

### MEXICO'S MILITARY MEN.

Efficient Army Exists in Our Sister Republic.

How many in the United States know anything about the organization of the Mexican army, the excellent police force of the country, the progress the nation has made in the last twenty years, the working of the government machinery, which stands for the greater part of the progress made in this time? Certainly a very small number. Yet all these things, and more, we should know before we venture to either praise or blame any country.

The most interesting feature in connection with the modern progress of Mexico, says Modern Mexico, is the army. The present chief executive found it a disorganized body of guerrillas led by a few ambitious men, who were, in too many cases, not over-scrupulous as to the means they used to secure their positions and to attain their political aims. In a few years this disorganized body has been organized and disciplined, and the military school has supplied it with trained, educated, and intelligent officers, many of whom would be a credit to any military organization. But, above all, the government has done away with the old spirit of political ambition to be attained through revolution. The nation is now almost a unit in its adherence to peace and the policy of the present chief executive.

The soldiers of the standing army, of which there are 26,000, are subject to strict daily routine of military exercise to fit them for actual war, or for the military expeditions which the government has for the past few years been forced to take to keep in subjection some of the more rebellious tribes, which only within the past year have been brought under complete government control.

Everywhere the government has now established primary schools for the education of the regular soldier, and all who have not attained a certain educational standing are forced to follow the course laid down for these schools. In addition to this inducement in the way of promotions are held out to those who more ambitious than their fellows, carry their studies further than the law actually requires.

Not only has the army been disciplined, but it has been reinforced with men and equipments in modern arms, uniforms, etc. From being a lawless body it has come to stand for the law and order of the country. Instead of being made up largely of robber chiefs, and their followers, its mission now is to hunt down anyone who sets himself up against the established order of things. It is an organization possessed of a spirit never found in no other Latin American country.

Mexico possesses one of the finest military museums of any country in the world, and a journey for it is a journey through it will repay even the casual pleasure seeker who has no higher aim than to "see things."

Every town and village throughout Mexico has stationed within it some of the regular standing forces. Generally these belong to the "rurales," or mounted police, which serve much the same purpose as the mounted police of Canada. Early in his career as governor of the Mexican nation Gen. Diaz bought off many of the robber chieftains and made them leaders of a rural police at good salaries. Those who preferred an independent life to accepting a salary from the government. This was the origin of the famous rurales, or interior soldier police. To this force was due, to a great extent, the early pacification and security of the country, and its members are still the guardians of the place in the interior.

### Snowballing Among Roses.

Though California is the land of flowers to which snowballing, except in the mountains, generally is forbidden, exceptions to the rule may be compelled. Such an exception, during the past winter or rainy season, was witnessed in San Jose. One of the stage drivers to and from Mount Hamilton brought from there a barrel carefully packed with snow, and presented it to the pupils of the Grant School in the Garden City. Then the fun began. Most of the children had not seen snow before except on the distant mountain summits. They wanted to snowball, but they didn't know how, and they approached the problem tentatively. And here is the crowning absurdity of the situation—some of their teachers didn't know how to teach them; although they were adults, never before had they come in contact with snow. Some of the little chaps, after cautious investigation, declared that the strange white stuff burned their fingers, it was so hot, and others, who had read or been told about it, feared that their hands would be frozen by the first contact with it. The experimental stage was soon past, however, and then the fun was fast and furious. It was such ecstasy as eastern children know, with the zest of novelty added to it.—Sunset Magazine.

### The Heaviest Train Ever.

The heaviest train load ever hauled by one locomotive was one of 84 loaded cars, weighing in the aggregate 4787 tons, which was hauled a distance of 63 miles at the rate of 13 miles an hour.

### Juries in Germany.

In Germany, when the vote of the jury stands 6 against 6, the prisoner is acquitted. A vote of 7 against 5 leaves the decision to the court, and is a vote of 8 against 4 the prisoner is convicted.

### WHY PORTE IS SUBLIME.

Turkish Government Takes Name From Ancient Gateway.

Whenever Turkey figures in the news—and as a constantly disturbing element in European politics she does almost daily—the phrase "sublime porte" generally appears. It occurs in all diplomatic correspondence relating to the affairs of the Sultan's troublesome empire. Many readers imagine that the words form one of the titles of the "sick man of the East." Others may know that it is the name bestowed on the Turkish foreign department. But few are aware whence it is derived.

As a matter of fact, the "sublime porte" is the main entrance to the ancient seraglio, and fallen into decay and neglect. It is now merely a rather picturesque old gate, with nothing sublime about it unless it be its evident hoary antiquity.

The sublime porte known to the Turks as Bayi Humayun was built as a principal entrance to the old seraglio, which down to the end of the second Muhammad's reign, was the great palace of the Sultans the yildiz kiosk of those days. Within were three great courts full of beautiful trees and bordered by the council chamber and other official buildings of the government.

The council chamber, though in an advanced state of decay, still stands. Then there are the mint, the treasury where great jewels, golden brocaded clothing and wonderfully mounted arms are stored in enormous quantities, the armory, which once was the church of St. Irene, and a museum. About the said neglected gateway are scattered several small kiosks containing the imperial library and other somewhat peculiar things, and still another building, in which the former sultans kept up for life the princes who disturb the royal peace of mind. From these gardens one may have a wonderful view of the Bosporus, the Asiatic shore, and the sea of Marmara across the narrow strait of the land known as the Golden Horn. San Francisco Call.

### White Man Treated by Medicine Man.

Charles Miller, a doctor in the land office who has been afflicted for a number of months with pneumonia, has adopted the treatment of an Indian medicine man. The medicine man, it is said, has cured the doctor's ailment. The doctor, it is said, has cured the ailment. The doctor, it is said, has cured the ailment.

This is believed to be the only instance in recent years where a white man has had sufficient confidence in the Indian medicine man to employ his services.

### The Ages of Birds.

After seventy-five years of captivity a female eagle was just died in an aviary in England, bought from Norway in 1829. This bird, in the last thirty years has reared no less than ninety young. Although the eagle owl is reputed to live to a great age, there appears to be but few recorded instances where the age could be definitely ascertained. A golden eagle which died in Vienna in 1719 was known to have been captured 104 years previously, and a falcon, of what species is not recorded, is said to have attained an age of 162 years. A white-headed vulture taken in 1706 died in the zoological gardens at Vienna in 1824, thus living 118 years in captivity.

### Good Teeth of the Aged.

"It is a popular fallacy," said a well known dentist who is connected with the University of Pennsylvania, "that most old people have false teeth. Scarcely a day passes that does not see an old man or woman long past middle life coming to my office for treatment for their teeth. Not long ago an old lady of 78 came to me to have her teeth fixed. Among her thirty-two teeth I discovered that she had but one cavity. Not one of her teeth was filled and she had never known toothache. It almost invariably happens that people who were healthy in childhood, while the teeth were forming, have little trouble in maturity."—Philadelphia Record.

### When Gas Was Sold in Bladders.

The death occurred recently at Blackburn of Mr. John Lund, the oldest magistrate, an ex-mayor of the borough and for over fifty years a leading member of the Conservative party. The deceased gentleman, who was 80 years of age, claimed that his father was the first cotton manufacturer in Lancashire to illuminate his mills with coal gas, which was brought in large bladders from Manchester years before the local gas works was established in 1819.

### America Abroad.

The last railroad built in India has American rails. Americans export their iron and motors their machinery, and galvanic wires to South Africa, Egypt, too, has more than one Philadelphia bridge. Three hundred railroad cars from Jersey City have found their way into the land of the Pharaohs, and in the foundries of Pittsburgh electrical tramways were forged to connect Cairo with the Pyramids.

### Obedient Orders.

"I don't altogether like this young man Millikin, who comes to see you so often. I hear that he is only a poor clerk," was what the head of the family said to his daughter one day at the dinner table.

"He is a very nice young man," replied the daughter. "Besides he is something more than a poor clerk—he gets a large salary, and is manager of one of the shops in the city, and expects somebody to have an interest in the business."

"I hope he may," responded the old man, "but he strikes me as a very flippant impudent young person, and in my opinion he should be sent upon a voyage."

"Well, I have invited him to take tea with us," she said, "and the daughter said I hope you will treat him politely at that. You will find him a very different person from what you suppose him to be."

"Oh, I'll treat him as politely as I can," said Mr. Millikin, who appeared at that time to have made a very favorable impression upon the old gentleman.

"He is a clever young fellow after all," thought the old man, "I have done him an injustice."

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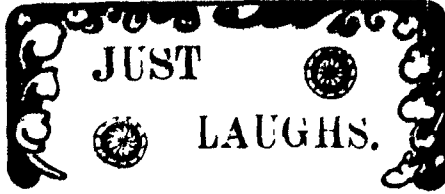
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### HOW PROBLEMS CHANGE.

For a year after I had been married. These questions I couched over and over, Why should I have married? Why hadn't I married before?

But quelling a wee infant's ire Each midnight by walks down the hall, Leads me now of myself to inquire Why in thunder I married at all. —Town Topics.

O, Fudge! There was a young girl at the Sault, Who really had nothing to fault, And that's why she made, In sunshine and shade, Those eyes that the boys call "sault-gault." —Cleveland Leader.

Recognize His Limitations. We were not inclined to discourage the practice of young ladies going around with their sleeves rolled up. We simply gave expression to our impressions. —Urbana (O.) Citizen.

Proof Positive. Mrs. Neighbor: Your husband seems to be a man of excellent judgment. Mrs. Newwood: Of course he is. He married me, didn't he? —Chicago News.

Behind in the Rent. Hewitt: His words moved me. Jewett: Whose? Hewitt: My landlord's. —Smart Set.

Almost Impatient. When a Mississippi River steamboat has passed Cairo, bound down, there is no opportunity to obtain deck hands till Memphis is reached. Consequently the colored roustabouts have things all their own way in that short space.

On a recent trip the passengers came on deck at Hickman, Ky. to find the steamer living close, and the crew replying peacefully on boxes and bales on deck, and on the sloping bank.

What's the matter? "Some one asked the captain. "Niggers struck for two hours!" "No, sir," replied the captain. "After many years it delays the vessel, reached Cairo, Mo., and there I lay in bed for the next morning when the passengers came out."

What's wrong? again asked one passenger. "Niggers struck for bread rolls for breakfast. Say they're tired of hard tack," said the other still without vacation.

A third morning the awakening passengers found their vessel again moored by the riverside, this time at Bartlett, Ark. On the bank were the roustabouts, holding a noisy meeting. "Strike again?" asked a passenger. "No, seh," replied the captain, "but there's going to be. The niggers are up on the bank trying to decide what they'll strike for next. I'm right cross at 'em, though, and if they don't agree pretty soon I'm going to cut and leave 'em, and deliver my freight on the way back." Youth's Companion.

PARTICULAR. A car dealer—So you would like to look at a pipe. Now, we have bulldog pipes and— Lee Souppers—Aw, go on! I want a pipe fer meself. De dog don't smoke. —Chicago News.

Stands No Chance. Ford Mama—I am not surprised, Edith, that young Mr. Highmus prefers your society to that of Kate Carlinghorn. She may be more dashing and coquetish, but she is far from being your equal in the enduring qualities of intellect and culture.

Mrs. Edith—Yes, that's where I've got the bulge on poor little Kit. —Chicago Tribune.

Worth Trying. He—I understand for some maladies physicians are recommending yawning. She—Yawning, as the clock strikes 12—Yes, I think I'll try it for that tired feeling.

Farrel! Yeast—I see by this paper that the most widely known English writer in Japan is Carlyle. Critic—Let's see! What paper is he correspondent for.

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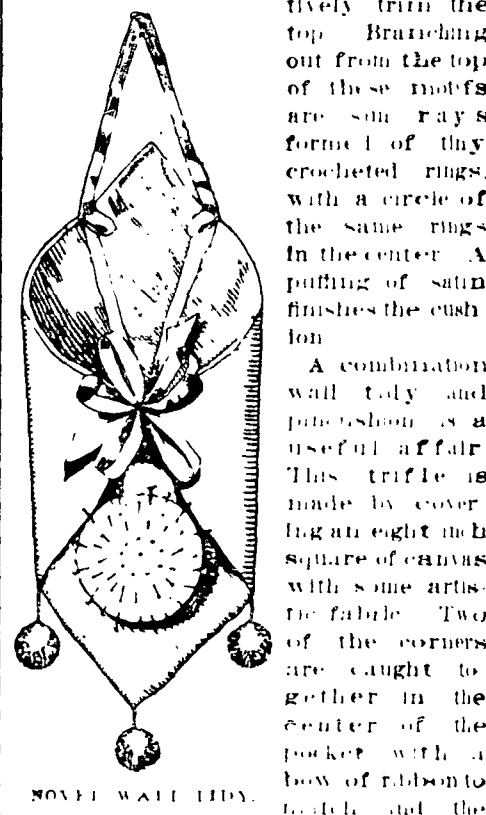
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## Christmas Presents For Fair Friends

NEEDLEWORK in some attractive form is always a most acceptable present for a woman, and as nearly every member of the fair sex is expert nowadays with the embroidery needle the majority of gifts are of this fashioning. Among these presents cushions are always reckoned, and a particularly pretty one here is made circular shape in satin of some dainty coloring. Small lace motifs arranged in a circle effectively trim the top. Branching out from the top of these motifs are sun rays formed of tiny crocheted rings, with a circle of the same rings in the center. A puffing of satin finishes the cushion.



NOVEL WALL HEDY.

A combination wall toy and cushion is a useful affair. This trifle is made by covering an eight inch square of canvas with some artistic fabric. Two of the corners are caught together in the center of the pocket with a bow of ribbon to match, and the ends of the ribbon drawn up to each side of the point at the top as a hanger. Between the lower lapped over edges is inserted a small round cushion. Three silk pompons mesh the wall tily at the bottom.

One of the simplest but in drawer subjects is made to represent an embroidered daisy.

The book can be carried out either in paper, silk or linen, and the design chosen can be brought to suggest needlework of any school. In the model given a piece of pattern is suggested, this being one of the easiest for a beginner to copy. The edges are prettily scalloped.

A simple one in paper can be made in ten minutes. For it fold a sheet of water color paper double and cut two circular pieces in the size desired. Flush off with sharp scissors, still keeping the edges together. Now make a thin circular wad of absorbent cotton or rice paper, and into this fold the desired sachet powder. Cover it with the water color paper and glue the



SATIN PINCUSHION.

scalloped pieces neatly together around the edges, using a clear mucilage that will not stain. The dolly is now ready for painting.

The silk or linen article is of a more ambitious order, being worked with the needle instead of brush and color. There could be no better idea for an inexpensive Christmas gift than one of those dillies daintily perfumed with orris or heliotrope.

A fan for photographs would prove a very useful present to those who have more photographs than they care to frame. It is quite simple to make and is composed of three fan shaped pieces of cardboard covered on their upper surfaces with silk or velvet. If the latter or velvet of a common quality is used it can be made to look of more value if ironed on the right side with a warm iron. It will then have the look of panne velvet. If the lower portion is only covered to six inches from the edge it will be sufficient. The material can be stuck upon the cardboard. The fan should measure eleven inches in radius, the middle one eight inches and the upper one four and a half inches. In gluing together about two inches from the edge of the two upper portions should be left free for the insertion of the photographs. Drawing pins may be employed for fastening to the wall.

One girl got a homemade book cover for a Christmas present, and the idea is good enough to pass along for those who want to give a Christmas present to a girl who likes to read and loves pretty things. There were six books in the box—six of those little volumes by the best authors which sell in cheap binding for 15 or 20 cents apiece, sometimes even 10 cents. Each volume was covered with art ticking in rose strewn design, such as may be bought for 15 cents a yard, and tied with inch wide rose ribbon tacked to the cover and fastened in a short bow. The six pretty volumes make a pleasing color

## Christmas Presents For the Holiday

note on the shelf of the girl's writing desk and give her considerable mental enjoyment besides.

Outing flannel bed shoes or slippers are a real luxury in winter to old and young who are troubled with cold feet. They are cut like the foot of a stocking, being coming up well over the ankle, where an elastic or ribbon is run in to hold them in place. They should be made double, with an interlining of wadding. Finish the top with narrow crocheted wool, lace or a narrow binding of fur if you happen to have it. These bed shoes make very acceptable gifts to old people, being both comfortable and convenient, as they can be rolled up in the night robe in the morning and are always at hand upon retiring.

Now that afternoon tea has become such an institution in American homes the very English tea cozy is a part of the tea equipment. A tea cozy of a dainty flat, buff shape is made of olive green tapestry, with puffed silk frills and borders.

A pretty arrangement for photographs in a fan photo screen consists of a piece of cardboard cut in the shape of a fan and covered with silk, satin or brocade. Two smaller fan shaped pieces of covered cardboard are sewed on to the front of the foundation, and a handsome piece of jeweled gimp placed all down one side the sticks imitated by lines of narrow gold braid and the end finished off with a dainty satin bow.

Another dainty knickknack is a pen wiper in the shape of a book. The



TAPESTRY TEA COZY.

covers composed of flat pieces of leather lined with satin. On the front cover is printed in gold "Extras From the Pen of B. F. D." or whatever the friend's initials may happen to be. The leaves which serve as the pen-wiper are of pinked out chamois leather. This book is a vast improvement on the usual cloth or bristle penwiper and would make a charming little gift.

Aprons are again in fashion. Miss Fashion has expressed her sovereign will that these useful dainty little affairs be worn for afternoon tea and other dressy occasions. After all, the fashion is old enough to have become new again, which is all that is required of it.

An attractive apron is made of soft, clear handkerchief linen having a border worked out in finest lace thread, with introductions here and there of transparent openwork through which the dainty gown shows as a background. A pretty addition is a softly falling ruffle draped sabbu wise over the bodice.

Openwork motifs made by drawing threads from the linen and backing them with very fine net surrounded with embroidery in a fancy design are lovely apron adornments, or the medallions might be filled in with lace stitches outlined with little sprays and powderings worked in solid satin stitch a good deal raised.

A Japanese apron is a very up to date affair worked out in dull plum colored silk in a design in which greens, corals, blues, mauves and yellows are subdued with touches of black. Natty

and smart is the apron illustrated of creamy silk gauze frilled around the edge. The design of little clusters of wide open flowers is done in gloss silk in shades of vivid rose pink and emerald green, and very pleasing is its quaint old world effect.

Other excellent gifts for a woman are a daintily made handkerchief cover set, a shirt waist extender of cutted silks, a pretty bureau scarf with the owner's monogram worked on it, a potted plant attractively done up in Japanese paper or a completely furnished raffia sewing basket.



GAUZE APRON EMBROIDERED IN SILK.

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