Guard American Statesmen.

Exceeding care is taken by the members of the Senate to prevent some crank from attempting to wipe that body out of existence at one fell swoop. The doorkeepers have special instructions on this point. Every person who enters the public galleries is closely scrutinized. Visitors can carry no packages whatever, because it is feared the bundles may contain bombs or other infernal machines which could be hurled with deadly effect into the chamber.

During the recent rush of visitors to Washington the guards had lively experiences with the amateur photographers. Every day dozens of tourists were barred out because they had their cameras with them. The guards admit that the Senators have no objection to having their pictures taken, but they say there is danger of some dangerous missile being concealed in the cameras, so they cannot take the risk of permitting them in the galleries. As the guards refuse to be responsible for packages left with them the fears of the senators result in cutting down their audiences. During a recent exciting and prolonged session of the Senate several young women who did not wish to miss any of the interesting debate sent out for some luncheon. The guard stopped the messenger on his return. He explained that the package contained things which were dangerous only when taken internally, but the doorkeeper was obdurate. The young women were forced to give up their desirable seats and eat their lunch in the corridor. On another occasion a well-known congressman attempted to enter the Senate gallery with a suspicious-looking bulge to his coat and he was made to show what he carried in his pocket. It was a bottle of ink which he had just purchased in the Senate stationery-room.

Dramatic Oath-Taking.

At a memorable gathering, attended by Henry III., the prelates and barons of England, each bearing a lighted taper, encircled the king while the curse of heaven was invoked by the archbishop of Canterbury on those who in future should in any respect violate the two charters (the Magna Charta and the Charta de Foresta). Hands were lifted in air and brows bared, and "the tapers were then extinguished and thrown, stinking and smoking, on the ground and the dire malediction uttered that the souls of every one who infringed the charters 'might thus be extinguished and stink and smoke in hell.'" Weirdly impressive in its rude fervor, the episode was made additionally striking by the action of the king, who closed the ceremony by declaring these words: "So may God help me, I will inviolably observe all these things, as I am a man and a Christian, a knight and a crowned and anointed king."

George Washington's Religion.

A New York Tribune correspondent writing from Washington arrays all the historical evidence at hand and concludes that the first president was not a communicant of any religious body. A leading quotation, that from Robert Dale Owen, seems to convey the spirit of the whole communication: "When I spoke of Washington's deathbed, I had the account of an eyewitness lying before me. And most strongly does that corroborate my opinion that Washington's religion was of the most liberal stamp. No clergyman around his deathbed. No protestations that in the dying hour religion afforded him aid. No praying. No repeating of texts. No asking for a Bible to read a chapter. The Father of His Country died the death of a patriot; he died as he had lived, in dignity and peace; but he left behind him not one word to warrant the belief that he was other than a sincere Deist."

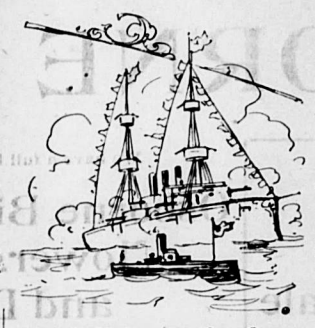
The Point at Issue.

A witness, who had given his evidence in such a way as to satisfy everybody in court that he was committing perjury, being cautioned by Justice ——, said at last: "My lord, you may believe me or not, but I have stated not a word that is false, for I have been wedded to truth from my infancy."

"Yes, sir," said Justice——; "but the question is how long have you been a widower."

Electric Light Not Harmful.

A Russian specialist has decided that, contrary to the general opinion, electric light plays less havoc with the eyes than other forms of artificial light. He bases his deductions on the fact that disease and damage to the eye are proportioned to the frequency of the closure of the lids. He found that the lids close in a minute 6.8 times with candle light, 2.8 times with gas light, 2.2 times with sun light and 1.8 times with electric light.



Land Stolen by the Sea.

The Strand Magazine describes the steady and disastrous eating away of the coast line of England by the encroaching sea, and it is stated that the annual loss of area by coast erosion in England alone is probably not less than 2,000 acres.

On the other hand, marsh lands have been drained and other lands reclaimed, but these areas are insignificant as compared with those which have been lost.

Parts of the lost lands were low-lying, protected by dikes or levees, which were eventually breached; other parts were washed away by floods and storms; but in many cases the sea is eating its way into tall cliffs, demolishing numerous towns and villages.

The line of anchorage for ships off Selsey, in Sussex, is still called "The Park," having been a royal deer park in the reign of Henry VIII., while the treacherous shoals known as the Goodwin sands formed in early days the estate of Earl Goodwin.

On the Yorkshire coast there are 12 buried towns and villages, and in Suffolk there are five. Submerged forests may be seen at low tide off Bexhill and Wirral, and their remains have been found at numerous points along the coast.

Southwest from Lands End, toward the Scilly islands, a peninsula of about 227 square miles has been carried away; and below the sand beach is a deposit of black mold containing indications of trees and deer.

At Wirral is Leasowes castle, now on the edge of the cliff, but fifty years ago it was half a mile from the sea. Many historical towns, such as Ravensburg (mentioned by Shakspere), where Henry IV landed in 1399, and Edward IV in 1471, have now entirely disappeared.

At Reculver the cliffs were gradually eroded until a church, originally two miles inland, was partly wrecked; this church, however, had two spires, forming a striking landmark for sailors, and the trinity board (in charge of the lighthouse work) therefore had a sea wall built to prevent the destruction of the towers.

To Build a Chinese Cemetery.

A Philadelphia attorney has purchased a farm of forty-eight acres in Bensalem township for a syndicate, which purposes to establish a Chinese cemetery. It will be the only cemetery of its kind east of the Rocky Mountains. Its projectors say that it will have one or more temples, and be laid out in every way to conform to Chinese customs. The principal pagoda will be nine stories high, and from the balconies will hang bells, which are to be rung at stated hours of the day and night—certain ones to keep the evil spirits away and others to guide the good spirits. The Chinese have been trying for a long time to obtain a tract of land on the line of the Pennsylvania railroad, between New York and Philadelphia, for a cemetery.

Edward Kemeys in Washington.

Edward Kemeys, a sculptor, well known for his reproductions of animals, and his wife, who is also a worker in the same field, after a winter spent in studying the Indians and wild game of New Mexico, have settled down in Washington, where the Zoological park offers them plenty of material. At present Mr. Kemeys is at work upon a series of bronzes ordered by Chicago for her public buildings, representing the important animals of America. His chief work heretofore has been bought by Chicago, which city is especially proud of the lions that guard the entrance of the Art Institute. They are nine feet high—the largest in the world, with the exception of those by Landseer in London.

Pat's Test.

A good story is told of an Irishman, more patriotic than clever, who enlisted in one of the smart cavalry regiments. The fencing instructor had experienced rather a difficult job in the matter of explaining to him the various ways of using the sword. "Now," he said, "how would you use the sword if your opponent feinted?" "Bedad," said Pat, with gleaming eyes, "I'd just tickle him with the point to see if he was shamming."

His Editorial Message.

When Martin Baddles went North, with a grip full of poems, the janitors and editorial attendants, suspecting his purpose, turned him down.

At one office he displayed his wares to one of the editorial guards, who said:

"The editor won't talk to you about manuscript—he's full."

"All right," said Baddles, as he packed his grip again, "tell him I'll call around when he's sober."—Atlanta Constitution.

Cerements Grace Weddings.

Few brides would care to follow a custom traditional in some rural districts of Northumberland, in England. There, when a woman marries, her grave clothes are considered quite as essential a part of her trousseau as her wedding gown. Safely wrapped away with lavender and all kinds of sweet-smelling herbs, they are taken out from time to time and carefully aired and inspected. Indeed, these grewsomely suggestive garments seem to have a special value, for their owner, in moments of gloom and depression, often finds comfort in trying on her shroud and reflecting upon the pleasing effect it will produce when her turn comes to be "viewed" by her mourning neighbors and acquaintances.

A Story of Holland House.

The place now belongs to the fifth Earl of Ilchester, a lineal descendant of the famous politician Fox, afterward Lord Holland, and Lord Ilchester, who owns over thirty-two thousand acres in other parts of the country, has ample means for "keeping up" Holland House. Holland House, too, has its ghost story. The beautiful Lady Diana Rich, daughter of the Earl of Holland from whom the house took its name, was once walking in the garden before dinner, when she met her own apparition, "as if in a looking glass." A month later this lady succumbed to smallpox, and her sister, also, it is said, saw an apparition just before her death.—Cassell's Magazine.