

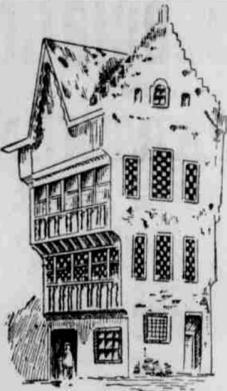
BOYHOOD OF COLUMBUS

EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING HIS YOUTH.

Famous Monuments that Were Begun in His Youth—The Roses War and the Turks—Siege of Constantinople—Building of the Bastille.

Childhood of Old Chris.

To realize how great have been the changes since the boyhood of the discoverer of the new world is a matter of no little difficulty to people of the present time. Columbus was born in 1445, four and a half centuries ago, but since that time the world has moved so fast and gone so far that, in point of progress, the time of Pericles is not further removed from our own. The boyhood of the great navigator is, therefore, of interest to us, since the scenes he daily beheld, the topics he heard constantly discussed, the events of his period, the customs of his contemporaries, are as diverse as possible from those with which we are familiar, and, by comparison, the world of his youth is a world with which the general reader is as little acquainted as he is with the present state of learning in Timbuctoo.



AN ANTWERP HOUSE—TIME OF COLUMBUS.

Yet thrilling history was being made while Columbus was a child at his mother's knee, and as the boy grew older, fond of books and immersed in study as he was, he



A ROYAL GROUP OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

could not fail to hear something of the great events which were then, in default of newspapers, passed from mouth to mouth along the quays and through the streets of the bustling city of Genoa. In those days the fleets of Genoa covered the Mediterranean, and daily arri-

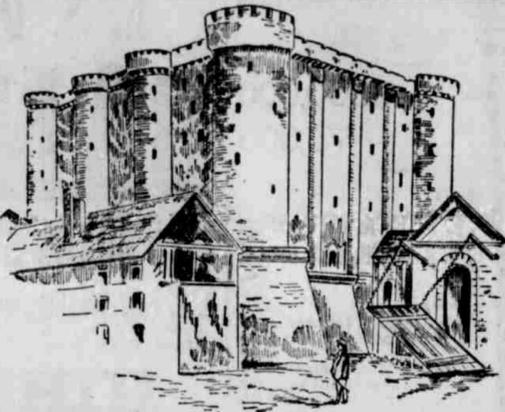


SALLY-PORT OF ANTWERP FORT.

vals brought intelligence from all quarters of the known world. News spread with wonderful rapidity, considering the fact that newspapers, telegraphs, post-offices, were all lacking; news of the battle of Agincourt, fought thirty years before Columbus was born, was told in Rome, over a thousand miles away, before the end of a week; the results of Cressy, a hundred years earlier, were known all over Europe within a fortnight. Sometimes, of course, exaggerated, the accuracy of this hastily transmitted intelligence was wonderful. A gentleman in England, whose brother was killed and whose two sons were wounded when Joan raised the siege of Orleans in 1429, learned the fact in six days, and started to the relief of his boys on the seventh. When intelligence spread like this, a great center of business and population such as Genoa was must also have been a center of news, and Columbus, when a lad of 6, may have heard the news of the final expulsion of the English from France in 1453, and when a little older he must have heard news of the war begun in 1453 in England between the rival houses of York and Lancaster, in which roses were the emblems and the kingdom the prize. No doubt, among his comrades he had heard tales of the terrible Tamerlane, who, forty-three years before the birth of Columbus, had defeated and captured the Sultan Bajazet, and imprisoned him in an iron cage for the amusement of the savage troopers who composed the conqueror's army. Tales like this fascinate the boys of every century, and Columbus was probably no exception to the rule that boys delight in stories of adventure. When Columbus was a boy the name of Turk was a terror word throughout Europe. Moths frightened their children into obedience with the threat that the "Turks are coming," and the story of the great Turk, who, at the time of his defeat and capture was besieging Constantinople's city in some commercial intercourse with Columbus's father, was doubtless told with many exaggerations in the streets and universities of Genoa.

memory of this great national disaster was doubtless revived by the terrible defeat of the Turkish cavalry by Hunniades when Columbus was 5 years old.

Globe-Democrat. When Columbus was 5 years old, Pope Nicholas, after long pondering the subject and gravely considering the cost, determined on the



THE BASTILLE.

When he was 8 the city of Genoa was stirred to its depths by intelligence that alarmed the world. Constantinople, in spite of the heroic resistance that for months had excited the admiration of Europe, had fallen before the victorious arms of Amurath, and swift ships flying before the southeastern gales had brought the dismal news to Venice and Genoa. The capital of the East was the trading post for Eastern Europe and Asia Minor, and thousands of merchants in Genoa, Venice and other ports of the Mediterranean saw their business swept away at one stroke. For a long time there had been talk of sending aid to the beleaguered Constantine Paleologus, and the last vessel that escaped from Constantinople bore an urgent appeal for help. "Come quickly, or we are lost," said the letter dispatched from the unfortunate monarch. In Genoa and Venice fleets were preparing to put to sea; mercenaries, hired in Italy, Switzerland, on the banks of the Rhine, gathered from the strolling bands of free-lances, recruited even in far-away England and Scotland, were gathering in both cities, ready to embark with the first favorable wind; but before the wind came the news arrived that the Turkish cannon, novel and much-dreaded weapons, had made a breach in the walls: that Constantine, sword in hand, had fallen among his troops, and that

construction of a grand church at Rome, a church which should as much surpass all the others of Christendom as Rome in sanctity surpassed other cities. He began by tearing away the ruins of the basilica of Constantinople, but got out of funds when the ground was ready for the foundation, the work stopped, and in the boyhood of Columbus the site of St. Peter's was a large excavation in



THE GATE OF ST. ALBANS.

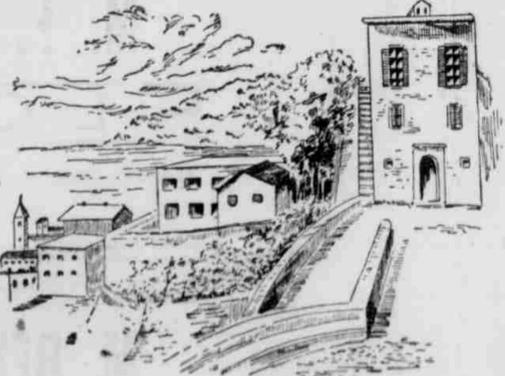
the center of Rome. This it remained during the whole life of the discoverer, and not until 1506, the year of his death, was the work resumed by the laying of the first stone by Julius II. St. Paul's, in London, was a homely building, whose aisles were used as the most convenient passageway across a public square, and whose walls resounded to the voices of the buyer and seller, while the greater portion of Paris was contained in the limits of the island where now stands the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The grand Cathedral of St. Albans, England, whose gates and doors have for ages been the admiration of architects and builders, was not then in existence. A roomy and well-filled monastery stood hard by, the rich and comfortable abbot of which had more than once received a sharp remonstrance from the King for not erecting a church proportioned to the wealth of the community. At last, unable to resist longer the King's wishes, he, with much reluctance and some grumbling at the cost, laid the foundations when Columbus was 6 years old, and then the gates were built round which, when Columbus was 10, the Yorkists and Lancastrians fought the first battle of the Roses war.

When the explorer was 12 he, no doubt, saw many of the Cologne Jews who at that time were expelled from the German capital, and as we know little of his early travels he may even have been at Cologne, and there have seen the foundations of the Cathedral which is now one of the wonders of the Christian world. Its first stones were laid 200 years before he was born, but the work went on slowly, and in his



A QUEEN'S CARRIAGE.

young the walls were scarcely ten feet high, while a small roofed inclosure in one corner served to shield worshippers from the weather. Three years after his death the work ceased altogether, and was not resumed until 1842, nor was



THE GENOA PRISON.

players of yesterday, and the universal desolation wrought by famine and the Black Death, Europe had plenty of subjects to talk about and gossip was plentiful.

In the travels of his early days it is not impossible that Columbus may have visited Antwerp and there have looked in their prime the burghers which, now in decay, were then just finished and the pride of the stout Dutch city that hoped by means of their long to preserve its independence. The Antwerp fort, however, dwindled into insignificance in comparison with another fortress which Columbus may have seen, and which had then just been completed, the famous Bastille of Paris. Even as the Bastille of Paris was the principal fortress of the city, and was then the most important and the most important in the world, it was the principal fortress of the city, and was then the most important and the most important in the world.

England to hold in awe the vanquished Saxons. Nearly 100 years after the death of Columbus Henry IV, and his veterans assailed it in vain, its thick walls and lofty battlements defying every attack. In Columbus's boyhood it was known only as a castle, not having then been put to the vile uses of tyranny that afterward made it infamous in the eyes of the French nation and brought about its demolition at the hands of the infuriated rabble. But Columbus did not need to travel to Paris to see a model prison, for in his native city there was an establishment of this kind which, in his day, rivaled the later reputation of the Bastille. The men of the fifteenth century had little of comfort in their daily lives, and, not knowing what it was, never missed it. Even the palaces of those times were built without the slightest care for what the moderns consider comfort, and in the royal residence was shown for the convenience of its occupants than in now displayed in the cottage of the laborer. Even in the Tuilleries, begun over 100 years after the birth of Columbus, no systems of sewerage or drainage was provided, and the slops of every description were thrown into the court yard, through which the palace attendants constantly passed and repassed. When royal dwellings were of this description little regard would naturally be shown for the comfort of prisoners, and no more cheerful place of abode can be imagined than the huge State Prison of Genoa. Its forbidding exterior was indicative of the internal arrangements. No provision was made either for heat, light or ventilation, and many of the cells were so far underground that no ray of daylight ever illuminated their interior.

But those were merciless days, and the prisoner was fortunate if he escaped with only a term of imprisonment, for in the lower tiers were torture chambers where victims were extracted from their bones by savage torture. Executions were then public, and one of the worst features were the insults heaped on the condemned by the rabble that always attended an execution. These outrages were not only not discouraged by the authorities, but on occasions when it was anticipated that public sympathy would be extended to the condemned, bands of ruffians were hired to attend the execution and curse and maltreat the unfortunate victim. Hanging, burning, drawing and quartering were then accepted modes of execution, and on more than one occasion the young Christopher no doubt saw in the streets before the great Genoa prison the carts containing the mangled remains of state prisoners, while before the ghastly tokens walked the masked executioner, bearing on poles the heads of the condemned.

The days of Columbus's youth were days when the highest ladies of the land rode in rude carts drawn by two horses, as shown in the illustration, a conveyance then considered the height of respectability; indeed, so select was it that ere his boyhood ended royal edicts in France and Spain forbade the use of such vehicles to any but members of the royal family and of the highest rank of nobility. They were days when ladies who from fatigue or overexertion fainted were led at once until they fainted again, and were then sent home on a cot placed on a big horse and a little horse side by side, so that the impromptu bed was in a reclining position. They were days when kings wore their crowns all day long and every day, when the most gorgeous costumes, made in the most extravagant styles, and of the most glaring colors were worn. They were days when the entrails of serpents were considered an infallible cure for alimentary diseases, and when the hair and hide of a fox, burnt under the nose of a patient, was regarded as an excellent specific for rheumatism, because the fox was fleet, and burning his hair in the presence of the slow-paced rheumatic was conjectured to quicken his steps. They were days when feuds were settled by private battle, and when the adjudication of a lawsuit was determined by single combat, under the idea that providence would surely fight for the right. They were days when Europe was ruled by a horde of petty despots, each in his own little castle oppressing the poor and robbing the stranger. They were days when no property was secure if either the noble or the king wanted it for his service—when the king owned the property of the nation and disposed of it as though it were his own. They were days when science was not yet born and when ecclesiastics solemnly confuted the statement that the earth was round with the assertion that it must be square, for the Bible spoke of the four corners of the earth. With the story how the boy outgrew the ideas and prejudices of his youth—ideas and prejudices which were the common property of his time—and by the sheer force of reason solved the problem of a new route to the east by the way of the west, the pages of history are filled. But the old narrative gives us little idea of the struggle that he must have undergone before he finally succeeded in bringing others to a belief in his own sentiments, nor does it picture for us the curious evolution of the man from the unfavorable circumstances which surrounded his boyhood.

Imperial Telephone Etiquette. Emperor William II. has his own imperial way of using the telephone. Despite mistakes caused by the Emperor's refusal to name himself at the opening of the conversation, as other people do, he invariably introduces his telephoned orders merely with the words: "I command that," and so forth. As soon as the chief of department hears these words he motions that his subordinates must at once leave the room. The significance of this arrangement is supposed to be that the chief is having something like an audience with his Majesty and that it would be presumptuous for a person not summoned to hear the imperial voice to occupy the room into which his tones are conveyed. At the end of the conversation the Emperor walks away without saying "good-by," and the chief with whom he has conversed must listen for five or six minutes afterward to make sure that the imperial orders have been completed. Then he calls back his assistants and the usual duties is resumed.

Some of the most capable men who spend spring and summer on the Alaskan islands looking after various commercial interests earn very large salaries and live what some folks might call double lives. They are able during the winter, in San Francisco, New York, or Europe, to be lavish in expenditure and to enjoy all the pleasures of life, and the fact that there is little to be done on the islands but attend strictly to business enables a man to recuperate from the wearing joys of civilization and thus to prolong his dual existence.

AS OHIO recalls that bituminous coal was literally free fifty or sixty years ago in the eastern part of Ohio to such persons as chose to dig it where it cropped out, and it was not uncommon to see the industrious citizen returning from some hillside, his wheelbarrow laden with enough free coal to warm him in the better part of a week. This was in the days when eggs were 3 and 10 cents a dozen in Ohio and squirrels so plentiful that farmers' beds killed them with sticks as the nimble creatures scampered along the fences.

AS EIGHTEENTH century timbers in the old Catholic burying ground at Concord, Mass., prove that the best ironical epitaphs may with the lapse of time take on an unusual significance. The stone stands away, is fast crumbling, and shows the distribution of a system of expense and neglect, but it still bears in its inscription the words: "Here lies the body of a man who was buried in the year 1750."

THE BIRTH OF COLUMBUS. The boyhood of Columbus was a time of great change and discovery. He was born in 1445, and his life was marked by the events of his time, from the fall of Constantinople to the discovery of America.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"THERE is no doubt," says a physician in the New York Tribune, "that cholera can be kept out of this country even if it reaches our shores in the coming summer, provided there is an adequate and thorough quarantine administration. What is needed is a uniform system at every port of entry, and that can only be had by placing quarantine on a National basis. As a matter of fact, cholera is a disease that can be most easily handled, and, in my opinion, people who live in a cleanly way and take care what they eat and drink need have no alarm on account of it. The disease can only be taken by the introduction of the cholera bacillus into the stomach through the mouth. Now, this bacillus can be very easily killed; a temperature of 120 degrees will probably kill it; 140 degrees will certainly kill it. So if people boil the water they drink, take their food hot and have their plates and other dishes scalded just before being used, they will be entirely safe. As for typhus, I think there is much greater reason to dread than cholera, though I believe it will be stamped out in New York before long. This is a terribly contagious disease. If one of my patients had typhus, I would not refuse, of course, to attend him, but I should not like such a case in the least. Yet nobody seems to be alarmed by the typhus outbreak, whereas thousands of people were almost panic-stricken when cholera arrived in the harbor last fall. People should bear in mind that the cholera germ does not float in the air, and remember that it can be destroyed with the utmost ease."

SOME persons profess to be able to guess approximately from what part of Italy a woman comes by the length of her earrings. Italian earrings lengthen as one goes southward, and in the extreme south of Italy the earrings of the women reach nearly to the shoulders. It often happens that the jewels of the Italian peasants are of solid gold and shaped in pleasing fashion, and this is true of jewels brought to this country by many European immigrants. One seldom or never sees here, however, the beautiful gold ornaments worn by the peasant woman of Brittany. Another kind of peasant ornament seldom seen here, except when brought by travelers, is the silver jewelry, rings, bracelets and the like, worn by Coolie women in the West Indies. These ornaments usually represent the savings of the Coolie husband, and are sold by the woman only with his permission. A man's wealth is measured by the splendor of his wife's adornment.

DR. WAYLAND tells a good story of a young clergyman who preached a strong temperance sermon. When he had finished a deacon said to him: "I am afraid you have made a mistake. Mr. Jones, who pays the highest pew rent, is a distiller; he will be angry." The minister said: "Oh, I am sorry; I will go and explain it to Mr. Jones, and remove any unfavorable impression, and tell him that I did not mean him." Accordingly, he waited upon Mr. Jones, who, in addition to the profession of distilling, also carried on a good many other branches of trade and a good many amusements, and was not distinguished above other men as being an ascetic. The pastor expressed his regret to Mr. Jones for anything in the sermon which hurt his feelings. He was somewhat relieved when, with a jovial air, Mr. Jones said: "Oh, bless you, don't mind that at all. It must be a mighty poor sermon that don't hit me somewhere."

VISITORS to the World's Fair who are infirm, crippled or simply weary, can do their sight seeing in the various buildings by making use of rolling chairs. A company was granted the right, some time ago, of operating such vehicles, and by May 1 will have 1,600 young men, chiefly college students, in its employ to push them. The charges to visitors for making use of these chairs will be as follows: For chair carrying one person, 75 cents per hour, 40 cents per half-hour; two persons, \$1 per hour, 50 cents per half-hour; one person, when chair is taken for a period of not less than ten hours, \$6 for the first ten hours and 40 cents an hour for the time over ten hours; carrying two persons, \$8 for the first ten hours and 75 cents an hour after that.

IRELAND sagas, bearing on the early discoveries of the Norsemen and the stories of their trips to Vinland and possibly North America, will be lent by the Danish government to the United States for exhibition at the World's Fair. These sagas are entitled Codex Flutensis. It has required a great deal of red tape to secure these valuable manuscripts. Before permitting them to leave Copenhagen the Danish government has stipulated that in case of the total loss \$30,000 must be paid for them and all expenses incident to their exhibition. They are to be returned by a United States man-of-war.

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ous inscription: "This stone is erected, by its durability to perpetuate the memory and by its color to signify the moral character of Miss Abigail Dudley."

D. CHRISTIE MURRAY, the English novelist, turns on his critics in a brief note to a London paper to demonstrate that truth is stranger than fiction. Of a reviewer's charge that an episode in one of his novels was "wholly incredible," Mr. Murray says: "I got that story on the spot and had full proof of its accuracy. In fact, I built the novel on that genuine bit of history which your reviewer thinks incredible."

BISHOP TAYLOR is about to plant a missionary station in Mashonaland, Africa. This territory has a large population of degraded and vicious natives. It is said to be the most beautiful, healthful and attractive region of equatorial Africa. It has lovely valleys, dense forests, noble hills, vast prairies and sea-like lakes. It contains an abundance of game and almost inexhaustible mineral wealth.

A CHICAGO man advocates the building of a fifty-story apartment-house, to be called the "Interstellar," as the crowning achievement of the World's Fair year.

How Indians Make Bows.

Every tepee has its bow wood hung up with the arrows in the smoke of the fire, well out of reach of the flames. A warrior with a sharp knife and a sandstone or file can make a bow in three days if he works hard, but it most generally takes a week, and sometimes a month, to finish a fancy bow. When done it is worth \$3 in trade. The bows differ in length and strength, being gauged for the arms of those who are to use them. A white man would, until he learned the sleight of it, find himself unable to bend even the weakest war bow. The force of such an arrow may be imagined when it is remembered that, while a Colt's revolver will not send a ball through a buffalo, an arrow will go through a buffalo and come out on the other side. A man's skull has been found transfixed to a tree by an arrow which had gone completely through the bones and imbedded itself so deep in the wood as to sustain the weight of the head. He had been tied up to the tree and shot.

Bows are made of all kinds of wood. The best are made of Osage orange, hickory, oak, ash, elm, cedar, willow, plum, cherry, bullberry, and from the horns of elk and mountain sheep. No Indian who cannot handle the strong bow is deemed fit for war. There are three bows, the baby bow used by the children, the long bow, and, last of all, the strong bow. The Sioux and Crows make the best bows. The Sioux bow is generally four feet long. When unstrung it is perfectly straight. Some bows are covered and strengthened and made more vitally elastic on the back by being strung with sinews. In such instances the back of the bow is flattened, then roughened with a file or stone, the sinew being afterward glued on. The sinew is then lapped at the middle or grasp of the bow and at the ends. The string is attached while green, twisted and left to dry on the bow. The whole outside of the sinew is now covered with a new solution of glue and the bow is done. These bows are painted, beaded, velveted, and leathered.

The Crows make jointed bows out of elk horn. To do this they take a large horn or prong and saw a slice off each side of it. These slices are then filled or rubbed down until the flat sides fit nicely together, when they are glued and wrapped at the ends. Four slices make a bow, such a fourfold bow being jointed. Another piece of horn is laid on the centre of the bow, at the grasp, where it is glued fast. The whole is then filed down until it is perfectly proportioned, when the white bone is ornamented, carved and painted. Nothing can exceed the beauty of these bows. It takes an Indian about three months to make one. They are very expensive. The Indians, as a rule, do not sell them.

In traveling the arrows are sheathed in a quiver made generally of the skin of the puma or mountain lion. The bow sheath is generally of the same stuff.—(Globe-Democrat.)

Volcanoes of Central America.

Of the ninety active volcanoes in Central America, writes Fannie B. Ward, I have seen thirty-five and never saw any signs of lava; on the contrary, pumice-stone is imported with painters' supplies. Black ashes are emitted from the volcanoes; it is fired upward three to ten miles high and distributed by the trade winds over the country. It is a rich fertilizer. Besides her picture in colors, nature does some work in black and white. It is on the Pacific shore on the northwest of Nicaragua. The beach is about 250 feet wide, and is covered with black volcanic ashes, fine as sand. The great white billows of the Pacific were rolling in, the intense light of the mid-day sun showed the contrast to its utmost limit between the black volcanic ashes and the white billows. These volcanic ashes cover the ocean bed far out, as I have been told by those who have taken soundings along the coast. This picture is twenty miles long, extending to within a few miles north of Corinto.—(Boston Transcript.)

The Cunning Spider.

Everyone has noticed that when a spider's web is touched the insect will violently shake the web up and down, but few are probably aware of the reason for this curious action. The spider is well provided with eyes, but its sight is very limited; so much so in fact that if a fly is caught in the web and lies perfectly still the spider will often be unable to find it for a considerable time. When in doubt as to what quarter of the web the prey has lodged on, the spider always shakes the web and determines by the resistance the whereabouts of its game. It does so, too, with almost infallible accuracy, as anyone who has the curiosity to make the experiment can determine, for in the great majority of cases, after the spider has given its web a good shaking, it will find off in a web directly to that spot where the insect is lodged. (The Boston Transcript.)