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OUR OWN TIMES

Porfirio Diaz

Movement of U. S. Troops

The Congressional Program

Progress of Mexican Revolution

Peace Agreement between

United States and England

Third Voyage of

Sindbad the Sailor

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The World in Review.

McCURDY'S FLIGHT OUTDONE.

On March 5th, Lieutenant Bague accomplished the daring feat of flying over the Mediterranean from Antibus, France, to the little island of Gorgona off the Italian coast. He covered a distance of more than 200 kilometers (124.5 miles) in about six and one-half hours. Lieutenant Bague was not accompanied by tugs, torpedo boats or any other craft, to guide him or add to his confidence. Depending solely upon himself, he broke all over water flight records.

CAMORRIST TERROR MAY END.

In Italy 41 members of the Camorristi, an Italian secret society, have been put on trial. On account of the confession of one of the band, the existence of the society may come to an end.

SECRETARY BALLINGER RESIGNS FROM CABINET.

On March 7th, Richard A. Ballinger, Secretary of the Interior in President Taft's Cabinet, resigned, and Walter A. Fischer, of Chicago, was appointed in his place. Mr. Taft accepted his resignation with regret.

FLIES TO TOP OF MOUNTAIN.

Aviator Renaux, with a passenger, flew from St. Cloud near Paris to the top of Du Puy Mountain, 4,800 feet above the sea. The total straight distance was 217 miles and the time was five hours and eight minutes. Renaux won the prize of \$20,000 offered for the flight.

AMERICAN CAPITAL IN MEXICO.

There are 75,000 Americans in Mexico, 10,000 of them in Mexico City. Most of these are interested in railroad and electric power corporations. A large number of Englishmen are also interested in the rail-

roads of Mexico. Besides the railroads, large rubber plantations and iron mines are controlled by Americans. In all, about \$1,000,000,000 of American money is invested in Mexico.

RECIPROCITY UNPOPULAR.

Mr. Young, a New York merchant, just returned from a trip through eastern Canada, states that the manufacturers and businessmen of Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec are against reciprocity. They claim that reciprocity with the United States will tend to kill Canadian industries which are just beginning to be developed.

AUTO-ENGINE IN NEW YORK CITY.

On March 16th, an official test of an auto-engine was made in New York City in the presence of fire chiefs from all over the country. The trial was a success, and it is likely that the engines of the fire department will be replaced by autos in the near future.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF LIBERIA.

President Barclay of Liberia has appointed E. McCants Stewart as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that republic. Mr. Stewart was formerly a resident of New York City.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

The Olympic games, in which the leading athletes of the world take part, occur every three years. Two years ago the games were held in London, and the United States won the meet by scoring victories in a majority of the events. Next year the meet will be held at Stockholm, Sweden.

DE LESSEPS, THE WINNER.

Last October John Moissant was declared the winner of the \$10,000 prize for the flight from Belmont Park around the statue of Liberty. Objections were raised, and on March 14th, it was decided that DeLesseps was entitled to the prize because Moissant had failed to qualify properly.

TO SAVE THE WALRUS.

The Danish government has sent warships to Greenland with instructions to arrest foreign walrus hunters. These hunters, chiefly American, are reported to be killing thousands of walrus annually.

PROGRESS ON THE PANAMA CANAL.

During the month of February the excavation on the canal was the greatest on record. On the entire canal more than two-thirds of the digging has already been done, and progress is slow but sure.

EVACUATION DAY CELEBRATED IN BOSTON.

On March 17th, the day on which the British evacuated Boston 135 years ago, was held the annual Evacuation Day Celebration. The ceremonies began with the ringing of bells and the firing of guns in the morning. Then came a parade in the afternoon, bells and guns again at sunset; a banquet in the evening, and fireworks out-of-doors.

THIRTY YEARS' IRON SUPPLY.

Dr. Allerton S. Cushman, Director of the Bureau of Industrial Research at Washington, declared that at the present rate of production the iron supply of the United States will be exhausted in thirty years. He further said that some means must be found to protect the supply so that the world may not be without iron in the future. He stated that the production of iron in the United States has increased from 5,000,000 tons in 1870 to 50,000,000 tons in 1910.

WILSON TO SUCCEED TAFT IN 1912?

Col. George Harvey, editor of Harper's Weekly, in an address delivered in Savannah, Georgia, prophesied that Woodrow Wilson, now Governor of New Jersey, a Democrat and a man who understands the conditions in this country thoroughly, would be the next President of the United States.

A PEACE AGREEMENT.

Steps are being taken by President Taft and the English representative Sir Edward Grey to reach a peace agreement whereby all differences between England and the United States will be settled by arbitration. The people of both countries, says Lord Roseberry, would heartily favor such a peace agreement.

VISITORS TO LONDON.

The London daily papers estimate that about 100,000 Americans will go to London in June to witness the coronation ceremonies of the English king. It is expected that these Americans will spend about \$25,000,000.

THE GERMAN CENSUS.

The official figures of Germany's census, taken December 1, 1910, gives the total population of Germany as 64,903,423, an increase of 4,261,934 or 7.03 per cent. since 1905. The three independent cities of Lubeck, Bremen and Hamburg show the greatest increases of population.

HIGHEST RAILWAY STATION IN THE WORLD.

Ticlio, on the Central Railway of Peru, is 15,665 feet above the sea. The main line descends sharply to Callao. On the right the Morocoha branch winds over the range, which it crosses at an elevation of 15,865 feet, the highest point reached by any railway in the world.

THE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK SYSTEM.

According to report from 48 banks, there is on deposit now \$133,869. This proves that the postal savings bank system has been very successful. It is proposed to establish 250 more in as many cities.

COAL LANDS IN THE WEST.

The United States owns 70,000,000 acres of land in the West which contain billions of tons of coal of the highest grades in veins from thirty to eighty feet in thickness. This coal land is being sold and the money put into a fund the purpose of which is to make the soil in the West fertile by irrigation.

THE HUMBLE PEANUT.

The peanut is becoming a very important farm crop in the South. In 1908 the value of the output of peanuts was \$12,000,000. In some districts where cotton has been destroyed by the boll weevil, the cultivation of the peanut has taken its place.

No one seems to know where the peanut originally came from. It was introduced into the United States in early colonial days and is supposed to have drifted up from tropical America. Some plants which are closely related are natives of Brazil. The peanut grows best in a sandy soil and requires a long season free from frost, plenty of sun and a light rainfall during its period of growth. A large part of the Southern States is therefore, suitable for peanut culture. According to the United States farmer's bulletin the cultivation of the peanut is very profitable.

PORTUGAL UNEASY.

The people of Portugal who wish the monarchy to be restored are very busy trying to create dissatisfaction among the various factions of the Republican party.

The fact that the election of the president has been postponed for the fourth time until May 14th, has caused unrest among the people. Owing to the uncertainty of affairs as they stand, both the British and the American governments have notified the Portuguese government that they would receive its representative but would not recognize him as a diplomat.



1,000 MILE AIR RACE.

A 1,000-mile air race around Great Britain has been announced by the London papers, to begin July 22nd and end August 5th. The prize is £10,000 (\$50,000). The race is open to competitors of all nationalities. The idea is to make inventors produce a machine that will stand the severest test and prove air machines to be practical.

AEROPLANE CARRIES THREE.

Anthony Jannus, the aviator, carried two passengers beside himself up in his machine at Washington, March 21st.

MONOPLANE FLIES WITH 12 PERSONS.

Louis Bregeut made a record performance on March 23rd when he carried eleven passengers in his monoplane a distance of two miles.

The flight was made at a height varying from fifty to seventy-five feet. The total weight of the twelve persons was 1,315 pounds and the combined weight of the machine and its occupants was 2,602 pounds.

BOYS SHOULD LEARN TO SHOOT.

Gen. George W. Wingate, a member of the Board of Education of New York City, says that every boy should be a marksman

before he leaves the high school, so that he may be ready to answer his country's call if the occasion should arise.

GUNNERY TEST.

The battleship New Hampshire tested its guns and its gunners by firing upon the old battleship San Marcos. Two broadsides were all that was necessary to put the San Marcos out of business, so accurate was the aim of the gunners of the New Hampshire. The guns were fired while the New Hampshire was steaming at more than six miles distance.

EXPORTS TO EUROPE.

Europe led all the grand divisions of the world in the movement of merchandise to and from this country in the months of February. Exports to Europe from this country during the same month were way above the exports of a year ago.

JAPANESE WAR TALK.

Baron Uchida, the Japanese Ambassador, gave President Taft a personal message from the Emperor of Japan. The message in full, follows:

"To the President of the United States.

"I was greatly pleased to receive your very kind message conveyed to me through my Ambassador in Washington, and I thank you for it.

"I was already well convinced that you had given no credence to the false and wicked reports regarding Japan, but it was especially a source of profound satisfaction to me to receive from you the assurance that the relations of amity and good understanding between our two countries were never better or more cordial than at this time.

"I am most happy to be able to entirely reciprocate that assurance.

"MUTSUHITO."

Congressional Program.

At the extra session of Congress, the House of Representatives, under the new Democratic control, is to do these three things:

First.—To pass a resolution approving the reciprocity arrangement which the President has made with Canada.

Second.—To pass a bill revising and reducing the tariff rates on wool.

Third.—To pass a bill revising and reducing the tariff rates on cotton.

The Democrats in Congress will probably insist upon a revision of the tariff, and unless President Taft agrees to such revi-

sion, his reciprocity bill with Canada may not go through.

The business men of this country, in various gatherings have expressed themselves as being opposed to any tariff revision just now. Their claim is that a change in the tariff would result in no good to the manufacturers who have made their plans with the present tariff as the basis.

WIRELESS FROM MAINE TO FLORIDA.

A clear chain of wireless telegraph stations extending from Maine to Florida has been established by the Marconi Telegraph Company.

THE SEARCH FOR POTASH.

Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Wilson has begun a remarkable search. He intends to ransack the country from one end to the other to see whether we haven't a supply of our own and whether we cannot afford to snap our fingers in the faces of the Germans who think they control the world's chief supply.

The search will carry the hunters into the great, dry alkaline plains of the West, into the depths of the Rockies, into the salt mines of the country and all sorts of out-of-the-way places.

Amundsen in Race for South Pole

News has been received from Captain Scott, the British explorer, who is seeking the South pole, that there is a rival in the race in the person of Amundsen, the Norwegian, whose past record as an explorer makes him a competitor to be respected.

Scott's ship, the Terra Nova, has returned to New Zealand, after landing sledge parties on the ice. The British party found the Fram, Amundsen's ship, in Iceland Bay, and the Norwegian party fully equipped for a journey to the South pole.

The plan of the British expedition is to separate into two parties, which will go south toward the pole by different routes. Thus there will be a race between the two British parties and one Norwegian. The reports of the race should be of interest when they reach us.

VAST WEALTH IN TIMBER.

Lumbering in the Great Northwest with nearly \$110,000,000 invested in timber holdings, plants and equipment, logging roads and offices, supports fully 100,000 persons directly, and 200,000 others in-

directly. The industry ranks third in wealth producing and holds probably second place in the amount of money spent annually for labor and supplies. Indications are that the cut this year will be equal to if not larger than in 1910, when the output was 1,463,000,000 feet, board measure, or about 60,000 cars.

VALLEY FORGE MEMORIAL.

Major Herbert Deakyne, of the Army Engineer Corps, has been appointed by the Secretary of War to superintend the building of a memorial arch on the site of General Washington's encampment at Valley Forge. Congress appropriated \$100,000 for this purpose.

A NEW SMELTING MACHINE.

A new ore smelter has been invented which not only smelts the ore but saves all the by-products. The kind of ore which is smelted does not matter. The smelting is accomplished by electricity.

The new electric furnace is more expensive than the blast furnace, but it is vastly superior. The electric smelter can begin work without preparation of any kind and can be stopped and resumed at will. The blast furnace takes almost a week to get ready, that is to be heated to the proper temperature, and just as long to cool off to be gotten ready for another charge.

The smelter is an invention of James H. Reid of Newark, N. J.

HONDURAS SETTLING DOWN.

It is reported that the government and the revolutionary leaders in Honduras are peacefully carrying out the terms of the recent peace agreement.

The vice-president of the republic has resigned and General Rafael Lopez Guterrez has been placed in command of the government forces. Francisco Bertrand has been inaugurated provisional president of the republic.

General Lee Christmas, former revolutionary leader is now governor of the department of Cortez.

NEW ALPS TUNNEL.

The Loetschberg Tunnel through the Bernese Alps was completed March 31st, after five and a half years' work and an expenditure of \$20,000,000.

The tunnel, which is the third longest in Europe, is 14,500 meters, or about nine miles long. The completion of this tunnel gives the Simplon Tunnel Railway a direct connection with the railways which traverse

Switzerland north and south. It forms a direct through route from Milan to Berne and thence to Calais and Boulougne. The distance from Milan to Calais by this route will be 675 miles, a saving of 80 miles.

NEW PROCESS FOR PRODUCING FURS.

A Frenchman has invented a process for making artificial furs. In the process the skin and the fur of the animal are used separately. It is said that these semi-artificial furs are more lasting than the natural ones, since they are immune from the attacks of moths and other destructive insects.

The Mexican Revolution.

The activities of the revolutionists have not yet ceased and marked progress has been made by them during the past month. The presence of the United States troops in Texas has not alarmed the insurrectionists. Numerous battles have occurred in which the insurgents met with varying success. The most important engagements follow:

On March 9th, the insurgents under General Madero were defeated in an all-day battle at Casas Grandes, losing 250 men. Many Americans were among those killed.

During the night of March 15th an attempt was made to destroy the barracks at Juraez. The force of the explosion partially destroyed the building and thoroughly frightened the inhabitants of the city. Very few people were killed.

The siege of Chihuahua which the rebels had carried on for a month, was broken on March 17th and troops were hurried there to reinforce the garrison.

Both the rebels and the Federal officials show little mercy to the prisoners who fall into their hands especially if they have been at all prominent.

The bloodiest and most important battle of the Mexican revolution was fought in the state of Senora. The fight lasted two days and the insurgents were forced to flee on account of lack of ammunition.

The Mexican Cabinet Resigns.

To appease the rebels the entire cabinet of President Dias has resigned with the exception of the Minister of Finance, Jose Y. Limantour, who remains, and a new cabinet has been appointed. This does not seem to satisfy the people who seem determined to force the resignation of President Diaz.

FIRE AT CAPITOL IN ALBANY.

The destruction of a portion of the capital at Albany, N. Y., by fire caused the loss

of many valuable historical documents which can never be replaced. Among those saved were the Andre papers, draft of Washington's Farewell Address, draft of President Lincoln's first Emancipation Proclamation, and a few others.

O'GORMAN, U. S. SENATOR FOR NEW YORK.

The deadlock in the legislature of N. Y. State was broken March 31st by the election of James A. O'Gorman to the U. S. senatorship. The contest for the position began January 16th. Mr. O'Gorman, until late in the afternoon of the day on which he was elected, was a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.

SPEEDY FLYING.

Lieutenant Erler and a passenger made a flight in a biplane from Doeberitz near Berlin to Hamburg. From Hamburg the lieutenant started for Bremen and reached that city in one hour, fifteen minutes. This was at the rate of more than fifty-seven miles an hour.

On March 31st, Pierre Vedrine, a French aviator, did 335 kilometers, approximately 208 miles, in 132 minutes, having maintained an average speed of 90.2 miles an hour. He used a fifty horse-power Morane machine.

OUTLOOK FOR PEACE IN MEXICO.

Since the resignation of the Mexican cabinet was arranged and agreed upon at a conference between representatives of the insurgents and Mr. Limantour, the Mexican Minister of Finance, it begins to look as though the efforts of both parties are bent upon making terms, and a permanent peace may be expected in a short time. General Diaz will probably retire from the presidency and Francesco Madero, the leader of the revolutionists, will be a candidate to succeed him.

PAPER MADE FROM SUGAR-CANE AND BAMBOO FIBER.

A manager of a sugar estate has discovered that a cheap and excellent paper may be made from ground sugar-cane and bamboo fiber. It is claimed to be better than any wood paper now being manufactured.

A VALUABLE PICTURE.

"The Mill," a painting by the famous Rembrandt, has been purchased from Lord Lansdowne for the sum of \$500,000. The name of the purchaser has been kept secret.



UNCLE SAM :—"Now you two chaps can go on fighting, but see that you let that other fellow alone or you'll get into trouble."

The Mobilization of U. S. Troops.

On March 7th, the whole country was startled to discover that 20,000 troops belonging to the United States, or one-fourth of its regular army, had been ordered to Texas, and the Mexican border. In addition, 2,000 marines, received orders to proceed to Guantanamo which is within striking distance of Mexico, and the fifth division of the Atlantic fleet, consisting of five fast cruisers, were to sail for the port of Galveston to assist the army.

It was thought by many that the United States contemplated interference in the affairs of Mexico, but President Taft soon made it clear that his purpose in moving the troops was fourfold:

First.—The Government feared the formation of an insurrection government in Lower California, which would compel the United States to keep continual watch on the whole southern border.

Second.—It feared that American property in Mexico valued at hundreds of mil-

lions might be swept away, and it was desired to protect it as well as interests of foreigners, who keeping in mind the Monroe Doctrine, might appeal to the United States for such protection.

Third.—It was determined to stop friends of the Mexican insurrectos from carrying supplies and ammunition across the Rio Grande from Texas.

Fourth.—It wished to show by the manoeuvres in Texas, that the army could be mobilized or collected, in quick time in case of difficulty. This was done in order to quiet Congressmen and others who feared the United States was not prepared to meet an emergency.

The army will probably be kept in Texas until the serious trouble in Mexico is over. It will step in only to prevent anarchy and revolution which would endanger the lives and property of Americans and foreigners. In these reasons, the President is justified in having ordered the movement of troops.

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Each pupil by whom **Our Own Times** is read should be provided with his or her own copy. In this way the best results can be obtained.

PEACE AGREEMENT WORTH MUCH TO ENGLAND.

At the close of 1910, Great Britain's fleet contained forty-eight completed battleships. Besides these she had thirty-eight armored cruisers. The United States had thirty battleships and ten armored cruisers. The figures for Germany were twenty-four battleships and ten armored cruisers.

Both Germany and the United States are hard at work on new battleships, so that Great Britain in order to keep up with her idea of approximating the naval power of her two greatest rivals, must each year expend millions upon her navy.

If the peace agreement with the United States goes through, our navy would be removed from the class of possible enemies. This would leave Germany and the rest of the powers to be considered. France would not ally itself with Germany, and a treaty is in force which puts Japan out of the reckoning. The remaining navies of the world are so small in comparison with that of Great Britain that they need not be considered.

Therefore an arbitration treaty with the United States would make it unnecessary for Great Britain to continue to expend vast sums on its navies. Germany, with only one-quarter of the British naval force, would be the only country left to be reckoned with. It is not to be wondered at therefore that English statesmen are heartily in favor of the peace agreement. It would be a good thing for both countries but very much more valuable to John Bull.

VOTE ON AN INCOME TAX.

The proposed sixteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving Congress the power to impose a tax upon all incomes above a certain amount (\$2,000), has not yet been ratified by the various state legislatures.

Up to the present time 23 states voted in favor of it, 11 against, and 12 have not voted on the question. The list follows:

The Twenty-three States for Amendment.—Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota.

The Eleven States Against Amendment.—Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, New Jersey.

The Twelve States Not Voted.—Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

CHINA YIELDS TO RUSSIA.

China has agreed to abide by the terms of the treaty of 1881, with regard to the trade and other rights of the Russians in China. It appears that China could do nothing else on account of her unpreparedness for war. Russia, however, has not ceased sending troops to the frontier.

PERU-BOLIVAR PEACE AGREEMENT.

Dr. G. L. Martinez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, and Fernandez Alonso, Bolivian Minister to Peru, have signed an agreement assuring the friendly relations between Peru and Bolivia until the points at issue over the boundary between the two countries has been settled by the Hague tribunal.

The Third Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor.

(Each voyage of Sindbad the Sailor forms a complete story in itself.)



THE GIANT AND HIS VICTIMS.

When I returned from my second voyage I was in a state of utmost joy and happiness, having gained great wealth, as I related to you yesterday. For a length of time I resided in the city of Bagdad. Soon, however, I became desirous of travel and diversion. My mind began to long for commerce and profits. So I bought an abundance of goods suited to a sea voyage, and, packing them up, I went from Bagdad to Balsora.

At Balsora I beheld a great vessel in which were many merchants and other passengers. As they proved, upon investigation, to be people of good repute I embarked with them and we departed rejoicing in expectation of good fortune and safety. We proceeded from sea to sea, and from city to city. At every place we not only bought and sold, but amused ourselves thoroughly.

One day as we were pursuing our course in the midst of the roaring waters, the master, coming over to the side of the vessel, looked with great alarm at the four quarters of the sea. Suddenly he ordered the sails furled and the anchors cast. Then some of us approached him and said:

"Master, what is the matter?"

"O passengers, the wind has prevailed

against us and driven us out of our course toward the Mountain of Apes. No one has ever arrived at this place and escaped. My heart fears we shall all be destroyed."

The words of the master had hardly ended when the apes came toward us, and surrounded the vessel. They were as numerous as locusts. We feared that if we struck at them or attempted to drive them away they would kill us. This they could easily do because of their great number, for numbers often prevail against courage. We feared, too, that they might plunder our goods. They were most hideous. They had black faces, yellow eyes, and their entire body was covered with hair like felt.

Suddenly some of them climbed quickly up the ropes of the vessel and cut them with their teeth. Then seizing the merchants and other passengers they landed them upon the shores of the island. Taking the vessel, together with all the gods aboard it, they sailed away with it. In a little while they were lost to view. Where they had gone we knew not.

While we were upon the island, eating of its herbs and fruits, and drinking of the

waters that were there, we saw an inhabited house. We went toward it and found it to be a pavilion with lofty angles and high walls. Folding doors of ebony formed its entrance. We entered the pavilion and found in it a great, open space like a wide, large court. Around the pavilion were many lofty doors and at its upper end was a great bench. There were also in it utensils for cooking, hung over fire-pots, and around them were many bones. But we did not see a person there, and at this we wondered a great deal. After sitting in the open space of the pavilion we went to sleep, and we slept from noon to sunset.

Just as the sun was setting, the earth trembled beneath us, we heard a confused noise from the upper air and there descended upon us from the summit of the pavilion a person of enormous size but of human form. He was of black complexion and of lofty stature, like a great palm tree. He had two eyes like balls of fire, a mouth of prodigious size like the mouth of a well, and lips like those of a camel. His ears were like two mortars hanging down upon his shoulders and his nails were like the claws of the lion. When we beheld him thus we became unconscious of our existence. Our fear was violent and through the violence of our fear, dread and terror, we became as dead men.

After he had descended upon the ground, he sat a little while upon the seat. Then he arose and came to us and seizing me by the hands from among my companions and merchants, he lifted me from the ground in his hand, felt me and turned me over. I was in his hand as the smallest of creatures. He continued to feel me as the butcher feels the sheep he is about to slaughter, but as he found me to be thin from excessive fatigue, he let me go and took another from among my companions. He turned him over as he had turned me, felt him as he had felt me, and finally let him go. He turned us over and felt us one after another until, coming to the master of the ship, who happened to be a stout, broad-shouldered man, of great strength and vigor, he seemed to be well pleased. He seized the master in his hands as the butcher seizes the animal he is about to kill, and throwing him upon the ground, he placed his foot upon the master's neck and broke it. Then he lighted a fierce fire over which he roasted his victim. After the flesh of the master had been thoroughly roasted, the giant took him from off the fire and proceeded to eat him, separating his joints as we separate those of a chicken.

Thus he continued to do until he had eaten his flesh and gnawed his bones. After a while there remained of the body of the master nothing but a few bones and these the giant threw by the side of the pavilion. He then threw himself down upon a bench and slept uninterruptedly until morning, when he arose and went away.

As soon as we were sure that he was far away from us, we conversed and wept for ourselves. We wished that we had been drowned in the sea or that the apes had eaten us, for either death was to be preferred to being roasted upon burning coals. After a while we arose and went forth upon the island to seek a hiding place. Evening came upon us, however, before we could locate such a place and we were forced to return to the pavilion. We had been there but a short time when the earth commenced to tremble beneath us and looking we beheld the giant ape approaching. He turned us over, one after another, as on the former occasion until he came to one who pleased him. Him he seized, roasted and ate as he had the master of the ship on the previous day. When the day came he left us as before.

After he had gone we talked about our misfortune. One of the passengers urged us to band ourselves together, kill the monster and so be at ease from fear of him and his purposes. So I said: "Listen to me. Let us make rafts strong enough to bear the weight of three men and after we have them ready then let us band ourselves together and kill him. Then, when we have killed him, let us go out onto the sea unto whatever place we shall be driven. If we do not succeed in killing him, we may be able to make our way to the rafts. If we reach them we can put out to sea upon them, and even though we be drowned we shall at least escape the horrible death of being roasted."

As all agreed that the building of the rafts would be a very wise proceeding, we began the work. We removed pieces of wood from the pavilion, constructed rafts, attached them to the seashore and placed provisions upon them. After we had completed the work we returned to the pavilion.

When evening came the earth trembled as before and the giant appeared. He turned us over and having come to one who pleased him, he did with him as he had done with the others before him. When he had gone to sleep, we arose and took two of the iron spits upon which he had roasted



SINDBAD WAVING TO THE SHIP.

his victim and putting them into the fire we heated them until they were red hot. Then grasping them firmly, we went to the giant ape and thrust them into his eyes as he slept; all of us pressing upon them with our united strength and force. The cry he uttered terrified us. We had not killed him. Indeed he arose bravely from the bench upon which he had slept and began to search for us while we fled from him to the right and to the left. However, he saw us not, for he was blind; but nevertheless we were in great fear. Soon he felt around for the door of the pavilion, and, having found it, he went out. We followed him as he went his way. In a short time we saw him approaching, accompanied by another monster more horrible in appearance than himself. We hastily ran for the rafts we had built. We loosened them from the shore and embarking, we pushed out to sea. The giant apes collected a mass of rocks and throwing them at the rafts they killed all but three of us, myself and two others.

The raft brought us, in a short time, to another island. We walked forward upon the island until night overtook us. We slept a short while, but awoke with a start to find that we were surrounded by a serpent of enormous size. It approached one of us and swallowed him. After having done this, the serpent went away. At this my companion and myself wondered extremely, and what with mourning for our companion and

fearing for ourselves, we were soon in a terrible condition. My companion said:

"Every death that we witness is more horrible than the one before it. We have escaped from the giant ape and from drowning, but how are we going to escape from this frightful snake?"

I could not answer him, and terribly cast down, we arose and walked on over the island, eating of its fruits and drinking of its rivers. We walked until morning, and, as the day was dawning, we climbed up a lofty tree and ascending to its topmost branches we went to sleep. There we stayed all day. When night arrived the serpent came and looking neither to the right or to the left, advanced to the tree upon which we were, and approaching to my companion, swallowed him to his shoulders. Then having wound itself round the tree so as to break its victim's bones, it swallowed him entirely while I looked on. After which it descended from the tree and went its way.

I remained upon the tree the rest of the night and when day came I descended. A short distance from the tree I found several wide pieces of wood. I tied one of the pieces upon the soles of my feet, crosswise; another piece I tied upon my right side, and a similar one, I tied upon my left side. In front and in back of me, I also put pieces. One extra large piece I tied upon the top of my head. After having bound several

pieces of wood tightly together, I threw myself upon the ground and was inclosed round about by the wood. When evening came, the serpent approached as was his custom. As soon as he saw me, he hastened toward me. He made several efforts to swallow me, but was, of course, prevented from doing so by the wood. The serpent went round about me several times in an effort to get at me. Several times he retired, only to return to make another unsuccessful attempt to come near me. At length, however, morning came and he went away in great rage and vexation. As soon as I was satisfied that he was far from me, I unloosened the pieces of wood and disengaged myself from them. It was with great effort that I arose, due to the sufferings of exposure and fear which I had undergone.

As soon as I had regained my strength, I walked along the island until I came to the end of it. No sooner had I reached the shore than a ship appeared a short distance from it. Seizing a large branch of a tree, I commenced to wave it and to call out as loudly as I could. Fortunately the passengers on board the ship saw me, and, bringing the vessel over to me, they took me aboard. Naturally they were curious to know how I came to be alone on the island. I told them all that had happened to me, from the beginning to the end, and they wondered extremely.

We proceeded on the journey and soon came in sight of an island called Selahit, where sandal wood is abundant. The master of the ship anchored here and the merchants and other passengers landed to buy and sell goods. After they had gone ashore, the owner of the ship came over to me and said:

"There are some bales aboard belonging to a man who started on the voyage with us but whom we have lost. You are a poor man and I wish to give you an opportunity to gain some money so that you may be able to reach your own country. I shall allow to you a commission on what you sell, and the remainder we shall keep until we return to the city of Bagdad, when we shall inquire for the rightful owner's family, and give to them an account of the goods. Will you go ashore and sell them upon these terms?"

"O master," I said. "You are very kind to me." My gratitude was so great that my feelings got the better of me, and I could say no more.

He thereupon ordered the porters to land the goods and to deliver them to me. The clerk of the ship coming over to the master, said:

"O master, which one of the merchants own these goods which the porters have just brought out?"

"Write the name of Sindbad the Sailor upon them," said the master. "He was the passenger who was drowned at the island of the roc. I have asked this stranger to go ashore and take charge of the sale of them. He has consented and I am going to allow him a commission upon his sales. When we reach Bagdad, we will render an account of the goods to Sindbad's family."

"What sort of man was this Sindbad, master," said I.

"I knew nothing of him," returned the master of the ship, "except that he lived in the city of Bagdad. We lost him upon one of the islands at which we landed and we have no tidings of him even to this day."

Upon hearing this, I uttered a great cry, and said:

"O master, I am Sindbad the Sailor. I was not drowned but when you landed at the island of the roc, I went ashore taking with me something to eat. Slumber overtook me and when I awoke I could find no one. These goods are mine, therefore. All the merchants who transport diamonds saw me when I was upon the mountain of the diamonds and they will bear witness that I am Sindbad the Sailor, as I informed them of my story and of the events that befell me while a passenger on your ship."

When the merchants and other passengers heard my words, they crowded around me. Some of them believed me, but others did not. Just at this time, however, one of the merchants arose, and advancing toward me, said:

"Hear, O people, my words. When I related to you the most wonderful thing ever seen by me in my travels, you will remember that I said I saw it on the Mountain of Diamonds. I told you that when I had cast down my slaughtered animal into the valley of diamonds, there came up with my slaughtered beast a man. You believed me not but accused me of falsehood."

"Yes," said the company, "you did tell us this and as you say we did not believe you. What of it?"

"Well, this is the man. At that time, he informed us that his name was Sindbad the Sailor. He told us likewise of how he came to be left alone on the island by reason of the departure of the ship. Moreover he mentioned having goods of his aboard the boat. So I truly believe these goods belong to this man."

When the master of the ship heard the words of the merchant, he arose and came

over to me. After looking at me slowly and carefully, he said:

"What mark is on your goods?"

I described my mark, and he sent men to examine carefully the mark on the goods. Their report tallied with my description. Upon this he became convinced of the truth of my statements and congratulated me upon my safety.

From the sale of the goods, I obtained large profits and in consequence congratulated myself not only upon my safety, but also upon the fact that my wealth had been restored to me. After disposing of all our goods, we continued our voyage and in a short while reached the city of Balsara. After a brief stay in Balsara, I went to Bagdad. As proof of my gratitude for being able to once more meet my companions and friends, I gave many alms and presents. In a short while I no longer thought of all

the hardships, horrors and distresses of my third voyage. To-morrow I am going to tell to you the story of my fourth voyage, which is more wonderful than any of the other stories I have told to you.

Then Sindbad the Sailor gave orders that a hundred pieces of gold should be given to the porter and the table spread as usual. The company sat down to supper wondering greatly at the story which had been told. After supper they went their several ways. The porter took the gold which Sindbad the Sailor had ordered to be given to him, and went his way. When morning came, he went to Sindbad the Sailor's house. The two Sindbads talked until the rest of the Sailor's companions arrived. When all were seated, Sindbad the Sailor began the story of his fourth voyage.

(The Fourth Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor will appear in the May issue.)

The Man of the Hour.



PORFIRIO DIAZ.

The most prominent figure in the events of the day is Porfirio Diaz, the President of the Republic of Mexico. The revolution in that country has caused the eyes of the world to turn toward the man against whom the insurgents are using every means

to end a long and, in their minds, a tyrannical rule. Diaz was born in Oaxaca, of Spanish parentage. When the war with the United States in 1846 broke out, he was studying law in his native town. Young Diaz enlisted in a militia regiment in 1847, and, though he saw no active service then, he decided to devote himself to a military career. In 1854 he commanded a battalion under Alvarez in the successful struggle against Santa Anna who was the ruler. He was almost always successful in his military undertakings.

During the time when the French bade fair to occupy and govern Mexico, he won a high reputation as one of the most skillful and courageous of the patriot leaders. Twice between 1863 and 1865 he was captured by the French troops, but each time he managed to escape, raise a new army and continue to harass the invaders. After the evacuation of Mexico by the French troops, Diaz advanced to Puebla, April 2, 1867, and took the city. A few months later, he entered the City of Mexico. An election for president was held in that year and Diaz was a candidate against Juarez, but was defeated. He withdrew to his estates, but he never ceased plotting against the government. Armed revolts often occurred both against Juarez and his successor Lerdo de Tejada. Twice Diaz was compelled to fly for his life—in 1872 and in 1876. He returned quickly each time, however, and

in November, 1876, he defeated his enemies at Tecoac. Lerdo was driven out of Mexico, and in May, 1877, Diaz became president.

He succeeded in restoring order in the country in a very short time. He won the confidence of European and American investors, the country was opened up, industries developed, and the modern period of prosperity began.

As the Mexican constitution provided that no man should be president for more than two successive terms, General Diaz was succeeded in 1880 by his personal friend General Gonzales. It was soon made plain, however, that only one man could win and keep the confidence of both the Mexican people and the foreign capitalists, upon whom the welfare of the people depended, and so after Diaz had been again elected president in 1884, the constitution was changed so that he could continue in that

office. The people have gone through the form of electing Diaz each succeeding term since, and there was no serious opposition to his election until the present revolution broke out in November, 1910.

In spite of the revolution in Mexico, the feeling that Diaz is one of the greatest rulers of the earth is general. The thirty years of his reign have been years of progress, this in spite of the fact that 80 per cent. of the 15,000,000 people in Mexico are uneducated and thirty-five different languages are spoken.

Diaz has established a good government, has developed a foreign trade, has introduced railroads and a splendid system of telegraph and postal service, and, in general, made Mexico a progressive, well-ordered nation.

No matter what becomes of Diaz, his work will live as a memorial to his statesmanship and qualities as a leader of men.



(In these columns the editors will answer questions about which pupils may be troubled. All questions must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.)

F. G.—Where is Dahomey?

Dahomey is a French dependency in West Africa. It extends from the Slave Coast to the French military territories.

A. M.—Is there a part of Brooklyn known as Battle Hill?

Yes. Battle Hill is a height of land in Greenwood Cemetery. It received its name because of its being the scene of a part of the Battle of Long Island.

D. N.—How high are the Yosemite Falls?

There are three distinct falls to Yosemite Creek. The first is 1,500 feet high, the second, 626 feet, in a series of cascades, and the third is 400 feet.

E. P.—Where are the Chatham Islands?

The Chatham Islands are a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. They are connected politically with New Zealand.

G. D.—What is meant by the Sepoy mutiny? What was its cause?

The revolt against the British authority in India, 1857-1858. The cause of the uprising was the introduction into the Sepoy army of a new rifle whose use required the touching of grease on the cartridge. This was against the religious ideas of the soldiers. The mutiny began in 1857 and ended with the capture of Lucknow in 1858.

Composition Contest.

The interest taken by the readers of OUR OWN TIMES in the composition contest has been truly remarkable. Almost every mail brought to us several compositions. Moreover the compositions themselves were uniformly good, and one competent critic, to whom they were submitted, expressed himself as truly astounded by the clearness of thought and nicety of expression exhibited.

It was after the most careful scrutiny that the first prize, a silver medal, was awarded to Seymour Campbell, of the Sherman Avenue School, Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Teacher, Miss Frances Hazlett.

The second prize, a bronze medal, was to go to the student whose composition was rated second best. It was, however, impossible to make a choice between two compositions submitted, as each received the same number of points from each examiner,

in all the factors of good composition work. In consequence of this, two bronze medals have been awarded, as second prizes. One went to Mildred Gutwillig, of P. S. No. 39, Queens. Teacher, Miss Christine E. Somers. The other has been awarded to M. Grace C. Simms, of All Saints School, Jersey City, N. J. Teacher Sister M. Lupita.

OUR OWN TIMES will award a silver and a bronze medal to those two children who write the best account of the circumstances attending the institution of Memorial Day. Compositions must be written upon one side of the paper, in ink, and must be properly signed by contestant. All manuscript must be accompanied by teacher's signature.

Compositions should be mailed so as to reach the editor on or before April 29, 1911.



(Letters of inquiry concerning stamps and coins will be answered in these columns. Do not send stamps and coins for examination, but describe them carefully. Information concerning prices of stamps can be obtained from standard catalogues, for sale by all dealers. All letters for this department must be accompanied by name and address, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.)

KING GEORGE OF ENGLAND COLLECTS STAMPS.

That the collection of stamps is something which should concern not only school boys and girls, but also children of an older growth, is evidenced by the fact that the new king of England has a collection of stamps, numbering, it is said, almost five hundred thousand specimens. In this connection it is interesting to note that when the delegates from the Transvaal came to London, just previous to the death of Edward VII, the one man who seemed to have a thoroughly intimate knowledge of conditions in Africa was Prince George, who has since become king. It is admitted on all sides that this intimate knowledge was an unconscious result of the closeness with which he had followed the issuance of stamps in the British possessions in Africa. Such instances impress upon us the scientific value of stamp collecting and the reason why the

Stamps and Coins.

instinct of collection, natural to all, should be fed upon stamps and coins.

THE COST OF STAMP COLLECTION

We read so often of the great price paid for rare stamps that we are apt, unless we are an experienced collector, to get faulty notions and to believe that no good collection of stamps can be made except by the outlay of a large amount of money. There are quantities of cheap stamps to be bought for a very small sum. In the catalogue of any responsible dealer in stamps you will find many stamps, foreign as well as domestic, selling as low as one cent apiece. In fact, one can build up a collection of stamps, say of one thousand, of which he may well be proud, for three or four dollars at the most. This outlay will not, of course, be made at once, but gradually; as we can get the true benefits of stamp collecting only by closely scrutinizing those we add to our collection.

HAVE A GOOD HOBBY!

ONE of the best hobbies is the collection of stamps and coins. It is not only interesting in itself but is apt to prove very profitable. To give prospective collectors a start we will give 100 foreign stamps to each boy who secures five new yearly subscribers to

OUR OWN TIMES



Wit and Humor..

RIGHT TO A DOT.

"I can tell you," said he, "how much water runs over Niagara Falls to a quart."

"How much?" asked she.

"Two pints."—The Christian Advocate.

A little girl was visiting Old Point for the first time, and her father took her to bathe in the ocean. Nothing more extensive than the bathtub at home had been her experience.

As she waded out, tightly holding her father's hand, she was presently up to her neck in the water.

"Oh, papa," she exclaimed, "take me out; it's too full."—Harper's Magazine.

A POOR BEGINNING.

The young teacher looked around at the little assemblage that constituted the slum kindergarten of which she had taken charge, and began in sweet tones supposed to express intense interest in her subject, "Now, I wonder how many little children here this morning can tell me whether the little kitty wears fur or feathers?"

A dirty-faced urchin rolled his eyes ceilingward and groaned, audibly:

"Gee! ain't she never seen a cat?"—Harper's Magazine.

SPRING FEVER.

Doctor—My dear lady, you are in perfect health. I can't find a thing the matter with you.

Patient—I wish you'd try again, doctor. I do so want to go away to recuperate.—Century Magazine.

AWFUL.

Mrs. Willis—Isn't it awful the way people paw over goods in a store?

Mrs. Gillis—Shocking. I went over to the waist counter this morning and picked up every single garment and there wasn't one that didn't have the marks where somebody had been handling them.—Brooklyn Life.

A FIGHTING CHANCE.

The advanced English class had been reading "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and had reached the dramatic line where it said, "A plashy tramp caught the sensitive ear of Ichabod."

"Put it into your own words," asked the teacher of a promising looking student.

"Why," he replied promptly, "the dirty tramp got a hold of his sore ear."—Judge.

COULDN'T FOOL TOMMY.

Sunday School Teacher—Think again, Tommy. Who was the strongest man in the world? The name begins with an S.

Tommy—I know who you mean, all right. You mean Sandow. Shucks! Frank Gotch could break him in two!—Chicago Tribune.

THE EXACT TRUTH.

Teacher—Willie, did your father cane you for what you did in school yesterday?

Pupil—No, ma'am; he said the licking would hurt him more than it would me.

Teacher—What rot! Your father is too sympathetic.

Pupil—No, ma'am; but he's got the rheumatism in both arms.—Lippincott's.

PATHETIC PROOF.

"My Jim is dead; my Jim is dead!" wailed the old colored mammy, holding up a letter. "Here's a letter from him right from the dead letter office!"—Woman's Home Companion.

Mother was invited to a party and Dorothy, five years old, was in mother's room while she was dressing.

"Where are you going?" asked Dorothy.

"I'm going to a surprise party, dear," replied the mother.

"Are we goin' with you?"

"No, dear; you're not invited."

The little girl was thoughtful for a moment. Then she said:

"Say, mother, don't you think they'd be lots more surprised if you did take us."—Milwaukee Free Press.

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The Income Tax

Fourth Voyage of
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WHEN YOU WRITE PLEASE MENTION OUR OWN TIMES.



The World in Review.

WORLD'S PLACE.

President Taft has proposed that arbitration treaties made between countries shall include all questions without exception. Such a treaty is now being drawn up by the Secretary of State and is to be proposed to England. President Taft hopes that the acceptance of this treaty will lead other nations to make similar treaties and so lead to universal peace.

THE PLAGUE IN JAVA.

The plague has made its appearance in Eastern Java and many deaths have been reported as a result of it.

SPELLING CONTEST LASTS 17 HOURS.

An old-fashioned spelling-bee was held at Bowling Green, Mo., recently. Twenty-three entered the competition. After seventeen hours Miss Ruth Creushaw was still standing. She spelled at least 2,500 of the 10,000 words that were given out.

STARTING 170 NEW TOWNS.

One hundred and seventy new towns will be started in Western Canada this year. The locations for the towns have been selected and some of the towns have already been named: The Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern railroads will assist very much in the settling of the new towns.

MINE DISASTERS.

Explosions in one mine at Littleton, Alabama, and one at Throop, Pa., caused the death of 174 miners. The dangers of mining and the question of safety lamps are yet to be solved.

WARSHIP SPEED RECORD.

The new British battleship cruiser, *Indefatigable*, made the record speed for dreadnoughts 29 knots an hour.

FAST BOATS FOR THE CANAL.

The American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. will expend \$6,000,000 for four liners which will ply between California ports and New York via the Panama Canal. The boats will have a speed of 24 knots an hour and will make trips every two weeks.

NEW SETTLERS.

Many sturdy Dutch farmers have arrived in the United States during the past months. They will settle in the Far West and till the soil. There is plenty of room and the West needs them.

FLIES FROM LONDON TO PARIS.

Pierre Prier, the aviator, left London on April 12 and flying across the English Channel reached a suburb of Paris where he alighted. He had travelled 290 miles in 236 minutes, having made the entire trip without a stop.

RIOTS IN FRANCE.

The wine pressers of France, because an attempt was made to restrict the manufacture of champagne to one district, engaged in riots to show their dissatisfaction. Wine was poured into the streets and so fierce did the riots become that the troops had to be called out. A loss of \$40,000,000 was caused to the growers and dealers.

WOULD REPEAL 14TH AMENDMENT.

Congressman Hardwick of Georgia introduced a bill in the House, providing for the repeal of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

WILL ADD 42 MEMBERS TO HOUSE.

There seems to be little doubt that the number of representatives in the House will be increased from 391 to 433.

REVOLT IN MOROCCO.

A revolt against Sultan Mulai Hafid led by anarchists is now under way. So serious is the danger to foreigners and foreign interests that France has sent a large force of men to Morocco to aid in putting down the rebellion.

THE INCOME TAX.

The number of states in favor of the income tax is steadily increasing. Up to the present time twenty-five states have voted for the tax. Eleven states have done nothing about the tax. Ten states have voted against it. It is necessary for three-fourths of the states to ratify an amendment before it becomes a part of the Constitution. The number now necessary is thirty-five, and with the admission of Arizona and New Mexico will be thirty-six. The states which have voted against the amendment may change their votes, but those states that have voted for the bill cannot change their votes. Therefore, the amendment has a very good chance to become a law.

LOSS OF TRADE.

Since 1902 New York's share of the export trade in grain has fallen from 50% to 22%, and Montreal's has risen from 49% to 77%. After investigation it was found that the low rate by water to Montreal, was the chief cause for the loss of trade in New York. The railroad's freight rates are too high and unless the prices are brought down more trade will go to Montreal.

AMBASSADOR RESIGNS.

Dr. David Jayne Hill, Ambassador to Germany from the United States, has resigned his position, to take effect July 1st. The reason for the resignation has not been made public.

BOSTON CAN RIVAL NEW YORK.

Boston, the chief city of the New England States, may become the leading seaport on the Atlantic coast if full advantage of its resources is taken. It is the nearest city to England and if her harbor is deepened and dry docks built large enough to accommodate the large ocean liners, there is no reason why the bulk of the foreign trade should not come there. This is the opinion of Charles S. Mellen, the president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The last solar eclipse for a number of years occurred on April 28th. It was visible only from a number of small islands called Vauvau, in the Pacific Ocean. A number of British expeditions made records of the eclipse but no American astronomers were present.

GLASS CURTAIN FOR MEXICAN THEATRE.

The National Theatre in the City of Mexico, which will cost \$8,000,000 when completed, is to have a glass curtain. This curtain was made at Corona, Long Island; weighs 27 tons and can be lowered in seven seconds. It will be shipped in parts and put together when it reaches its destination. The theatre itself, will be the largest and most beautiful structure of its kind in the world.

TO PREVENT MINE DISASTERS.

The U. S. government has begun to operate a coal mine at Bruceton, Pa., near Pittsburgh, not for profit but as a scientific experiment. Mining experts will obtain for the United States Bureau of Mines, information which will be useful in the prevention of such terrible losses of life as have recently occurred.

A special study is to be made of explosions of coal dust and their causes. Tests of all kinds of machinery used in coal cutting will also be made. The government hopes as a result of the work of the mine to reduce the dangers of coal mining.

LEISLER TREE PLANTED IN NEW YORK.

The United German societies of New York City planted a tree in memory of Jacob Leisler, to be known as the Leisler tree, in City Hall Park, near the statue of Nathan Hale, last month.

Leisler was prominent in the history of Colonial New York. In 1660 he came to New Amsterdam as a soldier in the Dutch West India Company's service. On May 13, 1689, the New York militia rose against Lieut.-Gov. Nicholson and the three Royal Councillors living in New York seized the government for William and Mary, and chose a committee of safety at the head of which was Leisler, who was also appointed commander of the fort.

He assumed the title of Lieutenant-Governor, appointed a council and chose Jacob Milbourne as secretary.

In May, 1690, by his invitation the first Intercolonial Congress that ever assembled met in New York and planned an invasion of Canada, which was unsuccessful. In 1691, Sloughter, a newly appointed governor, and Captain Ingolsby, arrived from England and demanded the surrender of the fort and possession of the colony. Leisler resisted, but was defeated and captured. He and eight others were sentenced to death. Leisler was hanged. Years later his body was taken up and reburied with honors in the old Dutch Cemetery.

PATRIOTS' DAY CELEBRATED.

Patriotic exercises were held in and about Boston to mark the celebration of Patriots' Day, April 19th. On Lexington Green, where 136 years ago the first blood of the Revolution was shed, patriotic companies of the town paraded, dressed in the uniform of the Minute Men. In Concord there was a parade of the Massachusetts Division of the Boys' Brigade, while in Boston descendants of the early fighters met at Old South Meeting House to commemorate the first blow for American independence.

CIVIL WAR RECALLED.

Throughout the country memories of the Civil War were recalled during the past month. Fifty years ago, April 12th, the country was startled by reports that Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, had been fired upon. This event marked the opening of the Civil War.

Veterans and members of the various regiments which took part in that great struggle celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Amundsen Ahead in South Pole Race.

According to messages received in London, Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, is no less than eight months ahead of Capt. Scott, in the race for the South Pole. He started his dash in February. The trip south at such a season is very dangerous. February, in the Southern Hemisphere corresponds to August in the Northern latitudes, that it, it is near the end of the brief Antarctic summer. The party starting then, would have to face the unknown perils of the Antarctic Winter, with its perpetual night.

PARIS POPULATION.

Paris retains its position as the third largest city in the world. The census taken recently shows a population of 2,846,986, an increase of about 125,000 over the figures for 1906.

3865 MILES BY DIRECT WIRE.

Probably the longest direct telegraph wire ever used brought the Mexican war zone in direct contact with New York City. The Associated Press talked with its representative, Aloysius Call, at Douglaston, Arizona, 3865 miles away, in order to get more information about a statement supposed to have been made by Minister de la Barre, in regard to the revolution.

TORNADO RAGES.

A tornado struck St. Louis, Mo., April 13th. So violent was the storm that several large buildings were destroyed and a number of lives lost.

HIGH PRICED PAINTING.

Henry E. Huntington, a California millionaire, paid \$100,000 for the painting entitled, "Portrait of a Young Ecclesiastic," by Velasquez, the Spanish artist.

NICARAGUAN REVOLT SOON.

Rodolpho Espinosa, the former Nicaraguan Minister at Washington, is preparing plans for a revolution against President Estrada of Nicaragua.

It is said that Estrada uses all manner of tortures to force from the Liberals information regarding the hiding place of the funds of the revolutionists. A great many of the opposing party are now in jail. Many Nicaraguans are in exile, among them Espinosa, for whose capture a reward of \$1,500 is offered.

HONOLULU AIMS HIGH.

The people of the Pacific islands believe that the city of the future will be located on the Pacific. Seattle and Yokohama are believed to have a great future before them, but the Honoluluans, because of the opening of the Panama Canal and because of the advantage of location, hope that their city will outstrip them all.

FIND RELIC OF ROME.

In the course of excavations on the site of the new county hall on the right bank of the Thames, near Westminster Bridge, in London, an ancient boat with a number of other objects of antiquity, was discovered. There is no doubt that the boat is a relic of Roman rule in Great Britain. As no other such relic has been discovered in Britain, great efforts are being made to restore and preserve this one.

FAST FLIGHT OVER 500 MILES.

Pierre Vedrine, in a monoplane, flew a distance of 500 miles in 6 hours 55 minutes, actual flying time, winning thereby a prize of \$4,000.

PRIZE FOR A NATIONAL SONG.

The Board of Education of Chicago has arranged for each of the 300,000 children in the schools to contribute one cent towards a prize for the successful competitor in a contest to supply a National song. The restriction which has been made by the board is that the song shall not be a war song.

WOULD ABOLISH SENATE.

Victor Berger, Socialist member of the House from Milwaukee, introduced a resolution which proposes not only to abolish the Senate, but aims to take from the President the veto power and from the court the power to make null laws passed by the House. All this is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution.

GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE TO BE OPEN SOON.

There will be an early opening to navigation this year of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which has been choked by ice. The ice is reported to be moving.

POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS.

The movement for the direct election of United States Senators by the people is advancing. New York State was the thirtieth state to declare itself in favor of the movement. If enough states act favorably on the proposition, it will become an amendment.

BURN CANTON PALACE.

A revolutionary outbreak occurred in Canton, April 27th. The revolutionists obtained a quantity of explosives and firearms which were freely used. The viceroy's palace was set on fire and burned for two hours. Fighting between the troops and the rioters resulted in the death of a number of persons. The soldiers finally got control of the situation and steps were taken to prevent another outbreak. The gates of the city were closed and a search made for arms and ammunition.

Congressional Doings.

The extra session of Congress opened April 4th. "Champ" Clark was elected Speaker. Many important measures are before the House, chief of which are the Reciprocity Bill, the Income Tax Bill and bill providing for the popular election of Senators.

Although the Reciprocity Bill has not yet passed both Houses, the chances for its success are very bright. This is a measure for which President Taft has been working heart and soul. Many of the prominent Democrats have declared themselves in favor of it.

The Income Tax amendment is now being voted on by the states.

The Mexican affair also took up the attention of the law makers. They are not inclined to interfere between Diaz and the revolutionists, but warning was sent to the Mexican officials to prevent fighting on the border of the United States.

It seems probable that New Mexico and Arizona will be admitted to the Union in the near future.

A bill known as the Publicity Bill was passed by the House. Its purpose is to make all candidates publish contributions to their campaign funds.

The resolution providing for the popular election of Senators passed the House by a

vote of 296 to 16. The Senate will also pass the resolution which is an amendment to the Constitution. It cannot become a law, however, until it has been ratified by three-fourths of the states.

Numerous other bills have been introduced, among them a bill which excludes all Asiatic people from coming into the United States. The bill provides that all laws now in force prohibiting the coming of Chinese or persons or Chinese descent into the United States shall apply to Japanese, Koreans, Tartars, Malays, Afghans, East Indians, Lascars, Hindoos, and all persons of Mongolian or Asiatic race or extraction. The bill is in the hands of the committee on foreign affairs.

ECHO TO LOCATE ICEBERGS.

Captain Anderson, of the Scandinavian-American Liner Kentucky, reported a new method of discovering the position of icebergs in foggy weather.

When the vessel was to the eastward of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland in a dense fog, the temperature began to drop indicating the presence of icebergs, but the officers could not tell whether they were ahead, astern or abeam.

The whistle was blown, the sound waves struck the huge masses of floating ice and by means of the echoes Capt. Anderson was able to get an approximate position of the drifting bergs ahead in time to change the Kentucky's course to the southward out of danger.

U. S. BANK.

Representative Fornes of New York has introduced a bill providing for the establishment of the United States National Bank of America in the District of Columbia, with a capital of \$100,000,000. Congress is to choose banks in the various states to be made U. S. depositories.

This bank is intended to replace the present Treasury system.

SHARKS AS COWARDS.

Australia is surrounded by a sea which is filled with sharks. Despite this fact, many people bath in the waters where the sharks abound and are rarely attacked. Why the shark should not kill some of these foolhardy persons is a mystery. Perhaps the best reason is that nature has implanted in all the lower forms of animal life a great fear of man.

At any rate, the fact remains that the shark in Australian waters, except in very rare instances, keeps his distance from the bathers, who enjoy the pleasures of sea bathing with little regard to his presence.

Affairs in Mexico.

In spite of the fact that an early end to the Mexican revolution has been predicted over and over again, fighting is still going on. Battles have occurred in various parts of Mexico, chief among which were the battle of Atlixco, in the State of Puebla, where a detachment of ninety Federal troops were surprised and every man killed by the rebel forces; the battle at Agua Prieta, which resulted in the capture of that place by the rebels. The bullets of the combatants killed two men and injured several others in Douglas, Arizona, which is near enough to the border to endanger the lives of the inhabitants. American troops crossed the border and stopped the battle. A few days later, however, a force of 1,200 Federal troops arrived and attacked the rebels in Agua Prieta, once more endangering the lives of Americans. The rebels were forced to leave the city.

The rebels are determined to continue fighting until Diaz resigns. Within the last few days, however, an agreement has been reached whereby Madero, the revolutionist leader has promised to stop all fighting by the rebels until terms for a permanent peace have been discussed between him and the representatives of Diaz. The meeting place of the peace commissioners will probably be the City of El Paso, Texas. Rumor has it that President Diaz is to resign as will Vice-President Coral. Diaz has expressed himself as certain that the commissioners will bring about a permanent peace.

Our Relations With Mexico.

Ever since 1868, when the United States succeeded in causing the withdrawal of the French troops which had invaded the republic of Mexico, the feeling of the Mexicans toward the United States has been very friendly.

Throughout the long presidency of Porfirio Diaz, which began in 1877, the relations between Mexico and the United States have been, on the whole, of a peaceful character. Several reasons may be given why this good feeling existed. One of them is the statesmanship of President Diaz himself. Another is the fact, that during most of this time, until recently, Mexico has been at peace within her own borders, and foreign interests within the republic have been safe.

A third reason is the increasing commercial and industrial relations between the two countries. Mexico recognizes that the prosperity of the nation depends a great deal upon the capital and the enterprise of American citizens.

Most of the mining companies and four-fifths of the railroads are controlled by United States citizens.

Through all the excitement of the last few weeks, in spite of the war talk which was heard on every side, the United States has not shown the slightest unfriendliness toward the Mexican people or the Mexican officials. The American plan throughout has been to protect American interests and to encourage the forces of law and order. It has been perfectly plain that neither the President nor Congress has any desire to do anything which might lead to trouble.

It is the universal wish in this country that the unfortunate strife now going on in Mexico may soon come to an end, and that the people of that republic may again enjoy peace and order.

RAILROAD ACROSS LABRADOR.

Plans for a railway line between the Saguenay River and Cape Charles Bay on the east coast of Labrador are now in the course of preparation. This railroad will save many hours in the transportation of mails from Liverpool to Chicago and other points in the west.

Cape Charles Bay is open all the year round and it is claimed that with fast steamers making the run from Liverpool to this port the mails can be landed in Chicago thirty hours before they could even reach New York by the present routes.

THE DUTCH OCCUPY ONE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Reports have reached the State Department to the effect that the Dutch have taken possession of Palmas Islands, sixty miles southeast of Mindanao, lowered the United States colors and substituted the colors of Holland.

It is understood that Washington does not intend to protest against the action of the Dutch, the United States government regarding the islands as valueless. The island is isolated, out of the direct line of voyage and is inhabited by about four hundred savages.

INITIALED STAMPS.

Young collectors should be careful to avoid adding to their lists stamps which have been perforated with initials. Such stamps have no commercial value at all. The perforation of a stamp in this way is done by many firms. Its purpose is to protect the concern owning the stamps against theft.

OUR OWN TIMES

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Our Own Times has been the result of a careful study of classroom conditions. It aims to supply a careful digest of the news of the world and to do it in such a way as to make the largest problems understood by the students of our schools. Moreover it seeks to introduce to the pupils some of the delightful stories which are being neglected. In this way it hopes to have an unconscious influence in the creation of a desire for good literature.

The magazine form has been adopted so as to make easy the preservation of copies.

Each pupil by whom **Our Own Times** is read should be provided with his or her own copy. In this way the best results can be obtained.

Election of Senators by the People.

The election of United States Senators is at present in the hands of the Legislatures of the various states. For many years the question as to whether Senators should be elected by the voters themselves instead of by the Legislature, has been debated. Never has the opinion for popular election been so strong as it is to-day.

The argument that Senators will not represent the states because they will be elected by the people at the polls instead of by legislators elected by the people at the polls, does not hold. Only the manner of election is changed. Senators will continue to represent their States in Congress.

However, the passage of the bill in Congress by such a large vote leads one to believe that the people of the country wish the change. It only remains for three-fourths of the states to give their approval in order to make the bill an amendment to the Constitution.

Facts Favoring Reciprocity.

The reciprocity measure now before Congress is very favorable to the farmer, because its first purpose is to extend their markets. We remove the tariff from many articles grown by farmers, but we do so in order that Canada may do the same.

We gain free entry into Canada for our fruits, vegetables, cottonseed oil, poultry, eggs, dairy products, hay, horses, cattle and sheep, grass and other seeds, all of which are in demand there, and we allow the Canadians to send in rough lumber, wood pulp, paper and fish, which are in demand here.

Reciprocity leads to five things of benefit to the United States, especially the farmer.

1. It opens a great and growing market to American products.
2. It enlarges and cheapens our lumber supply.
3. It removes the tax upon paper and pulp.
4. It abolishes the burdensome and useless tax upon fish.
5. It promises a constantly increasing commerce and friendship between two nations, the products of one of which are needed by the other.

COMPOSITION CONTEST.

The first prize in the composition contest of April has been awarded to Mary E. Fitzpatrick, of all Saints' School, Jersey City, N. J. Teacher, Sister M. Lupita.

The second prize has been awarded to Minnie M. Lascher, of Public School 141, Brooklyn, N. Y. Teacher, Miss Corinne Gaskill.

Because of the great merit of Miss Fitzpatrick's work and the intense interest we all have in the subject of Decoration Day during the month of May, we take pleasure in printing the prize-winning composition.

Our Own Times will award a silver and a bronze medal to those two children who write the best account of the circumstances attending the institution of Flag Day. Compositions must be on one side of the paper, in ink, and must be properly signed by contestant. All manuscript must be accompanied by teacher's signature.

Compositions should be mailed so as to reach the editor on or before May 27, 1911.

The Fourth Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor.

(Each voyage of Sindbad, the Sailor, forms a complete story)



THE RESCUE OF SINDBAD.

When I returned to the city of Bagdad I met my family and friends and soon forgot all the hardships I had experienced. In a short time, however, a longing for travel took possession of me. So strong did it become that I decided to make another voyage, and purchasing many precious articles, suitable for a sea voyage, I went from the city of Bagdad to the City of Balsora. At Balsora I joined a party of the chief men of the city and we set forth. The voyage for the first few days was very pleasant, but at the end of that time a violent storm arose. So terrible was the storm that it not only rent the sails into strips, but it destroyed the vessel entirely, sweeping the passengers into the trough of the sea. Many were drowned, but some, myself included, kept afloat by means of planks from the illfated vessel, and on the following day a wind arose which bore us toward an island. We managed to reach it in safety and cast ourselves upon it, utterly exhausted. Having eaten some herbs we found, we went to sleep and slept upon the shore till morning.

When morning came we arose and walked about. In the distance we could see a large building. We walked toward it and reached

it in a short while. While we were standing in front of it a party of men came out and without saying a word, they seized us and carried us to their king. The king commanded us to sit down and ordered the attendants to bring us food. The food brought was of a kind none of us had ever seen before. It did not agree with me and I ate very little of it, even though I was very hungry. My companions, however, ate a great deal of the food and as they ate their state changed and they became like idiots. The natives then brought to them cocoa-nut oil which my companions drank. The effect of the oil was to make them eat more of the peculiar food. As I looked at the condition of my companions grief for them and anxiety for my own safety took possession of me. My hunger became so great, since I would not eat any of the foods offered to me, that I became infirm and my flesh dried upon my bones. I realized that these people were canibals and that the foods they offered were simply for the purpose of making their victims stout so that they might prove to be a better article of diet, and I knew that my only hope of safety was in keeping so thin that in their hour of plenty they would ignore me.

My reasoning proved to be correct. In a short while they forgot me and I was left entirely to myself. Each hour I was busy trying to devise some means of escape, but all in vain. One day, however, as I was walking along the island I saw a herdsman. As I looked I discovered him to be the man to whom the king had committed my companions that he might pasture them like so many cattle. Even now he had them with him. As soon as he saw me he knew I was in possession of my reason and that I was not a victim of the food as were my poor companions. Calling out to me from the distance he said: "Turn back and go along the road that is on your right hand. It will bring you to the highway." Accordingly I turned back as the man had directed me and, seeing the road on my right hand, I proceeded along it, sometimes running because of my great fear, and at other times walking at my leisure. Thus I continued to do until evening and as darkness settled down upon the earth I lay down to sleep. But because of my great fear of recapture, I could not sleep and about midnight I arose and continued walking until morning.

In this manner I proceeded for seven days and nights, and on the eighth day I beheld a faint object in the distance. I went toward it and came up near it just before sunset and found it to be a party of men gathering pepper. When I approached them they surrounded me on every side, saying to me: "Who are you? and where do you come from?"

I answered: "I am a poor foreigner." Then I told them of all my misfortunes, whereupon they aid:

"But how did you manage to escape from the cannibals? they are a very numerous people."

When I had explained to them the method of my escape they congratulated me and made me sit down among them while they finished their work. They offered to me some nice food which I ate with great relish. As soon as their work was done they took me and embarked with me in a vessel and we went to their own island. When we arrived they took me to their king. He welcomed me, treated me with honor and inquired of me my story. He wondered extremely at the story and so did all, in fact, who were present at the assembly.

The city of the king proved to be a flourishing city, abounding with inhabitants, wealth and many markets for buyers and sellers. I rejoiced at my arrival in the city and my

heart was at ease. I became familiar with the inhabitants and was honored by them and by their king above all the people of his dominions and the great men of his city. I saw that all the men of the city, even to the king himself, rode their horses without saddles. I wondered greatly at this and one day I said to the king:

"Why don't you use a saddle, for it will give much more ease and power in riding."

"A saddle?" answered the king, "What is a saddle?"

I explained to him and said: "Will you let me make you one?"

"Do so," said the king, and he gave orders that I was to have all the materials and men I needed.

Immediately I asked for a clever carpenter, and when he arrived I explained to him the construction of the wooden portion of the saddle and how he should fashion it. When he had completed his part of the work I took some wool, teased it, and made felt of it. Then I asked that some leather be sent to me and when I had covered the saddle with it I polished it. After I had attached the straps and girth I brought it to the blacksmith and explained to him the construction of the stirrups. He made an excellent pair and after attaching them I added some beautiful silk fringe. When the saddle was completed I ordered that the best of the king's horses should be brought, and when he was saddled and bridled I brought him to the king. He was delighted with the saddle; and gave me a large present for that which I had done for him. When the king's minister saw the saddle he asked me to make one for him. I did so. Then the nobles asked me and I made saddles for them. After a short time, the carpenter, the blacksmith and myself formed a partnership and employed ourselves in making saddles. We sold them to the great men of the kingdom and in this way I collected abundant wealth and became a man of great reputation among the people.

One day as I was sitting with the king he said to me:

"You have really become one of us and I do not like to think of your ever leaving this city, therefore, there is one thing I am going to ask you to do and I do not want you to refuse me."

"What is it you desire, O, king," said I, "tell me and I shall do it. I have not forgotten all you have done for me and if it is possible for me to do anything to please you I shall do it with the greatest of pleasure."

"Then," said the king, "all is well. I

desire you to marry a lady of noble rank."

"My king, said I, "I am yours to command."

Immediately the king caused the *cadi* and witnesses to come and he married me to a most beautiful lady of noble family. Moreover, he gave to me a handsome house and assigned to me servants and supplies. I was in great joy, I forgot all my trials and resolved that when I set forth on my return voyage to Bagdad my wife would go with me. But no one can fortell what is in store for him.

Not long after my marriage, my neighbor, who was a great friend of mine, lost his wife. At her death I went into his house to console him and found him in great distress. He refused to be consoled and said: "How can I be otherwise than sorrowful when I think that not only my wife is dead, but that there remains to me but one day of life."

"One day of life," said I, "what do you mean? you are in good health."

"You do not understand," said he. There is a custom in this country which says that husband and wife must be buried together. When they bury my wife I shall be buried alive with her."

"This is a vile custom," said I.

After leaving my neighbor I went to the king and questioned him concerning the custom about which I had been informed and he told me that my neighbor had spoken the truth.

"Is this custom, O, king," said I, "binding on foreigners in your kingdom?"

"Yes," said he, "foreigners must obey as well as natives."

When I heard this I became stupefied. I feared the horrible fate which was almost sure to befall my beautiful wife or myself.

Some few months after this my wife was taken sick and after an illness of three days, she died. When the day of burial came they brought my wife and me to a great mountain far outside the city and placed us in a great cavern and sealed up the entrance. In the cavern they had placed for me seven loaves of bread and a small jug of water.

When I had been in the cavern a few days and I felt sure that I should die of starvation because my supply of food was almost exhausted, I heard something make a noise in the side of the cavern. I went toward it and discovered it to be a wild beast which shrank away when it saw I was alive. I followed it to the upper end of the cavern and there I saw a small spot like a star. I approached and found it to be a small passage way between two rocks. It had evi-

dently been made by wild beasts. I forced myself through the passageway and found myself upon the shore of the sea, upon a great mountain which formed a barrier between the sea on one side and the island and city on the other.

Day after day I sat upon the shore anxiously watching the sea in the hope that I might catch sight of some passing vessel. For food and water I had to depend upon the wild fruits and brooks of the mountain. At length one day my patience was rewarded. A vessel appeared in the distance. I ran high up on the mountain side and waved frantically toward the vessel. In a short while I knew I had attracted the attention of those on board, for a small boat was let down from the vessel and it proceeded straight toward me. When it reached me I stepped aboard and was brought in very few minutes to the vessel.

The master of the vessel was intensely interested in my rescue and said:

"My man, how did you ever get on that mountain. I have sailed these seas all my life and I have never seen anything on that mountainside but wild beasts and birds."

Thereupon I told him the whole story of my voyage and he marvelled at it.

We proceeded on our course until we arrived at length at the city of Balsora, where I landed and remained a few days. After that I came to the city of Bagdad and met my family and companions. They rejoiced at my safe return and congratulated me.

Such were the most wonderful of the events that happened to me in the course of my fourth voyage. But sup with me and come to me to-morrow. I shall inform you of all that happened to me during my fifth voyage, for it was more wonderful and extraordinary than any of the others.

The party then took supper and after supper Sindbad, the porter, went to his house. In the morning he returned to the house of Sindbad the Sailor, where he received a most cordial welcome. The two Sindbads talked until the other invited guests arrived, when Sindbad the Sailor began the story of his fifth voyage.

(The Fifth Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor will appear in the June issue).

NO TRUTH IN ANNEXATION REPORT.

President Taft, in a recent speech, made it very plain that there was absolutely no truth in the talk that steps were being taken to bring about the annexation of Canada.



ULYSSES S. GRANT.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was named at birth Hiram Ulysses, but, through an error when he entered the Military Academy, he was given the name which he afterwards adopted. He was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822, and was graduated from West Point in 1843. When the war with Mexico broke out he was in the army. He served under General Taylor and then under General Scott, taking part in every battle between Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico. He was made a captain in 1853, but resigned the next year and settled in St. Louis.

When the Civil War broke he was one of the first to offer his services to the National government, but as no notice was taken of him, he organized the 21st Illinois Infantry, of which he became the Colonel. In 1861, he was made brigadier-general of volunteers. He succeeded in destroying the Confederate defense in the West and in opening the Mississippi for the use of the Unionists. In 1864, he was made lieutenant-general and awarded a gold medal by Congress. From that time until he signed the articles of capitulation at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865, he was constantly in the field.

In 1868, Grant was elected President of the United States by the Republican party and was re-elected four years later. After his retirement from office he made a trip around the world, receiving great honors everywhere.

Towards the close of his life, Grant lost all his money. Congress made him a general on the retired list and to further provide for his family he began compiling "Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant," a work that was completed shortly before his death on Mount McGregor, N. Y., July 23, 1885. His remains lie in a magnificent tomb on Riverside Drive, New York City. The tomb cost \$500,000 and was raised mainly by popular subscription.



ROBERT E. LEE.

Robert Edward Lee was born in Stratford, Westmoreland County, Va., in 1807. He graduated at the United States Military Academy in 1829. During the war with Mexico, he rendered brilliant services as chief engineer of General Wool's brigade. From 1852 to 1855 he was superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point. In the latter year he was made lieutenant-colonel of cavalry, and in March, 1861, was promoted to colonel.

Believing in the doctrine of state supremacy, when Virginia seceded from the Union, Lee went to Richmond and on April 22, 1861, accepted the command of the forces of that state and resigned his commission in the National Army. In accepting his commission he said, "Trusting in Almighty God, an approving conscience and the aid of my fellow-citizens, I devote myself to the aid of my native state, in whose behalf alone will I ever draw my sword."

Lee was an officer of fine culture, a brave and discreet soldier and an engineer of great skill. His qualities commended him highly for the position of commander-in-chief of the Confederate forces which was given to him toward the latter part of the war.

He struggled against terrific odds. Defeat did not daunt him. His surrender at Appomattox Court House was caused by his desire to save his men any further hardship.

In his farewell to the Army of Northern Virginia Lee says, "I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the surrender from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuation of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen."

Prize Composition.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Memorial Day or Decoration Day is set apart in nearly all the states and territories of the United States as a day for decorating the graves of the dead soldiers of the Civil War and for holding suitable exercises in their memory. The day was first called Decoration Day, but as time went on, the more appropriate term "Memorial Day" was substituted and is generally used.

The first state to officially declare May 30th as Memorial Day was New Jersey; the first to make it a legal holiday was New York.

The United States government has never passed any law regarding the observance of the day, but each year both Houses of Congress, if in session at the time, vote to adjourn for the day "as a mark of respect to the illustrious dead."

The custom of decorating the graves of the dead soldiers originated in the South. During the war, the women of the South selected a day in the early spring of each year and strewed flowers on the graves of the dead soldiers. They continued this custom after the war, and two years after its close an article appeared in the New York Tribune stating that "the women of Columbus, Miss., have shown themselves impartial in their offerings made to the memory of the dead. They strewed flowers alike on the graves of the Confederate and of the National soldiers." This newspaper item inspired the celebrated poem of Francis Miles Finch, "The Blue and the Gray."

There was, however, no general observance and no settled date, until May, 1868, when General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order that on May 30th, of that year, every post of the Grand Army should hold suitable exercises and decorate the graves of their dead comrades with flowers.

It is not definitely known who first proposed the celebration of Memorial Day. According to some accounts, early in May, 1868, N. P. Chipman, Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, received a letter from a German, who had served as a private soldier in the Union Army. In the letter he stated that in Germany it was the custom of the people to assemble in the spring of each year and strew flowers over the graves of the dead soldiers, and he suggested that the Grand Army might adopt a similar custom in mem-

ory of the Union dead. Adjutant-General Chipman was pleased with the idea and referred the matter to General Logan, the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, who thereupon issued the order mentioned above.

Others claim that the credit of its first suggestion belongs to Mrs. Henry S. Kimball of West Philadelphia, Pa. In 1868, she wrote to General Logan, stating that she had noticed the Southern women decorating the soldiers' graves, and suggested that the Grand Army adopt the custom.

It is probable that these, with other incidents contributed in prompting General Logan to issue the order, which inaugurated Memorial Day. It is evident that there was a general desire all over the country for some regular observance in honor of the soldiers who had fought for the Union, for the idea met with approval everywhere. The matter was taken up by the legislatures of the various states, and in a short time the day was made a legal holiday and suitably observed in nearly all the states.

Although there is some question as to who first suggested Memorial Day, it is generally admitted that the honor of its first observance in connection with the Union dead, is due to James Redpath and Dr. E. H. Hawks, who, in May, 1865, held a memorial service over the graves of the prisoners who had died in the stockade at Charleston, S. C. The ceremonies were quite elaborate and were participated in by over ten thousand persons. There was a large parade of soldiers and school children who strewed flowers over the graves. The exercises consisted of prayers and singing and the reading of passages from the Bible.

Memorial Day is now usually observed by holding appropriate services over the resting places of the dead soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and flags. In many places it is the custom to hold a special service at the water's edge and throw flowers on the water, in memory of the soldiers and sailors who are buried at sea. In all the national cemeteries the services are very elaborate, and the most prominent men in the country deliver addresses.

In the larger cities a parade is usually held, in which the veterans of the Civil War, and various military and other organizations take part.

MARY E. FITZPATRICK.



C. M.—Why was the French and Indian War so called?

Although the war referred to was between the French and the English, it was called the French and Indian War because the French had as their allies the Indians. The name of the war comes from the fact of this alliance against the English.

A. K.—What progress has been made to assure universal peace;

In the first place the Hague Tribunal has been organized. This body consists of a number of commissioners appointed by the various countries, which meets at The Hague at stated intervals for the purpose of settling disputes between nations. Their decisions are obeyed on questions submitted to them.

Recently President Taft has arranged for a peace agreement with England, whereby all questions, no matter what the nature of them may be, are to be settled by arbitration. It is hoped that similar treaties will be made by other nations and thus universal peace will be assured.

A. F.—How did the title "Cradle of American Liberty" originate?

The name is one given to Faneuil Hall, in Boston, because it was the usual meeting place of the patriots during the long contest with royal power before the kindling of the American Revolution.

The name was also given to the "Apollo Room," a large apartment in the Raleigh Tavern at Williamsburg, Va., where the members of the House of Burgesses met after its abolition by Gov. Lord Dunmore, in 1774. It was in this room that the Virginians chose delegates to the First Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia in September of that year.

G. M.—Who were the "Copperheads?"

Copperheads was a nickname given to a political faction in the Northern and Eastern states during the Civil War, which was generally considered to be in secret sympathy with

the Southern Confederacy and gave them aid and comfort. The name is derived from a poisonous serpent, the copperhead, whose bite is as deadly as that of the rattlesnake, but, unlike the latter it gives no warning of its intended attack, and is, therefore, just like a concealed foe.

U. S.—There are several coins answering to your description. In order to tell the present value of your coin we would have to know its mint value, that is, the value stamped upon it. If you cannot tell the minted value send us a "rubbing" of the coin.

THE CORONATION STAMP.

The first English stamp bearing the head of King George will be issued by the English Government in June, at the time of the coronation of the King. Stamps have been issued, however, by British colonies bearing the King's portrait. Newfoundland, Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa each issued a set bearing the likeness of the King upon them. These issues have been discontinued, however, and no more will be issued until after the coronation set has been circulated.

SOME RARE STAMPS.

In the latter part of March there was an exhibition of stamps and coins at Walthamstan, England. Among those who loaned rare stamps for the purpose of the exhibition was King George. The King's exhibit consisted of Rowland Hill's water sketches of the first "penny black" and "two penny blue," the second mauve stamp with the head of Edward VII. upon it. This issue was stopped because of the death of the King. This stamp will undoubtedly be one of the most rare specimens in the whole history of philately.



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OUR OWN TIMES



IN FOR IT.

First Small Boy—We'd better be good.

Second Small Boy—Why?

First Small Boy—I heard doctor tell mother to take plenty of exercise."—Womans Home Companion.

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE.

Teacher—What change takes place when water freezes?

Tommy (innocently)—A change in price, I guess.—Harper's Weekly.

THE KID AND THE GOAT.

"Where are you going with that goat, little boy?"

"Down to the lake. Come along if you want see some fun. This here goat has jest et a crate of sponges, an' I'm goin' down an' let him drink!"—Toledo Blade.

HIS IDEA OF A "STORY."

"Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "you may try your hand at writing a short story."

A few minutes after Johnny handed up his slate on which was written, "Us boys all loves our teacher."—Harper's Bazaar.

A COMPOSITION—THE TIGER.

The tiger is a roaring success as an animal. He is handsome in appearance, strong and durable. The tiger's post office address is India, a country where he does much good. The safest way to hunt a tiger is by correspondence, or "malicious animal magnetism." Shoting him in person is a dangerous pastime, especially if he catches you at it. We find the domesticated tiger in many forms. When too old and weak to work the tiger joins a circus and travels about in a cage, where he is daily subdued by a foreign female and afterward fed on spoon vittles that require no chewing. Holding a wedding in a tiger's cage is a popular way of advertising a circus.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

Teacher (to new pupil)—Why did Hannibal cross the Alps, my little man?

My Little Man—For the same reason as the 'en crossed th' road. Yer don't catch me with no puzzles.—Sydney Bulletin.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"Who can give me a sentence using the word pendulum?" asked the teacher.

Little Rachel's hand shot up. The teacher nodded encouragingly.

"Lightning was invented by Penjulum Franklin."—Everybody's Magazine.

ONE ON THE DOCTOR.

Many years ago, in a New England boarding school for boys, the principal was a learned clergyman—a preacher of long sermons and a strict grammarian.

One night, after 10 o'clock taps when all the boys should have been in bed, he was passing silently through the dormitory when he heard sounds of revelry from a darkened room. He rapped on the door. Silence within. Then:

"Who's there?"

"It's me—the principal. Open the door!"

"Ha, ha, ha-a-a! You're a liar! If it was the doctor he would say 'It is I.'"

Seeing the force of this argument the doctor passed on.—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

SMART DOG.

Dr. Victor Kutchen told about a collie dog, which he bought from a German family, in the course of a lecture before the social Economics Club.

"The dog was like some college students I have heard tell of," said the doctor. "He could understand German perfectly but he couldn't speak it."—Milwaukee Free Press.

A GRAPHIC INSTANCE.

The teacher, after having taken great trouble to explain the difference in the meanings of words "dream" and "reverie," addressed the class.

"Now, could any of you give me a sentence with the word 'reverie' in it?"

A small youth put up his hand.

"You, John!" she uttered, in astonishment. "Well what is it?"

"Please, ma'am," said the urchin, "the 'reverie' blew his whis'le and stopped the game."—Tit-Bits.

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