#### BROOKLYN BRIDGE UNSAPE.

Experts Declare That the Immense

Structure Is in Great Danger

of Collapse.

The dangerous condition of the Brooklyn bridge has not been half told in the few words which District Attormey Philbin gave out concerning the report of the two experts employed by him to examine into the strength and safety of the structure. The full report is still kept secret by Mr. Philbin, but it became known the other day what if something is not done to strengthen the bridge there is danger of a collapse. That the danger is now imminent it is admitted, but the necessity for making the bridge stronger is immediate if it is to be kept in a condition of safety.

Only a few more tons of weight massed together on the bridge would make it unsafe, according to the convincing figures which District Attormey Philbin now has in his bands.

From other sources it is learned that the report declares that the bridge is now loaded to its extreme capacity, and that it should be greatly strengthened to enable it to carry its present burden.

Edward Duryes, Jr., the chief expert employed by Mr. Philbin, found the

bridge full of defects, some serious.

Mr. Duryea's report calls for material changes in the construction of the present bridge structure. The suggested improvements will cost less than \$1,000.000, and the report says that the bridge can be made perfectly strong for the sum named.

District Attorney Philbin, when

asked about the matter, said:
"The Brooklyn bridge is safe. At least until next August, by which time a protracted hot spell and the resulting expansion may have gotten in their work in the weakening of the great structure. It is as safe as it was the day it was opened to the public."

# OXYGEN NULLIFIES POISONS. The Pure Gas Found to Be Antidote

The Pure Gas Found to Be Antidoto for Morphine, Strychnine and Arcenie.

The discovery that pure oxygen is an antidote for many poisons is the startling result of experiments now in progress in the Berlin Institute of Physical Diagnosis, under the direction of Dr. Regevin, a Russian medical acientist, in conjunction with Dr. Willliam Cowl, of New York. Numerous experiments in cases of morphine, atrythnine and arsenic poisoning were made with cats, rats, mice and guinea pigs. In each case where oxygen was given an unqualified cure was effected.

The experiments were conducted in the utmost privacy, with the intention of making their result known for the first time at the German medical congress in 1903.

The health authorities of Berlin are keenly interested in the experiments on account of the possibility of saving the lives of suicides by this means. It is pointed out that 90 per cent. of suicides by poison are the result of morphine dyspanes, against which medical antidotes are powerless.

# FINDS GENUINE CORREGIO.

A Resident of Rochester, N. Y., Buys a Supposedly Priceless Gem from Gypsies.

Under the accumulation of dirt gathered during hundreds of years Rochester (N. Y.) artists and connoisseurs have discovered in a painting purchased from a wandering band of gypsies years ago a genuine Corregio, a production of priceless value, Forest Cheney is the owner. It was covered with black asphalt paint when he discovered it, but his practiced eye saw the brush of a master in the few figures that the iconoclasts had left comparatively untouched. The canvas was almost rotten with age, the paint being in flakes mimost parting the cloth. He filled the picture with a treatment and removing the mass of black pigment the wonderful coloring came into view and the figures took form. It was the nativity. Cherubs apeared, a shepherd with his crook bent over the divine babe, richly clad worshipers came into view and there was no doubt that he was assisting the rebirth of a Corregio "Nativity." All who have seen agree as to the authenticity of the picture.

Crae Preaching in Schools. The general conference of the German Evangelical synod of North America, in session at St. Louis recently, adopted a resolution which seeks to give the ministers; of the Evangelical church and other Protestant denominations the right to enter public schools for certain periods each week to instruct the children in Christian doctrines and principles. The resolution provides that the legislatures of the various states be importuned to grant the churches this right as a means of bringing the children up to a full realization of their duty to their fellow men and govern-

Will Teach Lord's Prayer.

Hereafter children in the Cleveland
O.) public schools must study the

(O.) public schools must study the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Twenty-third Psalm. The school board has voted to add these to the course of studies now taught.

"We ought to be improving the moral as well as the mental capacities of the children," said Mr. Hobart, a member of the board, "and I know of no more fitting way in which to do this than to add the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the beautiful Twenty-third Paalm to the studies."

Sewspapers in United Kingdom.

The daily circulation of newspapers in the United Kingdom rose from 60,000 oppies in 1801 to 700,000 in 1850, and now reaches \$,500,000.

#### WAR ON THE SPIDERS

Effort Made to Clear Out the Insects
at the White House.

Infest the Portice Fronting the Executive Mansion and Are Hard to
Dislodge-Fire Hose Coed
Leon Thom.

One of the curious preparations made for the advent of Mrs. Roosevelt at the white house was the cleaning out of the spiders which infest the portioo. Those who are familiar with the executive mansion are aware that the great portico, which is such a pronounced architectural feature of the building, is extremely high, running up to the roof, the cornice of the portico being on a line with that of the roof itself. The spiders and the hornets long ago discovered that the nooks and erannies about the capitals of the great columna that support the portico were quite beyond the reach of the ordinary stepladder and dust broom.

During the absence of the President and Mrs. McKinley this summer the ceilings of the portico and the tops of the columns were fairly taken nossession of by spiders. The white house attendants, knowing that the historic mansion was to have at its head, for the first time in many years, a young and energetic housekeeper, determined. to get rid of the spiders before she came. Therefore, they rigged up a section of fire hose and made an extraordinary effort to wash down the spiders and their webs. The deluge of water cleared out the webs pretty well, but the old attendants say the white house spider cannot be dispossessed by anything short of a personal encounter with dust pan and broom.

Hence the old officials predict that before Mrs. Boosevelt has become fairly accustomed to her surroundings she will step out on the portico and demand that "Old Jerry," the ancient African who looks after such things, shall "drive out those horrid spiders." At most every mistress of the white house for a quarter of a century, they say, has issued the same command, but the spiders know as well as anyone else it takes a scaffolding to get old Jerry or anyone else up to the roof of the por-

#### OLD KNOB AND HINGES.

Taken from Doors of the White House
They Are Prized as Valuable
Relies by Old Servants.

The iron hinges on the door of the cabinet room, which have turned to admit into the presence of the president scores of cabinet ministers and many thousands of official visitors during half a century, have been removed. Brass binges of the latest pattern have replaced them. The old hinges are now in the possession of the venerable Capt. Charles Loeffler, who has been the president's doorkeeper for eight or nine administrations, and since through his faithful service in opening and closing the door during all these years the hinges were worn out, no one will deny his right to possess them. He will keep the discarded hinges as valuable relics and hand them down to his

children. A more conspicious object has recently been discarded after a long term of service. That is the massive lock and brass knob formerly attached to the great door of the white house opening from the north porch. Shortly before the funeral of President McKinley the old door knob was replaced by a massive gilt knob attached to a lock of improved design. Superficially it is handsomer than the old one, but it is not quite as large, and was not manufactured to order. The knob and shield are gold plated and cost, with the lock, \$55.

The old knob bore on its face a spread eagle surrounded by 13 stars, representing the original states. No-body seems to know just how many years it had been in use, and although the uniformed guards usually opened the door for visitors, the doorkeepers assert that this doorknob has probably been grasped by more distinguished hands than that of any other portal in the world.

Paid a Dept 27 Years Old.

After having run for 27 years, a debt has been paid to Spregins, Buck & Co., of Hopkins place, by J. J. Hoblitzell, of Myersdale, Pa. Twenty-seven years ago the latter failed and was unable to pay a large number of

creditors, including the Baltimore

firm, to whom he owed \$900. "Give me time," he then said, "and I will pay every cent that I owe." And faithfully has the Pennsylvania merchant kept his promise. Year after year he has toiled, paying off the obligations that he had contracted in former years, and canceling debts with firms that had forgotten all about them. None was more surprised than the Baltimore firm when he walked into the office and announced that he had come to pay the long overdue bill. Besides the \$900 he also paid another sum to cover the lawyer's fees which his creditors

contracted when he failed.

An Old Sailor.

Capt. R. G. F. Candage, one of the most prominent men in maritime circles in England, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday at his home in Brookline, Mass., recently. In his seafaring days Capt. Candage sailed over 500,000 miles of salt water, doubling Cape Horn 13 times both ways.

Poreigners in Japan.

At the end of the year 1891 there were 9,549 foreigners in Japan. At the same period of 1899 the number had increased to 10,019. Most of these are Chinese, namely, 5,297. Next in number come the British, with 1,763.

# TO HELP OUR TRADE

American Chamber of Commerce to Be Established in London.

Trade Relations of the United States

Domard the Advantages of a Commercial Association-Need of
the Iron Business.

It seems possible now that an American chamber of commerce will be established before long in London. The rapidly-growing colony of American business men here has been wanting something of the sort for a good while, and at last definite steps are being taken to that end. Perhaps the movement for the establishment here of a Canadian chamber of commerce, and of another for Australasia, may have something to do with hastening the organization of the American institution, says the London correspondent of the New York Press.

According to S. G. Hobson, the London representative of the Iron Age, there is no branch of American trade in England to which the advantages of a commercial association of the kind proposed appeal more etrongly than to the iron and steel manufacturers.

"There is no doubt about the benefits that would accrue from an organization of the kind we hope to establish," said Mr. Hobson in an interview.

"In the beginning, in order to popularize American trade over here, it is essential that our traders should know each other. If American trade is to be a real factor here, American traders must help each other. Every American representative in London constantly is in receipt of inquiries as to who are the makers of certain American specialties. If he knew he could refer the inquirers to the manufacturer immediately and put the lat-

"In such a chamber would facilitate trade relations between American houses and British companies who want to trade their goods. Dealers over here are wide awake to the possibilities of American products and are anxious to obtain the English agencies, but the replies they receive to their proposals often are surcharged with suspicion, and more often than not the negotiations end in nothing.

"An American trade association could accomplish a great deal in the direction of getting lower freight rates; in other words, toward solving the American traders' greatest probiem. If the members of various trades knew each other better different ones who had comparatively small shipments of freight coming over could combine them and save a substantial sum every time that this was done. An increase in volume of trade always tends to decrease rates, and lower rates, of course, would mean the possibility of lower prices. Then there exists at present in England a lot of any noving little dock charges, which, if American dealers were organized, could be got rid of quickly."

# PROVING A SUCCESS.

Scheme Inaugurated a Year Ago to Make College Entrance Examinations Uniform,

The report of the college entrance examination board of the middle states and Maryland has been issued by the secretary, Prof. Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia university. The report is the first bearing on the scheme, perfected a year ago, to make college entrance requirements uniform. Up to the present time the board has met with much success. The institutions that were notified of the plan, with two exceptions, signified their approval and their willingness to accept the examinations conducted by the board as alternatives of their own separate tests, when the topics covered were the same grounds.

Bowdoin college and Harvard university (including Radcliffe college) were the exceptions. The examinations were held at 69 points, two of which were in Europe, and the remainder in the United States. Candidates for the test numbered 500. Seventy-three of them did not state their preference of a college, 153 sought entrance into Columbia; 32 into Barnard; 33 into Princeton, 25 to Vassar, 21 to Wellesley, and 17 to Yale.

# TORTOISES EAT MUSEMELONS.

Parmer in Indian Territory Misses His Fruit and Makes a Most Remarkable Discovery.

G. Carson, a farmer near Enfaula, Ind. T., was on the streets the other day and said:

"I wish there was a market for tortoise. If there was I would be in good shape financially in a little while. I have a large patch of muskmelons and the vines have been loaded with the fruit, but as they got about ready for harvesting, something began eating them at night. Several nights were spent in laying for the intruders, and late one night there was a rattling of dry bones, or sounds that somewhat resembled that, and before taking a run for the house I took a farewell look, and beheld a herd of tortoises all over the cantaloupe patch. I made a dash among them and bursted the hulls of some dozen, captured two,

and have them captives."

To make sure that he was not mistaken in the melon thieves, he now and then dropped a muskmelon in the hox where they are confined and he says they rush upon it and eat nearly as fast as a hog.

A Washington Church,

At the communion services in one of the Presbyterian churches in Washington one Sunday recently the bread and wine were passed by two admirals, a general, two supreme court justices and a former secretary of state.

#### THE LARGEST FIRE COMPANY.

Soveral Hundred Men Serving Without Pay in the Forests of the Black Hills,

Capt. Seth Bullock, of Deadwood, 8. D., the new forest supervisor of the Black Hills, has organized the largest fire company in the world. Every member is giving his services without pay yet is expected to be on duty constantly, says the St. Paul Dispatch.

Some time ago the secretary of the interior department made an order permitting people to graze cattle on the forest reserve to the full limit of 7,000 head for the million or more acres. A man can have four or less head without asking for a permit, but beyond that number to a limit of 120 he must ask permission of the supervisor, showing that he has the proper range and that he intends to comply with the law.

A proviso was inserted in this order by the secretary, which makes it compulsory for every man raising cattle to assist in putting out the forest fires. Until recenfly this part of the order has not been put into effect. Forest Supervisor Bullock has now obtained the name of every man who availed himself of this cattle order, and 25 brigades have been organized. There are 20 divisions on the reserve, each one being in charge of rangers, whose duty it is to see that the laws governing the reserve are complied with

When a fire breaks out on the reserve the cattle raisers are expected to go immediately and put it out. The first man at the fire is to have full charge of the operations until the ranger arrives. In case the fire gets beyond control of one division of cattlemen and ranger, word is to be sent immediately to an adjoining district, and all of the people there are expected to come to their reseue.

After the fire is out the ranger of that one particular district is required to take the names of all the cattlemen who did not participate in putting out the fire, and a list of such persons is sent to the general office of the supervisor, in Deadwood. Unless the persons who did not attend the fire can give a good reason for their absence their permits to graze cattle on the Black Hills forest reserve are taken away from them

The cattle grazers all over the hills are taking an interest in this original plan of Capt. Bullock and as a consequence several hundred men stand on guard constantly to put out forest fires. There are fully 7,000 head of cattle on the reserve. No sheep are allowed. It is considered a fine thing for the forest to have the grass kept down by the stock.

# THE ROLLER BOAT. Queer Craft That Canada Has Contributed to the Collection of Marine Frenks.

Canada's contribution to the world's collection of queer boats is a metal cylinder over 100 feet in length and 22 feet in diameter. As it rests in the water it looks for all the world like the towering smokestack of a manufacturing plant toppled over on its side. The reconstruction which this oddity of the shipping world has undergone during the past year or two has not affected its external appearance, but within its circular body a new heart has been installed, which diffuses new life blood in a radically new way, says Waldon Fawcett, in

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

Shorn of technicalities, the substitution, simply amounts to this: Under the old plan there were, so to speak, two locomotives on circular tracks, and they rolled the ship forward by climbing up inside just as a squirrel spins the wheel of his cage by mad attempts to ascend the bars of the circular prison. Now, the machinery is suspended in the center of the big tube. It will thus be seen that under the old plan gravity helped to do the work; now power alone must accomplish the task.

The large cylinder, made up of airtight compartments, which comprises the boat, is open at either end, in order to give admission to the interior. Under the old plan the steel tracks were placed at either end of the vessel and extended entirely around the interior of the cylinder or shell, being securely bolted, of course, to the inner face of the big tube. Upon the tracks at either end was a platform mounted on wheels, somewhat on the order of a flat car, which kept rolling gently backward when the boat was in motion, and was thus enabled to maintain a perfectly level position. Each platform carried a separate boiler and engine. When the engines started the platforms commenced to climb the inside of the cylinder, and constantly continued the attempt with the result that the effort of gravity to bring the weight to the lowest possible level had the effect of rolling the cylinder forward.

Russian Female Hermits. Among the villagers on the Volgain the province of Samara a curious sect of women has made its appearance. It was originated by an elderly peasant woman in Sosnova, called the "Blessed Mother." These women have fled from the villages around into a remote district, where they live singly in holes dug out of the face of the hill. They lead a life of fasting and prayer, and believe themselves called from the world, which they think it shortly about to perish in a general conflagration. The "Blessed Mother" has "ten wise virgins" as a sort of bodyguard, and the sect believe that these eleven women are possessed of miraculous powers .--London Globe.

The Main Objection.

Many a young girl who objects to being the wife of a wealthy old man wouldn't object to being his widow.—Chicago Daily News.

#### ENVIRONMENT OF AUTHORS.

People Preminent in Literature Who
Mave Sought Congenial
Surroundings,

The workshops of American authors have much to do with the quality of what they produce. Differing temperaments require different conditions in which to accomplish the best results. This is peculiarly shown in the case of the great American writers of the day. For example, Harriet Present Spofford does her best work sitting under the trees writing on a paderesting on her lap.

Margaret Deland has a perpetual bit of aummer introduced into her Boston home. A small glass conservatory, filled to overflowing with gay jonquils, is where this brilliant writer does her best work.

Winston Churchill, author of "Richerd Carvel," lives in St. Louis in the winter and in Vermont in the summer, He does his work in a very business-like way in an office at the top of one of the city's skyscrapers. Here, surrounded by the roar and din of the city's traffic, he wrote the charming story of long ago, when cable cars and typewriters were an unknown quantity

Bret Harte generally writes out of doors, but always while smoking. He said the first lines always took a cigar

and sometimes two cigars.

In the city of Atlanta, in a homelike little cottage embowered in rosebushes and apple trees, Joel Chandler Harris writes, his inimitable tales of "Uncle Remus and Bre'er Rabbit."

#### FIRE AMONG THE REDWOODS.

Impressive Sight Presented by the Tall Young Trees When

Perhaps the most startling phenomenon of the fire was the quick death of childlike sequoiss only a century or two of age, says John Muir, in Atlantic. In the midst of the other comparatively slow and steady firework, one of these tall beautiful saplings, leafy and branchy, would be seen blazing up suddenly all in one heaving, booming, passionate flame reaching from the ground to the top of the tree, and 50 to 100 feet or more sbore it, with a smoke column bending forward and streaming away on the upper free-flowing wind. To burn these green trees a strong fire of dry wood beneath them is required to send up a current of air hot enough to distill inflammable gases from the leaves and sprays; then, instead of the lower limbs gradually catching fire and igniting the next and next in succession, the whole tree seems to explode almost simultaneously, and with awful roaring and throbbing a round tapering flame shoots up 200 or 300 feet, and in a second or two is quenched, leaving the green spire a black dead mast bristled and roughened with down-curling boughs.

# PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS.

The More Common and Unsuspicious
Are Most Difficult to
Take,

Strangely enough, it is not always the more rare and shy birds which are most difficult to photograph, but, on the contrary, very common and usually unsuspicious species, when approached with photographic intent, are exceedingly wary. This is the case with the familiar robin, and also with the kingbird or bec-martin, says A.-H. Verrill, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. Time and again. have I spent as entire afternoon endeavoring to photograph this saucy flycatcher, but without avail, and it is only very recently that I succeeded in inducing one to sit for his portrait, and even he condescended to do so only when his fatherly solicitude was aroused and I disturbed the peace of his young family. On the other hand, blue jays, which are notoriously wild, I have had no difficulty with, provided the time chosen. was late summer or early autumn. I fing that at this season they readily approach within range of my lens if their cries are imitated while in hiding. Many birds have habits which greatly facilitate matters once they are learned.

# GIRLS AS BANK TELLERS.

Be Better Work and Are More Trustworthy Than Men, Says a Bank Cashier.

Behind each of the 13 windows in the savings department of the Royal Trust bank, 169 Jackson boulevard, sits a young woman taking in and paying out the money of several thousand depositors, reports the Chicago

Chronicie.

The young women have been employed there for some time, though it is the only bank in Chicago where they do that kind of work. They have proven faithful and accurate in their work and the manager of the bank

says that men will never displace them.
"They are always at work on time," said Cashier Edwin F. Mack, "and when closing time comes they do not rush to get out for fear of working a minute too long. Then they do not spend the bank's time in telling each other of their experiences the night be-

"We are not hiring girls to save money. We pay them just as much as we once did men in the same places. We simply made the change because we found them more reliable and efficient."

Race Troubles in Argentine Republic,
Considerable race hatred has been aroused in the Argentine republic because the industrious German immigrants are making so much headway, while the indolent natives leg behind.

#### OLD CHINESE GUNS.

Two in Canada That Were Made Rearly Five Hundred Years Age,

Assuming it to be historically correct, as stated in the text books, that the Chinese used cannon 50 years before the Christian era, the two brass field pieces presented to Canada by the commander of the British forces at Tientsin, and now lying at the drill half on Cartler square, are the evolution of over 1,500 years of artillery manufacture in the Celestial empire, says the Ottawa (Can.) Citizen.

And yet they are very old guns, their construction being contemporaneous with the first authenticated use of cannon in European warfare. For while it is claimed that Edward IIL used leather cannon in his campaign against the Scots in 1327, that 20 years later guns of iron bark thooped together hurled atones against the fortress of Calals, and that the Turks employed similar ordnance in the sieges of Constantinople in 1394 and 1453, the use of genuine projectiles is of considerably later date.

For all their antiquity, however, these Chinese culverins, in a way, form companion pieces of the two. cannon captured at the Crimea, which are now mounted on Parliament hill, since as arms of "precision" they are in the same class, being cast-metal ordnance of smooth bore, albeit these Chinese guns are nearly 400 years older than the Russian. And yet, doubtless, the Chinese pieces served by Boxer artillerists did service last year against the invading armies of Europe during the attack on Tientain

attack on Tientsin. There is no doubt about the age of these Chinese guns. The full particulars of their inception are recorded on their metal sides with as much attention to detail as if they were the authorized production of a modern municipal council. They hear, besides the dates of their manufacture, the name of the sovereign in whose reign they were produced, the name and title of the provincial governor, the imprint of the guamaker, and even the name of the manufacturer of the gun carriage. The char-, acters cast on the first gus may be thus rendered in English: "Gun No. 42; The Emperor Au Kong; March 1, 1439; (An name - Lucky Irresistible;

charge, 3½ pounds; ball, 2½ pounds."
Then follow the names and titles of the governor to the length of a month's laundry bill, and the names of the "maker of the gun" and "maker of the gun carriage," in duly less degree.

weight (force), 700 pounds; powder

The second piece is inscribed as "Gun No. 193;" bears also the name of the Emperor Au Kong, and is dated "1st June, 1639." The names of the manufacturer of the gun and the maker of the gun carriage are the same as those on the first gun, but the name of the provincial governor is different, showing that they had their political ups and downs in China over 500 years agos

China over 500 years ago.

Even in the policy of naming guns the Chinamen would seem to claim priority of invention. It may be amount to apply so high-sounding a title as "Irresistible" to a 2½-pounder, but it doubtless represented in its day the acme of destructive power as much as did the boasted battery of the French monarch who named his gun after the twelve apostles, or, for the matter of that, the homemade cannon, "Long Cecil," that kept the Boers at Bay in Kimberley.

# UP TO DATE GRINDSTONES.

Are Now Made with Ball Bearings and Other Modern Improvements.

"If." said a dealer in such things, reports the New York Sun, "anybody had told our grandfathers that the time would come when we should have ballbearing grindstones I suppose they would have thought he was crazy; but we have them now and they are not very costly either.

"If the grindstone is one that is worked with a treadle there are ball bearings on the erank, where the treadle rod is connected, as well as on the shaft on which the grindstone turns. Really, it is a pleasure to see that homely old took, the grindstone, mounted on ball bearings, and it is a positive delight to see how easily such a grindstone turns.

"But the ball bearings are not the only modern improvement in grindstone equipment. There are nowadays grindstone frames and attachments that are patented. The old, old way of turning a grindstone was with a crank, or a single treadle; but nowadays we have double treadles, one for each foot, and the frame that supports the grindstone has upon one end of it a seat like the seat you see on a mowing machine or anything of that sort, this being by no means a device for a lazy man, but a convenient means of enabling the man using the grindstone to get at it to the best advantage.

"If you, knowing the grindstone of ancient times, will picture to yourself a man sitting in a comfortable seat so placed on the end of the frame that he can get square at the face of the stone, which he turns by means of two treadles, one under each foot, the stone itself turning on ball hearings throughout, a grindstone yet to be sure, but with every working part distinctly modernized, you will get some idea of the difference between the old grindstone and the new."

Disappointing of Him.

"He said he would kill himself if I wouldn't marry him.

"Well?"

"He didn't do it; the mean thing!"
-Stray Stories.

Rdition hebdomadaire \$8.00.