

RECASTING AN OLD GUN

It was formerly known as a destructive engine of war. The old Antietam gun recently sent to the McShane foundries to be recast, says the Baltimore American, has been reduced to a condition of absolute worthlessness. Its thundering roar has been silenced forever. Its military utility has become a thing of the past. No longer does it maintain its original identity. No longer is it recognizable as an engine of war. In the language of the foundry, "it has been badly broken up."

The old bronze destroyer has lost its primitive power of death and now is ruined and mutilated in the shop awaiting the next process in its course of transformation. It has been cut into number of comparatively small pieces. This has been done in order to reduce it to a convenient state, such as is required in order that it may easily enter the crucible. This breaking process is made by special tools particularly adapted to just such work.

Already the old gun has been split into six or eight pieces. The breaking process may be still further continued until it is sufficiently reduced to be perfectly workable. It will then melted and recast, issuing from its process in a condition proper to be used as index plates. This, however, will not be effected for several weeks. There still remains some detail tuning to be completed before the gun will be carried through its final stages of gradual transformation.

GERMAN ENGAGEMENT NOTICE

How a Bavarian Count Announced the Wedding of His Daughter.

The bride of pretty much every harness has upon it rosettes, more or less ornamental, one on each side, placed at the ends of the front or broad band. These rosettes are made in very great variety. Some are made of tin, some German silver, and some of German silver covered with a thin sheet of silver. Some rosettes are plain, some are embossed. They sell at prices ranging from practically nothing to two dollars a pair. Rosettes of this kind are often engraved with the monogram or initials. Engraved rosettes are not infrequently seen on business harnesses. There are costlier rosettes that are set on carriage harnesses only, and are made of some leather and some of silk cloth. These are made by hand in various sizes, and of various colors and combinations of colors. Handsome rosettes of leather sell at \$2.50 to \$5 a pair, depending upon the size; the ribbed rosettes from five to ten dollars a pair. Rosettes of this kind are sold with the harness. They are bought separately, as ornaments. Ribbed rosettes costing ten dollars a pair might, for instance, be bought to attach to the bridles of a fine double harness, costing, say, \$400 a set.

PLOVERS RESTING AT SEA

First Pair of Bifurcated Garments Worn by a Roman Prisoner. Tetricus, the barbarian, was the first gentleman to wear trousers, says the Boston Journal. He had no heart in the inauguration of the new fashion; he simply had to do it; Aurelian the Roman had captured Tetricus on one of his raids and determined to carry him in triumph to Rome as one of the spoils of conquest. To make the captive appear as ridiculous as possible, he was arrayed in a two-part garment which Boston might have been called "pants." Instead of appearing ridiculous, Tetricus seems to have made a hit, for the garment he wore slowly but surely grew in favor with the people of Rome. We might find the origin of many customs in the same way. It is known that Charles VII of France wore a long coat to conceal his crooked legs. Not all the French were crooked, but coats became fashionable, nevertheless. The process by which Peter the Great put civilized clothes on his uncivilized subjects had more method in it. The gates of the towns were hung with garments of the new fashion and the people were obliged to adopt them or be publicly punished.

An Intelligent Domestic.

A Philadelphia housekeeper tells this story in the Record of that city: "We had at one time in our employ a very green young woman. This young woman also came to us through an intelligence (?) office. She showed her intelligence on the first day of her service in our family. She was told to go out in the yard and take down the clothesline, which was stretched among a half-dozen posts set up for that purpose. She was at the job for so long a time that we began to wonder what on earth was the matter with her. We went out to see what she was doing, and there we found her working away vigorously with a spade. She had already dug up three of the posts, and had almost completed the work on a fourth when we found her. She didn't stay with us long."

When in Rome.

Characters Three. An American who had left his native country to travel in Europe, with the maxim "When in Rome do as the Romans do" well in mind, found himself in Marseilles. He wanted some ice cream and went to a restaurant and ordered it. "What flavor will you have?" asked the waiter. The American hesitated a moment and then remembered his maxim. "Oh, garlic, I suppose," he answered.

Poor Tourist Season in Europe. In spite of Queen Victoria's jubilee, the American tourist season in Europe has been the worst in many years. Shipping returns show a decline of no less than 50 per cent in the first and second-class passenger traffic below the figures for the season of 1896.

Early Potato Cultivation.

Massachusetts convicts are getting scarce. Not content with Boston beans for breakfast every day, they have just sent in a petition for potato every Sunday.

ABEILLE DE LA Nlle-ORLEAN

très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00

OLD SHAKER'S SPECIALTY.

He Has a Trio of Attributes Which Make Him Unique.

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THE USE OF CORAL.

It Is by No Means as General as It Was Formerly.

"A beautiful coral necklace and brooches that were once so fashionable are seldom worn now by women in this country," said a New York dealer in rare and curious ornaments to a Washington Star reporter recently. "Thirty years ago the material was in great demand for all sorts of articles of personal adornment. At the present day coral is used largely only in such countries as Abyssinia, the Congo, the Cape, India and Ceylon, Siberia, China and Japan. The choicest pieces are used for the buttons of Chinese mandarins or for ornamenting the turbans of rich Mussulmans, while the inferior qualities are sent to less civilized countries, where they are employed for various purposes.

"Coral has been often used as money in oriental countries, but that use of it is now declining. Barbarous and semi-civilized peoples employ it largely for ornamenting arrows, lances and pikes, and also for decorating corpses before interment. Prices have varied much of late years, a rapid decline in value having taken place, owing principally to the scarcity of good and the comparative abundance of inferior qualities.

Besides the loss accruing to the fisherman the present scarcity of coral is very seriously affecting the large number of people employed in preparing the material for market. There has been a great decline in the number of women thus engaged at Leghorn, and the same state of affairs is evident at Naples and Genoa, the other principal seats of the industry. Nowadays the proportion of inferior quality is so much larger that fewer persons are required to manipulate the quantity. No machinery or mechanical process is employed. The workman simply takes pieces of coral into his or her hands, one after another, and, according to their thickness, quality and defects, works them into certain forms. Their wages run from 15 cents to 35 cents per day."

OYSTER GROWING IN A BOTTLE.

Interesting Curiosity Found in the Rappahannock River. D. M. Nelson, agent of the Weeme Steamboat company at Urbana, on the Rappahannock river, lately brought up to Baltimore a curiosity discovered by him which has created considerable interest among steamboat people about Light street wharf, reports the Baltimore American. It is a live oyster of large size growing out of the mouth of a yeast powder bottle, which was found on the shore of the Rappahannock river. The oyster is considerably larger than the bottle, and only a small portion is left. Upon the sides of the bottle are several small oysters of tiny size, firmly fastened there. Mr. Nelson has brought up a story more wonderful than his oysters, and for which there has as yet been no evidence produced. It is of an old gentleman who lives near Urbana, and who, so the story goes, while bathing during the summer lost a set of false teeth, which floated away or went to the bottom. Lately, while dredging, an oysterman brought up to the surface a pair of false teeth around which a number of oysters were clinging, some of them of good size, and fastened on firmly. The old gentleman promptly identified his teeth, and keeps them as a curiosity.

THE EASTERN CHEROKEES.

Decision of a Federal Court That They Are Not Citizens. In a decision by the United States court of appeals in the western district of North Carolina, says the New York Sun, it has been virtually declared that the eastern band of Cherokee Indians are not citizens of the United States. Some of these Indians have been voting for 50 years. They have more than once held the balance of power between the two political parties in western North Carolina. The chief question involved is the right of the eastern band of Cherokee Indians to sell the timber of land for which it holds a deed.

The decision of the court is that the band has no right to make any contract whatever without the sanction of the United States government. The court says the eastern band did not become citizens by virtue of the treaty of New Echota in 1835. It is remarkable that the court in its decision ignored the case upon which the defendants mainly relied, that of the case of the eastern band of Cherokee Indians against the western band, decided by the supreme court of the United States, 117 U. S. Rep., wherein Justice Field held that the members of the eastern band were citizens.

Vessels Beneath the Sea. A hollow vessel, formed of metal or any other substance, and hermetically sealed, can be made to float under the water at a given distance without sinking to the bottom. Copper, for example, is nearly nine times as heavy as water. A cubic foot of copper made in a hollow, tight vessel of nine cubic feet capacity, would just float. By making it slightly smaller it would float at some depth below the surface. Careful measurements and exact calculations would be necessary to float such a vessel at a required depth. A torpedo boat capable of carrying six persons and remaining a number of hours under water was constructed during the late war, and one of the plans to release Napoleon from St. Helena contemplated the use of a vessel that could be used close to the island under the water.

A JUROR'S QUESTION. An English juror once asked the judge, after the verdict was returned, whether the fact that he differed from his 11 brethren justified their knocking him down with a chair.

Old Bricks.

Bricks apparently as good as when first made were excavated in Babylon recently, the marks on them proving them to be 4,000 years old.

EARLY POTATO CULTIVATION.

In a thicket in the upper Harz mountains a granite monument has been found with the inscription: "Here in the year 1747 the first trials were made with the cultivation of the potato."

MULETS ET MULETS.

Mulets de ville..... 125@150

Mulets pour habitation et grange..... 60@100

Bons chevaux de trait..... 100@150

Chevaux communs..... 50@100

CHÈVREAU ET CHÈVREAU.

Chèvres de ville..... 125@150

Chèvres pour habitation et grange..... 60@100

Chèvres de trait..... 100@150

Chèvres communes..... 50@100

GRUZENS.

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