

WHY Quiet Little Belgian City Is But a Memory

Nieuport lies upon the Yser, the tidal stream that stopped the German rush for Calais. That June before the world went mad, the peaceful town drowned in the sun—the pearly Belgian sun—that painters love. The men went down to the sea in their fishing boats, or worked their fields; old women, their lace upon their knees, sat in a patch of shade before the door and plied their bobbins; children, with shrill sweet voices, darted about like birds; the creaking wain went to and fro piled high with the harvest. Four thousand simple folk, victims of a war in the Atlantic. Not one remains. Their houses, too, are gone. Their ancient church, their historic tower, are mounds of ruin. And still the hissing shells, hour by hour, day by day, tear down the crumbling walls, adding fresh ruin to a scene most desolate. The people of the sun are gone. Another race inhabits there. They live in holes beneath the ground. They come not forth except to kill.

ITALIANS FIGHT IN ARMOR

How Improvements in Defensive Devices Have Been Made During the Long Conflict in Europe.

"No helmet has shown more resourcefulness than the Italian iron helmet," says a writer in World Magazine. "The Italian army was the only one to enter the war with a trench helmet and a steel chest protector, and it is now provided with a more efficient body shield than is possessed by any other of the warring nations. Early in the war it was discovered by the Italians that many lives could be saved in skirmishing at close quarters if the soldiers carried or pushed bags of sand in front of them, and the present body shield has been an outgrowth of that idea. They are made in the one-man and two-man type. The former are worn by infantry advancing in the open, attached to the shoulders by a pair of light steel arms, and are long enough to protect the head and vital organs of a man standing erect. Lying at full length, or even crouching, it covers him completely. Each shield is pierced with a small, round eyehole and an oblong loophole for firing from, both of which may be closed by a sliding door when not in use. The two-man shield is principally used in wire-cutting. It is carried on the back of one man, who may also work his rifle from a loophole in the top, while a second man works a long wire cutter through a hole at the bottom. It is held up by short legs if the first man desires to move independently."

Why Orient Needs Schools. The Orient now wants more than anything else in the world, better educational facilities. Ask a citizen of any Oriental country what three things he most desires for his people. Two of the answers may vary according to local conditions, but one is uniformly the same from Sapporo to Hyderabad: better schools. Not all schools are so favorably situated as St. John's in Shanghai. There are hundreds of millions of people in Asia whose entire family income is not equal to the \$220 Mexican (approximately \$150 American currency) which St. John's is able to charge for annual tuition. It is not the aim of every school to become self-supporting. The glory of the Christian ideal has always been that its primary care is for the poor and unfortunate. But every year the mission schools are able to shift their work more from the purely charity basis toward one of self-respecting independence.

Western education is now so highly prized that pupils and parents alike are willing to make superlative sacrifices to acquire it.—Tyler Dennett, in Asia.

Why French Shoes Are Uniform. In the effort to reduce the cost of shoes, the French government has recently enacted a law providing for the manufacture of a uniform type of shoe that could be offered for sale at a comparatively low price. The ordinance provides that the ministry of war should, as far as possible, supply with leather the shoe manufacturers designated by agreement with the minister of commerce. The manufacturers thus selected must undertake to make shoes conforming to models furnished by the minister of commerce, and to furnish them to shoe dealers, under the name of "national shoes" at prices fixed by the minister of commerce. The shoes shall be marked as "national shoes" and shall be stamped with the maximum selling price to the public, as well as the name of the manufacturer.

Why Scarecrows Are Nuts. French peasants living in the northern half of France, largely occupied by armies, probably haven't bought any new Sunday suits since the war began. It has been impossible to spare transportation for carrying stocks of goods. Railway fares to the shops of Amiens or Paris are so high that the peasant would have to be carried because that would take too much time away from his fields which are being tenderly nursed and coaxed into bringing forth extra yields. The odd result is that the thousands of scarecrows, which the thrifty French have all over their farms to cut down the loss of seed and crops to a minimum, have been divested of their suits and given straw substitutes. The peasants are wearing the scarecrows' clothing.

EXAMINE YOUR INNER SELF Possibly There May Be Machinery There That Can Be Utilized to Good Purpose.

Strange forces give men purpose and jar them into action. Love, pride, sorrow, fear—all sorts of hidden feelings are responsible for the shaking of men out of ruts and into fields of undreamed-of achievement. More than one big success finds its real origin in the personal disappointment of some man—perhaps over a college education he couldn't get, or a toy he couldn't afford, or a trip he was not able to make. Of course some men are downed by such emotions, but others are made by them. Most men have perfectly good boilers in them, and fine equipment. But so many never get up steam and go anywhere! They just stand still—waiting for a call from within to "get a move on." The call is likely to come any time. If your call is late in coming, why not ring up your inner self and ask him if he can't think of some place he would like to go? It's a shame to have all that expensive machinery and not use it.—American Magazine.

EMERSON FELT WAR'S PINCH

Letter Written by Him Tells of Bad Conditions in New York in the Year 1862.

It is interesting to go back to the early days of the Civil war in this city, when Emerson wrote to a friend of the financial crisis: "The 1st of January (1862) has found me in quite as poor a plight as the rest of the Americans. Not a penny from my books since last June, which usually yield five or six hundred a year; no dividends from the banks or from Lillian's Plymouth property. Then almost all income from lectures has quite ceased, so that your letter found me in a study how to pay three or four hundred dollars with fifty. Meanwhile we are trying to be as un-consuming as candles under an extinguisher, and 'tis frightful to think how many rivals we have in distress and in economy. But far better that this grinding should go on bad and worse than we be driven by any impatience into a hasty peace, or any peace restoring the old rottenness."—New York World.

Where He Fell Down.

Recently an American was showing an English friend about the capital. "Our government is very economical," said the American. "When we've an extra thick fog they suck it into a big cistern and convert it into paint for warships and buildings." "Really?" said the Britisher. "Talking about fogs reminds me that my brother invented a machine for compressing fogs into bricks, and one thick November day he turned out enough material to build a country house." "Yes, he did. He moved into this new house the next April and was a happy man for two weeks, until one morning he found himself, also his family, lying out on the cold, damp ground, in company with some bits of furniture and some miscellaneous jewelry. The house had gone, but it was the thickest morning ever seen in those parts. Of course, you can guess what had happened. In the night those fog bricks had somehow got back into their original element." "Well," drawled the Yankee, "I reckon yer rel'ive ought to have glazed those bricks."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Confidence Has No Envy.

Ambition doesn't fear to admire what it would like to have. Show bigness in any guise to a brave, bold man and he'll prepare to parallel it. It's the cowardly, double-sweet weakling with secretly accepted bounds who always hates the strength and merit beyond reach. The fox didn't believe the grapes sour until he had quit trying for them. Scurrilous tongues are bitter with self-surrender. Stern, determined men refuse to discount the future; no attainment is beyond their hopes. They never "knock." It might be construed as evidence of inability to prove equality. Confidence has no envy.

Melting Aluminum Chips.

Fine aluminum chips, such as are produced in the machining of the aluminum alloys used in motorcar construction are hard to remelt without excessive loss, a loss of 40 per cent being common. According to the bureau of mines, the total loss from this cause throughout the country amounts, with aluminum at its present price, to \$600,000. The bureau has recently published some valuable suggestions for minimizing this loss. The main cause of trouble seems to be the lack of ready coalescence of the metallic globules, and this means that the problem is one of colloid chemistry applied to metals.—Scientific American.

Searchlight from Batteries.

From the pocket flashlight operated by two or three dry cells of minute size the battery searchlight has been steadily improved until today remarkable results are obtained. A battery searchlight has been introduced with a range of 2,000 feet up to half a mile, operated on six volts. Equipped with bringing forth extra yields. The odd result is that the thousands of scarecrows, which the thrifty French have all over their farms to cut down the loss of seed and crops to a minimum, have been divested of their suits and given straw substitutes. The peasants are wearing the scarecrows' clothing.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

She dresses eye so clean and neat; Bath decent and genteel; And then there's something in her gait Makes on dress look weel. —Burns.

INEXPENSIVE DISHES.

Take a slice of round steak, cover with a layer of sliced potatoes, a layer of onions and or top of these two sliced green peppers. Season well with salt and pepper, add a pint of boiling water, cover and let simmer two hours. Rice that has been cooked in milk may be used for a most appetizing loaf. Take a tablespoonful of peanut butter for each cup of cooked rice, add seasoning and moisten with either tomato or soup stock. Bake until hot, cover with buttered crumbs, and when they are brown serve in the dish in which it is baked.

Noodles and Ham.—Butter a baking dish or quart mold and sprinkle thickly with fine bread crumbs, then line with cooked cold noodles. Put in a layer of chopped ham, highly seasoned, then a layer of noodles until the dish is full. Cover and bake one hour. Turn out on a platter and serve with spinach or snauerkraut. Spiced Carrots.—Cook young carrots until tender, sprinkle with flour, powdered cloves, butter and lemon juice, reheat and serve with minced parsley as a garnish. Rice Griddle Cakes.—Mix two cupfuls of boiled rice with the same amount of milk, and let it stand overnight. In the morning add two or three cupfuls of corn flour sifted with two or three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a dash of sugar, and salt to taste. Beat until well mixed, add two beaten eggs and fry on a hot griddle. —Beets With Spinach.—Plek cover wash, and put to cook a half neck of spinach. Cook in unsalted water to which a pinch of soda has been added; do not cover. Near the end of the cooking add a teaspoonful of sugar. When tender, drain and chop. Add butter, flour, three tablespoonfuls of fat and one of flour, with a half cupful of cream. Reheat and pack in a border mold and let stand in hot water to keep warm.

When ready to serve turn out on a platter with buttered heels in the center. Garnish the platter with hard cooked eggs cut in eighths. This dish is not only a pleasing color combination but tastes equally well.

Neelie Maxwell The KITCHEN CABINET Cultivate a serene, truthful mental state and you need never trouble about external things they will all come right without your worrying. A FEW MEATLESS SOUPS. When soup is served in the meal as a food rather than a preparation of the stomach—for hearty foods is should be prepared with that end in view. Cream soups are both nourishing and palatable and may be used freely as a main dish. Asparagus Soup.—In these days of everybody with a garden we should have our own asparagus bed; once started it will be a source of profit for years. Take a bundle of asparagus, cut off the heads and put them aside for a more delicate dish. Cover the shoots, after cutting in small pieces, with a quart of water and cook until the asparagus is tender. Rub through a colander and add this pulp with the liquor used in cooking to a pint of milk. Cook to gether two tablespoonfuls of corn or barley flour and two tablespoonfuls of sweet fat, stir into the soup and bring to boiling point. Serve with popcorn. Celery Soup.—Put two tablespoonfuls of sweet fat in a saucepan, and when bubbling hot add a slice of onion; cook until brown, then add a pint of cabbage water (water saved when cooking cabbage), four carrots ground fine, all stewed gently for an hour in a tight kettle; then add two tablespoonfuls of butter. Turnip Soup.—Put a tablespoonful of butter, one slice of onion and three slices of carrot into a saucepan and stir over the heat until the onion is yellow; then add four good-sized turnips which have been ground through the meat chopper. Cover and let simmer without water over slow heat. There should be a pint of pulp; after 20 minutes add a quart of milk, two tablespoonfuls of butter blended with the same amount of flour, using barley or corn flour; a half teaspoonful of kitchen bouquet; salt and pepper to taste. Serve with croutons. Clear Tomato Soup.—Add a pint of water to a quart of tomatoes, a slice of onion, a half a bay leaf, a dash of celery salt and a few celery tips, a teaspoonful of salt and a chopped green pepper. Cook all together 15 minutes, then bind with two tablespoonfuls of cornstarch and butter cooked together.



HOW NATURE HAS SET SPOT ASIDE FOR WORLD'S NUTMEG GARDEN.

—If we had to go for our food to the places where it grows, instead of having it brought to our homes, only the persons who liked simple things to eat would have much time for business. Especially would people who liked highly spiced food have to be journeying most of their lives. They could find nutmegs in the West Indies and in South America, but if they wanted to find the spice in its greatest abundance their quest for it would be a long one indeed. And they could not make the whole journey in passenger steamships, for the nutmeg forests are chiefly in the little Banda islands, tiny specks of land among the thousands of islands that make up the East Indies.

There are only three islands in the group that are really big enough to be called islands, and these three have a total land area of but 16 square miles. They are between the huge islands of Celebes and New Guinea, about half way between the Philippines, which are far to the north, and Australia, which lies far to the south.

Here is the world's nutmeg garden, where every inch of land is almost as closely cultivated as are the vineyards along the Rhine. From these seemingly insignificant bits of land are exported annually about 1,500,000 pounds of nutmegs and 350,000 pounds of mace.

KEPT RECORDS OF HISTORY

How Papyrus Has Played Important Part in All Stages of the World's Civilization.

In ancient times papyrus played a great part in civilization, for except for parchment made from the skins of animals it was the only material on which records could be kept and literature could be preserved, and it is from papyrus rolls that we get the knowledge of ancient customs and habits.

The plant grows tall, from five to twenty-five feet, and it bears long, grassy leaves. The stem is smooth and triangular and its inner skin is divided, by means of a sharp needle, into thin strips. These were placed on a table and kept moistened. Over them crosswise other strips were laid, and then the whole was pressed together till it became a flat sheet, which was dried in the sun, beaten by a mallet and polished with a piece of ivory. The breadth of the sheet was limited by the length of the papyrus slips, but its length could be carried indefinitely.

When finished the strip was rolled on a wooden cylinder, the ends of which projected beyond the papyrus and were decorated with painting and carving. This was the material on which the greatest examples of ancient thought were written with a sharp-pointed instrument which was the forerunner of our pen.

How German Troops Were Fooled. Surrender of a German force of 3,000 men in East Africa was due to the chance dropping of a number of bombs by a British airman, according to a report from Cape Town, which says: "An officer of the Flying Corps was out on reconnaissance in the region of the Rovuma river, but found nothing to bomb. Being forced to discharge his cargo of bombs to lighten his machine for the homeward trip, he chose a quiet spot and dropped them all, consisting, of course, considerable noise. "The German general, Tafel, was at the time marching to join his chief, Von Lettow, but news of the explosions was reported to him, and he, thinking a large force of the enemy must be somewhere in the district, diverted his line of march and before long bumped into a British force. "Ultimately his whole force, 3,000 strong, surrendered."

How Dandelions Saved Autolat. A Findlay (Ohio) autolat was stranded, gasless, somewhere between Findlay and Toledo, miles from a filling station. A newly wedded pair, passing by in a small roadster. They were stopped by the man with the gasless car and he told them his trouble. They were in sympathetic mood, as all newly wedded couples are, and were asked for gasoline. But how was the gasoline to be transferred from one tank to another, when nothing was at hand? Finally, the little bride suggested that a siphon be made of dandelion stems. Both men laughed, but they agreed to try it, just because she was a bride. They made the chain of stems, started the gasoline, and the Findlay man got enough to take him home.

Why Tree Bows Its Head. A note in Nature refers briefly to a lecture by Sir J. C. Bose, which describes and explains a bit of Hindu wonder working—the "pencing palm tree" of Fardpur. At the time of evening prayer the tree is seen to bow its head in prostration, and it resumes a erect attitude the next morning. The lecturer devised special apparatus to record continuously the movements of the tree by day and night, and thus discovered that the movement was due to the diurnal change in temperature. Movements of similar origin were found in all other trees tested.

Neelie Maxwell

FACTS ABOUT SHIP'S SPEED.

A ship increases her speed more readily over deep water, but on the other hand, the faster a ship runs the more depth of water she requires to prevent the hindrance caused by the dragging influence of the friction which is always felt when the ship's keel "senses" bottom. Running ten knots an hour, a ship must have between 26 and 27 feet of depth, or she is dragged from below. If running 20 knots she needs a depth of 104 to 105 feet, and when running 30 knots she feels the drag over a depth of nearly 324 feet.

No Royal Road to Old Age.

Unhappily there is no agreement on the recipe for living to a ripe old age, although every centenarian believes he has the secret. The fact is, there is a good deal of luck about it. Of course everybody knows that the person who starts in with a good physique and lives happily and temperately and usefully has the advantage over the person who inherits a weak body and doesn't take care of himself. But even among those who have everything in their favor many fail to reach the four score years of the psalmist.

Attilla's Hoard Never Found.

Alaric the Goth plundered Rome and got together a vast amount of treasure. When he died, the legends relate, this loot was buried with him at the bottom of the Suesento river, and all the captive slaves who were forced to build his tomb were slain, so that the Romans might never find his resting place. The rich spoils of Attilla, the story runs, were buried in a cave. Neither hoard has ever been discovered.

WILLFULNESS AND WILL.

Do not mistake willfulness for will. Very often the girl who is most determined to get her own way in everything, lacks will power. Will is conducive to self-control, willfulness to a lack of it. The difficulty a girl's proper guardian, her parents and her teachers, encounter in bringing her to do what is expected of her is not the measure of her will, but of her willfulness.—Pennsylvania Grit.

Intoxicated by Freedom.

Magistrate—"Prisoner, the evidence shows that after being a model husband for twenty years, you threw your wife out of the house and ran amuck, attempting to murder everybody you met." Defendant (sheepishly)—"It was only a peaceful revolution at the start, your honor, but after I had overthrown the autocracy I lost my head."—Puck.

Primitive Plow.

Even at the present time modern plows are practically unknown in Egypt, and all that is used is a log with a wooden hook, the end of which is steel-pointed. Any animals available from a donkey to a camel, constitute the team, and sometimes even a camel and a bullock are seen pulling together.

Best Way to Water Plants.

A French botanist, who has experimented with vegetable raising, has determined the exact amount of water necessary for the best growth of various plants. In general, he found that a supply of water administered uninterruptedly drop by drop brought better results than even systematic drenching.

No Chance to Quarrel.

One day little Laura, who could not talk plainly, was playing with a little boy who could not speak English. When someone asked her how she got along with the little boy she replied: "Oh, we gets along fine; he can't stand me and I can't stand him."

Those Straw Votes.

"I really never did take much stock in straw votes," said the defeated candidate, sorrowfully, "but I must admit that there is more comfort in them than there is sometimes in the real thing."

A Reply.

"Do you think playing a game of pool hurtful or wrong?" asks a young saphead of Galveston. We think playing a game of pool to be entirely all right—provided the player has put in a full day's work.—Houston Post.

Popular Japanese Flowers.

Ten of the most popular flowers in Japan are: Apricot, cherry, chrysanthemum, iris, lily, morning glory, peony, plum, quince and the ever-present wisteria.

To Keep Cheese Fresh.

Cheese can be kept fresh by rubbing the fat of a warm knife over the cut surface and wrapping it in oiled paper or in cheesecloth wrung out of salt water.

These Days of High Prices.

Robert's grandfather gave him a penny to spend, and Robert said: "Grandpa, you must remember every thing costs more. I can't get much candy for a penny."

Needs Less Food.

A few minutes a day in an electric cafe giving frequency waves enables a man to get along with less food, according to a Paris scientist.

COURTING TROUBLE.

It was a red-letter day for Pat Finnegan. For the first time he was a member of a jury. Dressed in his best suit he was about to depart for the courthouse when his wife asked him where he was going.

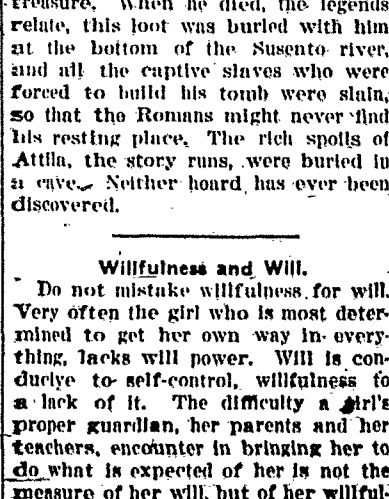
"Shure, an' it's to court Ol'm going," replied Pat. The next day the same thing happened. However, on the third morning things came to a climax. Mrs. Finnegan again asked the question.

"Shure, it's to court Ol'm going," said Pat. Mrs. Finnegan took the rolling pin and got in Pat's way. "Now, Pat," she replied, "take off them good clothes; yer not going to court. If there's any courtin' to be done, shure, ye'll do it here, an' do it with me."

Truth About Premonition.

"Once in a while an error turns out to be the truth," said the editor. "How is that?" asked the caller. "Why," replied the editor, "in writing about the death of Mrs. Rounder I referred to Mr. Rounder as 'the bereaved widower,' but the compositor made it 'the relieved widower,' and it got into the paper that way, and Rounder never even called up to demand a correction."—London Tit-Bits.

JACK OF ALL TRADES.



"I like men who do things." "Well, I have done as many different things as anybody you know."

Ever Notice It?

The man that walls that times are hard. You will observe full of, in looking for a berth in life. Particularly soft. —Boston Transcript.

Her Remedy.

"When I told Maria her new hat was unbecoming, she said she would face the trouble and make it the subject of serious reflection." "And did she?" "Sure. She went for the nearest looking glass."

Public Representation.

"After you are gone they may set up a statue of you." "Don't suggest it," replied Senator Sorghum. "I've been looking the statutory over and I don't want any. It's bad enough to be cartooned while you are alive."

Getting His.

"You seem to enjoy seeing the judge with his wife." "Yes, I like to see him get some of his own medicine." "Eh?" "I like to see her overrule him."

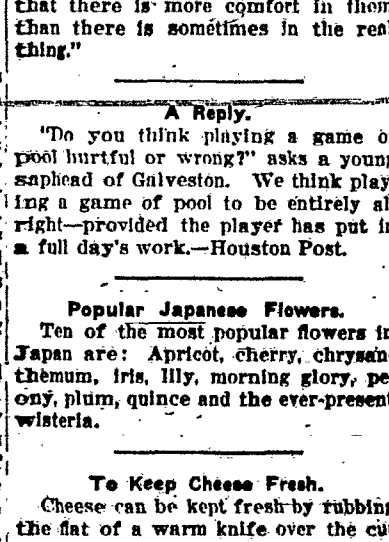
Forgetful.

Mr. Brown—What did I do with my hat, Jane? Mrs. Brown—You left it on your head, Bill. Mr. Brown—Gosh! Next thing I'll be leaving my head in my hat.

Was He Right?

"What's the dispute about?" demanded the proprietor. "Remember, in this store the customer is always right." "He says you're an old shark," explained the clerk briefly.

JONAH'S REPUTATION.



"Opportunity makes the man." "Sure thing; where would Jonah have been if the whale had not been waiting for him?"

Change.

Ruth is an alchemist I know, and so I'll have to drop her. For every time I'm out with her My silver turns to copper. —Widow.

In These Days.

"It's as useless as the fifth wheel to a wagon." "That adage is out of date. All automobiles carry an extra tire."