OUR NAVY'S FLAGS

Each Vessel Carries Nearly a Ton of Bunting.

EMBLEMS OF ALL NATIONS.

Some of the Designs Are Quite Expensive, and, as a Rule, the Smaller the Nation the More Costly Its Banner. Uncle Sam's Flag Emporium.

On every vessel of the United States navy, from the monster battleship to the tiniest tug, is stowed away nearly a ton of flags, which go to make up the number each vessel is required to carry for use on different occasions. About half of this vast pile of flags consists of emblems of foreign nations. The making of the flag equipment for the navy costs more than $60,000 a year. Each ship carries forty-three foreign flags, which are thirteen feet wide by twenty-five feet long.

As a ship's quota of flags is renewed every three years it is no small undertaking to keep them replenished, and to this end Uncle Sam keeps a large flag making establishment running at full time the year around at the Brooklyn navy yard. Employed there are some hundred skilled needlewomen working, cutting the different colored buntings into the required widths and sewing them together. Making the United States flag is not a difficult job, but the making of some of the foreign emblems is quite a different matter, and this is what most of the work at the flag establishment consists of.

Take, for example, the flag of San Salvador. In the background there is a belching volcano pouring forth its lava and white smoke. On the sides of the mountain is the green foliage and shrubery, while directly in the foreground is a tranquil sea of sapphire blue. Above the volcano is a rising sun set in a design of overflowing cornucopias and a diamond from which the rays are scintillating in every direction. To the left and right of the belching mountain are draped in varied designs banners which bear a similarity to the stars and stripes. Around the whole concentration is a wreath of cactus branches lovingly embracing the volcano, while at the top the date of the country's independence is inscribed. To make a flag of this description costs the government $[illegible]; and when one of these flags is placed on each ship of the navy every three years it can be readily seen that the insignificant little republic to the south of us is really costing the taxpayers of the country more than has ever been thought of.

The flag of Costa Rica, with its seaside beauty of mountains and sea, is another extravagant emblem, costing something like $250 to complete. So it seems that the smaller the nation the more costly its flag.

The largest flag made by the United States is the Ensign No. 1, which measures thirty-six feet long and nineteen feet wide. The cost of this monster is $40 or thereabouts.

The president's flag, while not the largest by any means, takes longest to make, requiring the labor of one person for a month to complete it. It is of simple design, being a blue field with the coat of arms of the United States in the center. The life sized eagle with outstretched wings and other emblems are all hand embroidered and involve the most patient work. The embroidery silk used on this flag, which is fourteen by ten feet costs $9 a pound.

Uncle Sam's flag emporium is in charge of his flagmaster, whose business, among other things, is to test all the bunting bought by the establishment. One day a sample lot of bunting is soaked and washed in soap and fresh water, the next day the same process is followed with salt water. It is then exposed to the weather for ten days, thirty hours of which time must be in the sunlight. This is termed the color and fading test. Another test is always made for the tensile strength. A strip of the warp two inches wide is placed in a machine and must stand a pulling strain of sixty-five pounds, while two inches of the filling must stand a forty-five pound strain.

All over the floor of the workshop are arranged chalk lines and metal markers by the aid of which the flags are cut out. Large stripes and certain designs can be more conveniently stitched this way. The sewing is done by women on machines run by electric motors.

It is an interesting sight to see the flag machine at work cutting out stars for the United States flags. It is the only machine of its kind in this country. It consists of a plunger fitted with steel knives, the size of the star wanted, and with a single downward stroke it lays on a table 100 stars. There are eight different sizes of stars used for the different flags, and of course the machine is provided with the eight different dies for the purpose. Until recent years these stars were cut out by hand, which was a long and tedious task, but now a day's work of the machine will supply stars for a week's work on flags.—Harper's Weekly.

Sufficient Evidence.

"What makes you think that man will be a valuable addition to our staff of salesmen?" asked one partner.

"The cleverness and serene assurance he displayed in getting me to give him a job," replied the other.—Washington Star.

The secret of success lies in having more confidence in yourself and less in others.—Walter Kane.

CENTER OF THE EARTH.

It May Be a Mighty Mass of Molten Precious Metals.

Did you ever stop to consider the fact that in all probability the center of the earth is a globe composed of gold, iridium and platinum? These metals are, of course, in a liquid state, the iridium at the exact center—that is, provided there is not some heavier metal at present unknown to man occupying that place—the platinum next and the gold surrounding the other two.

"But," you say, "what proof have we that this proposition is correct?"

In answer I would say:

"Two proofs, and perhaps more."

First, the three metals are the heaviest known substances, compared bulk for bulk. This being the case, they would naturally be attracted to the center of our planet. In the beginning the earth was liquid, if not gaseous. In either case the heavy metals mentioned were held in solution. By gradual condensation the metals settled to the center, iridium first, platinum next and gold last.

Ages ago, when the crust of the earth was thin—very thin—all of the gold now known was thrown out in volcanic eruptions. This last mentioned fact is the second reason for believing that our globe has a golden center, woven around a nucleus of iridium and platinum.

A third reason for believing that there is gold at the center is this: The earth as a whole weighs five times as much as a globe of water of the same bulk, while the rocks forming the outer crust are less than three times as heavy as water.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

QUEER QUITO.

A City With No Chimneys and Where Carriages Are Curiosities.

Travelers in South America see many strange places, but the queerest of all is probably Quito, the capital of the republic of Ecuador. The first thing which strikes a visitor to that city is that there are no chimneys to the houses.

Charcoal is all that is burned there, and consequently no smoke arises. Another peculiarity is that while the streets are wall paired you may pass days in the city and never see a wheeled vehicle.

There are some carriages in Quito, but they are rarely used, and when one of them comes rattling along everybody turns out to look at it as at some curiosity.

A third peculiarity is that while the bulk of the population dress in ponchos (a kind of cloak or loose garment) and short linen trousers a considerable number of people—white men—are to be seen walking about and wearing frock coats and tall hats. These men the visitor is generally told, are enlightened and cultivated men, natives of Spanish origin, who claim that they form the nation of Ecuadorians. Indians, of course, do not count.

Every white man in Quito who can possibly manage it wears this sort of coat and hat to emphasize his importance and highly civilized condition.

This dress justifies him in calling himself doctor and others in so styling him, and he also thinks that it gives him a claim to come into your apartments without being invited, and try to borrow 5 cents from you.

How Malta Became European.

Malta underwent a geographical as well as a political change through its acquisition by England in 1814. It had always been regarded as part of Africa, to which it seemed to belong both from topography and language. After its annexation, however, it was discovered that the garrison was entitled to the higher pay granted to troops employed out of Europe and was therefore more privileged than the soldiers in the Ionian islands. To remedy this parliament passed an act decreeing that so far as pay went Malta should be regarded as part of Europe. It used to be a joke that Malta had become European by act of parliament, and the jest soon became a reality.—London Standard.

The Baldheaded Eagle.

The staid, dignified and homely baldheaded eagle, the glorious emblem of the American republic, mates but once and lives with his one mate until he or she dies. If left a widower—even a young widower—the baldheaded eagle never mates again. He remains alone and disconsolate in the nest on the rocky crag, or in the branches of a tall tree, that formed his domicile while his mate was alive. No other female eagle can tempt him to foresake his disconsolate life.

Wasted.

"I always was unlucky," he said with a weary sigh.

"What's the matter now, old man?" his friend asked.

"I've spent over $500 on havin' my boy taught to play the fiddle, and now his hair's all comin' out."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Fired.

Goob—Jones was fired out of his house yesterday. Boob—Was he behind in his rent? Goob—Naw. The place burned down.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

His Car Manners.

Mrs. Knicker—Does your husband read the paper at breakfast? Mrs. Bocker—Yes, and I don't know why. Everybody has a seat.—New York Sun.

Don't do anything till you do it, and when you've done it stop doing it.—William Gillette.

LINKED IN GENIUS.

Great Fathers Who Gave to the World Great Sons.

THE QUESTION OF HEREDITY.

Science Asserts That Genius Is Not Transmissible, Yet Here Are Numerous Brilliant Exceptions, Both Ancient and Modern, to That Dictum.

An allusion by Henry W. Lucy, an acute judge of contemporary notables, to Winston Spencer Churchill as a born parliamentarian in whom the genius of his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, lives again and who may yet prove to overshadow the fame of Lord Randolph, even as William Pitt eclipsed the renown of Lord Chatham, moves Thomas McCaleb, in the New York American, to say:

"We are prompted by these allusions to ask ourselves the well worn query, Is genius transmissible? And, though the most authoritative latter day dictum of science answers in the negative, there are not a few noteworthy exceptions that involuntarily occur to the mind.

"Might we not, first of all, cite from among the ancients such fathers and sons respectively as Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great, Hamilcar and Hannibal, Marcus Junius Brutus and Lucius Junius Brutus, Vespasian and Titus? Also we find genius resident both in Pepin and his offspring, Charlemagne, to which case might be added, did space permit, the few great mediæval English kings who were also the sons of great kings. Nor should we omit to mention the poets Bernardo Tasso and his progeny, Torquato Tasso; also the great Nicholas Bacon and the still greater Francis Bacon. Indeed, the list might be multiplied to an appreciable figure by taking an extended tour in universal biography. There are, besides, quite a number of fathers and their sons possessed of such extraordinary talent that they might, by slightly stretching a point, be likewise called men of genius.

"In the biographies of great Germans we see this fact especially sweeping out now and then, and in France, to mention only three cases, we find genius exemplified in such a sire and offspring as Etienne Saint-Hilaire Geoffroy and Isidore Saint-Hilaire Geoffroy, as Lazare Hippolyte Carnot and Sadi Carnot and as Alexandre Dumas père and Alexandre Dumas fils.

"Quite rich in illustration of the apparent hereditary transmission of genius is the list among Englishmen. Here, confining our examples to those whose fame belongs to the last century, we may select at random such names as Sir William Herschel and Sir John Frederick William Herschel, astronomers; George Canning, orator and prime minister, and Charles John Canning (earl), first viceroy of India; Edward Bulwer, Lord Lytton, novelist, and Robert, Lord Lytton (Owen Meredith), poet; James Mill, philosopher and historian, and John Stuart Mill, economist; Isaac Disraeli, author, and Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield, statesman and novelist; Gabriel Rossetti, poet, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter; Thomas Arnold, educator and historian, and Matthew Arnold, poet and critic; Justin McCarthy, politician and historian, and Justin Huntly McCarthy, advocate.

"In American biography we find the names of such famous fathers and sons respectively as Increase Mather and Cotton Mather, theologians; John Adams and John Quincy Adams, both presidents and statesmen; 'Light Horse' Harry Lee, patriot, and Robert E. Lee, soldier; General Zachary Taylor and General Richard Taylor; Joseph Story, jurist, and W. W. Story, sculptor; Oliver Wendell Holmes, humorist and poet, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, jurist; Louis Agassiz and Alexander Agassiz, naturalists; Nathaniel Hawthorne and Julian Hawthorne, writers of fiction; Thomas Crawford, sculptor, and Marion Crawford, novelist; Henry George and Henry George, Jr., economists; the two George Innesses, landscape painters; Henry James, the most famous of the Swedenborgians, and his son and namesake, the gifted novelist.

"That the genius of interpretation, a truly great art, may betimes be inherited would appear from the instances of such great actors and their sons respectively as Junius, Brutus Booth and Edwin Booth, Sir Henry Irving and Henry B. Irving, the two Salvinis, Tommaso and Alessandro, and both Coquelin père and fils.

"It is observable from the examples recorded in this article that the genius of fathers and sons ofttimes manifests itself in the same sphere of endeavor, either of them approximating or excelling, as the case might be, the fame or excellence of the other.

"It goes without saying that illustrations, perhaps far more numerous, might be given to prove the contention of the best recent scientific thought—namely, that mental attributes are not inheritable. For all that we believe we have produced a sufficient number of concrete exceptions to affirm that in this particular the late dictum of science, which, of course, is never empirical, is not altogether and absolutely conclusive."

Worse.

"How would you like to have death staring you in the face?"

"Humph! Did you ever come home late and have your wife stare at you?"—Satire.

Double ignorance is when a man is ignorant that he is ignorant.—Plato.

KOREANS ARE GLUTTONS.

Always Ready to Eat and Always Serve Themselves When They Can.

The Koreans appear to be the greatest eaters in the world. To this the Japanese, French, English, Dutch and Chinese all bear witness. All reports concerning the Korean capacity for food seem to agree. In this respect there is not the least difference between the rich and the poor, the noble and the plebeian. To eat much is an honor in Korea, and the more of a feast it would seem, concerns not so much in the quality as in the quantity of the food served. Little conversation occurs during the Korean meal, for such sentence might lose a mouthful. A Korean is always ready to eat. He attacks whatever he meets with and rarely cries "Enough!" Even between meals he will help himself to anything edible that is offered.

The ordinary portion of a laborer is about a quart of rice, which when cooked makes a good bulk. This, however, is no serious hindrance to his devouring double or treble the quantity when he can get it. Eating matches are common. When an ox is slaughtered and the beef is served up a heaping bowl of the steaming meat does not alarm any guest. When fruits, such as peaches or small melons, are served it is said that they are devoured without peeling. Twenty or thirty peaches are deemed an ordinary allowance per person and rapidly disappear. Such prodigality in food is however not common, and for one feast there are many fastings. The Koreans are neither fastidious in their eating nor painstaking in their cooking. Nothing goes to waste. All is grist that comes to the mill in their mouths.—New York Press.

A FUNNY SULTAN.

He Liked to Play Practical Jokes Upon His Invited Guests.

We all like our little joke, and eastern potentates have from time immemorial enjoyed the reputation of being the merriest of monarchs. The Moorish palace of Sultan Abu Yakub Yusuf at Seville—known today as the Alcazar—contains one of the most elaborate practical jokes extant. When in a gay mood some important merchant or notable of Seville would receive a pressing invitation summoning him to the presence. In a fever of delighted expectancy the flattered guest would don his whitest raiment and go to the palace.

There he would be ceremoniously conducted to the gardens and directed up the long avenue. But, alas, halfway up it he would inevitably tread upon a moving flagstone resting upon a spring, and immediately countless fine jets of water would gush out of the ground and from the surrounding shrubbery and drench him. Amid the jeers of the courtiers the luckless and bedampened wight would beat an undignified retreat. Before he was allowed to leave the palace, however, he was sworn to secrecy on pain of death. At all costs nothing must make the joke fall flat when repeated.

The treacherous flagstone has been removed, and today the visitor may pass with impunity, but a peeps to the head gardener will usually cause the fountains to play. Not many people know of their existence, however. The water is sprayed through hundreds of tiny pipes, so small as to be almost invisible, which are placed in the cracks between the flagstones.—Strand Magazine.

By and Large.

A correspondent asks, "Where did the fool expression 'by and large' come from, and what does it mean?" It is scarcely foolish, for the man who invented the phrase, more than seven score years ago, by and large, opened a new world for folk to whom the speech of adventure is a closed volume. To sail "by" is to sail as close to the point from which the wind comes as the ship's lines will allow and as skillful steering will permit. To sail "large" is to sail with the wind. Together they include all possible points of sailing. Therefore "by and large" is a vivid phrase to express the idea of all included.—New York Sun.

The Proud Duke.

An English importer in New York told a story illustrative of the pride of the late Duke of Fife.

"A very rich woman in Grosvenor square," he said, "once asked the duke to dinner in terms like these:

"'Mrs. Parvenu's social secretary is desired to invite the Duke of Fife to dinner on the 7th inst. at 8 o'clock.'

"To this invitation came back the answer:

"'The Duke of Fife's piper is desired to inform Mrs. Parvenu's social secretary that the Duke of Fife declines her invitation.'"—Washington Star.

Depending on the Neighbors.

She was a rather plump old woman and had always tried to be accommodating to her neighbors, but even her obliging spirit had to refuse a request from a neighbor who sent by her little boy the following message:

"Please, ma'am, mother sent me over to see if I couldn't get a couple of pounds of lard off of you."—Lippincott's.

Foot Workers.

Bill—I see that each German regiment has attached to it a chiropodist. Jill—In case of a retreat I suppose those fellows could do some pretty good foot work.—Yonkers Statesman.

Pleasing a Girl.

Silicus—What is the first thing a fellow should do if he wants to please a girl? Cynicus—Make a fool of himself over her.—Philadelphia Record.

FIRE IN THE HOLD.

Vessels on Sea Are Often Destroyed by Spontaneous Combustion.

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UPLIFTING A MAN

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