ters in one year. As I thumb the pages of my scrapbook, having turned it through, I note that they are nearly all long; which must mean, I suppose, that the writers either have or take much leisure, and imagine also that I have little else to do but read them. Maybe this points to laziness and maybe that in turn would explain many things. Again, in nearly all cases the handwriting is bad. At least, it is strange, and so, hard to read. Maybe if I knew how to read character in this as do some people I would find here some strange explanations of strange things. And, too, the wide range of places from which they purport to come is also suggestive; for they come from every grade and rank of society and from every form of habitat and occupation; which maybe means that cranks are found in every walk of life. Upon the whole, I am constrained to cry at last, with Shakespeare, "Oh, strange, strange, new world, that hath such people in it!"

THE MINING CRISIS IN MONTANA.

ALL EYES ON THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT.

Butte, Mont., Nov. 21 (Special).—Summoned to assemble in extraordinary session on December 1, the Montana Legislature will consider the most complex question that has come before a lawmaking body in the history of the Northwest. On its action depends the future welfare and prosperity of a whole State. Great interests hang upon its decision; the peace and happiness of one entire State and of parts of three other States are being weighed in the balance. In course of the session the most stupendous battle of giants since Marcus Daly and William A. Clark wrestled for mastery in the State will be waged.

While the shutdown of the properties of the Amalgamated Copper Company in Montana, and the widespread misery and want consequent upon it—twenty thousand men in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah thrown out of work—have been reported in the daily press, the issues and the direct status of the Amalgamated and its arch-enemy, F. Augustus Heinze, president of the United Copper Company, are little understood outside of the State. The trouble between the Amalgamated and Heinze interests is of long standing. There are 119 suits pending between the parties, and so inextricably intermixed are the litigations that perhaps no living man has them clearly defined. Their direct bearing on the prosperity of Montana as a commonwealth alone makes them of popular interest.

In a recent decision, in connection with a suit brought by John MacGinniss, right hand man to Heinze and vice-president of the United Copper Company, to prevent the Amalgamated Copper Company from taking over its 98 per cent of the capital stock of the Boston and Montana Company, one of the several corporations merged into the Amalgamated—which suit was based on MacGinniss's ownership of one-fifteenth of 1 per cent in the Boston and Montana—Judge Clancy, of the State District Court in Butte, decided that the merger was unlawful, that the Amalgamated, a New-Jersey corporation, had no right to hold the stock of another corporation in Montana, that the Amalgamated, in so many words, "was an outlaw in Montana." He issued a permanent injunction restraining the transfer of stock to the Amalgamated, and prohibiting the payment of dividends to the Amalgamated on its 98 per cent of stock holdings. Three millions in dividends are thus tied up. He held MacGinniss's application for a receiver for the Boston and Montana in abeyance. On a previous application, five years ago, when the suit was first instituted, the same judge had granted a receiver who held the property for five days before removal by the Supreme Court. The costs of that receivership, allowed by Judge Clancy, were $281,000, against the property. The Amalgamated, being a holding concern, and all its property being held on the same basis as it held the Boston and Montana, concluded that it could not continue to do business in Montana under these conditions without grave danger to its property rights. Therefore it shut down.

The result can scarcely be conceived. The mines are the great interest of the State, and upon them depends the daily bread of so large a proportion of the population that the shutdown was instantly felt in every hamlet. To say that the State was paralyzed industrially puts it in mild form. An effort at mediation between Heinze and the Amalgamated by a board, consisting of United States Senators Paris Gibson and W. A. Clark, President James J. Hill of the Great Northern Railway and Governor Joseph K. Toole, failed utterly, as neither party would concede the demands of the other. Then the State turned its eyes on the Governor, and demanded an extra session of the legislature to see what could be done.

For weeks Governor Toole refused either to call the session or to state his views of the situation. He was elected three years ago on the Democratic ticket. His term expires a year from next January. To stem popular sentiment at this juncture, it might easily be seen, was to court political oblivion. Yet, in the face of the petitions from every part of the State, the Governor remained silent. Petitions, demands, personal letters and committees of business men from all the larger towns swept into his office. Finally, on November 10, he issued the call asked, convening the legislature in special session on December 1.

His long delay while he considered the situation and his deliberate survey of the issue at a time when petitions and demands from every part of the State were pouring in bring to the front a man heretofore little known outside his own State. The great power vested in gubernatorial office in Montana was clearly shown. With the stroke of his pen he could start the wheels of commerce, cause to be resumed a payroll of enormous magnitude, restore prosperity to the whole people of a commonwealth and banish the wolf that already was barking at the doors of thousands of lowly homes. Had Governor Toole refused to call the assembly it is possible that the shutdown might have continued indefinitely—perhaps until far into next year. In this event the sufferings of the miners and their families and of those indirectly dependent upon the industry in a region of long and severe winter would probably have been extreme.

Why is a special session deemed so important? Because a peculiar condition exists in the statutes and the courts of Montana. In the first place, the Supreme Court has laid down the rule, based on the law, that it will not review findings of fact by a trial court, confining itself solely to reviewing the conclusions of law. Thus, if the trial court decides that the set of facts presented by the plaintiff is true, and that the set of facts presented by the defendant is false, no matter how overwhelming the defendant's contradictory evidence may be, that finding is not subject to review and subsequent reversal. When the doctrine is laid down, as it is in Montana, that mining litigation of the character existing between the Amalgamated and Heinze need not be tried before a jury, and when the trial courts persistently refuse to allow juries, the situation is clear. Further than this, there is no change of venue law applicable to civil actions in Montana. One may protest until black in the face that the trial judge in a lawsuit is prejudiced, but he has no redress.

Practically all the immense litigation between Heinze and the Amalgamated lies in the district court in Silver Bow County, of which Butte is the seat. The Amalgamated Company and the Butte newspapers declare that the copper king owns absolutely two of the three judges of this court. These statements are made and repeated often. During the shutdown every daily newspaper in Butte went after these judges roughshod, accusing them of absolute bias, but not an editor or reporter or manager was even accused of contempt of court. The Amalgamated Company issued a long statement from the record, showing that in six and one-half years of litigation, of all its thousands of appearances before these judges on trials, orders, hearings, applications and the various other processes by which a litigant goes before a court, only twice had it ever secured anything which approached a favorable ruling. The Amalgamated Company declares that it cannot get justice here, and that if Judge Clancy's decision in the Boston and Montana case is good law its property is liable to confiscation or unfriendly receiverships at any time, and that accordingly legislation is needed. The Butte Miners' Union, perhaps the strongest individual labor organization in the world, started the ball rolling by petitioning the Governor for a special session. Organized labor and business men's associations generally throughout the State followed its lead. The Amalgamated Company announced that, rather than appear in the light of asking special legislation or appearing to intimidate the legislature by making the passage of a change of venue bill and a practice act a condition precedent to resuming work, it would resume just as soon as the Governor called the session, trusting in the good judgment of the legislature to complete the enactments desired. It made this statement first to the miners' union, and, finally, in terse and unequivocal terms, to the Governor. The call was issued. Five minutes after its issuance the news reached the Amalgamated Company's offices in Butte by telephone. Two minutes later the whistles at every shafthouse on Butte Hill were sounding, for every manager, superintendent and foreman had received the order, "Start up on the next shift." They blew for a full hour. At the great smelters at Anaconda and Great Falls the whistles sounded just as happily as soon as they could get up steam.

Now the task is before the legislature of framing, in response to popular demand, a change of venue, or change of judge, bill by which a litigant may evade going before a prejudiced judge, and a bill changing the practice so that the Supreme Court may review findings of fact rendered by a trial judge, as well as conclusions of law.

Will it do this? Not without bitter opposition. A desperate battle is to be fought in the halls of the Montana Legislature, and in the battle there is a little coterie of legislators who must be reckoned with—a few Socialists who want to take advantage of the conditions to teach their doctrines and to further their aims. But the giants of the fight are the Amalgamated on one side and the Heinze forces and adherents of the United Copper Company on the other.

It is to be a battle to the death. To one side or the other it will be a Waterloo. The litigation has reached a point where both cannot survive. That big, new stone State House in Helena will be worth watching in the midwinter days.

A GROUP OF BUTTE MINERS AND LABOR LEADERS.

The one at left removing cigar from mouth is "Fighting" Cassidy, a Heinze politician. Second to Cassidy, with hand in pocket, is "Dan" Macdonald, president of the American Labor Union and leader of thirty-five thousand men.

LITTLE OLD NEW-YORK.

Some Odd Phases of Her March to Greatness.

XVIII.

Few, if any, of the thousands who cross Broadway at Fourteenth-st. every day have any knowledge, or, having it, give thought, of the position this spot held in the long ago as the extreme limit of the city. It was "far uptown" in the beginning of the nineteenth century, and to the extreme south and southwest of it the ancestors of the present day Knickerbockers carried on business and had their dwelling houses.

The "pleasantest streets for the residence of private and genteel families" in the old days were State-st., fronting the Battery; Bridge-st., Bowling Green, Greenwich-st., from the Battery to Cortlandt-st.; Broadway, from the Battery to Rector-st.; Bond-st., Hudson-st., Park Place, Chambers-st., Liberty and Cortlandt sts., west of Broadway; Dey-st., Vesey-st., Barclay-st., Murray-st., Warren-st., Bleecker-st., Prince-st., Lafayette Place, Broome-st., Spring-st., Grand-st., Franklin-st., White-st. and Walker-st. Other streets that were more within the vortex of business, such as Beekman, Pearl, Cliff, John and Cherry sts., were also pleasant, but were not considered to be in quite so fashionable a quarter of the town. Madison-st., after its improvement in 1824, was "built up with neat and spacious houses, and was a very convenient and respectable street."

As to business, South-st., as now, was occupied by shipping merchants, but only from the Battery to Roosevelt-st., and Front and Water sts. with wholesale grocers and commission merchants. Pearl-st. was "the peculiar and favorite resort of wholesale drygoods merchants, earthenware dealers, etc.," from Coenties Slip to Peck Slip. The auction stores were also here, as well as in Wall-st., between Pearl and Water sts. Broadway was the "handsomest street and the greatest thoroughfare." It ran from "the Battery to Tenth-st., was three miles in length and eighty feet in breadth," and contained similar businesses to those of the present day, with four Episcopal churches, a hospital, the Masonic Hall, two museums and the City Hall. From the City Hall Park to Astor Place was called St. George-st., or Great George-st., up to the close of the last century, and was later commonly spoken of as the Middle Road. Maiden Lane, from Broadway to William-st., and William-st., from Liberty-st. to Beekman-st., and Chatham-st., from the park eastward, were occupied principally by retail dry and fancy goods stores, as was Canal-st., west of Broadway. Ferry and Jacob sts. to-day fulfil the same mission as in 1825, but Water-st. was the furrier district, and Broad-st. that of cabinet and chair makers.

When the century had attained middle age people of wealth began to build their homes away from the encroachment of business, and Bond, Bleecker and Great Jones sts. became fashionable centres. Later Washington Square became a place of life, instead of what it formerly was, a place of death, and one finds among its inhabitants the names of people of substance, such as the Alsops, the Rhinelanders, the Leroys, the Minturns and the Robinsons. An exclusive set gathered around St. John's Church, in Varick-st., and here Alexander Hamilton, General Schuyler, the Delafields, the Lords, the Lydigs and other notables built substantial houses and converted the waste land and sand dunes into St. John's Park, "a spot beautiful to behold."

But as to Broadway. As was told in a previous article, the hotels were all at the lower end of this thoroughfare, with the City Hall Park as their centre, and there was nothing to speak of above Union Square. Country seats of exclusives adorned Sandy Hill, at the upper end of Broadway, and solid brownstone and brick mansions clustered around the little park at the junction of Bowery Lane and the Middle Road, now Union Square. From University Place and Thirteenth-st. an unobstructed view could be had of the East River or of the Hudson. Where the Wanamaker store is to-day was the Elliot estate, afterward the property of Captain Randall, who deeded it to the Sailor's Snug Harbor. Adjoining it to the north was the Brevoort estate, the owner of which resisted "with Dutch stubbornness a contemplated cutting through of Eleventh-st. from Broadway to the Bowery, and won his fight, leaving Eleventh-st. ending at Fourth-ave. and beginning again west of Broadway."

When the farmhouse of Henry Spingler, with its twenty-two acres west of the Bowery Road, stood within the limits of the present Union Square, an attempt was made, so the writer was told by an old New-Yorker, to have Broadway meet in a straight course the Bloomingdale Road at the north of the square. So much resistance was offered to the scheme by the holder of the property that the direction of the thoroughfare was changed at Tenth-st., and still further deflected at Fourteenth-st.

Broadway was an accident, anyway, according to all authority. "Originally it was supposed that the city's main artery of travel would turn to the east of the Commons and follow the old Boston Road, and provision was made to that end. Business for a long time insisted upon turning to the east of the street at City Hall Park, and owners of property were determined to keep the west side sacred to residences. But it was not so to be. Pearl-st. ceased to absorb the drygoods trade over half a century ago, and when A. T. Stewart spread his drygoods nets on the 'shilling side' of Broadway that settled it." The chronology:

In 1788 Trinity Church was rebuilt, and the New-York Society Library was kept in a room in the City Hall. On June 17 the New-York State Convention, called to consider the adoption of the federal Constitution, met at Poughkeepsie. Among the delegates from New-York were Hamilton, Jay, R. R. Livingston, Isaac Roosevelt and James Duane. Through the work done by these men at the convention federal union was declared by a majority of three against confederation on July 26, 1788. The city did not wait until this date to celebrate the establishment of the federal Republic, but three days before it became a fact "held a monster demonstration to illustrate emphatically their sentiments."

September 13, 1788, saw the adoption of the Constitution publicly declared and the city selected as the seat of the general government. The City Hall, in Wall-st., was falling into decay, and the exhausted city treasury was unable to furnish the means to make the necessary alterations. But willing purses were opened by a number of New-York's wealthy men, and $65,000 was advanced to put it in order. Major L'Enfant, a French engineer, was engaged, and under his direction the old building became practically a new structure, and was reported ready for the occupation of Congress on March 3, 1789, one day before the date set by the new Constitution for it to meet. The members were dilatory, however, and on March 4 "only a handful of them made their appearance, severely testing the patience of those who attended."

JOSEPH K. TOOLE.

Governor of Montana, in his office at Helena.

The roads were bad in those days, railroads and steamboats were unknown, packets and stages few, "and punctuality was regarded as a thing of minor importance." Unable to transact business through lack of a quorum, those present issued a circular letter to the absentees, imploring them to attend. It was not until April 6, however, that a quorum was procured, when both houses assembled in the Senate Chamber, opened and read the votes, made out two lists, and, the House of Representatives withdrawing to its chamber and counting the votes, declared George Washington unanimously elected as the country's first President, with John Adams as Vice-President. Adams arrived in New-York on April 21, and was met at the boundary line by Governor Clinton, with a military escort, and conducted to Kingsbridge, where he was received by the Senate and House of Representatives, and accompanied to the City Hall by several companies of militia. Here he delivered his inaugural address. He resided at No. 133 Broadway, the house of John Jay, until the completion of his Richmond Hill residence.

On April 23, 1789, after a triumphal journey of seven days from Mount Vernon, Washington arrived at Elizabeth Town. A barge, handsomely decorated and rowed by thirteen pilots, commanded by Captain Thomas Randall, took him on board, and, escorted by other barges filled with eminent personages, a committee of Congress, Chancellor Livingston and Recorder Varick, landed him at Murray's Wharf, at the foot of Wall-st. Salutes were fired and cheers rent the air as Washington stepped ashore, and, refusing the use of a carriage which had been provided for him, walked with Governor Clinton up Wall-st. to Pearl-st. (then Queen), and to the Franklin House, on the corner of Cherry-st., which had been prepared for him as a residence. This house was formerly occupied by Samuel Osgood. In the old De Peyster house, in Queen-st., opposite Cedar, Governor Clinton resided, and here Washington was dined and entertained. In the evening the streets were crowded, and demonstrations were held in his honor. The city was splendidly illuminated, and brilliant displays of fireworks took place.

The Federal Hall was not yet finished, and a week elapsed before the arrangements for the inauguration could be completed, so that exactly seven days after his arrival, or on Thursday, April 30, 1789, Washington was inaugurated the first President of the United States, and with the ceremony the "capstone was placed on a superstructure of independence whose foundation stones were laid in the blood of patriots." Where the colossal bronze statue of Washington stands on the steps of the Sub-Treasury Building Washington stood on the day he took his oath of office. "It was one of the most august and interesting spectacles ever exhibited on this globe," says an eye-witness. "It seemed from the number of witnesses to be a solemn appeal to heaven and earth at once." After the inauguration and the reading of his Inaugural Address in the Senate Chamber, the President and Congress attended services in St. Paul's Church. A month later Mrs. Washington arrived, escorted from Elizabeth Town by the same barge and crew of pilots that had escorted the general. She landed at Peck Slip.

On May 28 the President gave his first dinner, and the next day Mrs. Washington held her first reception, "a simple and unostentatious ceremony." During the first session of Congress the President occupied the Cherry-st. house, the new Presidential mansion, to make room for which the old fort had been levelled in 1787, not being completed. Indeed, Congress had removed when it was completed, and it became the residence of Governor Clinton, and was afterward transformed into the Custom House. In 1790 Washington occupied the Macomb house, at No. 39 Broadway, his last place of residence in New-York.

Custis, in his "Recollections and Private Memoirs of the Life and Character of Washington," says that the chief tendency toward luxury in the whole executive establishment was shown in the horses, "which were remarkably fine, and were groomed with scrupulous care." In all else "the establishment savored of republican simplicity." The present Executive is not far from being an exemplar of the first in these things, considering the increased importance of the government.

In the evening Washington visited at intervals the theatre in John-st., the only one in the city at that time. It had been erected during the occupation of the British, and was used by the officers for amateur theatricals. This theatre "was so small that the whole fabric might easily have been placed on the stage of some of our modern theatres," says Custis in the recollections and memoirs above noted. "Boxes were set apart for the President and Vice-President, and the playbills were inscribed 'Vivat Republica.' Among several players of merit was Morris, an associate of Garrick in the beginning of his career." An authority says that the national air of that day, "Hail, Columbia," composed by a German musician named Fyles in compliment to the President, was first played here.

Before leaving this interesting part of the city's history, let it be known that the citizens of New-York in the old days, unlike the citizens of to-day, were grateful to the person who performed properly any work of the municipality. For superintending the enlarging and repairing of the City Hall for use of the Congress "Mayor L'Enfant received the thanks of the corporation, the freedom of the city, and was offered a lot of ten acres of the public land near Provost's lane, or street (now Franklin-st.), but politely declined the same." Twelve years after, on January 26, 1801, "Major L'Enfant, who had declined any pecuniary compensation or the ten acres of land, . . . now applied for a sum, and the corporation awarded him $750, which was refused." Both these records are straight, so the reader again has food for thought.

Broadway was "opened through the Fort to the Battery" in 1789, and the market fees were £580. Here are interesting items for real estate men: "Ninety-one acres of the Commons sold for £2,409 to T. Buchanan and others," and on December 4 "a house and lot, corner of Broad and Wall sts., was purchased by the corporation for £450." Richard Varick became Mayor on October 14, and continued so until August 24, 1801. Samuel Jones, afterward Chancellor, assumed the office of Recorder. The salary of the Mayor "was commuted for £600 per annum."

Colonel Richard Varick was made City Recorder after the evacuation of the British. He was a popular lawyer of the city, and had won the title of colonel in the service of Schuyler in the Northern army. After witnessing the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga and the defeat of Burgoyne, he had been aide-de-camp to Benedict Arnold until the discovery of his treason, after which he had served Washington as secretary until the close of the war.

The old city was struggling this year to establish a financial credit, and as a first move the corporation issued £1,000 of paper money for public accommodation, in one, two and three penny bills. Money was also raised by lottery, the system for the carrying on of which was given in a previous part of this chronology.

Since the close of the war Indian affairs had been in an unsettled state along the Western and Southern frontiers, and on July 15, 1790, twenty-eight Creek Indians arrived to confer with Congress regarding a new treaty. The Indians, led by a halfbreed named McGillivray, who had been educated by his father, a Scotchman, in the best schools of Charleston, complained of the encroachments of the whites upon their boundaries. They formed an alliance with the Spaniards in Florida, and carried on war with great success, severely harassing the whites. Congress at its first session dispatched commissioners to the scene of the contest to adjust the boundaries in dispute, but, while they were well received by McGillivray, they effected nothing but a temporary suspension of hostilities. Marinus Willett, disguised as a trader, was sent the following year by Washington to open new negotiations. After sounding the disposition of the natives, he threw off his disguise and avowed his errand, with the result that McGillivray consented to come to New-York with selected chiefs and warriors of the nation. The Tammany Society, arrayed in Indian costume, met them and escorted them to a tavern on the banks of the North River, afterward known as the Indian Queen. After six weeks General Knox, the commissioner appointed by Washington, negotiated the terms of a treaty with them, which was afterward ratified in Federal Hall, in Wall-st., on August 13. The visit of the Indians closed the official career of New-York as the capital city of the nation. Shortly after the present capital was selected.

AMBERGRIS. "SOLIDIFIED FOAM OF THE SEA."

IN REALITY A SECRETION OF SPERM WHALE—SOME HUGE LUMPS HAVE BEEN FOUND.

A week or two ago a Florida "cracker," who was walking along the beach, saw a mass of grayish black substance, waxlike in consistency, lying on the sand. He stooped to examine it, and felt of it. There was something curious about it, and he concluded to investigate further. Picking up a lump, which weighed a number of pounds, he carried it home. Some of the neighbors were consulted. There were rumors that it was worth something.

"I've heard of stuff like that being worth money," said a wiseacre, in the tone of one who was an encyclopædia of information and a Solomon of wisdom and judgment. "Now," continued he, perceiving the perplexity of the "cracker," and quick to take advantage of the opportunity to convey an impression of superiority, after the manner of wiseacres of his type, "I'd send a chunk of that up to Jacksonville, and see if 'tain't worth something." Accordingly, the "cracker," receiving no better advice, did as was suggested. It was "worth money," as he learned in a letter a few days later. "I told you so," commented the wiseacre, when he heard that the lump was worth more than a thousand dollars. "I read in a book somewhere that stuff like that was picked up on the beach and worth as much as gold. Now, don't forget your friends." The news of the sudden affluence of their neighbor quickly spread, and that night the tide obliterated a beaten path in the sand in the neighborhood where the ambergris—for it was that curious substance—had been found.

The history of the uses of this "solidified foam of the sea," as it was once supposed to be, which is literally worth its weight in gold, is an interesting one. Doubtless the thousand and one tales of "The Arabian Nights Entertainment" were dreamed while under the influence of its delicate perfume, for the Arabians were the first to prize it and to give it the name of "amber," and it was long burned with fragrant gums in the apartments of royalty. For many centuries the fragrant perfume of this costly substance rose from the censers as the priests of the Church with solemn step and perfunctory intonation executed the complicated ceremonials. In the East its delicate aroma was often blended with the steam of the cooking viands, and European royalty sometimes indulged in food flavored with it. That English monarch of many adventures, Charles II, evidently enjoyed a dish seasoned with this queer substance, for Macaulay refers to rumors in connection with his death, that "something had been put into his broth, something added to his favorite dish of egg and ambergris."

"The principal use of ambergris, however," says Charles H. Stevenson, in a pamphlet entitled "Fish Oils, Fats and Waxes," published by the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries, was as a medicine, and as a perfume, especially in Asia and Africa. Until recently it held a place in pharmacy, being regarded as a cardiac and antispasmodic, somewhat analagous to musk, and was recommended in typhoid fevers and various nervous diseases."

Now, however, it finds almost its only use on the dressing table of "my fine lady," as one of the chief ingredients of the perfume whose presence tells of her proximity in an evening crowd. It serves as a "fixer," and gives to perfumery permanency of fragrance. The selection of just the proper quality to produce the desired bouquet forms one of the niceties of the perfumer's art.

"The value of ambergris," Mr. Stevenson says, "depends largely on its scarcity at the time and its freedom from impurities. During the last thirty years it has varied in price from $5 to $40 an ounce. At the present time it is quoted at $8 to $30 an ounce. In 1880 crude ambergris brought home by the whalers was sold at $10 an ounce, and the dried article at $20 an ounce. In 1876 the value, dried, was $25 an ounce. In "The London Price Current of Colonial Produce" in 1806 ambergris is quoted at 40s to 45s an ounce for 'gray, fine.'"

It is not possible to determine accurately the value of ambergris found annually, for its compactness facilitates secret possession whenever it is deemed advisable to preserve secrecy regarding a find. It varies greatly, as scarcely one ounce may be obtained in some years, while in others the product may exceed $50,000 in value. Although for centuries the origin of ambergris was not known, it is now a well known fact that it is generated in the intestines of the sperm whale and is the result of a diseased state of the animal, caused possibly by a biliary irritation, as the individuals from which it is secured are almost invariably of a sickly appearance and sometimes greatly emaciated.

The most valuable lot of ambergris secured in recent years is supposed to have been a mass weighing 162 pounds 11 ounces, obtained in 1891, known as the "Bank" lot, which sold in London for about $50,000. The brokers who sold it told the story of the lump and its sale as follows:

About the end of August, 1891, a gentleman called to consult us as to the best means of disposing of some ambergris which had been consigned to his firm. We suggested that if it were brought to us we could examine it and report upon its value, but when we were informed that the case which contained it weighed [illegible] and was too large to go inside a cab, our first feeling was one of incredulity as to the consignment being ambergris at all. It was finally decided that the case should remain in the strong room of the bank in which it had been deposited for safe custody, and that we should go there to inspect it. This we did, and were shown a box measuring about 2 feet 4 inches in each direction, and which we were told had with its contents been insured for £10,000.

In the presence of the merchant who had consulted us and the bank officials the lid of the case was opened, with the immediate result that every one beat a hasty retreat from its vicinity, for the horrible smell which issued from the box was overpowering. When the odor had lost somewhat of its intensity we began to take out the packing, and found that the case (which was tin lined) contained one huge mass of blackish substance, measuring 6 feet 4 inches in circumference, nearly spherical, and which was undoubtedly ambergris. On being turned out of the case it was found to be saturated with moisture, as were the packings of paper and old gunny which had been put around it to prevent it from chafing to pieces during the voyage, and it was the liberation of the gases generated by the salt water and the animal matter which had caused the stench alluded to. By proper treatment this smell was eventually completely got rid of, and the ambergris obtained in marketable condition. The mass was next weighed, and the certificate signed by the interested parties, the exact weight being at that time 2,603 ounces, or 162 pounds 11 ounces. This is probably the largest piece of ambergris which has ever been seen by any one living, and approaches nearly in weight to the lump of 182 pounds, purchased by the Dutch East India Company two hundred years ago.

The next thing to do was to split the lump, so as to see what the interior was like. This was accomplished with the aid of long chisels and crowbars. We then saw that the substance consisted of layers, or laminæ, rolled around a central core, the laminæ varying a good deal in texture, color and flavor. Speaking generally, the outer layers were thin, friable and shelly; dark, almost black, in color, and mixed to a considerable extent with the beaks of the cuttle fish, on which the whale feeds. As the layers approached the centre they were denser, grayer in color, thicker and of better flavor, until the core itself was reached. This core really consisted of two pieces, one the shape of a rifle bullet, but with a deepish depression, like the "kickup" of a wine bottle in the base. It was from 10 to 11 inches high, with a diameter of about six inches at the bottom, tapering upward to about two inches at the top, which was slightly flattened. It was detached from the surrounding layers with the greatest ease, and stood alone, a pure, solid lump of the finest gray ambergris, weighing 33¼ ounces. Beside this magnificent piece was a smaller one, almost spherical in shape and about the size of a very large orange. It was rather darker in color and not of quite so fine a flavor, but was as easily detached from the surrounding layers as the other. Neither of these pieces contained any of the beaks which were so common in the outer layers, and it is almost needless to say that they realized by far the highest price which was obtained for any portion of the mass. The layers nearest the core were of much finer flavor than the outer and darker. One of them was quite four inches in thickness, and the ambergris of which it consisted was of a silvery gray color, different from the whitish gray of the core, and was of lower specific gravity. The layer outside this again was striated in places with the darker exterior, and the beaks began to show, though not to the same extent as in the black shelly exterior layers.

It is a matter of some regret to us that we did not secure a photograph of this extraordinary lump, but the fact weighed heavily upon us that if the real truth about it leaked out the depression of the market would be so great that we should not be able to do justice to our clients and, consequently, as few people as possible were let into the secret. It is true that reports about it were rife for a month or two, but, as nothing authentic could be ascertained, they gradually died out, and we have ourselves been repeatedly assured that the thing was a myth altogether, one gentleman going so far as to tell one of our partners, about three months afterward, that he held three-fourths of the total quantity of ambergris in London, not knowing that we were controlling about one and one-half hundredweight.

According to Mr. Stevenson, probably the finest lot of ambergris received in America was taken in 1894 by the schooner Adelia Chase from a 50-barrel whale near Cape de Verde Islands. It weighed 109 5-8 pounds, and sold for $26,000, the best parts fetching $350 a pound. No large finds have been reported since 1894. In 1899 fifty pounds of poor quality was secured by the bark Charles W. Morgan off the coast of Japan. In 1900 the Morning Star secured seven pounds, and in 1901 the same ship brought in twenty pounds of medium quality.

ELLSWORTH'S ZOUAVES.

Early Days of War Recalled—Differed from Home Guards.

Ellsworth's Zouaves were recalled a few days ago to the minds of all who remember the incidents of the early days of the Civil War, when it was announced in a Washington dispatch that the War Department had received from William Clausen, of New-York, the old flag of the 1st New-York Fire Zouaves, the regiment raised and commanded by Colonel Ephraim Elmer Ellsworth at the beginning of the war. It was the same flag that Ellsworth hoisted on the staff of the Mansion House at Alexandria, Va., on May 24, 1861, after he had torn down the rebel flag, which incident cost Colonel Ellsworth his life. Mr. Clausen came into possession of the flag as a gift from Andrew Govan, who was quartermaster of Ellsworth Post, G. A. R., and he asserts he has documents to prove that it is the flag represented. The gift to the War Department was made on condition that the flag should be added to the war collection in Cullum Memorial Hall, at West Point.

The original Ellsworth's Zouaves were a company of military men under E. E. Ellsworth, who were drilled in acrobatic feats, and who distinguished themselves all the way from Chicago to Washington in 1860 by turning double somersaults and doing other "stunts" with muskets in their hands and bayonets in their mouths. When the Civil War broke out Ellsworth and his company offered their services, whereupon Ellsworth was commissioned a colonel and authorized to raise a regiment, which he did in April, 1861, by recruiting from the firemen of this city. They at once proceeded to Washington, and had been there about twenty days only when they received marching orders.

Resistance to any invasion of the "sacred soil" of Virginia was confidently expected. Late in the afternoon of May 24 the Zouave regiment landed on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and a little later Ellsworth detailed a small squad of men from his command, and, with Sergeant Brownell at the head and accompanied by a correspondent of The Tribune and Chaplain Dodge, they marched rapidly up one of the quiet streets of Alexandria, and when about turning a corner in the direction of a telegraph office Ellsworth saw flaunting from the top of the Marshall House a rebel flag, which had often been observed from the balconies of the President's house in Washington. Ellsworth sent Brownell back to bring up his company, but, not waiting for it to join him, he rashly passed on to the hotel and demanded of the first man he met: "What sort of a flag is that flying over the roof of this house?" Then, without waiting to demand its removal, he ran upstairs to the topmost story, and, clambering to the roof, cut the halyards and pulled the flag down. As he was descending from the roof the proprietor, J. W. Jackson, stepped out from a dimly lighted passage and fired a charge of buckshot from his gun into Ellsworth's body, and he died almost instantly. Jackson then tried to shoot Brownell, but the latter was too quick, and, grasping the gun, he fired at Jackson from his own rifle and killed him instantly.

The regiment was known as Ellsworth's Zouaves, but, as one of the members explained, "It retained the name of Ellsworth only because one of the organizers had a brother who once saw a picture of Colonel Ellsworth's grandfather. There are other organizations whose names probably have a more remote origin than this, many of them about as consistent and reasonable as a man claiming relationship to Abraham Lincoln because he was born in Lincolnshire, or one supposing he would be Governor if he married a governess, or requesting a pass to a theatre because he was on the press because he was a cheesemaker.

"There were a good many in the zouave regiment who could turn handsprings, and did tumblings and 'tiedowns' and 'rollovers,' with or without muskets; they drilled until drill had become a bore; they drilled in all the marches and leaps and vaults, in the bayonet exercises, and in all the steps—the common step, the quick step, very quick step, the double quick step and the trot and the run; they could carry arms, shoulder arms, support arms, reverse arms, and even could order arms better than they could pay for them after being ordered. They could parry and tierce and thrust, and throw a handspring with a bayonet in their hands without breaking it in more than two places, and could bite off a cartridge without breaking their teeth. But when it came to shouldering a knapsack, often so filled that it looked like an immigrant's trunk, they felt more responsibility resting upon them than Atlas did when he shouldered the world. Before they had passed from the first degree of the awkward squad to the sublime degree of real, experienced soldiers many a one was ready and would have been willing to sacrifice a substitute on the altar of his country."

But the test of a recruit for the zouaves, who were known as "red legged devils," was far different from that for those who wore the ordinary army blue. James K. Hackett, the actor, has said that he once had an ambition to serve his country in the zouaves or the home guards—he didn't mind which—but the Civil Service examination was more rigid than it ought to have been for a man who had the courage of his convictions and the ambition to become a hero. He has declared that the following was the form of most of the questions propounded and the answers thereto, his examiner being a major, although he looked to be a minor:

"How old are you, and what are your qualifications?"

"Twenty-two and a strong stomach?"

"What is a home guard?"

"A young man with stay-at-home-and-take-care-of-the-women proclivities."

"What is the first duty to be learned by a soldier?"

"How to draw his rations."

"What is the most difficult problem for a recruit?"

"How to draw his bounty and escape."

"If you were in the rear rank of a company during an action, and the man in the front rank before you should be wounded and disabled, what would you do?"

"I would dispatch myself to the rear for a surgeon immediately. Some men would step forward and take the wounded man's place, but that is unnatural and selfish."

"If you were commanding skirmishers, and saw cavalry in the front and infantry in the rear, which would you meet?"

"Circumstances would govern me. I would try to mass myself for a bold movement, and shove out sideways."

"If you were taken prisoner what would be your line of conduct?"

"I would treat my captors with the utmost civility."

"What are the duties of a soldier in the field, and those of a home guard?"

"I am ignorant as to the first part of your question, but as to the latter part the duty of a home guard is to see that he does not desert his home—in fact, see to it that he has no duties to perform."

"What will you take?" was the last question, and it staggered the would be hero. He concluded later to get a major general's uniform made and keep it for an emergency.