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A French engineer who has been on a tour of inspection who has impressed by the big things in this country. "I shall report to my government," says he, "that the biggest things in America are the little things. The French people are experts in domestic economy, and live contentedly by saving the average families in the United States throw away. But Americans are, on the other hand, experts in industrial economy. They make money by saving wastage in business, and lose some of it by wastage in domestic economy. The attention paid to small details in big works is amazing to me. I visited some establishments where I believe that the profits are made not in the manufacture proper, but in the saving of materials and labor by close attention to details that are looked upon as trifles by us. For example, I saw a grindstone in operation in a large establishment automatically sharpening lathes and planer tools. This machine costs probably as much as 100 of our ordinary grindstones cost, but I see that it automatically grinds all the tools for 300 high-priced mechanics, and it only works a few hours each day. The skilled mechanics in our country frequently stop their regular work to grind their own tools, and then do it only imperfectly. In the United States tools are all accurately ground to the best shape by the machine, so that the men can do more and better work on this account in a given time. I believe that that machine has brains—the brains of the inventor—and it has no doubt revolutionized work of this kind in American machine shops. This is but one case out of many that I have noted during my stay in the country. The visitor correctly defined a peculiar characteristic of American inventive genius. The vast engineering achievements, the immense manufacturing establishments and the levitation machinery are, of course, most conspicuous and impressive, but these big things are comparatively few in number, while the novel improvements in little things—usually classed as "kitchen notions"—are legion, and each contributes its mite toward the general sum of the country's wise prosperity. It is certainly wise to give full attention to all details.

THE COCK AND THE PEARL.

A rooster once pursued a worm that lingered not to brave him; To see his wretched rival quail. A pleasant thrill it gave him. He summoned all his kin and kind; He called them up by dozens, With quiet, expressive gurgles in their oesophageal regions. Just then a kind of glimmering Attracted his attention. The worm became too small a thing For more than passing mention; The throng of hungry hens and rudo He killed and ate up by dozens. Said he: "If this be food, I saw the prize ere they did."

A NIGHT IN A BRIDGE.

By PAUL PASTNOR.

UT from the stygian shadows of the flooded forest through which I had been pushing and carrying my heavy load, I saw ever since the early night descended, something suddenly loomed, dark and high, before me. So silently and unexpectedly did the huge, black bulk confront me, like some monster stretched across the road, that I stopped involuntarily, my heart beating thick and fast. Then, as I stined my eyes to make out the nature of the object in my path, its black outlines gradually resolved themselves into the shape of a covered bridge, raised high above the road on its stone piers. With an exclamation of joy, I dragged my wheel and out of the icy water, into the welcome dryness and shelter of that refuge in a flooded wilderness. For two days the rain had been pouring heavily and steadily down upon the deep valley in the backwoods of Maine, through which the route of my bicycle lay. Thinking that the storm would soon wear itself out, I had kept on my way, penetrating deeper and deeper into the wilderness. The road, in spite of increasing mud, had proved fair for wheeling, and not until the afternoon of the second day of rain did I encounter sufficient standing water to make it necessary for me to dismount and wade. I had not passed a house since early in the morning, but kept hoping I should yet chance upon some isolated backwoods farm where the night fell. The valley kept sinking in level, however, and I soon realized that I must be approaching its lowest point, where there would be little likelihood of finding a habitation. One always shrinks from turning back, however, while there is a possibility of going forward, so I kept on until I came to the bridge. There was an archway under my feet, through the doors of my house stood somewhat too widely open to the chill night air for perfect comfort. However, I was disposed to make the best of a situation which might, surely, be worse, and leaning my wheel against the strings of the bridge, I sat down and proceeded, first of all, to remove my soaked shoes and stockings and replace the latter with a dry pair from my luggage bag. When I had changed my shirt also, and wrung about a quart of water from my coat, I felt so much better that I began to wish myself, "had the elements of adventure in it, and a bicycle trip lacks its chief charm if not spiced with adventure."

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Righteousness is victory. True men are the diamonds of history. Some guns kick; revenge is one of them. It is not cowardice to fear to do wrong. No abilities are independent of integrity. He is far from home that has none to go to. The sweetest flower of the gospel is charity. A little sin has as much death in it as a big one. If you can't swim, never wade in unknown waters. Few wear their characters like their clothes—only their. Poltack may be poor luck if taken with a stranger. A poor picture is not helped by being put in a good light. In religious controversy ferocity is not the only sign of fidelity. The man is usually in the right who owns himself in the wrong. The confession of past folly may be only the profession of present wisdom. The thing that makes pessimism is failure to find in men what angels possess. He who always complains of the clouds receives little of life's sunshine, and deserves less.—Ran's Horn.

DEWEY AS A DISCIPLINARIAN.

"I was with Commodore Dewey when he was executive officer of the Colorado," said a financier, "and I remember one incident which shows the manner of man he is. We had a fine crew, some of them as powerful men as I ever saw. Four or five of them were on duty one day and came back fighting drunk. "Three of them were men who would singly have been more than a match in strength for John L. Sullivan. The order was given to put them in irons, and it was found impossible to carry out the order, for the men were so drunk that they would not obey. Dewey was writing a letter in his room at the time. "He went to the place where these gents were and he told them to come out and submit to the irons. They did not stir. Then Dewey said quietly to an orderly: 'Bring me my revolver.' And when he had his pistol he again ordered the men to come out, and they did not move. Then he said: 'I am going to count three; if you are not out here with your hands held up on the third count you won't come out of that place alive.' "He counted one, then he cocked the gun, and he counted two. We all expected to hear the report, for we knew that Dewey meant what he said. The men knew it, too. They stepped out just in time to save their lives and held up their hands, and they had been partially sobered by their fright and the moral effect of Dewey's glance. "One of them said afterward that when he saw Dewey's eyes he knew that he would either be a dead Jacky in a moment or he would have to yield, and when the irons were put upon him he was as sober as he ever was in his life. Dewey went back to his room and wrote the letter he was writing."—Philadelphia Press.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The eyeball is white because the blood vessels that feel its substance are so small that they do not admit the red corpuscles. It has been found in Switzerland that in building a railway, laborers could work only one-third as long at a height of 10,000 feet as a mile lower. Great differences exist between the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and while there is a polar sea at the north, it is believed that a continent exists at the South Pole. By the use of malleable steel casting for buffers and frame work castings, the Erie has reduced the weight, according to the durability and improved the appearance of its freight equipment. Race has a marked effect in determining forms of insanity. The Teutonic and Scandinavian races are more subject to the morbid and melancholy forms of mental disease, while the excitable Celts are more liable to acute mania. The new lighthouse at Ekmuhl is of 40,000,000 candle power. During the last decade France has constructed eleven lighthouses with the average power of 8,200,000 candle. England has eighty-six first-class lighthouses, which average only 20,680 candle power.

A MYSTERY OF THE SEA.

A strange story is told by Captain Bennet, of the British steamer Sweet Alice, which reached here from London recently. Captain Bennet says that when in midocean on one morning an object resembling a boat was sighted about two points off the starboard bow. The steamer bore down on it, and the Captain was astonished to find that it was an ordinary dog house lashed to a piece of ice. A boat was launched to investigate, and it was then found that the house contained an Irish terrier and a litter of six pups that were apparently not more than forty-eight hours old. In a corner of the house, which was half filled with fresh hay, there was found a wooden vessel containing a large quantity of canned meats, while in another corner was a vessel of fresh water. The piece of ice to which the house was lashed was a perfect cube, measuring about three feet each way, and one of the sides was covered in large Elizabethan letters, which were still discernible, the Latin phrase, "Esto Perpetua." On top of the house floated a tiny American flag, and nailed to the roof was a card, six inches by three, upon which was written in a woman's hand: "I am a piece of ice for man to die. Is where he dies for man. There was nothing whatever to indicate how the dog got there, nor was there anything to show how long she had been adrift. Captain Bennet, Jinks, however, that the animal must have been at least three weeks on her voyage. The dog and her pups are still alive and great pets of the Sweet Alice ship's company.—New York Telegram.

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