

ASKED AN EXPLANATION.

The Colonel Was Willing and Promptly Gave the Information.

In "Something of Men I Have Known" the author, Adlai E. Stevenson, has this story of a banquet attended by John Allen, member of congress from Mississippi, and the Hon. John R. Fellows: "Near the close Allen said: 'There is one thing I would like to have Colonel Fellows explain. He was captured the first year of the war and never exchanged, but held as a prisoner by the Federals until the war was over. I was taken prisoner five times and always promptly exchanged. I would like Colonel Fellows to explain how it was that he was kept in a place of safety while I was always at the front?' When the applause which followed had subsided Colonel Fellows arose and said:

"I am grateful to my friend from Mississippi for giving me an opportunity to explain that part of my military record which I apprehend has never been sufficiently clear. It is true I was taken prisoner the first year of the war, and the enemy, well knowing the danger of my being at large, persistently refused to release me until peace was restored. Had I been promptly exchanged the result of the war might have been different! But why it was that my friend from Mississippi was so repeatedly and promptly exchanged is a question that until yesterday I had never been able to understand.

"It has given me deep concern. I have pondered over it during the silent watches of the night. Yesterday, however, my mind was completely set at rest upon that question by reading the correspondence—to be found in volume 748, page 421, of the 'Record of the War of the Rebellion'—between President Lincoln and President Davis relating to the exchange of Private John Allen of Company G, Fourteenth Mississippi volunteers. The correspondence covers many pages of this valuable publication, but I will read only the closing communication.

"And while John, with a new supply of terrapin before him, was listening intently Fellows, carefully adjusting his eyeglasses and taking a letter from his pocket, continued: 'The letter I will read from President Lincoln concluded the correspondence and is as follows: 'Dear Jeff—With this I return you Private John Allen of Company G, Fourteenth Mississippi. I require prisoners in exchange. The Lord's truth is, Jeff, I had rather fight John than feed him!'"

The Bore and the Boarders.

A bore is a person who speaks when you want him to listen, and such a person was Professor Benjamin Praxiteles Brown, autocrat of the Quentin Durward boarding house. Through two whole courses the band of hungry boarders had lent him their unwilling ears as he held forth upon spiritualism and spookism and Julia and her bureaucracy.

"In fact," boomed big Ben, "the study of the occult sciences interests me greatly. I love to explore the dark depths of the mysterious, to delve into the regions of the unknown, to fathom, as it were, the unfathomable and"

"May I help you to some hash, professor?" interrupted the landlady.

And no wonder the boarders smiled.

Very Fishy.

She was a fisherman's daughter, she wore her hair in a net, and she preferred love in a piscatorial way.

"My love," he whispered, "you hold first place in my heart! Although I 'flounder' about in expressing myself, my 'sole' wish is that you will save me from becoming a 'crabbed' old bachelor. I shall stick to you closer than a 'limpet,' from you a 'wink'll' be the road to guide me. Together we will 'skate' over life's 'rocks,' and when I look at your hand beside me I shall say to myself, 'Fortune was mine when I put 'herring' there!'"

And then the lady dropped her eyes in sweet confusion and murmured:

"Pass the salt!"—London Scraps.

FIRST ROCK TUNNEL.

Made Centuries Before Drills and Blasting Powder Were Known.

The first rock tunnel of which there is any authentic record was achieved over 2,600 years ago on the outskirts of Jerusalem, when the way was opened for the admission of water of the spring of Gihon to the pool of Siloam.

Gihon, now known as Mary's spring, is in the valley of Kedron and was the only natural spring in the vicinity of the city of David. It was separated from the city by the Ophel ridge, a mass of rock, so

that when enemies appeared before the wall they could cut off this supply and compel the people within to depend upon stored water. King Hezekiah about 700 B. C. devoted himself to remedying this by constructing a tunnel, which is referred to in II Kings, xx., 20, to bring the waters within the walls.

At that time not only was tunneling through rocks an untried work and one that must be done without such aids in the way of drills and blasting power as even the most amateur workman would use nowadays, but there was no mariner's compass or other means for following a given direction underground. The distance from the spring to the pool of Siloam is about 900 feet in a straight line, and the hill overhead is about 150 feet higher than the spring.

To perpetuate this Hezekiah's workmen had tools of bronze, of a description now unknown. They began digging from both ends at the same time and tried to keep their bearings in a straight line by sighting from outside. They did not maintain a uniform bore, but kept the slope of the bottom with great accuracy. The shaft is from two to three feet wide and from ten feet high at one end diminishes to a foot and a half in the middle.

Sighting from the outside did not prove a very satisfactory method. Many places are to be seen in the tunnel today where headings were abandoned and a start made in a new direction. Even then the tunnel rambles about and was more than 1,700 feet long before the two ends came together. The opposing diggers were able to find each other at last by listening for sounds of the others' picks and working toward the place whence they seemed to come. This was learned from an inscription on the wall of the tunnel which was discovered in 1880 by some boys at play.

For a city situated as Jerusalem was no gift could have been more welcome than that of an assured water supply. One can imagine therefore that the ceremonies attendant upon the completion of the work were on as magnificent a scale as could then be devised.—Chicago Record-Herald.

CURVES AND GRADES.

They Are Becoming Important Owing to Increase of Automobile Traffic.

Until recently the location of highways has been governed more by grade than by alignment. For obvious reasons horse-drawn vehicles demanded easy grades, but the little affected by sharp curves. Consequently roads were so laid out as to meet this requirement, being made to wind around hills and follow tortuous water courses with little attempt to provide curves of long radii. The result is a highway system which, except in level country, is composed of crooked roads, well adapted to the needs of wagon traffic, picturesque and pleasing, but unsuited to the requirements of a traffic composed of heavy motor driven vehicles traveling at high speed.

Safety is a factor that hitherto has entered into the work of road building to only a very limited extent, but which is constantly assuming more importance. The rapidly increasing use of motor vehicles places this new responsibility on the roadmaker, and the building of new roads with longer curves and the realignment of old roads will do much toward reducing the dangers attendant upon the new modes of transportation.

The existence of a curve generally, though not necessarily, presupposes the presence of the inner side of some obstruction shutting off the view of the roadway ahead from a vehicle traveling around it. Curves having radii of 1,000 feet or less are of common occurrence in such places, and a width of thirty feet in the clear is as great as that found on many country roads. On such a curve the driver of an automobile running in the middle of the road can see an approaching car, also in the middle of the road, only about 350 feet ahead. At thirty miles an hour a little less than nine seconds are required to traverse this distance, and if each car were running at that speed only a little over four seconds would elapse between the instant when they came in sight of each other and their meeting. Many considerations prohibit the establishment of an arbitrary minimum radius for highway curves, but a careful study of prevailing conditions shows clearly that more attention will have to be paid to this phase of road building in the future than has been accorded to it in the past. Roads must be economical, they must be durable, and they must satisfy the conditions that experience has imposed upon them, but they must be safe.

Sweet Corn For France.

American sweet corn is now grown in the department of the Seine in Paris, France. In England a feeble attempt has been made to raise it under glass and up against a sunny south facing wall, but that tight little land is too humid. In Russia and Roumania succulent sweet corn has been raised with some difficulty. But at Paris in the department of the Seine it grows as though it were indigenous to the soil. It has been grown even on the roof of a house.

NEWEST ARRIVALS

IN

Attractive Merchandise at Lancaster's Biggest Store

Nyanza Sylx

We are showing a big line of this deservedly popular goods in a variety of both dark and light shades.

This goods is very much the same weave as Shantung silk and comes in sold colors. Price the yard 25 cts.

Embroidery

You can secure here just now some splendid values in embroidery. All widths from the very narrow at 4 cts the yard up to the very wide flouncings.

1 job lot 26-inch Swiss Flouncing, easy worth 75c but to go at only 49c.

Belt Pins

Pretty new lot gilt, silver and mourning belt pins at 25 and 50 cents.

Neckwear

5 dozen nobby NEW Dutch Collars to go at only 10 cents.

Hair Goods

We are showing a line of new, real human hair braids, not the cheap sort, but the real nice ones that you would have to pay 12 to 15 dollars for in the city stores.

Ours to go at 5 to 10 dollars.

Turbanettes

Full line and splendid values at 25 and 50 cents.

Turban Pins

New line of turban pins just received. Every one a good value, 5 to 25 cents each.

Barrettes

Good assortment of the best styles at 10 to 25 cents.

Belts

2 dozen White Embroidery Belts with pretty pearl buckles to go at only 10 cents.

Veil Pins

New lot plain and enameled veil pins to go at 25 cents.

Jadots

Splendid assortment of the newest out in jabots at 10 and 25 cents.

Neck Cord

1 lot pretty silk neck cord. 3 pieces to box, assorted colors, box 10 cents.

Oxfords

Pretty spring Oxfords for

Infants, Children, Misses, Women and Men

The correct styles at the correct prices.

LANCASTER MERCANTILE CO.

Capt. Cureton a Tar Heel.

To the Editor of The Observer:

I read your special from Rich Hill, S. C., conveying the sad news of Capt. Thomas J. Cureton's death at Wainboro, S. C. He was about 73 years old and a son of the late Jeremiah Cureton, and was raised on the Macanie farm, the birthplace of Andrew Jackson.

The flag mentioned was handed to the flag-bearer, Alvin Dickson, by Miss Anna Cureton. On one side it bore the title, "Victory or Death," and on the other, "Waxhaw-Jackson Graves." The speech of presentation was eloquent and patriotic. Capt. William Wilson in response pledged his honor that it should never be trampled in the dust. In the first day's battle at Gettysburg Captain Wilson and 75 per cent. of his command gave their lives to sustain their pledge. Thirteen brave men of that immortal Twenty-sixth Regiment gave their lives and the fourteenth man with his remnant of troops drove the enemy back, placing the banner upon their breast-works.

The Jackson Grays was made up of boys picked up around Jackson's birthplace. They were full-blooded Tar Heel, chivalrous of patriotism and pledged them-

selves on the Gettysburg battle-field, to "Victory or Death." At the close of this battle Cureton was made a captain. He saw service around Richmond and Petersburg. At the close of the struggle, ragged and barefoot, with empty haversacks, the brave boys made their way back to Union county—back to Tangle X Roads. There with a handshake and a good-bye the company disbanded, each man going to his home.

The writer was one of the boys in the gang from the beginning to the finish.

John S. McCain, Co. B, 56th Rgt., U. C. V.

Your tongue is coated. Your breath is foul. Headaches come and go. These symptoms show that your stomach is the trouble. To remove the cause is the first thing, and Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will do that. Easy to take and most effective. Sold by J. F. Mackey Co. Lancaster Phar. w-s

Children Born Bad.

New York Dispatch. "Every child is born a robber. He is a highway robber," was the declaration made by the Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D., L. L. D., editor of The Outlook, in a discourse given at the Academy of Music.

"Why," he said, "you pay for a teacher sometimes than you do for a cook." He then

said that the Japanese, with 98 per cent of their children in the public schools, had outdistanced the United States.

"The first lesson to be inculcated in the home," he said, "is obedience. The child must learn that obedience to law is the very foundation of civilization. I would like to burn into the heart of every mother this: That an indulgent mother is a cruel mother. We try to put up a gate at Ellis Island to keep anarchists out. We ought to put it up in our nurseries. The very baby in the cradle must learn that he must obey. The sooner he learns the sooner he is fitted for a happier life. He must learn that truth and justice are the bonds that bind a community together in place of arms and in place of police.

"Children should be taught the rights of property and of person. Every child is born a robber. He is a highway robber. He has not yet learned the rights of property. Place two babies on the floor, give one a rattle. The other child will creep to the first and take the rattle away if he can, then laugh with joy, while the other child cries."

CARBON PAPER for sale at the News Office. 18-47

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 & \$5.00 SHOES

Best in the World UNION MADE Boys' Shoes \$2.00 and \$2.50



W. L. Douglas shoes are the lowest price, quality considered, in the world. Their excellent style, easy fitting and long wearing qualities excel those of other makes. If you have been paying high prices for your shoes, the next time you need a pair give W. L. Douglas shoes a trial. You can save money on your footwear and get shoes that are just as good in every way as those that have been costing you higher prices. If you could visit our large factories at Brockton, Mass., and see for yourself how carefully W. L. Douglas shoes are made, you would then understand why they hold their shape, fit better and wear longer than other makes.

FOR SALE BY Heath-Jones Co.

Heath-Jones Co.

Saved From the Grave
"I had about given up hope, after nearly four years of suffering from a severe lung trouble," writes Mrs. M. L. Dix, of Clarksville, Tenn. "Often the pain in my chest would be almost unbearable and I could not do any work, but Dr. King's New Discovery has made me feel like a new person. It's the best medicine made for the throat and lungs." Obsolete coughs, asthma, colds, hay fever, laryngitis, croup, bronchitis and hemorrhages, hoarseness and whooping cough, yield quickly to this wonderful medicine. Try it 5c and \$1 trial bottles free. Guaranteed by J. F. Mackey Co. Lancaster Pharmacy.