

TWO YEARS WITH A COLLEGE MUSICAL CLUB. EXPERIENCES GRAVE AND GAY OF DIRECTOR OF A BANJO ORGANIZATION.

Reminiscences on the part of the director of a university banjo club will be especially interesting to the half a thousand preparatory school graduates, who have industriously trained for a place in the front row of the numerous musical organizations of Eastern colleges, which must be filled every fall and some of the experiences of such an officer in undergraduate life may be entertaining to the general reader, who at one time or another has allowed his senses to be tickled by the jestful tone of this unique American instrument, exemplifying, as it does, the innocent gaiety of the life of the college student.

Over the linen and silver of an uptown club last night a young man, for two years leader of his "ratty" banjo club, and member of the mandolin club, held forth as follows: "At 'prep' school in New-England I organized a banjo club. I had an ear for the thing, and that saved my taking lessons. When I got my diploma from the school in 1885, I went into the Maine woods to fish. At Portland, Maine, waiting for a Bangor chair car, I noticed Philip, the old leader of the B. Club, and, waving all native reserve, I introduced myself. Before we parted at Bangor I was warmly invited to try for the club the next fall.

"As luck would have, most of the star players left college the June before, and so after preliminary trials I survived the weeding out process, and was made first banjo. The club, and, waiting all native reserve, I introduced myself. Before we parted at Bangor I was warmly invited to try for the club the next fall.

"I found that two hours of rehearsing every afternoon, when most of the college was loafing under the yellowing elms, interfered in no wise with my studies, and so, for the honor of my fraternity and for my own reputation, which had to be made, I worked very hard with the fellows.

"Thanksgiving recess found us on a train bound for a small town, where Parker, manager of the three clubs—glee, banjo and mandolin, some forty men—lived. The night was sticky and stormy. We went out after the glee club's opening, and had a bright twopenny well under way when the weather got into our instruments. My high B and first, which I had hardly caught the fellows with my reserve instrument when the glee snapped from the first to the second banjos and then behind to the guitars.

"About three bars from the coda a big bit of wind lifted the tin roof of the theatre and carried it (the tin roofing) beyond the city limits; the gas in the hall went out, the people did likewise, seemingly satisfied with our manager's maiden speech, believing in their hearts that our club was not up to the standard of the previous year.

"So I thought myself. Passengers on the outgoing train the next day, commuters into Boston, read little of the morning news, so novel our rehearsal on the train seemed to them.

"In Western Massachusetts, where, by the way, I was assigned the pleasure of keeping a Thanksgiving turkey in the platter, and, at the same time, giving and serving to a hall full of seminary girls, we gave a good concert, worthy of our Alma Mater.

"Following our virgin success, we took our instruments and the best voices of the glee club, went among the gravelled walks about the dormitories where the young women were sleeping, and under their dreams by further roundlays.

"Under the November moon, in the silence of the autumn night, our voices sounded forth in harmony. The young women flocked to their windows and sung appreciative sonnets to the troubadours, but the distress of the thing was that Parker never afterward could book a date for that particular girls' school.

"Strikingly emphasized as an incident of this our first trip with full clubs was a tea at Lowell, where a concert there, with Parker and myself as principals. He was curly haired, fair and good to look upon; being manager, he was allotted the best bed in town and all the concomitants that such assignment implies. I shared in the spoils solely by virtue of a four years' friendship.

"The mother of Lowell sat serene enough over her tea and Wadsworth, the daughter and a girl friend, called in to assist, separated us from the mother.

"Parker and I, long used to such amenities, had in years past assembled various and sundry alleged bon mots, subject to release in just such gatherings. Before dessert we had so skilfully dovetailed our dispendous tea that the table was in standard position, and demoralization.

"Swiftly on the heels of a carefully reserved quip of mine a clatter of something hard sounded across the hardwood floor.

ing meal in a frozen little New-Hampshire winter town, when his muddled brain and clattering teeth made necessary my coming to the rescue of his starved imagination by imitating his voice to the delect of our friends.

"All too frequently in the greater cities came hops of all descriptions. After two and three years of service in the cause of advertising one's college and playing the gallant, sprit and memory rebelled. A fine of \$5 for non-attendance revived the staling spirit, but the memory still lagged.

"Fancy the hand cramping four lines beginning to wilt and your eyes half closing from lack of slumber, being presented to an incomparable bit of womanhood, you bowing low, and the time absolutely ignorant of her identity, and she saying: 'I had such a nice dance with you last year. You treat well and Miss Weller they are hurt because you didn't remember them. Are all college men so rude?' etc., etc.

"Of course, all expenses were paid out of the receipts of concerts. Still, the fellows would start out for a two weeks' lark with money enough to meet emergencies, and they were many, as, for example, I lost my suit case in a Pennsylvania change-cars town, together with all goods and articles apart from my trunk. By sitting bedside in the rear row of my club, I relieved the audience of the impression that I wore a bright blue striped frock. My credit with the other men by that time was so deficient that I was unable to provide myself with a superior sartorial equipment. I have often wondered if that Washington girl who, having been impeccably dressed escort, came on the stage later to say friendly things to me remembers that I had such a nice dance with you last year.

"It was at Washington that very trip when a substitute manager, a mere tyro at such business, reared his head. He was a fellow who, by sitting beside me when we stationed guards along the hotel corridors, called every man to place his last penny in the hat, and he was a fellow who, by sitting beside me over our hotel bills and tickets home, with said limited sum as sole assets, as against two months' rent and as liabilities.

"People outside of the colleges wonder when such youngsters study, and if they study at all. Truth be told, they study up to the marks by stringent faculty rules. I know of no chap who had to leave college or even falling dangerously delinquent in his courses because of his association with the merry men of B. My head is full of visions of Hunt grinding out the 'Psychology of Delinquency' on a seat rail with a double barreled shotgun. I know of no chap who has had to travel forty-five miles an hour, with belated company, then hustling into dress suits in time for the third day's session.

"Somehow the fellows got their lessons and ranked high in their classes at that. Though they met hundreds of professors, they were not subjected to ordeals which tried their originality and their capacity to the utmost, all the boys, with hardly an exception, came to college with a mind to play and to study when it was time to study.

"Two years of a college musical club, however, is sufficient. With the dawn of the junior year arrive new studies, quite different from anything seen in preparatory schools. Then the time for the mellowing process to come on, time to be really dignified, and to prepare to revolutionize the world.

THE EUCALYPTUS TREE. Its Ready Growth Makes It Valuable—Used for Many Purposes.

Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 25 (Special).—Nowhere in this country, perhaps, have experiments with the growth of eucalyptus trees been carried to such an extent as in the little valleys along this stretch of the Pacific Coast. The eucalyptus, be it known, is the tree which some scientists say is destined to save the world from a famine of wood. Those who are familiar with the tree's growing records in this vicinity are confident in its ability to perform that feat if it should ever be called upon to do so, which is not probable.

Ellwood Cooper, who owns a big ranch a few miles north of Santa Barbara, was one of the pioneers in this experimenting. His first plantations were set out twenty-five years ago. Some of the groves have been cut down three or four times and are again high in the air. Trees which have been permitted to grow for the entire quarter century are as large as oaks whose rings show them to be more than three hundred years old. In other words, the eucalyptus grows twelve times as fast as the oak, and, in fact, there is hardly a tree that it does not put to shame in this respect.

Five years ago a resident of one of the small coast settlements south of here, Carpinteria, planted a row of eucalyptus as a sort of fence along one side of his residence property. Last week he finished cutting it down and secured twenty-two cords of four-foot firewood from this single row, not more than 25 feet in length. Several of the trees had grown to a height of seventy-five feet in five years and all were well above fifty feet.

"You can almost see these eucalypts grow," said a rancher who is familiar with them. "There is only one thing I know that can beat them."

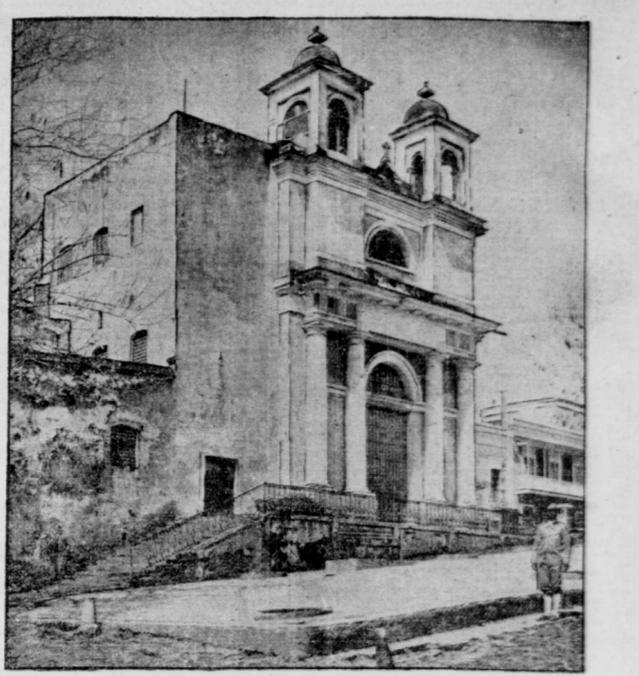
"Mushrooms!" he exclaimed. "We have to give way to them, but the margin is narrow enough. You cut off a eucalyptus and in three or four days it will be sprouting away for its new life. Some things seem to just draw them up out of the ground."

They make the finest kind of piles, even better than Oregon pine, to the minds of some experts. More than 10,000 worth of piles have been sold from the Cooper grove within ten years, and no one knows how many hundred cords of wood; yet one would hardly know that the grove had been touched.

According to reports to the agricultural department the eucalyptus is now being planted in this country more largely than any other tree. The ranchers of the great prairie States are setting out thousands of them under the eastern name of "gum" or "blue gum." The eucalyptus seems to care no more about the name than about the soil in which it is used.

It means limited to the production of cord wood and piling. It protects the orange and lemon groves along the coast from the ocean but they would bruise the fruit, and has proved an excellent windbreak. In a wood lot the trees can be cut within ten years, and no one knows how many hundred cords of wood; yet one would hardly know that the grove had been touched.

seen to burn in an open fireplace gives it the palm for wood fuel over all into all sorts of lumber, bridges and fences. There are many uses for the oil and its products are increasing every year. Here in California it is a some cure for most anything from whooping cough to consumption. The children make their lemonade from its blossoms. It has a beneficial effect on climatic conditions, but the California sayers not. One cannot get a native son to admit that anything could really improve this climate.



SISTINE CONVENT, SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO. Just abandoned, after occupancy ever since 1544.

NUNS CHANGE CONVENTS. Abandon Ancient Structure in San Juan for Better Quarters.

San Juan, P. R., Dec. 16 (Special).—For the first time in 355 years the feet of the worldly treading the floors of the ancient Carmelite convent in San Juan, and the nuns who were sheltered in the old structure have gone forever from the capital of Porto Rico and the shadow of the cathedral. A few nights ago fifteen of them were transported by steamer and overland to San German, where better quarters have been provided for them. Some of the nuns are very old and feeble, and some are young girls who have recently entered the convent. Many of them entered the convent when they were young girls and are now old women.

No one else ever enters their apartments. When one of their number dies, the nuns themselves bury their dead, with their own peculiar ceremonies, doing all the work incident to the burial, the cemetery being in the immediate premises of the convent.

During the time of the bombardment of the city by Admiral Sampson the nuns were removed from the little convent building for a few days and were taken care of in Rio Piedras, but with this only exception, it is said, the nuns of this convent have never left its seclusion. This is the only order of this kind on the island, and these nuns occupy their new quarters in San German, possibly not to be again disturbed in their perpetual devotion to God for another epoch of centuries.

Specimens of the movement of the nuns, and that it should be done as secretly as possible after dark, but they had no concern left the building which it became noised about town, causing a stir, for every one knew of the absolute seclusion of these pious workers and the character of their devotion and sacrifice.

Special preparations were made on the steamer so that they could be as secluded there as they had been in the convent. They were in charge of two priests, the pastor of the San German church and Father Canalis, of San Juan. The nuns made an application to Bishop Benke some time ago to be transferred, as the building which they occupied is falling down and needs repairs greatly.

The scene at the pier was one seldom witnessed. When the carriages containing the nuns arrived a crowd fought to see the veiled women. Many relatives were there, and some of the sisters wept bitterly, while others said they were perfectly happy. Sons and cries, however, predominated, and the gathering was a sad one. The steamer sailed at 2 o'clock in the morning.

The nuns of this order are perhaps the most pious and sacrificing of any of the Catholic Church. They are devoted to God alone, and when they enter the convent they leave all earthly things behind, never again to look upon the face of a mortal but themselves. They have some communication with the outside world, but do not see those with whom they communicate. A high screen is arranged over which they can converse with their friends upon certain occasions, but the door between is never opened so that they may come in actual contact with either their parents or closest relatives.

The only recorded escape from the Sistina convent in San Juan occurred in Spanish times. Then a pretty señorita crawled out of a window on the Christo-st side to join friends of her lover, a Spanish officer in Cuba. She fell to the sidewalk and broke her leg, but was safely carried away, recovered, and later happily married to her cavalier. She is living in Spain.

STATUARY FOR NEW STOCK EXCHANGE. Placing the Figures of a Great Group on the Front of the Structure.

While a wondering crowd shivers in the cold wind which sweeps up Broad-st, a force of workmen are hoisting into place the different parts of the great marble figures to ornament the pediment of the Broad-st. facade of the Stock Exchange.

It is not an easy task, and though each part of the figures was nicely adjusted to its mate before leaving the sculptor's hands, it will take a long time to get them all properly into the elongated triangular space allotted them, surmounting the facade of the new building.

To facilitate the work a temporary platform has been erected several feet above the street. To this the blocks are hoisted from the dways as fast as they arrive. There they are looked over and the parts placed in readiness so that they may be

hoisted to the places assigned to them as fast as they are needed. This arrangement not only serves to prevent the impeding of traffic in the street below, but makes it impossible for harm to befall the valuable statuary through the curiosity of passersby.

The crowd which lines the opposite side of the street practically every hour of the day is deeply interested in the progress of the work. The novelty of the undertaking appeals to the lookers-on more than the artistic side of the work, however.

"Look at the old woman," sung out one youngster the other afternoon when the bust of a shepherdess weighing about two tons dangled from the cables hauling it to the temporary platform above the street.

"That fellow looks as if he had lost a nickel," was the remark of one young man as he pointed to the gigantic figure of a man whom the sculptor has placed on his hands and knees.

"Can't you see he is looking for the subway?" chimed in another.

"Say, is he a bear?" piped up a youngster on the edge of the crowd. This allusion to the figure's lack of apparel provoked another laugh, scattered the throng and made room for another crowd.

Though the postures in which the beautiful figures are now dropped by the workmen give them a very grotesque appearance, the workmanship upon them is everywhere in evidence, and when the vast figures have been grouped together in the beautiful conception of the lookers-on there is world placing its tribute at the feet of New-York the Stock Exchange will be crowned with a masterpiece of the sculptor's art.

Many of the figures weigh seven and eight tons each; others less, and others still more. The largest central figures are yet to be received.

NEW SOURCES OF RUBBER. Roots of a Plant Found on the African Plains.

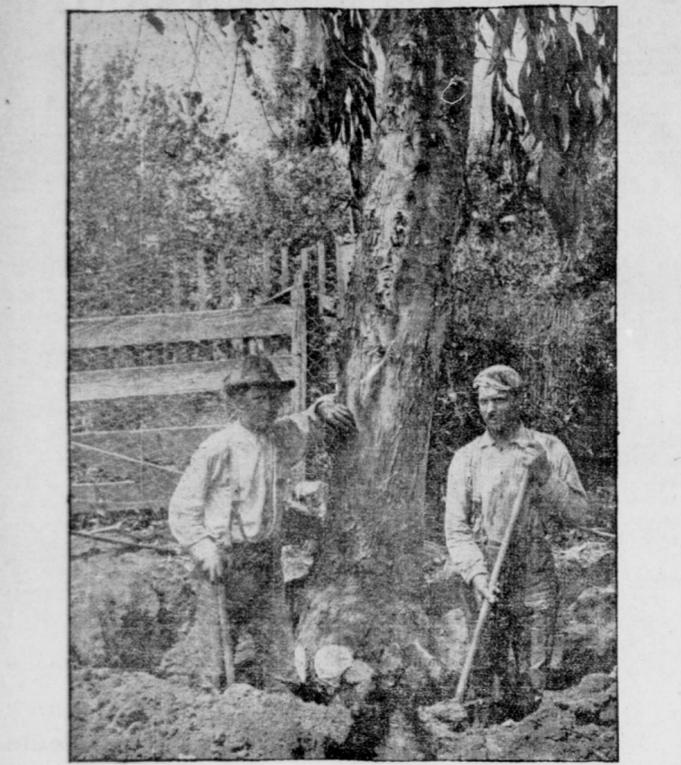
A French botanist, in the course of his explorations, says "The Scientific American," a few weeks ago, in the sandy plains of the French Congo, discovered a plant the bark of which contained a large quantity of fibrous rubber. At the time scarcely any attention was paid to the discovery, but owing to the scarcity of rubber and its high commercial value, which is in reality so prohibitive as to prevent a very wide employment of the substance, attempts are being made in England to turn this new discovery to commercial use. The plant abounds profusely in Northern Nigeria, and it is these forests which are to be exploited. A sample of the plant has been analyzed by the botanical authorities of Kew Gardens, London, and these investigations show that the rubber exists in the roots in sufficiently large quantities to warrant development.

The name of the plant is *Lonchocarpus thalictroides*. It is to be found in many places on the west coast of Africa. One firm which is already engaged in the manufacture of this rubber is placing it upon the market at 75 cents a pound, and it is in every respect equal to the ordinary rubber.

India rubber has become such an indispensable material in the arts and sciences that users will be glad to learn that a fresh source of supply is said to have been found in the white mangrove tree, which grows plentifully in the swampy lands along the coast of Central Queensland. The sap is obtained by making incisions in the bark of the tree and allowing it to run into tins. Some samples of the rubber trade may be formed from the statement that the United States and England alone absorb over fifty million pounds annually.

EVIDENCE. From Life.

"The Judge—You say your wife hit you over the head with a plate?"  
Rastus—Yes, sah.  
"The Judge—But your head doesn't show it."  
Rastus—But you done oughter see dat plate.



A FIVE YEAR OLD EUCALYPTUS TREE.

STARTLING FIGURES. Marvellous Output of This Land of Coal and Iron.

The statement that last year 40 per cent of the pig iron in the world was produced in the United States gives one no very definite realization of the quantity of that product, though he is reminded on every hand by iron and steel ships, bridges, railroads, buildings, machinery, tools, nails, tacks, etc., ad nauseam, that this is the iron age. Even the statement that the United States last year mined over thirty million long tons of iron ore gives one no adequate impression of the vastness of this amount.

On the other hand, if one should see the entire iron ore production of the year piled up in a single heap, he would readily comprehend its quantity by a comparison of the pile with familiar objects in the landscape. This shows us that it is large numbers instead of large quantities which confuse the mind; for example, the statement that a wagon holds over 20,000,000 grains of coal would give a person a very hazy idea of the actual quantity specified, but he would immediately comprehend the quantity if told that it represented two tons; for a larger unit of weight would be used, thereby reducing the count to a figure well within the mental grasp.

Thus in trying to represent to our readers just how large are the quantities of materials used in the iron and steel industry, we have endeavored to choose larger units of measurement; and finding that our standard measures are far too small for the purpose, we have resorted to the use of familiar landmarks as bases of comparison.

As a unit of bulk, no larger single monument has man produced than the old pyramid of Cheops, and large though it be, it is all too small when used as a unit by which to measure the stupendous volume of material used in our pig iron production of a single year. In the accompanying illustration, the huge blast furnace shown at the left represents a furnace which would receive at a single charge all our iron ore production during the year 1902.

Together with the fuel and limestone consumed in the iron and steel industry, we have endeavored to choose larger units of measurement; and finding that our standard measures are far too small for the purpose, we have resorted to the use of familiar landmarks as bases of comparison.

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summit of Mount Washington, New-Hampshire, and it would overtop every mountain in this country east of the Rockies.

Our column of coal includes both anthracite and bituminous. In the last two years there has been a considerable falling off in the use of anthracite while bituminous coal mixed with coke has shown a great increase over former years, so that our column would probably be made up of two parts bituminous to one anthracite coal. Their combined height would be equal to the height of the Eiffel Tower, the tallest monument to human skill in the world.

The amount of limestone used for fluxing purposes last year amounted to 2,450,000 tons. This would make a column 5,500 feet high, with a cross section 200 feet square. It may be interesting to note here that oyster shells are used in one of the furnaces in Maryland in place of limestone.

The amount of iron ore produced in this country last year amounted to 2,450,000 tons. This would make a column 5,500 feet high, with a cross section 200 feet square. It may be interesting to note here that oyster shells are used in one of the furnaces in Maryland in place of limestone.

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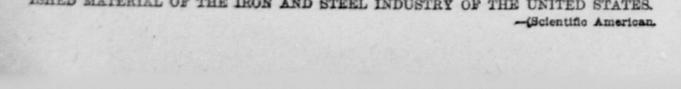
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COMPARATIVE DIAGRAM SHOWING THE TOTAL ANNUAL AMOUNT OF RAW AND FINISHED MATERIAL OF THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES.



(Scientific American.)