would have had to shut down till it got back. My ability to mend that shaft raised me in the eyes of every man in the mine, and the manager raised my salary."

GRAND CANYON TRAGEDIES.

Many Lives Have Been Lost in the Search for Precious Metals.

Tragic stories are told of men who have lost their lives in the search for precious metals which may lie hidden or uncovered here, says Harriet Monroe, in Atlantic. The great primeval flood cut its broad V through all the strata of rock, with all their veins of metallic ore, down to the earliest shapeless mass, leaving in its wake the terraced temples and towers which seem to have been planned by some architect of divinest genius to guard their inaccessible treasures till the end of time. And the river rising far to the north among mountains rich in mineral has been washing for ages the sands away and depositing thus gold and silver and lead in the still crevices of the inaccessible chasm. Here the earth laughs at her human master, and bids him find her wealth if he dare, and bear it away if he can. A young Californian who accepted the challenge, and set forth upon the turgid water to sift its sands for gold, never emerged with his hapless men to tell the story of his search. Only near the brink of the cleft are a few miners burrowing for copper, and sending their ore up to the rim on the backs of hardy burros; as who should prick the mountain with a pin, or measure the ocean with a cup.

LONELY NATIONS

People of the Extreme North Whe See Strangers But Once or Twice in a Lifetime.

Perhaps the most isolated tribe of people in the world is the Tshuktshi, a people occupying the northern portion of the peninsula of Kamshatka and the country northward toward Behring straits, says the Cincinnati

Enquirer. These people are practically independent of Russia, which appears to have reasons of her own for letting them alone. They have practically no communication with the outside world, and have only been visited two or three times-the last time by Maj. de

Windt on his journey through Siberia. The inhabitants of the New Siberian islands are also practically alone on earth, for they can only communicate with the mainland, and therefore with the rest of the world, once a year, and a succession of bad seasons might isolate them for years. The pigmies of the great Central African forests, if they can be called a tribe, have also been a people apart. For ages their existence was little more than legendary, and only two expeditions commanded by white men have ever penetrated into their abode.

A Prince's Prank.

Prince de Ligne, a resplendent figure among the brilliant courtiers and adventurers of the time of Louis XVI., told many amusing anecdotes in his "Memoirs," one of which shows him, sword in hand, at a duel which called for gayety rather than courage. Comte de Segur and Prince de Ligne were coming out one very rainy night, after supping with Mme. de Polignac in the Rue de Bourbon. No coach was to be seen, and no person there to fetch one. "Let us pretend to fight," the prince said to Comte de Segur, "and that will bring the watch. They'll arrest us, and we'll make them get a carriage to take us to the commissary." On which they took their swords in hand with a fearful scuffle, and cries of: "Oh! Ah! Are you dead? Are you wounded?" The watch passed and repassed quite near them on the Port Royal, but apparently frightened, they did not arrest the duelists, and they, half-dead with laughter and the fatigue of the battle, had to go home on foot in the rain, after all! -Youth's Companion.

Stings of Nettles.

It has been found that the pain caused by the sting of nettles is due partly to formic acid and partly to a chemical resembling snake poison. Our nettles are comparatively harmless, but in India, Java and elsewhere there are varieties the painful effects of which last weeks, and in some cases months, like snake bites.

LONG DISTANCE DANCING.

Women Walts and Galop 15 Miles in the Course of an Evening.

A Chicago physician with a statistical turn of mind has been estimating the proper distance covered by a woman in dancing through the ordinary

ballroom programme. An average waltz, the doctor estimates, takes one over three-quarters of a mile. A square dance makes you cover half a mile; the same distance is covered in a polka, while a rapidi, galop will oblige you to traverse just

about a mile. Say there are 12 waltzes, which is a fair average. This alone makes nine miles. Three galops added to this makes the distance 12 miles, while from three to five other dances at a half mile each brings up the total to from 13 to 15 miles. This, too, is without reckoning the promenade and the extras.

"As a means of exercise," says the physician, "it will thus be seen that dancing stands at the head of the list. In golf, for instance, the major part of the exercise consists in walking around the links, following up the ball, and yet, even in golf, not as much ground is covered as in an evening's. dancing.

"The atmosphere of the ballroom is saturated with carbonic acid gas and dust, laden with germs. While the muscles of the legs and calves are being increased in size the general health is being impaired by the quality of the air. The society belle is not content with an occasional ball, but attends one nearly every night. All the benefits of the exercise disappear and the belle is left little better for the dancing."

GOOD MANNERS OF THE SEAL

Its Politeness Is Not Lost, and Kindness Is Bestowed Upon It in Return.

The harbor seals of the Aquarium know well enough what they like to eat, and when they can get that they won't eat anything else. As between codfish and herring, they prefer herring, and herring is fed to them when it is obtainable, and as far as is consistent with their welfare. They do better, however, with some variation in their food, says the New York Sun.

The seal is graceful, and apparently of good manners. If two pieces of fish, food for the seals, one of herring and one of cod, is tossed into the water together, the seal rejects the cod, or pays no attention to it whatever, and eats the herring. If, as is often the case, the seal were up on the platform beside the man with the food. taking the food from his hand. it would in all probability take a piece of codfish handed to it in that manner, personally as it were, thus being polite to the man offering it, but it would not be likely to swallow it. It would incline its shapely head downward and drop the piece of codfish out of its mouth onto the stone platform and then lift its head again, to the man, with a look that means what apparently it would say if it could speak:

"Thank you, but I prefer herring."

"The Soldiers with Little Skirts." "The ones that made us the most trouble," said an old Boer, "were those that wore the little skirts, half men and half women." He meant the Gordon bighlanders, and the pride of the kilted regiment and the pride of the Boers who opposed it was satisfied. There were few officers left on either side to tell the tale. The sharpshooters were able to distinguish the British officers because they carried no rifles and because they were always standing up. That fact and the preponderating part that British artillery has played in the engagements thus far are the two most important features of the campaign yet brought to light. It is better policy, perhaps, to have to kneel than to have to lie down and wait for the litter bearers. And it is not in accord with the nature of the Anglo-Saxon race. Such an appalling loss of officers as the Gordon highlanders suffered in any great engagement would be more. serious than the loss of twice as many as the number of enlisted men who fell. The men can take the bit in their mouths and charge without the assistance of officers, but they cannot maneuver.—Collier's Weekly.

Women Not Allowed at Funerals. One of the curious social laws of Peru. which, by the way, was also in force in England till within recent years, forbids women to attend funerals, and they do not appear at weddings unless they are very intimate friends. When a funeral procession passes through the streets the coffin is carried upon the shoulders of the pall bearers, who are followed by an empty hearse drawn by two, four or six horses, according to the means of the mourners and their desire for display. All the male members of the family and friends of the decensed follow on foot, with a line of empty carriages behind them. As long as they are in the presence of the dead it is considered a proper and necessary evidence of respect to walk. After the body has been committed to the grave those who attend the funeral are brought home in the carriages.-Househald Words.

A Market Special.

The college-educated feminine mindis not alone in its determination to master the mysteries of the laws governing the rise and fall of prices. A simple village maiden, of mature years, not long ago, went to a store in England to buy candles, and was astonished to find that owing to the Spanish-American-war "candles was riz." "Get along!" she indignantly exclaimed. "Don't tell me they fights by candle light!"-Youth's Companion.

Does Not Always Kill. Out of every three persons struck by Hightning two recover.

and the skin of the

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