THE M'LEAN HOUSE.

HISTORIC TIMBER ROTS WHERE THE DWELLING STOOD.

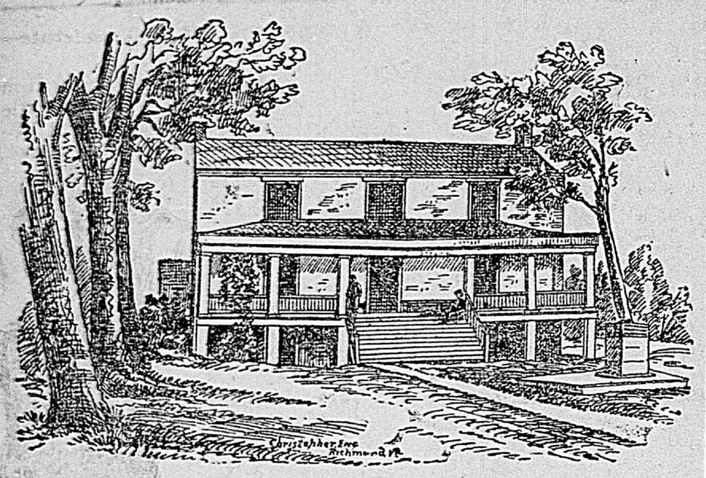
A STORY ABOUT MAYOR M'LEAN.

Left His Farm, Near Alexandria, Early in the War, to Escape Its Horrors, Only to Locate on Scene of Final Act of the Great Tragedy.

Nothing is allowed to get old in this country, however sacred.

All that remains of the McLean house, in Appomattox county, in which General Lee and General Grant arranged for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, is a pile of rotting timber, near where the once historic dwelling stood.

The house has certainly had an interesting history since the war, as well as that attached to it by the last event of the four years' struggle. Many curious traditions are associated with the structure, and known by every child of Appomattox county.



THE OLD McLEAN HOUSE.

Captain Thomas J. Stratton, chief of the inspectors of fertilizers in the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, has his home in Appomattox, and tells these traditions very interestingly.

HAND OF FATE FOLLOWS.

Here is an attractive story about Major McLean, which would make it appear that the fates were surely following him. At the beginning of the war, McLean was living near Alexandria, and some of the first skirmishes of the conflict actually took place on his farm. The sight of blood and fighting, the horrors of war, terrified him. He was willing to make any sacrifice to escape its path. He did not want to see anything of it. He decided to move away and go where the lines of Blue and Gray would never cross. He sold his place. He looked the map over, and came to the conclusion that of all the places to which the war was less likely to come, Appomattox stood first. This county was far from Richmond, which was the capital of the Confederacy; it was still farther from Washington, the capital of the Union. It seemed to be out of the track of the war. He came down to Appomattox, and bought the farm which now bears his name. It is a singular fact that the war followed him even to Appomattox, and as the war had almost begun on his farm, so it closed on his property, though the two farms were far apart.

PILE OF ROTTING TIMBER.

Here is the story of the house and farm since the war: Quite a number of years ago an effort was made to have the farm made a national park. The scheme failed. Then a syndicate of Washington city bought the house and ten acres of land surrounding it. They thought to make a park of it, but later decided to remove the house to Washington and rebuild it. A lot for the location of it in Washington was spoken for. A guard was kept around the house in Appomattox up to the time, and while it was being taken down. When at last the work of demolition had been done, it was found out that a title could not be secured to the lot in Washington. The matter was talked of a great deal, but was finally dropped. The pile of timber which was once the McLean house was allowed to remain where it was, and it is there to-day, what of it that has not rotted.

SALEM'S WEEK'S BUDGET.

Roanoke College Foot-Ball Schedule. Holiness Meetings.

SALEM, VA., September 28.—(Special.) The foot-ball eleven of Roanoke College is now getting into excellent condition for competing for the intercollegiate championship. Manager Heckel has made arrangements for the following games, and soon will add several more:

October 5th, University of Virginia, at Charlottesville.

October 12th, Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington, Va.

October 26th, Hampden-Sidney College, at Roanoke, Va.

November 2d, St. Albans School, at Radford, Va.

November 9th, St. Albans School, at Salem, Va.

November 13th, Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, Va.

November 23d, King's College, at Bristol, Tenn.

Miss Florence Wiley, of Clifton Forge, is visiting Miss Annie Wiley, on Market street.

Mrs. C. W. Callaghan and children, who have been spending the summer here at the Misses Wiley, have returned home.

Mr. William Montgomery, of Philadelphia, formerly of this place, who spent the summer here, has returned to his home.

Miss Constance Dyer, of New Orleans, after spending the summer here, has left for her home.

Dr. R. C. Craig, graduate of Roanoke College (class of 1894), who now has charge of the United States Marine Hospital, at Pittsburg, Pa., is in Salem, the guest of Mrs. F. H. Chalmers.

Miss Sadie Canitt, of Texas, after a visit to her aunt, Mrs. W. B. Bowles, has entered Hollins Institute.

Miss Gussie Bowles, after a visit to relatives in Augusta county, is at home again.

The Holiness meeting, which is being conducted in the new auditorium, built for that purpose, began last night. There will be three services a day from the present time until late in October. Many ministers from distant points have arrived, and many visitors who wish to take part in the meetings.

Religious Services To-Day.

Services in the churches to-day will be held as follows:

At Broad-Street Methodist church Rev. W. B. Beauchamp will preach morning and evening. His subjects will be "Our Founder" and "Born From Above."

Rev. J. B. Hawthorne, D. D., will preach at Grove-Avenue Baptist church this morning at 11 o'clock. At 8 o'clock he will preach a special sermon to students on the subject, "The Greatness of John the Baptist."

The usual services will be held at Grace Episcopal church this morning and evening by Rev. Landon R. Mason.

Rev. Carey E. Morgan, having recovered from his recent illness, will preach at the Seventh-Street Christian church at 11 A. M. and 8:15 P. M. Christian Endeavor Society meets at 7:30 P. M.

Rev. C. A. Marks will conduct both services at the First English Lutheran church to-day.

Rev. Jere Witherspoon will officiate at the morning and evening service at the Grace-Street Presbyterian church today. Sunday school at 9:30 A. M.

"Professions of Discipleship" and "The Conflict With Evil" will be the subjects for the sermons to be delivered at West-End Christian church to-day by Rev. Henry Pearce Atkins, the pastor. Sunday school at 9:30 A. M.

St. Andrew's congregation will worship in St. Andrew's Hall. Rev. Thomas Semmes, rector, will preach.

Dr. George Cooper will preach at both services at the First Baptist church today. The renovated auditorium will be used, and special music will be provided.

Services at the Grace-Street Baptist church will be conducted by Dr. C. S. Gardner to-day—morning and evening.

The usual services at the Second Baptist church will be conducted by Dr. W. R. L. Smith.

Rev. R. H. Bennett, pastor of St. James Methodist church, will begin a series of sermons to-night to neglected classes. The sermon this evening will be a special one to gamblers. The usual service will be held at 11 o'clock.

"Religion in Business" will be the theme to be discussed in the sermon at the Clay-Street Methodist church this evening by Dr. W. V. Tudor. Rev. L. B. Betty, the pastor, will preach at the morning service.

Rev. George H. Spooner will preach at both services to-day at the Trinity Methodist church.

Dr. John Hannon will preach morning and evening at the Union-Station Methodist church.

Dr. W. V. Tudor, presiding elder, will preach at the morning service at Centenary Methodist church. Rev. L. B. Betty will preach at night.

Rev. Preston A. Cave having returned from the country, will preach at the Third Christian church this morning and evening. Sunday school at 9:30 A. M. Intermediate Christian Endeavor at 4 P. M. Christian Endeavor at 7 P. M.

The services at Asbury Methodist church will be held to-day at the usual hours. Rev. R. H. Maxey, pastor, will preach.

Rev. R. B. Eggleston, pastor, will deliver the second of the series of sermons to the young people of his church this evening. The theme will be "Does Religion Pay?" Services will also be held at 11 A. M.

Rev. J. Calvin Stewart will conduct both services to-day at the Church of the Covenant.

Rev. L. R. Combs will preach at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. at Christ Episcopal church.

At Broaddus-Memorial Baptist church Rev. C. P. Staley, the pastor, will occupy the pulpit at both services.

Rev. J. T. Betts will preach his last sermon at the Barton Heights Baptist church to-day.

Dr. N. W. Tracy, the noted temperance lecturer, will preach this morning at Epworth Methodist church.

At Denny-Street Methodist church, in Fulton, Rev. J. T. Routten, the pastor, will preach to-day on the subject, "The Minority Report" and "Insurance Policies, Their Comparison, and Value."

MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD.

Remarkable Career of James Farrell and His Connection With Events.

BARBOURSVILLE, W. VA., September 28.—(Special.)—James Farrell, of this place, has led a life filled with remarkable incidents. He is now probably the oldest man in the United States, having been born in the year 1796 near Alexandria, Va., a few miles from Mount Vernon. As a child he can recall having been quite often at Mount Vernon with his father, Colonel T. W. Farrell, one of the most gallant officers under Washington. Mr. Farrell treasures among his most precious mementoes a coin presented to him by George Washington.

While yet in young manhood Mr. Farrell moved into Tennessee and saw General Jackson on more than one occasion. He served in the war of 1812 and later, a mature man, was in Mexico under Jefferson Davis. When the war between the States broke out he enlisted and, although no longer a young man, saw four years of service.

Mr. Farrell was in Washington and in Ford's Theatre the night that Lincoln was shot. He remembers with great distinctness the sad details of the fearful tragedy.

Finally, Mr. Farrell settled in Barboursvill, where he has since been living. He was probably the oldest man to tender his services to the United States in the Spanish-American war, declaring that he had served his country in every war since his boyhood and now in his old age was still willing to stand by the flag.

Mr. Farrell is wonderfully well preserved, not appearing to be more than 80 years old and is generally found the centre of an admiring group narrating some one of the great historical incidents of his country's history in which he has borne a personal part.

Rheumatism

No disease makes a person feel older.

It stiffens the joints, produces lameness, and makes every motion painful.

It is sometimes so bad as wholly to disable, and it should never be neglected.

Elsie B. Kirk, Box 247, Montezuma, Iowa, had it in her hips and limbs so that she could not sleep; Mrs. Hattie Turner, Bolivar, Mo., had it so severely she could not lift anything and could scarcely get up or down stairs; W. H. Shepard, Sandy Hook, Conn., was laid up with it, was cold even in July, and could not dress himself.

According to testimonials voluntarily given, these sufferers were permanently relieved, as thousands have been, by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

which corrects the acidity of the blood on which rheumatism depends and builds up the whole system.

Hood's Pills cure constipation. Price 25 cents.

Cards, Bill-Heads, Statements, Letter-Heads, Note-Heads, Circulars, Hand-Bills, Dodgers, etc., printed by the Dispatch Company at low prices. Will give you good work at the same prices you pay for inferior work. Send us your orders and we will guarantee satisfaction in every particular.

The Female Seminary of Bowling Green Va., Completely Equips Itself with the Celebrated Kingsbury Pianos.

THE CABLE COMPANY

Has again won a great victory by completely equipping the "Bowling Green Female Seminary" with the celebrated Kingsbury Pianos.

After many hours of toil and search, the President of this distinguished and well known College for young ladies, decided to purchase the KINGSBURY PIANOS, which is one of the sweetest tone and most durable instruments ever made. It is noted for its durability, and sweetness of tone all over our country. Musicians praise them, and all colleges, schools, and halls praise the merits of the KINGSBURY PIANOS.

READ the letter from the President of the BOWLING GREEN SEMINARY, and follow the example of celebrated institutions, distinguished musicians, etc.

We are the largest manufacturers of PIANOS and ORGANS in the world, selling you direct from our own factory, and saving you the dealers' profit. We manufacture the

CABLE, CONOVER, KINGSBURY, AND WELLINGTON PIANOS,

also the Chicago Cottage Organ, which is the best made.

We sell for cash, or on the instalment plan. Each instrument is fully guaranteed.

THE "SIMPLEX"

is a wonderful self-playing attachment. It is the lightest running instrument made. Even a child who has no knowledge of music whatever can play the most difficult pieces of music on it. CALL and hear it.

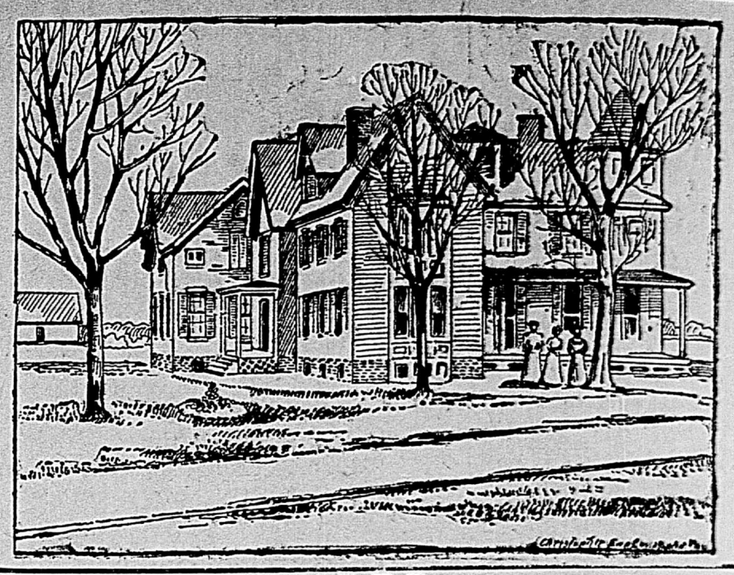
We are always glad to welcome visitors to our store.

COME TO OUR WAREROOMS,

and make yourself acquainted with our high-grade line of instruments. We are always glad to see you.

THE CABLE COMPANY,

J. G. CORLEY, M'g'r. 213 E. Broad Street.



READ.

BOWLING GREEN, VA., September 17, 1901.

THE CABLE COMPANY, RICHMOND, VA.:

GENTLEMEN,—At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the "Board of Trustees," held this day, it was unanimously voted to place an order with you for the equipment of KINGSBURY PIANOS, to be used in the Musical Department of the "BOWLING GREEN FEMALE SEMINARY."

It gives me much pleasure to state that we have selected the KINGSBURY in preference to many other makes, which were considered prior to the order we now place for KINGSBURY'S. We adopted the KINGSBURY'S on account, as we believe, of its superiority in tone, action, wearing quality, and the excellent and workmanlike manner in which the cases are finished. You will kindly deliver the Pianos, together with one of your style 15 Chapel Organs, by the 21st instant. Respectfully,

BOWLING GREEN FEMALE SEMINARY.

R. O. PEATROSS, President Board of Trustees.

THE CHILD AND MUSIC.

IT IS A SECRET TO KNOW HOW TO TAKE A LESSON.

LABOR WILL YIELD ITS REWARD.

A General Mistake is That Parents Do Not Take Up Music for Their Children in a Business-Like, Earnest Manner.

(For the Dispatch.)

To accept the guidance of an education is to accept a sacred trust. It is not possible to be too careful in the training of children-pupils. They often misinterpret as well as draw conclusions, which are reached with lightning rapidity. Lack of thought makes them appear unintelligent when they are alive with intelligence, naturally strangers to stupidity. Some one will say unwiling, when in their hearts lies a burning desire to please in the work.

It is a secret to know how to take a music lesson. It is an art some never learn, which means wasted energy in the work which follows, and gives untold discouragement. In music it is ever the same as in other work; if we tell them how, and put ourselves in their reach, come down from the heights, watch, and give proper aid at the proper time, there will be no failures.

It is not what will the child do. One must keep ever within their circle, infuse tasks with spirit of pleasure, send them wonder hunting, and lead them into the new and beautiful world of music.

Music is difficult, very difficult, but labor, with direct purpose, will yield abundant reward, and quickly. Painstaking care, even for a short period each day, will have telling effect, if indefinite work is not indulged in on the other hand.

Telling does not teach. Rigid discipline, discreetly enforced, makes a child respect his work, himself, and saves many weary hours of aimless striving.

Children know their friends, but some are too kind. The child will love the exacting friend, even more, when once it knows such. The firmest words, said not in anger, always with liberal judgment, makes the child lovingly follow, for it knows the heart is warm and full of good.

Mechanical work makes music study one long drag to the weary little student, when they can see no meaning in it, and few work out their individuality in it. Long hours of mechanical plodding is a thing of the past; the wise teacher never overburdenrs his pupil thus, but ever holds fast to the fundamental principles, which will make artists. Some students delight in technical drill; some, of themselves, would do little, but the teacher enforces every moment that which creates beautiful, elegant habits unconsciously, even in the lazy student.

The pupil should never be consulted "will he count," and how it will be done. Of course, he counts. His teacher's control causes time to permeate his soul and body, and he knows no measure without its rythmatic value. Do we not call this magnetism, which is so essential to success in teaching? When the teacher fails to make the pupil do his own counting and thinking, it is time to see the failure in view.

The time has come when methods very much relieve teachers, and make all work most progressive, leading the child in one straight line to its success, if one understands making each pupil a study. "One man's meat is another man's poison." To go into the nature and draw the heart to the surface,—this is the duty of tactfulness. To a narrow mind a method is these all and end—all of teaching. "Teachers, like poets, are born, not made."

Good methods train the ear, cultivate listeners, critics, and this commences with the first music lesson. How many can hum the melodies, or even a scale, they play

True determination leads the children who have it into lives of great usefulness. By tact it can be encouraged more in music than is generally believed.

The general mistake is, parents do not take up music for their children in a business-like, earnest manner. They little realize the untold wealth it is to him in a thorough education.

The right course in music will very much aid the student in other school work, as it taxes many faculties. A true musician to-day means a broadly intelligent person. Certain well selected side-studies are imperative.

Parents should wish and demand a broad and liberal plan of education in music, even though it extends over only one year's work. To give a child music as a pastime is a sin against the art divine.

Music at a cheap price is very expensive, and will surely bring disappointment if it is dallied with. The best results come from those who demand only the best. It were better to have one year of thorough instruction than five of indifferent work. It takes two or three years of most careful handling to break up one year misspent.

It is a mistake to crowd a musical education into a short space and into odd periods. Hand and hand it should go with school life, on parallel lines, ever careful; promotion in graded work is advisable. In music make haste slowly. Take time—it ripens thought.

The selection of music is the greatest responsibility. It should be the right thing, at the right time, progressive—not many pieces, but all well done, and memorized. Memorizing is the best of training, and requires work to be well done. It should be a mental effort brought about by mental training in all musical steps. Music is an independent thought of the highest order, and in no sense mere sensual gratification.

Missionaries are very much needed for the cause of music. There are many, many failures for the want of proper advice and encouragement. A musical failure is something to be regretted, for it reveals the invisible and visible in all nature, and gives joy and happiness that nothing can take the place of. John Ruskin says:

"The entire vitality of art depends upon its being full of truth or full of use."

Mrs. MAY TALLEY.

FOUR BLACK CATS.

The Story of the Way They Threw Down a Loving Couple.

(Washington Star.)

"We are more or less superstitious when it comes to black cats," said a well-known young man about town to a reporter, "and I was one of the firmest believers in the black cat at good luck superstition in Washington until a few days ago.

"I had gotten tired of doing the same thing in my department over and over every day in the year, and, being a member of one of the learned professions, I decided to attempt to secure a transfer to another department, where my training could be put to advantage to myself and incidentally to the government.

"I am from a State where the senior senator is a power in State and national politics; a man almost unapproachable by reason of his prominence, but who is personally one of the staunchest of friends to his friends, and whose recommendation usually carries, as it is seldom given. I happen to be one of his friends.

"Next to myself, the person most interested in my ambition was my sweetheart. One night about a month ago, on our return from the theatre, on her doorstep set a jet-black cat with a white star on its breast. The cat followed us in the house in the most friendly manner, refused to go out until it was time for my departure, and then followed me to the sidewalk. My best girl, in a rhapsody of delight, declared that it was ordained by the stars that I was to get my appointment.

"Two or three days later, on the eve of my departure for the great and wicked city which is my home, I stepped into a restaurant on Eleventh street for lunch. A cat as black as ink, with a white star on its breast, came in the door, walked right up to my table, and remained there until I finished my meal. When I told my sweetheart about the cat's visit when I saw her that evening she had another spasm of delight, saying that defeat for me was impossible.

"I left for home about two weeks ago, and on the very first night of my arrival as I was leaving the hotel a big black cat with a white star on its breast came out of the cafe and rubbed its arched back against my shins. I returned at once to the writing-room and wrote my girl about it. I received by return mail a letter of eighteen closely-written pages, explaining that with the third black cat thus thrust in my pathway my appointment was inevitable and that she could hardly contain her joy.

"On the day before I was to see the Senator I stopped in Shanley's, on Broadway, for lunch. I was almost paralyzed with delight when the fourth black cat suddenly came up to my table and purred about my feet in the most friendly manner.

"Need I tell you that the Senator was kindness and graciousness itself, and lauded my ambition to get up in the line of my chosen profession? Need I say that the indorsements of my district leader and congressional candidate and those of my professional friends were literally thrown at my head? Need I say that my sweetheart wrote me an 18-page, double-lined letter every day, telling me that I couldn't lose? Need I add that everything in the big city I wanted came my way? Is it not idle to tell you that one of the great men, who directs the councils of his party and who is a power therein, united with the Senator in an indorsement which, had it been at the beginning of the administration, ought to have given me an assistant secretaryship, and personally wished me luck?

"And need I tell you that the Cabinet officer to whom I presented my papers frankly told me that having no places vacant he could not give me one? That I had my trouble for my pains, and that the four black cats threw me down hard? That my sweetheart's nose and eyes were so red from weeping that she couldn't go to the theatre, and that I have for disposal the strongest set of indorsements which can be picked up on Pennsylvania avenue in an hour's walk?"

Gangrene from a Technical Standpoint.

("M. D." in New York Times.)

President McKinley's gunshot wound and it gangerous condition are, in my opinion, ordinary. There was no poisoned bullet, excepting the poison naturally belonging to a dirty pistol ball fired at close range. The concussion alone at such proximity would be enough to destroy the outside tissues, even if no powder grains went through the clothing.

In case of an extensive and deep contussion of a complicated bullet area which did not allow the exit of microbicidal fluids there would naturally be constriction of the inflammatory area with resulting gangrenous infiltration. In case of inflammation of the focus of phlegmon of lymphangitis there would be more or less toxaemia from absorption of the products of gangrenous infiltration.

There is no special microbe in the bacteriology of pancreatitis (inflammation of the stomach's salivary gland) any more than there is in that of mumps or parotiditis. Leaveran and Catrin have fully studied the question. They found three times in six a microbe (stick bacillus) in the fluid of orchitis, and five times in seven in the blood. They found it seventeen times in twenty-eight cases examined, yet they did not affirm that it was the pathogenous agent of mumps.

Suppuration of pancreas and the salivary glands would be caused by ordinary microbes of inflammatory processes, such as the pneumococcus, pneumococcus and the staphylococcus associated, or to the streptococcus.

Multiple abscesses following inflammatory processes as occurred in President Garfield's case would be due to association of streptococcus and the golden staphylococcus. Uulcerous endocarditis (valve of the heart) with multiple suppurating infractions are caused by streptococcus.

All gangrenous inflammatory processes following gunshot wounds would be due to habitual pyogenous bacteria, staphylococcus pyogenes eureus most frequently, white and golden staphylococci next in frequency, staphylococcus pyogenes next, staphylococcus and typhoid bacillus next, and typhoid bacillus last. Suppurating mumps, multiple abscesses of face, limbs, thorax, buttocks (bedsores), etc.

President McKinley did not live long enough to have blood-poisoning in sufficient degree to kill him. The fact that his pulse was never (excepting one day) below 120 shows that the weak, dilated heart never recovered from the surgical shock of the injury. His temperature did not belong to septicemia, but to mild inflammation of the track of the bullet. There was no poisoned bullet, excepting the natural poison of a powder wound. His death was perfectly natural, exhaustion following shock and gangrenous inflammation of the track of a gunshot wound in a patient with a naturally weak heart.

How the surgeons in attendance could reasonably conclude that he was recovering when his pulse was still at 120 surprised most physicians.

AMATEUR DETECTIVES.

Among the Things They Try to Buy Are Glass Eye-Shields.

(New Orleans Times-Democrat.)

"I used to have an interest in a theatrical supply house," said an advance agent who was in the city last week, "and our most amusing customers, by long odds, were amateur detectives. The number of idiots of that brand who are now at large is perfectly astonishing. They are mainly young men in small interior towns, who get the detective fever by reading yellow novels, and then secure a 'commission' from some fake agency. After that they plunge into a world of mystery and romance, and suspect half their fellow-townsmen of forging wills, abducting beautiful young ladies, killing their wives by slow poison, and plotting all the crimes in the calendar. Story-book sleuths never go around in their proper persons, so the crank amateur immediately looks about for a suitable 'disguise,' and naturally a good many of them write to the theatrical outfitters.

"Some of the letters we received were rich reading. I remember one chap in Arkansas who told us he wished to shadow a wicked divinity student and ordered a makeup that would enable him to pass for a 'collidge perfesser.' I didn't want to lose a customer, even if he was a prize donkey, but I couldn't resist replying that the only thing he required for such a character was a new set of brains.

"Another rustic gentleman sent for a suite of English lord whiskers and a false nose that would not come off while dancing. He was careful to explain that he wanted to watch a rival during some forthcoming festivities at the town hall. We were a little puzzled to know what to send as 'English lord whiskers,' but finally expressed him a set of 'dundrearys' and a pasteboard beak, such as is worn at carnivals. I trust sincerely that he carried out his programme, and got his head punched for his pains.

"The rural Hawkshaws were all very specific in calling for disguises that 'could not be detected by daylight'—something that never has been and never will be made—and a good many of them inquired about 'eye shields' or thin glass films to place over the eye for the purpose of changing its color. How in the world any such absurd idea ever gained currency I can't imagine, but there seems to be a fixed impression in the country districts that 'eye shields' are part of the equipment of every expert detective. I had a great mind to have a few dozen made to supply the demand, but was afraid of damage suits for destroyed eyesight.

"What eventually becomes of the amateur detective I don't know. If nobody kills him he possibly reforms and becomes a respectable farmer and patron of the gold-brick industry."

FROZEN SOLID FOR AGES.

Body of a Mammoth Found in a Remarkable State of Preservation.

The body of a mammoth, says the New York Sun, which had been frozen solid in the tundra of Siberia for many hundreds of years was recently brought to light in the northeast part of that remote region. It was one of the best-preserved specimens of these prehistoric elephants yet discovered. Refrigeration, continued for centuries, had done its work so perfectly that the animal, without doubt, as first exposed to view, was a most excellent representative of its ancient family. Its reddish, woolly hair, its skin and flesh were without defect and in its stomach were found the undigested remains of its last dinner.

The find was made near the settlement of Kolymsk, on the Kolima river, in one of the coldest districts of the world. About 600 miles to the southwest is Verkhoyansk, which is called the winter cold pole of the Northern Hemisphere, it being the coldest region known. The mean temperature in January is 56 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit, and sometimes the mercury falls as low as 85 degrees below zero. They tried, years ago, to sink a well at Yakutsk, west of this cold pole, but gave it up after they had sunk about 100 feet without any sign that they would ever dig their way below solidly frozen ground.

It is in this region of perpetually frozen tundra that so large a quantity of mammoth remains have been found. The bones of the mammoth are found all over Northern Europe and Asia, from England to Behring strait, but it is only in the frozen tundra that the animal has been found intact just as it died ages ago. The latest discovery being an unusually fine specimen of the complete mammoth, it was thought worth while to send an expedition this summer from St. Petersburg to Kolymsk to secure the animal's skeleton. The party arrived at Yakutsk on the way to that settlement on June 14, last.

The new Siberian Islands have been a great source of mammoth ivory. It has been proved that the mammoth was contemporaneous with prehistoric man. One of these proofs was discovered in the New Siberian Islands, where Hendenstrom picked up an axe made of a mammoth tusk. The skeleton of the animal can easily be produced from the bones that have been found far across the northern part of the Old World. The mastodon of America, of which a considerable number of perfect skeletons are found in our museums, is closely related to the mammoth.

Very few fossil animals have shared with the mammoth the distinction of having been preserved, not only by their skeletons, but, in some instances, also in their flesh. A number of perfect specimens with flesh and covering of wool and long hair have been found in the frozen banks along the Lena river. Latter-day dogs have eaten with apparent relish the flesh of this extinct species. One of these Siberian mammoths was 16 2-3 feet long and 9 1-3 feet in height. These complete specimens, however, are rare and the news is heralded far and wide when one of them is found. They were probably living later than the ice age, which, measured by geological time, was not so very long ago.

World's Largest Gun Practically Finished.

(Exchange.)

The largest gun in the world is now practically completed and awaiting its carriage in the shops of the Army Gun Factory at Watervliet, N. Y. It was planned ten years ago, and has been over five years in process of construction. It is the most powerful engine of destruction known. When compared to it the largest gun built in civil war times looks like a toy cannon. This new weapon is known as a 16-inch breech-loading rifle, and it is intended for harbor defence. Forty of these monitors were recommended by the Endicott board for the harbors of New York, Boston, San Francisco and Hampton Roads. New York was to have 18, Boston 8, San Francisco 10 and Hampton Roads 4. According to present intentions this number will be somewhat reduced.

Some idea of the size and power of this gun may be had from the fact that it throws a projectile weighing 2370 pounds.

It requires 1176 pounds of ordinary powder to do this, or 576 pounds of the new smokeless powder. The cost of a single firing of the gun is over $1,500, of which the projectile alone costs $1,000. The gun has a range of 21 miles. It has a penetrating power that will, it is estimated, bore 42.3 inches into hardened steel. The missile which it hurls is nearly as long as a man, five feet and four inches. It will throw this projectile, if aimed at an angle of 45 degrees, to a height in the projectory of over five miles. If Mont Blanc were set on top of Pike's Peak, this gun would shoot over them, clearing the top, it is computed, by 580 feet. The time between the shell's leaving the gun and its striking earth will be a minute and a quarter.

The best performance of any gun up to this time is credited to a 9.45 calibre Krupp gun. In 1892 an exhibition was given before the German Emperor on the Meppen range. The greatest height reached by the Krupp shell in its flight was 21,456 feet and the measured range was found to be 22,120 yards, or 12 1-2 miles.

This 16-inch breech-loading gun is 50 feet in length, 5 in diameter at the breech, tapering to a little over 2 feet at the muzzle. It weighs, exclusive of carriage, 130 tons. It is interesting to compare these figures with the largest gun built in 1864, namely, the Rodman smooth-bore 20-inch. This gun is now at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., where it was placed nearly forty years ago. It was never in practical use, the largest gun seeing actual service in the war being a 10-inch Parrott. Several of these were used at the siege of Charleston, where they were known as "swamp angels."

The "20-inch" Rodman gun is 20 feet long, and is made in a single casting. It weighs 58 tons, shoots a round ball weighing about 1,000 pounds, with a charge of powder weighing 60 pounds. Its range is about 8,000 yards, or 4 1-2 miles; and it will penetrate about six inches in wrought iron at short range. Only two guns of this type were ever made. They were cast at Pittsburg in 1864. During the war the 10-inch Parrott guns were regarded as "monsters." They are small, even as compared with the Rodman.

Maj. Charles S. Smith, of the army bureau of ordnance, says the new gun will be ready for the official tests as soon as the carriage mounts are completed.

RARE ORCHIDS.

Joseph Chamberlain a Famous Collector of the Plants.

(Philadelphia Press.)

As all the world knows, Joseph Chamberlain is a famous collector of famous orchids. He is filled with envy now, for Horace Pitt, another collector, has procured an orchid which is the wonder of the orchid world. The Pitt diamond achieved fame and the Pitt orchid promises to become, for a time at least, as famous. Three years ago John Corder, who makes a business of roaming the woods of Central and South America in search for orchids, discovered this particular plant in the forest of Colombia. Neither the Indians in whose country he found it nor he himself ever saw it in bloom. Collectors, as a rule, see few orchids in flower, the flowering and the collecting season being different.

Last year the orchid blossomed for the first time in the orchid house of a large grower near London, to whom Corder had sent it. Before the blossom had opened an expert saw it and bought it from Mr. Pitt. In Mr. Pitt's care the orchid has turned out to be a prize and is now considered as valuable as any variety known, with the single exception of Baron Schroeder's matchless aplatum, and is, therefore, worth thousands of dollars. For a wonder, this orchid is one of great beauty. Some of the valuable plants of this sort are ugly things that any one except an expert would not stop to pick up.

Roosevelt's Nine Letters.

(New York Press.)

There are nine letters in Roosevelt's name—a mystical number. Nine consists of a trinity of trinities. According to the Pythagorean numbers man is a full chord, or eight notes, and deity comes next. Three, being the trinity, represents a perfect unity, twice three is the perfect dual, and thrice three is the perfect plural. This explains the use of nine as a mystical number, and also as an exhaustive plural, and consequently no definite number, but a simple representative of plural perfection. There are nine earths, nine heavens, nine gods, nine muses, nine worthies, nine virgin priestesses, nine lives in a cat, nine rivers in hell, nine crowns in heraldry, nine heads to the hydra, nine tailors to a man, nine buttons of official rank, nine planets, nine crosses, nine points of the law, nine spheres, etc.

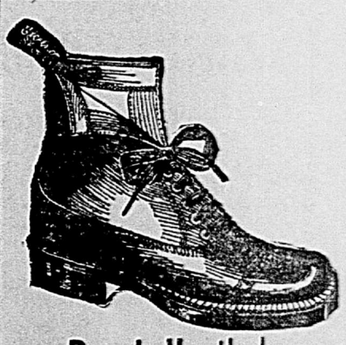
The eastern estimation nine is the superlative of superlatives. It is by nines that presents are given when the donor wishes to extend his bounty to the highest pitch of munificence. In "Diakanos and the Seven Sleepers" occurs the following:

He caused himself to be preceded by nine superb camels. The first was loaded with nine suits of gold adorned with jewels; the second bore nine sabres, the hilts and scabbards of which were adorned with diamonds; upon the third were nine suits of armor; the fourth had nine suits of horse furniture; the fifth had nine cases full of sapphires; the sixth had nine cases full of rubies; the seventh nine cases full of emeralds; the eighth nine cases full of amethysts, and the ninth had nine cases full of diamonds.

Wheat Stack 28 Years Old.

(London Globe.)

In the stackyard at Mr. W. Meen's farm, Stradbroke, there is a stack of wheat with a remarkable history. It was built in 1873, and the owner made a vow that he would never thrash it until it realized 25 shillings a sack, a price which has never been offered. The stack stands on an iron support two feet from the ground, and is in an excellent state of preservation. It is estimated that the stack contains 250 bushels.



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