

ABOUT AUTOMOBILES.

HORSELESS CARRIAGES WORKED ON A CENTURY AGO.

The Machines Were Viewed with General Hostility, But the Industry Has Advanced Rapidly.

The person who fancies that the auto is a recent creation should be reminded that James Watt, George Stephenson, Richard Trevithick, Walter Hancock, David Gordon, William Brunton and others in England, and Oliver Evans, Nathan Read and Thomas Blanchard in the United States, with two score or more contemporaries, toiled away at the horseless carriage problem between 1782 and 1823.

For a time it looked as though the new vehicle was destined to be a permanency and to accomplish a revolution in the methods of travel on the high roads. But several things arose to frustrate the hopes of the inventor.

A new era may be said to have begun in the early part of the '70's, when we find Amodeo Bollee exhibiting a steam machine at the Vienna exposition. In the '70's were also experiments on modified forms of power and vehicle-propelling motors other than steam, but it will seem to be the steam vehicle that characterized the new period of activity that blossomed out in the early '80's with many ardent advocates and exhibited a type of light vehicle with efficient strong boiler and light engine.

From that time on the great industry of to-day advanced in strides and jumps, but while the future had been anticipated in some suggestions and experiments in Europe, at last one great mind had delved into the problem and anticipated the great future of the new type of vehicle in America.

Guest (at reception)—Who is that gum old party over there in the corner?

Host—Don't you know him? He's Prof. Shilligus, the eminent sociologist.

Still in the Future. Miss Ann Teek—Really, you know, I don't believe in a woman marrying her first love.

His Conclusion. Knicker—So your wife went to the country to study nature's book?

The National Savings Bank. Every dollar sent in the education of the children brings hundredfold returns to the parents, the people in the aggregate, and the state.—Atlanta Constitution.

LIVES COUNT HER FORTUNE

Eccentric American Who Died in Florence May Have Been Poisoned—Inquiry Not Ended.

Rome.—Miss Mary Newby, an American, died somewhat suddenly at the Pension Lucchesi, in Florence. She was about 42 years of age, eccentric in her habits and a familiar figure in the city. The United States consul caused seals to be affixed to the doors of her apartments and the local authorities, suspecting poison, ordered an autopsy. So far nobody seems incriminated, but the inquiry has not ended.

This part of the document seems to be in other than Miss Newby's handwriting, but at the end is an autograph sentence wherein she constitutes the royal highness, the count of Turin, heir to her patrimony, said to amount to \$750,000.

STRUCK BY TRAIN OFTEN.

Dumb Hermit Feared Railroad Employes Rather Than the Cars Which He Encounters.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Although he has been struck by a train three times and has had a dozen narrow escapes from death on the railroad, "Dummy" Albertson, a deaf and dumb hermit living along the line of the Bloomsburg & Sullivan railroad, continues to make the railroads nervous by walking the tracks, rendering to whistles or bell, and keeping them on the constant lookout to avoid killing him.

FIND RELICS OF OLD TIME.

Laborers in City of Mexico Unearth Evidences of Ancient City in Clay Utensils.

Mexico City.—Laborers excavating trenches for the underground cable system of the telephone company near Cinco de Mayo street have struck a number of clay utensils, concrete foundation of temples, and pottery covered with hieroglyphics, also Spanish coins whose dates are undecipherable, but which, mingling with the pottery, induces the supposition that the antiquities pertain to periods of the conquest, when Cortez razed every building in the Aztec capital.

Prof. Batres is eager to obtain government permission to excavate below the present find for older remains which he is satisfied exist underneath, especially in view of similar discoveries made in 1900.

Town Has Octuple Wedding.

Appleton, Wis.—Five per cent. of the population of Little Chute were married recently and the 350 Hollanders of the village had a gala day. Sixteen young people of the village yielded to the machinations of Cupid, and all were wed within a period of six hours. Merchants and citizens generally joined in a mammoth celebration.

Panama's Navy.

The Republic of Panama has a navy. The navy is a steam yacht which was bought from a New York man. She will be armed with two three-pounders and two automatic rapid-firers, which will give her an armament as heavy as the participants in a negro crap game usually carry. And she is commanded by an admiral from Kansas City.

A Deferred Catastrophe.

The recent naval battle in the Korean strait is said to have suggested a great epic poem to poet Laurende Austin, but the unpleasant apprehensions of the English-speaking world will be considerably allayed when it is known the work is expected to require several years to complete it.

JAP CARES FOR RUSS.

SEVERAL HUNDRED SLAV PRISONERS IN JAPAN.

Subjects of Czar Are Allowed Much Freedom on Island—Grievances of the Captured Warriors Expounded Often.

London.—Several hundred Russian prisoners are being kept in the town of Matsuyama, which is situated in Shikoku, one of the most beautiful islands in western Japan. Ranges of mountains, clothed nearly to the summit with firs, protect it from the cold easterly winds, which sweep through the country in the early spring.

The prisoners are allowed as much freedom as possible in the circumstances. They may go into the town for shopping, walk as far as the seashore, about ten miles distant, and bathe in the hot springs at Dogo, which are considered a specific for rheumatism.

But the officers chafe under the unavoidable restraint, and complain of having to go out like schoolboys, six at a time, in charge of a Japanese officer. They also consider it a great grievance that their letters must be censored. One of them intends writing his experiences as soon as he can do so without supervision. Time hangs heavily on their hands, as they have very few books with them, but a consignment of games and literature from the zarina arrived in time for the Russian Christmas.

WILL GROW FOREST GIANTS

Government Has Success in Reproducing Trees of California According to Bulletin.

Washington.—The United States bureau of forestry has reached the stage in its experiments looking to the reproduction of the famous "big trees" of California to make the positive announcement that, contrary to prevalent belief, this race of forest monarchs need not become extinct, but may be greatly multiplied.

In a bulletin issued recently it is said the trees seed freely, but that the seeds rarely germinate except when they fall where the ground has recently been burned over. Once started, the young growth needs only a moderate amount of light and protection from fire and stock grazing.

HONOR TO IRISH BRIGADE.

Battle of Fontenoy Celebrated by a Pilgrimage to Famous Battlefield.

Dublin.—The part played by the Irish brigade in the overthrow of the English army at Fontenoy in 1745, when it turned what seemed a disastrous defeat into a brilliant victory for the French arms, has been celebrated by a pilgrimage to the battlefield, in which many leading Irishmen took part.

Several visits were paid to the battlefield and the proceedings closed with a banquet at which speeches were made by Irishmen, Frenchmen and Englishmen.

America was represented by Frank J. Sullivan, of San Francisco, who arrived some time ago to participate in the pilgrimage. He has been much feted, and at a banquet in his honor he delivered an eloquent speech expressive of the sympathy of Irish-Americans with the object of the pilgrimage.

Ought to Have a Sword. That Russian correspondent who wrote in his paper that the enemy had been repulsed ought to be given a high military command. His boldness and daring in the face of opposition are wasted on so mild a weapon as the pen, remarks the Baltimore American.

THREE MILLIONS IN AUTOS

Since Beginning of Year Machines and Supplies to That Value Have Been Exported or Imported.

Washington.—The fact that practically a million dollars' worth of automobiles and parts thereof have been exported from the United States since the beginning of the present calendar year lends interest to the following compilation prepared by the department of commerce and labor through its bureau of statistics, showing the imports and exports of automobiles in the commerce of the United States.

The first record of the importation of foreign-built automobiles into the United States was for the fiscal year 1901 when 36 automobiles, valued at \$43,126, were imported into the country. Since that year, however, the imports have steadily increased, having grown from 26 in 1901 to 433 in 1904, while their value (including automobile parts) has increased from \$47,471 in 1901 to \$1,448,308 in the last fiscal year.

During the last fiscal year France supplied 86 per cent. of the importations of automobiles into the United States, the value of the imports from that country being nearly seven times as much as the combined value of the imports from all other countries. From France 368 automobiles, valued at \$1,117,494, were imported, while from all other countries the total number was 55, valued at \$176,664.

The exportations of automobiles of domestic manufacture have been recorded only since 1902. In that year the total exportation of automobiles and parts thereof was \$948,528; in 1903 the total had increased to \$1,207,064, and by 1904 the total was \$1,895,605; while for the ten months of the fiscal year 1905, for which figures are available, the total is \$1,876,063, thus indicating a record of over \$2,200,000 for the complete year which ends with the present month.

BURGLARS PUT TO FLIGHT.

Shrewd Woman Sets Off Firecrackers and Fires a Revolver at Midnight Intruders.

Stamford, Conn.—By exploding a giant cracker over their heads Mrs. Charles H. Baldwin, whose husband is a New York broker, put to flight two burglars who were trying to force entrance to her house in South Beach, Conn., at midnight recently. As they fled she fired a couple of shots at them from a revolver. The shots did not take effect. Mrs. Baldwin was alone in the house, save for the servants. Her husband was in New York. To the police she told this story:

"I was awakened by the buzzing of the burglar alarm and the barking of our dogs. Through my open bedroom window I saw two men trying to force the kitchen window. Mr. Baldwin was not at home, and I was pretty thoroughly frightened. I got my revolver. Then I thought of some firecrackers we had in the house. I picked out one of the largest, lit it, and when it was about to explode, hurled it at the two men.

"The effect was so ludicrous that, frightened as I was, I could not help but laugh. Both men fell on the ground and huddled up in a bunch. Then they rolled over and over. After waiting a second or two they got up and ran off through the fields. I fired a shot or two after them just to intensify their fright. Then I went to the telephone and called the police."

Mrs. Baldwin's home is in Southfield avenue, on the outskirts of Stamford close to the sound. It is a lonesome neighborhood. Two policemen went down in the patrol wagon, but could get no trace of the burglars.

ANOBRIUM IN A NEW BOOK

New York Man Makes Extraordinary Find in Fresh Printed Volume and Captures It.

New York.—When F. L. Marshall, of the Presbyterian board of publication, opened a new book to review it, he found that he was not the first to attack its pages. There had been one before him, but, having begun conscientiously with the first blank page, had gone no farther than the title page.

"A book worm!" ejaculated Mr. Marshall, and shut the book hastily, lest the rare grub should escape. The worm had eaten a neat oblong hole through three pages and had just begun on the fourth. He had built for himself a nice little nest on the inner side of the cover, within which he lay, stretching himself lazily when the book was opened.

As a rule, book worms prefer old volumes, but the somewhat formidable name of the new book may have proved attractive. The true book worm, as it appeared in magnified form in a sketch several centuries old, had a plate-like covering and pronounced horn-like projections with which to do its deadly work.

The grub found in this work was a soft white worm about one-half inch in length with a brown head, but in the "Enemies of Books," the work to which reference was made, it is described under the name of Anobrium.

So far as any bookman to whom the subject was referred knows, this is the first appearance of a book worm in a new book.

Trains at 88 Miles an Hour.

Berlin.—The minister of public works in Berlin has just invited the management of the Berlin railways to resume the experiments in increasing the speed of trains on the Berlin-Hanover line, on which several trials were recently made. It is expected that as a result of the forthcoming trials the speed of express trains, composed of a locomotive and three carriages, will be made. The aim is to bring these fast trains to a standstill about 400 yards after the brake has been applied.

HAS COSTLIEST BOOK.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN OWNS \$26,000 VOLUME.

Publication, Called Latin Psalter, Is Now at Columbia University—Was Printed by German Firm in Year 1450.

New York.—In a case in one of the small rooms in the library of Columbia university there is lying an open volume that is the costliest book in existence.

It is the Latin Psalter of 1450, printed by Fust & Schoeffer, and is the second book known to bibliophiles bearing a date. It is one of a collection of early printed books owned by J. Pierpont Morgan, now on exhibition in the Columbia library. It cost Mr. Morgan \$26,000, he having purchased it from Quaritch, the London dealer, about four years ago. Quaritch bought it at the Thorold sale in London for £4,950 (\$24,750) about 20 years ago, and kept it until Mr. Morgan came along and purchased it at the figure mentioned, which practically amounted to a loss for the dealer, when the matter of interest is considered.

The extraordinary value of the book is due to two things—first, the extremely limited number of copies of it in existence, thirteen in all, eleven of which are owned by European libraries. The Morgan copy is printed on vellum, the page lying opened showing only the slightest marks of age, and is bound in red morocco. It contains the first printed text of the Athanasian creed, and the initial letters are printed in red and blue inks. These are said to be the most beautiful specimens of printed letters in existence. All of the capital letters are printed in red ink, and the large initial letter at the head of the first page is printed in blue with a design of a running hound and flowers in white. Across the top of the page is also a staff, with the notes of the Gregorian scale.

Another gem to be seen here is a copy of the Gutenberg-Fust Bible, the first printed book, and usually called the Mazarine Bible, on account of its having been found in the library of the cardinal of that name. Mr. Morgan's copy is on vellum and contains only the Old Testament.

The last record price for the complete copy of this work is \$20,000. In addition to this vellum copy Mr. Morgan owns one printed on paper. Although none of the other books are held at such sensational values as these two, there is a copy of "Janua's Catholicon" that sold for \$2,000 at the last public sale, 25 years ago. This is regarded as the finest book issued from Gutenberg's second press, and was printed in Mentz in 1460. The title of the book is written in ink that has faded only a little, and the initial letters are in red and blue, and in green and white. Two other rare old German books are a "Constitution of Clement V," printed by Peter Schoeffer in Mentz in 1467, and which has all the paragraphs marked with the same sign in use now. One of the oldest of the sources of "Parisi" is a copy of the first edition of Wolfram von Eschenbach's "Tyturill," printed in 1477.

BOVINE SHOOTS A BUTCHER

Cow, Intended for Slaughter, Escapes and Accidentally Fires Gun, Wounding Her Assailant.

Sloux City, Ia.—One of the most curious duels on record has sent Garrett Postma, of Sloux Center, to a hospital, where he is under the care of a surgeon. The victor in the encounter was a cow and she is uninjured. The bovine shot Postma with the very rifle he had taken with him for the purpose of sending a bullet through her brain.

Postma conducts a private slaughterhouse, and his intended victim was coaxed inside, but, seeing herself trapped, she began running around the room.

With difficulty Postma leaped to safety, but at that moment the cow came in contact with the gun standing in a corner, and in some manner exploded the weapon, the bullet striking Postma in the knee. It was some time before the injured man could make his escape, and he hobbled five miles to town and entered a hospital.

Plan Canada Irrigation.

By means of irrigation Canadian railway officials propose to reclaim 2,000 farms of 100 acres each before the end of the present year. They have undertaken to irrigate between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 acres between Calgary and Medicine Hat, utilizing the Bow and Red Deer rivers as the source of water supply. The work of making canals where the water is most needed has already begun, and the main channel, close to Calgary, partly cut last year, is to be carried 20 miles farther this year. This channel is 50 feet wide and carries ten feet of water, while the secondary canals, planned to be cut the coming season, will water something over 300,000 acres.

New Feature of Subway.

The taking of 10,800 moving pictures of a train in the New York subway was the occasion of a recent novel experiment in illumination, which resulted successfully. Seventy-two mercury vapor lamps were arranged on a freight car in nine banks, with a reflector back of each. The camera was placed on another car on a parallel track, and on a third track was the train whose progress was to be photographed. The pictures were taken from an official of the transit company and not intended for public exhibition.

LEPER COLONY OF MOLOKAI

The Unfortunate Victims on the Island Now Number About Eleven Hundred.

Dr. William C. Wile, of Danbury, Conn., who has achieved special prominence by reason of his investigations of that dread disease, leprosy, in pursuance of which he has spent a great deal of time of late in the leper settlements of Hawaii, says:

"The unfortunate victims of the leper colony on the island of Molokai now number about 1,100. They are well cared for and have everything done for them that can alleviate their pitiable plight.

"From the period of infection, which occupies about two years, the leprosy patient may have his existence prolonged from four to six years, rarely longer than the latter period. Curiously enough, the taint of leprosy is not always transmitted; a child of a leprosy father and an uninfected mother may grow up in good health. "One noteworthy feature of the colony is the hermitism often displayed by non-leprosy husbands, who go to dwell in the disease-stricken settlement, to be by the side of a wife who is marked for death; and of an equally devoted wives, who take the same risks. Indeed, I think the number of women who do this unselfish deed is greater than in the case of men."

FOR IDENTIFYING ROPE.

Method Used in the British Naval Service and in This Country Commercially.

"Every rope used in the British naval service, from heaving line to hawser, and wherever it may be used, on ship-board or in dockyard," said a cordage manufacturer, relates the New York Sun, "has woven into one of its strands for purposes of identification a red thread. The presumption is that any rope with the red thread found outside of such use is in improper hands. This custom in the British navy has prevailed since the days of Nelson, or since long before that for aught I know.

"A like means of identifying rope is employed in this country to some extent commercially. Some railroads have their rope marked in this way, and this method is sometimes employed for marking rope used for the transmission of power in operating machinery and on lighters, where it might be exposed to depreciation.

"Ropes have been marked with a single red thread, or with two red threads, or with single threads of some other color as a distinctive mark of ownership; we have marked ropes with a single tarred thread. We would mark ropes in any manner which might be desired on large orders."

AN INAUSPICIOUS MOMENT.

Society Belle Was in No Fit Condition to Be "Seen" by Telephone.

Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling! The telephone was ringing. Yet it was only eight a. m., relates the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling-ling-ling! The society belle was very sleepy, but there was nothing to do but climb out of bed and answer it. "Hello!" she called, hoarsely. "Hello! Is that you, Grace?" called her sweetheart. "Yes? Excuse me for ringing you up so early, but I've got to go out of town in an hour."

"It's all right," replied the girl, kindly. "What is it, George?" "Why, you see, there's an agent here with one of these new-fangled patent seeing devices for telephones. Enables you to see the person you're talking to, you know. He wants to demonstrate it to me, so I'll have him put it right on, eh?"

There was a maidenly shriek and a mad rush into the adjoining room, and a few minutes later the young lady's mother came to the telephone and sharply told George to ring off.

WORK OF THE SHIP RIGGER

His Is a Vocation That Is Among the Most Perilous Followed by Man.

Men who delve deep into the bowels of the earth and those who rear buildings to great heights in the skies represent the extreme in perilous endeavor. The men who work downward, according to statistics, face far greater danger than those who toil slowly skyward. Yet here is an altitudinous calling fraught with peril every minute. It is the ship rigger's job, and, compared with steeple climbing, it is much the more onerous.

The men engaged in it are as well trained as circus athletes, though in the rigging of a ship the performers are carefully safeguarded. The ship rigger, however, does not know at what minute a rotten bit of timber or a worn rope may give way and precipitate him to death. With a ladder use of steam vessels, the decline of sailing ships is a natural result, so that now the rigger does not find as much work to do as in the palm days of the fast clipper ship, when American commerce whitened every sea.

Her Bosom Friends.

Esmeralda—So Imogene decided to marry the young naval officer instead of the young army captain, did she? Gwendolen—Yes; she decided that he uniform was ever so much more becoming than the captain's.—Chicago Tribune.

Ladies Always Thank.

Gubb—Yes, I always keep my seat in a car. I gave my seat to a lady once and she didn't even thank me. Ho—You didn't give your seat to a lady, then.—Chicago Sun.