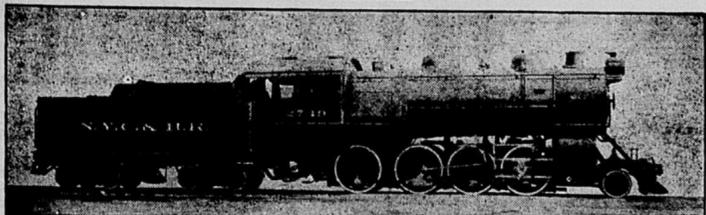


# MONSTER NEW YORK CENTRAL LOCOMOTIVE.



One of the largest locomotives in the world has been built in the locomotive works at Schenectady, N. Y., for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company. It will haul heavy freight. This monster weighs 100 tons, bore of coal and water. It has but one pony truck, but carries four trucks of five-foot drivers. From rail to dome the locomotive stands nearly fifteen feet. It can be turned only on the largest tables. Most of the large locomotives used on the coast are of this type, and from this one can get some idea of the size of the Central's monster. The new steam system is being used on this locomotive, the invention of a German. Despite its great size and hauling power, good speed can be obtained from this engine, and in an emergency it can be pressed into passenger service.

## THE VANDALS.

Down beyond the garden wall,  
They have cut down the maple tree;  
But they who cut it cannot know  
The loss to you and me.

They think to build themselves a house  
Where long our tree has stood—  
Ours tree that was a house of leaves,  
Fairer than house of wood.

Will they see the wondrous sights we  
Saw,  
From their windows made of glass—  
The winged clouds, the marching sun,  
The shadow-ships that pass?

We saw the Spring come up the land,  
The Autumn's flags flung out;  
We felt the South Wind kiss our hair,  
And answered the West Wind's shout.

Their house of wood will higher be  
Than our tree-house in the air;  
Yet they will not live so near the sky,  
Nor see what we saw there!

—St. Nicholas.

## BEECHENBROOK

It will say to you right at the outset  
That it was "the boy at Beechenbrook."

Beechenbrook was and is yet a great house a few miles outside of Manchester. At the time of my story it was occupied by the man who built it, a large manufacturer of the famous "Beechenbrook" brand of shoes.

In the bookstore in which I was employed in London I was said to have excellent taste and judgment in the arrangement of country libraries, even though I was only a boy of 16, and a few weeks after the owner of Beechenbrook had given us an order I was sent up there to put away the volumes.

On the day I arrived the owner's wife and daughter started for Scotland. A visit, while Mr. Markham himself departed for Paris to attend a certain business. All the servants about the place except the head gardener, two grooms and two women in the kitchen were given leave from their employer to go to their homes.

Queerly enough, I was more upset at the thought of the two mile run in the rain and darkness to my own home than I was at the thought of the two mile run in the rain and darkness to my own home.

When I had re-entered the house and crept back to the door leading into the dining room the following servants were trying to open the plate room door with a key and were working at it with iron bars.

I had been watching everything in a helpless way, having no plan, no hope, and it was only when the men shouldered the sacks to carry them out that I made a move.

All three men started to run. The groom threw down his sack, but the robbers clung to theirs. They all knew about the ditch, but in the darkness and confusion they made right for it and tumbled in one after another.

The row had awakened the woman, and when they came to know what had happened they took the horse and cart and went for the police, while I continued to stand guard. In an hour we had the men out and handcuffed,

and next day the other two were arrested twenty miles away.

The two strangers were professional and desperate men, and but for the fact that one had an arm broken and the other a leg by the fall into the ditch they could not have been held there so easily.

They got fifteen years each in prison, while the other were let off with seven, and though I am not going to give out figures, I will say that Mr. Markham rewarded me so liberally that it was made a red letter night in my life.

## A PACIFIC PIONEER.

Col. Isaac L. Requa One of the Men Who Transformed California.

One of the pioneers of the Pacific coast passed away recently in the person of Colonel Isaac L. Requa, of Oakland, Cal. He was one of those men of keen perception, large faith, unlimited energy, wholesome ambition and bold aggressiveness who threw every atom of their being into the work of transforming the Trans-Hocky region and, but for whose untiring effort the empire of gold and guilt would never have been changed into a great State.

Col. Requa was a man of many talents. He was a successful business man, a statesman, a soldier, a legislator, a philanthropist, a reformer, a patriot, a statesman, a soldier, a legislator, a philanthropist, a reformer, a patriot.

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rents, children and servants lived in tranquil happiness and visitors came from afar to experience its delights.

He was an ideal host—tail, of fine presence, well-proportioned, with a face denoting firmness, generosity and frankness.

In religion Colonel Requa was an Episcopalian. He was a firm supporter of Masonry and had been a Knight Templar many years.

## NON-BREAKABLE BAT.

Wound with Wire or Some Other Strengthening Material.

The baseball fan, or, more correctly speaking, the baseball player, will hail the advent of the non-breakable bat that has made its appearance.

When corn is five inches high, cultivate it both ways. Cultivate the hills and make the ground loose every three weeks and keep the weeds out.

A new kind of a swindle has been in operation at Waterloo, Iowa. A woman drove through the country, collecting the combings of hair from farmers' wives to be made into switches and taking a few dozen eggs for her fee.

Under some conditions chickens may be permitted to have the run of the vegetable garden and will do but little harm until they are half grown.

Line breeding is another term for inbreeding, not haphazard, but scientific inbreeding, says D. J. Coyne, Jr., in Commercial Poultry.

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Dig out borers in the peach trees with a wire.

Watch for insect pests on the shade trees, and attack the elm beetle with arsenate of lead.

The butter and egg crop of Iowa last year sold for more money than the entire corn crop of the State.

Brahmas and Cochins are good hens, but their clumsiness breaks a good many eggs and kills quite a number of chicks.

The Wisconsin free library commission runs a book wagon, a library on wheels, to provide reading for residents of rural districts.

The Japanese and Chinese plunks are showy flowers, three inches across, with a curious mixture of colors. They will stand cold weather, but not wet.

In general, roses are pruned too severely, because the owners are following rules laid down for the English climate, and for people whose first object is to exhibit.

Bowel trouble that carries off many chicks when one or two weeks old may be often corrected by taking away their drinking water and giving scalded milk instead.

When corn is five inches high, cultivate it both ways. Cultivate the hills and make the ground loose every three weeks and keep the weeds out.

A New York man counted the apple maggots on one acre of apples in his orchard, and estimated that there were 12,000 worms under one big tree.

If there is any place where ginger bread and fancy work is expensive it is about a hen-house. Square corners and straight, plain walls give less room for vermin and less work in keeping clean than does "artistic" display.

An old picture in the Dresden gallery represents a Dutch housewife "testing eggs," and shows that the method in use to-day was in vogue more than a hundred years ago.

The moonflower, or evening glory, has large, trumpet-shaped, white flowers, which open during twilight, and sometimes last until noon of the following day.

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## HOOKS TO HOLD THE ROAST.

An Arrangement to Facilitate the Operation of Carving in the public schools as a part of the general program of education, the average man will never become an artist as a carver.

Until carving is taught in the public schools as a part of the general program of education, the average man will never become an artist as a carver.

At a glance from the accompanying illustration, the frame consists of expandable members having hooked portions adapted to engage with the edge of the platter, and of course, adjustable to any size.

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UNCLE NELSE'S DOG. Is you-all seen a dawg run here? Dat don't belong to you? I's huntin' mine—he's done been lost. For 'bout a day or two.

What kind er dawg?—now lemme see. If I kin tell you dat; Fust place, he's po', dough he sho' acts 'nough to make 'im fat.

His hair looks lak hit wuz put on. Des air, lak hit wuz put on. Do color of it sorter mixed, Lak dus' an yaller clay.

He ain' no high-tone gent'man's dawg, Ner thoroughbred, but des A y'ddy bench-legged dawg. What looks lak all de res'.

For seven years and more William McCrum has sat upon a little bench in a shop in Howard street and cobbled shoes.

From boyhood to manhood he grew, and then to middle age, before it occurred to him that he would like to see a little of the world other than from the fo'castle of a ship.

While on board ship McCrum had learned, as many another Jack Tar has had to learn, to mend his own shoes or go without, so that when his sailors were exhausted and it became necessary for him to make a competence he took to the cobbler's trade.

When a bird selects a site for its nest it seems on first view as if it must actually think, reflect, compare, as you and I do when we decide where to place our house.

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