

## BATTLE OF PYRAMIDS.

ITS RESULTS WERE ONLY TEMPORARILY IMPORTANT.

But Its Fame Is Chiefly Romantic—Sufferings of the Veterans in the Desert March—Napoleon's Address to the Army.



**HE MARCH** through Egypt from Alexandria to Cairo was an awful trial to the French soldiers. The sky was brass, their feet sank in the hot sand, and mounted guerrillas tormented them from behind the low hills on each side of their line of march. No enemy more redoubtable than a few half-naked fellahen disputed their progress; but even when, on July 10, they came within sight of the Nile and their sufferings were about mitigated, it was in vain that their general sought to silence their bitter cries of disheartened anger. Three days later they were attacked at Shebreket by the mounted outposts of the Mamelukes, under Murad, chief bey of the force. The irregular and individual attacks of the well-armed and gorgeously equipped cavalry broke harmlessly against the serried ranks of the French veterans, and the desultory firing of the Turkish artillery was quickly silenced; the rusty cannon, though aimed point-blank at the gunboat flotilla which was ascending the river, did little or no damage. The enemy withdrew and concentrated their forces for a final stand before Cairo, behind the lines of Embabeh, writes Prof. Sloane in the Century. On July 21 Bonaparte ordered his troops in squares six men deep, as before. They were to advance so as to cut off the enemy's retreat southward, and were to halt only to receive a charge. "Soldiers," cried the general, "forty centuries look down upon you from the summit of the Pyramids!" The resistance was scarcely worthy of the name. Five thousand horsemen and as many fellahen were behind the weak ramparts. Murad and his men dashed forward with desperate courage against the phalanx of Desaix, but only to rebound from its iron sides against the equally impassive lines of Reynier and Dugua. Ibrahim, the other Mameluke leader, fled eastward across the river, and Murad toward the south; the undisciplined infantry scattered and ran like frightened sheep. Cairo was in the hands of the French. This so-called battle of the Pyramids will ever have a fictitious and romantic fame. Its results were temporarily important. The idea that east and west were fighting under the shadow of those monuments which, now hoary with age, were among the first achievements of civilized human intelligence, thrilled the "great nation," and added new luster to Bonaparte's laurels in the minds of a people which revels in great conceptions; and yet but 30 French soldiers were killed, and only 120 were wounded. It was a skirmish, much more decisive than that at Shebreket, to be sure, and somewhat more bloody, but only a skirmish. Both were represented to the Directory as great battles, the five Mamelukes killed in the first being magnified to 300. The camp at Embabeh furnished rich spoils to the victorious leaders, but the fabled wealth of Cairo, destined for the soldiery, proved to be like apples of Sodom. The army had been angry and disheartened; deprived of its accustomed booty, it became sullen and mutinous. There was no news from home. Oriental apathy long defied even Bonaparte's administrative powers. Egypt was subdued, but the situation of the general and of his troops was apparently desperate. Nothing daunted by what would have broken a feebler spirit, the disillusioned conqueror turned to the conquest of another world. Africa had failed him, but Asia was near, and a revolution might be effected there. The maltreatment of French merchants in Syria had been one of the Directory's original grounds of complaint; it must serve another turn, and if the Sultan were sufficiently humbled, he might be compelled to an alliance against the menacing league of Russia and Austria.

An Independent Barber.

Here is an entertaining story about a Frenchman who was too proud to do things which were against his principles. The story is vouched for as an actual fact by the man to whom the incident happened. While traveling in Europe he stopped over night at Caen, and noting that his hair was unduly long, he went to have it cut by the local barber. He told the barber to take off very little, but before the scissors had been at work many seconds he noticed a favorite lock fall on the calico jacket in which he had been arrayed. Whereupon he reproved the barber for not following his instructions, upon which the man observed, in mingled tones of reproach and dismay: "Monsieur must permit me to do my work in the way which seems best to me; and what is more, I shall take off some more."

## A LITTLE REPUBLIC.

NICARAGUA IS, HOWEVER, RICH IN RESOURCES.

The 310,000 Citizens Are Rich in Per Capita Wealth—A Good Financier Could Make the Country the Proudest Nation South of Us.



**ONLY HALF EXCAVATED YET.**  
The Ancient Pompeiians Had Many Appliances of Modern Life.  
From Demorest's Magazine.  
I learned that only about one-half of Pompeii has been thus far excavated, and that at the present rate of progress it will require at least sixty years longer to unearth the whole. Only about \$8,000 or \$8,000 a year are expended on the work.

The streets of Pompeii are seldom more than 24 feet wide, mostly straight from end to end. Indeed, this ancient town is quite American in the rectangularity of its plan.

Curiously enough, the Pompeian public fountains were fed from lead pipes which might carry a modern manufacturer to reproduce. Moreover, the houses received their liberal supply of water through pipes of the same metal. I saw many "cut-offs" constructed on thoroughly modern principles. Another point that surprised me was that the major part of the houses are of brick, very similar to that in use today; though the bricks themselves are longer and thicker. The well-preserved stairways lead from the ground floors to the second and possibly third stories. The corners and pillars are commonly of carved stone. The Pompeian shopkeepers understood the art of signs quite as well as we do. Above an apothecary's door, for instance, is a pair of huge snakes twisted into innumerable coils, and the colors are as fresh as when first painted. Shops are to be seen everywhere, and show that much business was transacted in Pompeii. There were no windows on the streets, the life being concentrated in the interiors of their houses; and they often presented to the street a blank wall, which was decorated in gay colors, principally red and yellow, with paintings and frescoes.

**THE TOTAL POPULATION** of the republic of Nicaragua is put by the best authorities at 310,000, or about one-sixth as large as that of this city, according to the census just taken. Of the inhabitants of the country one-tenth belong to uncivilized aboriginal tribes, while the main body are classified as "Indians," Zambos or mulattoes, negroes, mixed races, and Europeans, the latter being but few in number. The area of the republic is only about 49,500 English square miles. There are few towns, and all of them, with two exceptions, are small and rude. The population of Managua, the capital, is 18,000, and that of Leon, formerly the capital, 25,000. The town of Corinto is the principal port on the Pacific, and the ladino element (a mixture of white and Indians) predominates there. The most important industry of the inhabitants of Nicaragua is the raising of cattle, the hides of which are exported; and among the other exports are coffee, bananas, sugar, indigo, coconuts, cacao, Brazil wood, and cedar. The head of cattle number over 400,000. The greater part of the imports are from England, and the greater part of the exports are to the United States. There are over 100 mines worked by American companies, in nearly all of which gold is found mixed with copper. A good deal of American capital has been sunk in them. Nicaragua is especially rich in valuable woods, the mahogany, rosewood, granadillo, and ronron, also medicinal trees, besides other commercial trees, including the castilloa elastica, from which India rubber is made; the gutta percha tree, and several trees which produce gums. Wild animals, monkeys, alligators, lizards, and snakes abound, beside tropical birds to the number of 150 species. Mosquitoes swarm in all damp places, and there are fierce wasps. The foraging ants move in large armies. The seas, rivers and lagoons are alive with every variety of tropical fish. There are numerous volcanic peaks, a few of which are still active, but most of them have long been extinct. The last great eruption was that of 1835, when Cosagua scattered its hot ashes over a circle 1,500 miles in diameter. Near some of the extinct craters are vast beds of lava and scoriae and numerous vents called infernillos, which emit smoke and sulphurous vapors. On the Pacific coast the soil is very rich, and the climate is essentially that of the central zone; but the amount of cultivated land is small in proportion to the arable area of the country. Maize, the principal food of the natives, is very prolific, and fine fruits and vegetables grow in abundance. The form of government is constitutional and republican. There is a congress of two branches, the senate and the house of representatives, the members of both of which number only thirty-nine, who are elected under the Nicaraguan system of universal suffrage. The president now in power, Gen. Santos Zelaya, was elected in the Nicaraguan way, last year, and holds office for four years. He has a council of four ministers who have charge of that number of departments of the government. The active army of Nicaragua consists of 2,000 men, with a reserve of 10,000, besides a nominal militia force of 5,000. The active troops are poorly equipped and appareled, and the reserves are unfit for any service in the field as against a European force. The dispatches about the anger of the Nicaraguans and their readiness to fight the English must be interpreted with an understanding of the mixed elements of the population. There are about 100 miles of railway open to the country, which were built at a heavy cost. One line extends from Corinto, a distance of 58 miles, and another from the capital to Granada, 33 miles. A number of concessions for new lines of greater length have been granted to contractors, who are blamed for delaying their construction. There are over 1,700 miles of telegraph lines. There are a fair number of schools for the population. The finances of the government are always in bad condition, on account of the disturbances that often prevail, and in many years the expenditures for the army have been beyond the total receipts. Two-thirds of the total annual revenue are derived from government monopolies on spirits, tobacco, and gunpowder, and the remainder chiefly from import duties and a tax on slaughtered cattle. It would, perhaps, have been well for Nicaragua if the American filibuster, Billy Walker of California, who entered the country at the head of a small force about forty years ago, had been able to maintain his power and establish a solid government.

**FIN DE SIECLE ART.**  
The loony paintings of the impressionist, the erotic novels, the realistic horrors evolved by Zola, Ibsen, Tolstoi, Maupassant and Mesterlinck, the wierd music of Wagner, the scary fashions which mark the dress of the woman of our day, are all illustrations of this new "fin-de-siecle" spirit. We are told that the world of the present is living in "the reddened light of the dusk of the nations;" that faith is dying, that, tired of all existing things, man chases after new beliefs, new engagements and sensations, only to find that the trail of the serpent is over all. Fin de siecleism is a disease which has before afflicted mankind. It raged at the close of the year 1000, when there was a general belief that the end of all things was at hand, and men sought vainly to compress all possibly earthly pleasures into a few hours yet allotted them. The eighteenth century went out in the blood and horrors of the wars succeeding the French revolution, and the poets of that day cast horoscopes for the future full of gloom and foreboding.

**Lamps to Match the Wall Drapery.**  
It is customary now for house furnishers to order a lamp shade made of the same material as the wall drapery, curtains, upholstery or other appointments of the room in which the lamp is to be used, but the material is drawn down in rigid flutes to fit the shade and finished at the bottom with only a narrow gimp.

**ATCHISON GLOBULES.**  
The Summer Widowers' club of Atchison has been chartered.  
A clever Atchison girl can chew gum in one side of her mouth, and eat ice cream in the other.  
An Atchison bachelor claims that whenever he is left alone with a crowd of girls, they tie his hands.  
Another reformer was in town today, selling a book recommending that every man who eats onions be arrested.  
An Atchison girl admits that there are as good fish in the sea as ever were caught, but says the trouble comes in landing them.  
An Atchison woman says that she will not go away this summer; that if her husband can afford to remain during the hot weather, and earn their food, she can afford to stay with him, and cook it. If the husband is not immensely fond of that woman, he makes a mistake.  
The ordinance requiring men to shine their shoes at least once a day, is meeting with some opposition, but it is right. Too many men are careless in their personal appearance who have plenty of time to go fishing, and plenty of time in which to discuss the silver question.  
It is a foolish fashion to say of a man that he "Sundayed" in Leavenworth, or will "Sunday" at home. In imitation, a Happy Hollow personal sent to this office this morning announced that "Mrs. Marie Smythe-Jones washdayed at the home of her parents in Rushville this week."—Atchison Globe.

## ROBSON FRESKOED WITH SOAP.

The Comedian Had to Melt ON the Sticky Stuff.

It was the custom of Stuart Robson's mother to keep a scrapbook of household recipes, clipped from newspapers. She came across one that told her how to make castle soap, and, like most good housekeepers, started in immediately to spend over the manufacture of the article twice as much as it would have cost ready-made.

The recipe for this soap called for tallow, grease, and fat combined with coloring matter and lye, and the advantage claimed for it was that it economized the scraps of the kitchen. It fell to young Robson's lot to be the first one to try the soap, while taking a bath. Early one morning he entered the bathroom armed with a towel, a scrubbing brush, and a huge cake of his mother's home-made soap. A short time afterward wild yells were heard to issue from the Robson residence, and they came from the bathroom. The household was startled. The neighbors were aroused and congregated before the door. After some effort Mrs. Robson succeeded in forcing an entrance and found her hopeful son in a state of semi-convulsions, fiercely dancing a fandango in an ineffectual attempt to rub his body of a bright-colored layer of fat and tallow grease. It seems that as soon as young Robson had stepped from the warm bath the soap hardened upon him like cold gravy upon a platter, clinging with tenacious tenderness and utterly refusing to be wiped off. At that moment he very much resembled a dancing fann armed with towel instead of the flute. It took the combined efforts of Robson's parents to remove the greasy foreign substance, and it is also said that the now eminent comedian had to be held over a hot stove to melt the acquired fat off him.

**THE BLOW GUN.**  
Only Malays and American Indians Use This Wonderful Weapon.  
The blow gun is one of the most remarkable savage devices in which compressed air is used as a motive force. The blow gun is a simple tube of cane, smoothly cleared of the joint partitions, through which light darts, feathered with a tuft of down or pieces of pith, are propelled by the breath. The blow gun is used for killing birds and small animals. Frequently the arrows are poisoned, rendering the light dart effective on larger game. The chief merit of the blow gun is its accuracy, and the silence with which it may be employed. The penetration of the blow gun dart is greater than would be imagined. At the distance of fifty feet I have driven a blunt dart one-quarter of an inch into a pine plank. It is stated that the range of the blow gun among some tribes is from eighty to 100 yards. The blow gun is a tropical device and may be looked for in regions where bamboo or cane grows. Nevertheless, these tubes are often made of hard wood, single or of two pieces hollowed out and joined together. Frequently one tube is thrust inside of another to secure rigidity. The examination of many of these blow guns inspires a great respect for the ingenuity and mechanical skill of the workers. The North American specimens are from the Chetimachas of Louisiana, who frequently combine the tubes in series, forming a compound blow gun, and the Cherokees of the Carolinas. From Central America, the Indians of Honduras and Costa Rica; from South America, several Amazon tribes from Ecuador east and from British Guiana employ the blow gun.

**ODD FACTS ARE THESE.**  
It is estimated that the people of England spend \$750,000 a day in moving.  
The number of draught dogs in Belgium is probably not less than 54,000.  
About 500 acres have been planted to grapes in the vicinity of Mattewan.  
It is estimated that the United States has fully 2,900 separate railway companies.  
A whale, when struck by a harpoon, can not swim faster than nine miles an hour.  
The sting of the black scorpion is much more to be dreaded than that of the gray.  
Corals are not found within the range of rivers flowing into the ocean, as fresh water is fatal.  
Some of the condors shot in the Andes mountains have a spread of wing from fifteen to twenty feet.  
Rats may be got rid of by stuffing their runways with dry hay which has been well seasoned with cayenne pepper.  
It is firmly believed in many parts of Europe that salt fish can be thoroughly freshened by soaking in sour milk.  
It is announced that two examples of the polar hare have just been added to the collection of the Zoological society, London.  
London can boast of more parks and commons than any other city in the world, and the number is being constantly augmented.  
An enormous shark, weighing, it is said, about a ton, and measuring 15 feet in length, was recently landed by an Aberdeen trawler.  
Minnesota has a variety of wolves which so closely resemble the Siberian wolf that many people believe they came from that country.  
Cast-steel billiard balls are in use in Sweden. They are made hollow, so that their weight is about the same as that of ivory balls.

## The Elevator Boy.

In one of Denver's office buildings there is an elevator boy. He is always on the go, but

He is far too slick for this wicked world,  
He was meant for a fairer clime;  
He swears at the manager, swears at his work,  
And is kicking all the time.  
He groans and sweats 'neath his load of work,  
Bewails his stoney way;  
But once a month he quiets down  
And complacently draws his pay.

## Don't Get Scared

If you should hear that in some place to which you are going malaria is prevalent. To the air poison which produces chills and fever, bilious remittent and dumb ague there is a safe and thorough antidote and preventive, viz., Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. The great anti-malarial specific is also a remedy for biliousness, constipation, dyspepsia, rheumatism and kidney trouble, nervousness and debility.

The swiftest way to become poor is earnestly to try to keep all you get.

Nobody can imagine that the leopard is a very shrewd animal, for he always spots itself when he is up to mischief.

## ALL OUT OF SORTS

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