

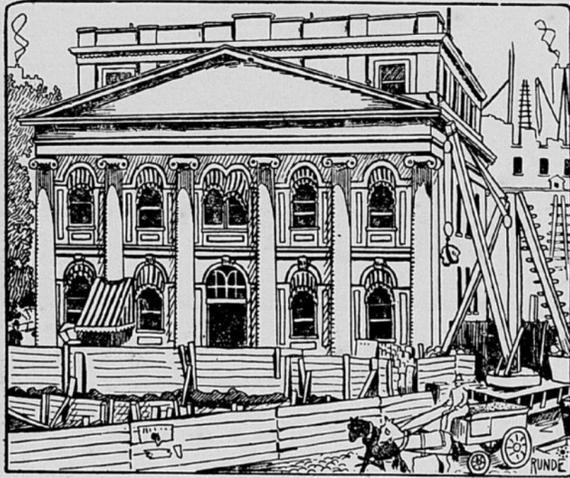
## LOVERS OF LIBERTY.

Many Were Put to Cruel Death in Old Hall of Records.

Razing of One of New York's Historic Buildings Recalls Some of the Saddest Days of the Revolution.

[Special New York Letter.]  
**W**ITHIN six or seven weeks one of the most historic buildings in New York will be razed to the ground. It is the old hall of records, which was known during the time of the revolution as the provost prison. Directly in the line of the Rapid Transit Tunnel, on the east side of City Hall park, it is necessary that the solid walls of masonry, which have been the scene of terrible tragedies and untold miseries, shall be demolished.

Across the way on Chambers street a magnificent new hall of records has been erected of white stone and marble which is in strange contrast to the old building with its tall Doric pillars reaching to the projecting roof and its dull, grim walls and dingy windows. But with the passing of the old prison the unhappy days of '76 are recalled to us. Only the other day workmen unearthed human bones in digging in the trench near to the foundation walls on the east side of the building—the remains of those unfortunate Americans who were prisoners under the infamous Irish provost marshal, William Cunningham. It is believed that when the real work of tearing down the building is begun many skeletons will be found, for in one of the dungeons below ground Cunningham erected his "slow gallows" where American soldiers were tortured to death in a spirit of wanton cruelty only equaled by the Spanish inquisition.



THE OLD HALL OF RECORDS, NEW YORK.

The original hall of records was built in 1756 as a suburban prison and later on during the early days of the city, when the law for imprisonment for debt was in full force, many an unfortunate debtor was confined within its gloomy walls. Its appearance then, however, was far different from to-day. The Doric columns now in the front and rear were not then in place, and the third story had not been added.

After the evacuation of the city by the British and till the year 1832 the building was used as a debtors' prison. At that time its convenient location to the city hall resulted in its being transferred into a hall of records, for which purpose it has been used up to the present. It was the decision to make it one of the buildings of the city that brought about the change in its architectural construction. It was at the time when the custom house and



DUNGEON IN OLD HALL.

subtreasury were being constructed and stately Parthenons were being erected along the Hudson. So, in keeping with the architectural ideas of the period, the stiff columns were added along with another story.

Just before the old prison was turned into a hall of records, however, another chapter was to be added to the long chronicle of sufferings that had been endured within its walls. In 1832 occurred the cholera epidemic in New York, and, on account of the lack of proper accommodations, the newly-erected building was utilized as a hospital for several months, the patients being placed on mattresses which covered the floor.

But it is the revolutionary period in which we are the most interested. The building was the principal military prison of the English, although several churches, sugar houses, Co-

lumbia college and the hulks of old ships of war were also pressed into service. A few days ago the hull of one of these old prison ships—the Jersey—was discovered in the Brooklyn navy yard. It was buried 20 feet beneath the soil upon which is being built the ways for the new battleship Connecticut.

But "the Provost," as the old Hall of Records prison was called, was reserved for the most important captives of war. Among the famous American prisoners confined there was Ethan Allen. Cunningham, who was placed in charge, rapidly developed into a most cruel and oppressive tyrant. Not only was he insulting and coarsely insolent, but he devised some of the most exquisite forms of torture ever known in fiendish ingenuity. Among the fearful instruments to "break the wills of the stubborn Yankees," as he expressed it, were the cat-o-nine-tails, the searing irons and the slow gallows. In the basement of the building may be seen a low vaulted arch. It was there where the slow gallows was erected, and never was a more terrible machine of torture invented. It was different from the ordinary instrument of death in the fact that it permitted the noose to slowly tighten around the necks of the victims, thus prolonging the frightful agony of strangulation.

If one will take a walk through the dark basement of the building he will see on every hand the signs of cruelty. The walls are of thick masonry, the roof low and arched, and on either side the space is divided off into little cells. In one of the cells in the northeast corner is a large excavation in the heavy wall of brick and stone. It marks the place where some revolutionary prisoners attempted to escape. One of Cunningham's men discovered them, however, before they had penetrated the masonry, and they all met death on the slow gallows and their bodies were

buried under the floor of the dungeon. It was to such acts of atrocity as these that Cunningham doubtless referred in this statement, said to have been made by him on his death bed at Tyburn, England, shortly after he returned to that country:

"I shudder to think of the murders I have been accessory to, both with and without orders from government, especially while in New York, during which time there were more than 2,000 starved in the churches by stopping their rations, which I sold. There were also 275 American prisoners executed and hung without ceremony, and then buried in the Black Pioneer of the Provost."

Cunningham called the northern part of the second floor of the prison "Congress Hall," in a spirit of irony, because it was there he herded the bulk of his prisoners. In this apartment they were compelled to lie so close together on the floor that when one became tired and desired to turn over he had to awaken the others, and the word for all to turn at once was given.

When the happy days of the British evacuation of New York came there were still several prisoners in the old building, and as Cunningham and his deputy, O'Keefe, were preparing to leave hurriedly, one of the Americans cried out:

"What is to become of us?"  
 "You may go to the devil!" ejaculated the provost, as he threw the prison keys to the floor.

"No, thank you," was the response of the American. "We have had enough of your company in this world."

In 1830, when the "provost" was turned into a debtors' prison, the bell, which had hung in its cupola for over three-quarters of a century, was taken down and, after doing service in the Bridewell, was presented to the Naiaid Hose company in Beaver street.

It will require several weeks of incessant labor to transfer the records from the old hall to the new. Few realize the extent of the work in keeping the records of the metropolis. There are no figures available as to the actual number of papers recorded until after 1868. An indication of the immense business done by the register may be obtained, however, when it is known that during the last year the total number of papers and instruments which passed through the recording department, and which represent hundreds of millions of dollars, was 118,500. Of this number 42,976 were recorded in 115,000 folio writers and 75,614 were chattel mortgages.

FREDERICK BOYD STEVENSON.

## SIX NOBLE VOLUMES.

Contain the Diplomatic Correspondence of the Revolution.

New Light Thrown on Various Episodes Which Contributed to Shape the History of the United States.

[Special Washington Letter.]

**F**ACTS partially stated cannot be fully understood. The four Gospels are required in order to gain an understanding of the life of the Christ, because each synoptist tells only his side of the story, or the story as seen from his standpoint. Facts of history can only be understood when reasons are given for the actions of the prominent actors on the world's stage.

The history of the revolutionary war which gives us only the movements of the armies is an incomplete history. That is a perfect narrative which tells us why Washington, Gates and other generals moved as they did move, and which tells us all about the resources upon which the armies and civilian officials depended for their maintenance.

A full century elapsed before the congress authorized the publication of the diplomatic correspondence of the revolution, without an understanding of which no complete history could have been written concerning that period. In 1888 the publication was authorized, and it is in six volumes. These volumes are to be found in the congressional library, the department of state, and in a few of the libraries in the great cities of the land; but very few earnest students of history have access to them. The congress ought to have them printed by the hundreds of thousands, and send them broadcast to the people, instead of sending their own political speeches, which are of infinitely less consequence.

The report of the committee on printing, which has been loaned to the writer, says: "A knowledge of the revolutionary diplomatic correspondence is essential to the understanding of our revolutionary history, and of the treaties executed during and at the close of the revolution, which form in large measure the basis of our international law. This correspondence shows the movement of the French politicians in 1776 to supersede Washington by Marshal Broglie; the movement of the American politicians in 1776-77 to induce Washington's withdrawal and to have Franklin recalled from Paris; the atrocities of British troops, and of refugees in the United States put forward by our diplomatists as a claim against Great Britain, and a set-off against British claims for indemnity to loyalists; the extent to which the fisheries were controlled by American fishermen, prior to the revolution; and what is still more important, how general was the understanding between the negotiators that the treaty of 1782-'83 was not a treaty by concession by Great Britain, but of partition, under which the United States retained all the territorial rights previously possessed by them in North America when part of the British empire."

"It also shows the intrigues against Washington, and sets forth the unique majesty of Washington, which compelled those who intrigued against him, when they came into his presence and saw him in the solitude of his grandeur, if not to become, as was the case with De Kalb, loyal ad-



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

herents, at least to sullenly acquiesce in the supremacy which they were forced to concede.

"It further shows George III.'s character for falsehood and dissimulation, and gives that letter of Franklin in which he says of Arnold: 'He seems to mix as naturally with that polluted court (England) as pitch with tar.'"

Careful perusal of these interesting and valuable volumes makes it very clear that our diplomacy was in great measure financial economy. We required funds which would inspire France with confidence in our cause and Great Britain with dread. By the use of arguments, drawn from finance and war, our diplomatists sustained themselves in their discussions with neutral powers. Franklin, at Paris, was a sort of subsecretary of the treasury, negotiating loans, and not merely our diplomatic agent.

For example, under date of November 29, 1776, Silas Deane wrote to the committee on secret correspondence: "Let me by every letter urge on you the sending of a quantity of tobacco, rice, flour and wheat. Twenty thousand hogsheads of tobacco are this instant wanted in France, besides the demand in other kingdoms." And in another letter he says: "A

loan of six or eight millions will probably enable you to finish the war. This I am confident may be negotiated on terms which I will propose hereafter. The present contest has engaged the attention of all Europe in favor of the United States, the Russians on the north, and Portugal, in the south, excepted; I make no consideration of the mercenary little electorates in my calculation. You may smile and recollect the sale of the bearskin in the fable, but, at the same time, you must be sensible that your wants are real, and if others can be induced to relieve them, it is indifferent to you whether they have a consideration in hand or in prospect."

This diplomatic correspondence sets forth all of the views and ideas of the



CAPT. PAUL JONES.

numerous interested patriots for the purpose of raising revenue; and from the complex maze one is selected to show to what extreme lengths they were willing to go, in order to succeed in their war for liberty. It seems absurd to-day, but Mr. Deane was very much in earnest when he wrote: "I trace the Ohio river from its junction to its head, to Lake Erie, Fort Detroit, thence west to the Mississippi and return to the place of departure. These three lines of near a thousand miles each include an immense territory, in a fine climate, well watered and, by accounts, exceedingly fertile; it is not inhabited by any Europeans of consequence, and the tribes of Indians are inconsiderable, and will decrease faster than the lands can possibly be called for cultivation."

The vast empire is thus well described, and then he proceeds to give it away, give away Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, or parts of those magnificent sovereign states: "To this I ask your attention as a resource amply adequate, under proper regulations, for defraying the expense of the whole war." Then he proceeds to tell how a company should be formed, the congress retaining one-fifth interest in the scheme. He says:

"These are the outlines of a proposed grant, which, you see, contains more than 25,000,000 acres of land, the one-fifth of which, if a settlement is carried on vigorously, will soon be of prodigious value. At this time a company might be formed in France, Germany, etc., who would form a stock of £100,000 to defray the expense of this settlement. You want money, and by holding up thus early to view a certain fund on which to raise it, even the most certain in the world, that of land security, you may obtain the loan and engage the moneyed interests of Europe in your favor. I have spoken with many persons of good sense on this subject, which makes me the more sanguine."

Wouldn't it jar you, just to think of selling off three sovereign states for \$500,000? In Chicago, or in any one of a score of cities now flourishing in that domain, are hundreds of men who can write their checks for that amount of money; and there are several men there now who would cheerfully give that amount to their country, if it were needed. But honest old Silas Deane could not foresee, nor even imagine, what tremendous probabilities there were in that 25,000,000 acres.

Arthur Lee, while at Berlin, June 28, 1777, wrote that his bureau had been broken open and some papers stolen. He fixes the crime upon the English ambassador: "Upon being informed that I was gone to the governor, and that suspicion fell upon one of his servants, the ambassador went away in great confusion, and in half an hour the port fenille, with all the papers, was laid down at the door and the person ran off undisturbed. The examinations taken show that his servant repeatedly told other servants at the hotel that his master would give 2,000 ducats for my papers. The whole is before the king. The return of the papers, (those which he particularly wanted not having been left in the bureau) disappointed him of his object, while the whole odium rests upon him. He will do better next time, and his court will no doubt encourage him. Public ministers have been regarded as spies. Mr. Elliott (British ambassador) will give them the title of robbers."

The scoundrel did not dare to look an American citizen in the face. Two years later Paul Jones wrote to La Fayette: "I must tell you that Mr. Elliott was furious when he found my business at Copenhagen, and that I was received with great distinction at court and in all the best societies in Denmark. Every time I was invited to sup with the king Elliott made an apology; he shut himself up for more than a month, and then left town."

These interesting excerpts from the diplomatic history of the revolution but slightly set forth the value of the rare publication; and the volumes can only be secured by congressional enactment for additional printing.

SMITH D. FRY.



### CLIMBING THE HILL.

Happy-go-Lucky and Faint-of-Heart Set off on a journey with Only-Try; And each was ready to do his part. While the sunny hours went merrily by. But when the shadows were growing long. And the crickets chirping their even-sons. Up rose like a barrier steep and strong. A rocky hillside nigh.

Said Happy-go-Lucky: "Suppose we wait. And somebody passing may give us a ride?"  
 "We shall break our necks if we climb so late!"  
 Poor Faint-of-Heart in a panic cried.  
 But Only-Try, with a resolute eye,  
 Looked up at the hill and the sunset sky.  
 "There is plenty of time," said Only-Try,  
 "And the moon is full, beside."

So Only-Try, without stay or stop,  
 Went clambering up over rock and roof,  
 Till he stood at last on the hill's green top,  
 In a beautiful clearing, with flowers and fruit.

But the other two are waiting still,  
 For nobody lives, or ever will,  
 That can reach the top of the smallest hill  
 By sitting down at the foot!  
 —Blanche T. Heath, in Youth's Companion.

### AFTER-DINNER GAME.

It is Called "Who's Who" and Affords Lots of Fun to Players and Spectators.

To prepare for the game get an old sheet, and in it cut four pairs of holes of the size and shape of human eyes, and at varying heights from the floor, to suit the stature of different persons. Hang the sheet in the doorway between two rooms, the wider the door the better, then, having divided the company into two parties, send one party into the room behind the sheet, the other party remaining in the first room. Lower the lights in this room and have a lighted candle ready. The players in the room behind the sheet now choose four of their num-



"WHO'S WHO?"

ber to look through the holes, and when they are in position, each person in the first room takes the candle, and with only its light to aid him, examines the four pairs of eyes that are looking at him through the holes and guesses to whom they belong.

When all the players behind the sheet have had their eyes thus examined the parties change rooms and proceed as at first. A prize may be offered for the nearest correct guesses, in which case a tally-sheet should be kept by some one named for that purpose.—Prairie Farmer.

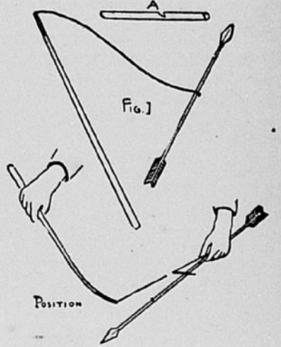
### Where Are All the Birds?

To see all our birds in their winter homes we should have to travel from the middle states down to the Argentine Republic. We could see a great many, though, by making a midwinter trip to the gulf states. In Florida, for instance, we should find enormous flocks of robins whirling through the trees and alighting here and there to feed upon the berries of the china-tree and holly. Many birds we should find only along the coast, and many others we should have to search for in the silent cypress swamps of Louisiana and Mississippi.

## MAKING A WHIPBOW.

Any Boy Can Do It and Thus Possess a Grand Weapon with Which to Try His Skill.

This graceful and powerful weapon is like an ordinary longbow, with the exception that the bowstring is made fast to only one end, after the manner of the whiplash; where the whiplash terminates in a "snapper" the bowstring ends in a hard, round knot. The arrow is made like any other arrow, either with a blunt end or a pointed spearpoint. In one side of the arrow a notch is cut; the bowstring being slipped into this notch, the knot at the end of the string prevents the arrow from slipping off until thrown.



THE WHIPBOW COMPLETE.

by the archer, who, taking the butt of the whipbow in his right hand, holds the arrow at the notch with his left hand; then, swaying his body from side to side, he suddenly lets go with his left hand, at the same time extending his right arm to its full length from his side. This not only gives the arrowall the velocity it would acquire from the bow, but adds the additional force of a sling, thus sending the projectile a greater distance. In some sections of the country the whipbow is a great favorite among the boys, who throw arrows up an amazing distance. Arrows can be bought in any city, but most boys prefer to make their own, leaving the "store arrows" for the girls to use with their pretty "store bows."

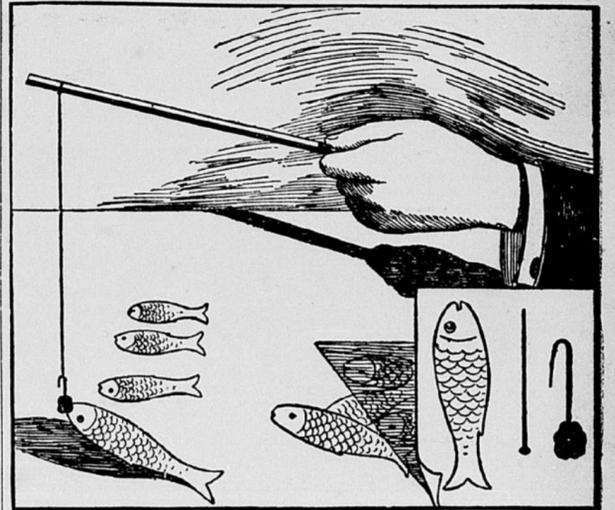
A simple whipbow is made by any boy in a few minutes out of an elastic sapling or branch, and the arrow cut out of a pine shingle with a pocket-knife. This can be improved upon as much as may be desired by substituting a piece of straight grained, well seasoned wood for the green branch, and regularly made Indian arrows for the crude pine ones.—N. Y. Tribune.

## THE WORLD'S MARBLES.

The Cheapest as Well as the Most Expensive Varieties Are Made in Germany.

Nearly all the agate marbles that wear holes in the pockets of all school-boys on earth are made in Thuringia, Germany. On winter days the poor people who live in the village gather together small square stones, place them in molds something like big coffee mills and grind them till they are round. The marbles made in this way are the common china, painted china, glazed china and imitation agates. Imitation agates are made from white stone, and are painted to represent the pride of the marble player's heart—the real agate. The agate painted china marbles are of plain white stone, with lines crossed each other at right angles pointing upon them. Glass alleys are blown by glass blowers in the town of Lanscha, Germany. The expert workmen take a piece of plain glass and another bit of red glass, heat them red hot, blow them together, give them a twist, and there is a pretty alley, with the red and white threads of glass twisted inside in the form of a letter S. Large twisted glass alleys with the figure of a dog or sheep inside are made for very small boys and girls to play with.

## ELECTRIC FISHING



**T**HIS is a very amusing game, especially for the little ones. Let us first prepare our outfit. Take a stick of wood about 12 inches long, to serve as a pole, a piece of thread is the line, and the hook is made of a pin, as shown in the illustration. On the head of the pin a round piece of sealing wax is used as bait. Cut small fish out of thin paper and draw mouth, gills, etc., with the help of a colored pencil. Place the fish on a table and start to fish. Each one has his own hook and line. He who gets the most fish gets a prize. Everybody knows that rubbing a piece of sealing wax with a woollen cloth electrifies it, and then that it will attract light articles, such as paper. If you want to win, says the New York Tribune, be sure to so electrify your bait.