THE ATHENS BEPORTER, OCI. 4, 1911

SIGNS AND SAILORS.

Strange Belief Regarding the Result

Strange Belief Regarding the Result of Naming Ships. Adventurer upon the ocean has ever been possessed of a temperament incomprehensible to landsmen by rea-son of his belief in signs and hap-penings considered to be omens of good or evil. Although many super-stitions died out with the advent of steam into marine affairs yet there are many curious beliefs still preva-lent.

All are aware of the ill-luck which All are aware of the ill-luck which is said to belong to the ahip whose name has been changed, but it may not be so generally known that a be-lief prevails among seafaring men that the vessel whose name ends in A rests also under an evil spell. Indeed, it would almost seem that the latter superstition is not wholly unfounded, if we consider but a few of the disas-ters at sea in our own times wherein the state in our own times wherein the ill-fated ships have borne names which ended with the first letter of the alphabet. For in

alphabet. For instance, cites The London Globe, H.M.S. Victoria, sunk in the Mediterranean, is still fresh in the memory of Englishmen. Other well-known instances are the Stella, lost off the Channel Islands; the Arequipa, ashore on the west coast of America; the Cobra, a destroyer which broke her back in the North Sea on her madden voyage, and the Sardinia, burned in harbor at Malta. The fate of the last named vessel, in

burned in harbor at Malta. The fate of the last named vessel, in the light of the two superstitions al-ready mentioned, may be fairly said to have been preordained, for in addi-tion to her name ending with the let-ter A, she had during her career borne at least one other, viz., Gulf of Coro-vovado. Needless to say, many ships have been wrecked whose names did not bear the unlucky final letter, and there are hundreds afloat which do possess it, and in which it is safer to travel than on the railway.

Brewer as Novelist.

Mr. Temple Thurston, whose dram-atized novel, "Sally Bishop," was recently presented at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, was originally in-tended for a brewer, and did, in fact, enter his father's brewery at the age of fifteen. The first intimation Mr. Thurston had that his son was really seriously inclined in the direc. Mr. Thurston had that his son was really seriously inclined in the direc-tion of authorship was the sight of a review of a small volume of poems which were published at young Thur-ston's expense. The sequel is, per-haps, best told in the author's own words: "My father called me into his presence and told me to take a month off, during which time I was to satisfy him as to my literary cap-abilities. During that time I wrote a lot of miscellaneous matter, in-cluding 1.700 lines of wrae, which I at not of miscellaneous matter, in-cluding 1,700 lines of verse, which I read over to my father. After that," adds Mr. Thurston, somewhat am-biguously, "he did not say a single further word about my going back to the herver" the brewery."

The Wickedest City.

There is no doubt about it—Irkutsk is the wickedest city in the world! One would hardly come to Irkutsk for a rest cure. With a population of 120,000 persons crammed into a couple of square miles on a bend in the Angara river, it produces 500 murders a year, with an average of one arrest for each fifty killings. And for each ten arrests there are but five convio-tions. This is not buncombe; it is a transcription from the city's criminal records. In one day not long ago there were twenty-two murders and attempted murders within the city limits

Irkutsk is pretty gay at nights now, but the citizens look back enviously to the zenith of its career to the days of the recent Japanese war. Then champagne and wines were often cautiously transported free of freight charges from St. Petersburg and Mos-cow in steel cars labeled "powder"cars militant with painted imperial eagles and Cossack guards.

INVULNERABLE GIBRALTAR It Has a Battery Perhaps Unequalled

It Has a Battery Perhaps Unequalled In the World. It has always been known that Gib-raliar, which belongs to Great Bri-tain, is one of the strongest forts for both defence and offence in the world. It is said that an immense fleet could be sent to the bottom before getting within five miles of Gibraltar. Not even a torpedo boat could succeed in entering the bay unobserved on the blackest night. The most eminent naval experts are of the opinion that this world's greatest fortress is almost impregnable.

naval experts are of the opinion that this world's greatest fortress is almost impregnable. Gibraltar never sleeps. By day and night two perfectly equipped signal stations, proudly flaunting Britain's flag of ownership, sweep the seas around to a distance of fifteen miles on a clear day, instantly reporting the coming and going of each vessel. Modern "needle" guns, the finest in Europe, are installed on all the most prominent points. They are unreach-able from the sea, even as they are indiscernible, owing to the skill with which they are planted and draped to match the surrounding vegetation, while huge screens drop automatically before them as each shell is fired. They have a range of fifteen miles and could drop shells on Ceuts, in Africa, opposite, quite comfortably, One gun weighs 110 tons and is cap-able of throwing a shell weighing three-quarters of a ton. In that mar-vel of engineering under great diffi-culties, the galleries, are concealed guns for every day in the year. These galleries are divided into three sections, entry to which is guarded, while one is closed even to high officers, containing preserved stores, munitions of war, rain water (for Gibraltar has no aprings) and a complete condensing plant — all cal-

(for Gibraltar has no springs) and a complete condensing plant — all cal-culated to outlast a siege of seven

related to outlast a shege of seven years. The firing is the most mathematic-ally perfect imaginable. The surround-ing waters are mapped out into squares, upon which certain guns are kept ready trained, so that it is al-most impossible to miss.

A Startling Lecture.

A Startling Lecture. Mr. J. M. Barrie has given us a whimsical description of Prof. Camp-bell Fraser, who was presented to the King at the garden party at Edin-burgh, the famous author and dramat-ist having been at one time one of the professor's pupils. "I see him rising in a daze from his chair," says Mr. Barrie, "and putting his hands through his hair. "Do I exist," he said, thoughtfully, 'strictly so called?" The students looked a little startled. This was a matter that had not pre-viously disturbed them. Still, if the viously disturbed them. Still, if the professor was in doubt there must be something in it. He began to argue it out, and an uncomfortable silence held the room in awe. If he did not exist the chances were that they did not exist either. It was thus a per-sonal question. . . It is no wonder that the students who do not go to the bottom during their first month of metaphysics begin to give them-selves air, strictly so called. In the privacy of their room at the top of the house they pinch themselves to see if they are still there." it out, and an uncomfortable silence

Transforming a Chinaman. A few weeks ago the Chinese of New Zealand were found to be doing a very great deal of the laundry work available, and so had thrown out of employment the women workers in some of the laundries. In New Zea-land e laundries is a featary within land a laundry is a factory within the meaning of the factories act, so it occurred to the lawmaker that he could settle the difficulty of this Chi-nese competition by a neat amend-ment in the interpretation clause of the act above mentioned An amend. the act above mentioned. An amend-ment was therefore drafted and printed and sent with the utmost seriousness and good faith to the crown law office for consideration. It con-tained a provision in these words: "For the purposes of this act (the factories act) a Chinaman shall be

The Parting of the Ways

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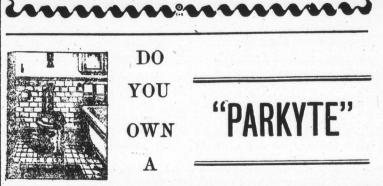
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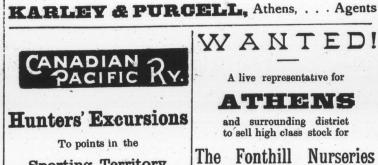
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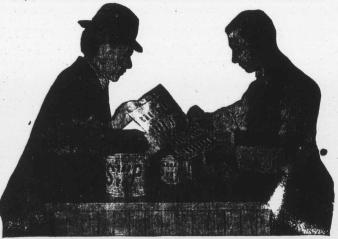
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## A 'CROSS COUNTER TALK.



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manufactures all pure insect of for S-W. Products, has its own lead and zinc mines, and employs a large staff of chemists to maintain the standard of all raw materials and finished products. "With materials of such quality, combined with the thorough assimilating they receive in mixing and grinding, is insured the most permanent and durable colors it is possible to manufacture. S.W.P. wears as long as any paint can wear and retains its brightness and freshness for the greatest possible time." .

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#### Ben Tillett's Career.

Few men have had a more stremm-ous struggle for existence than Mr. Ben Tillett, general secretary of the Docker's Union, and leading figure in the latest great strike. As a boy he traveled the country with a circus ...oupe, afterwards being sent to work h. a brickyard. At twelve years of ...ge he was one of the crew of a fish-ing-smack. Then he was apprenticed to a bootmaker, served for some time in the navy, and after being invalided from the service, and making some voyages in merchant vessels, settled down to labor organisation. He or-ganized the Dockers' Union, and his interferences with foreign strikes have not been relished by Belgian or Ger-han authorities, who imprisoned him and elisted him from their territies Few men have had a more streng not been relished by Belgian or Ger-nan authorities, who imprisoned him and ejected him from their territories.

#### A Curious Herb.

A Curious Herb. In New Caledonia there is a herb which has the rare property of reveal-ing one's secrets. It is known as the Datura stramonium and has white towers and rough berries full of dark raths. They are treated of in the Vinnals of Hygiene and Colonial Medicine." A person who has swal-lowed the tea made of this nerb will after falling asleep tell where his money is hidden and will also arise and go direct to where his treasure is and go direct to where his treasure is concealed. Robbers often use this tes as knockout drops with which to rob their victi...s

#### Private Ships Immune.

At a recent meeting of the council' of the London Chamber of Commerce Lord Avebury moved "that, in the opinion of this chamber, private pro-perty at sea should be dechared free of capture and seizure." The motion was carefully discussed and that was carefully discussed and adopted by a unanimous vote. then

#### Britain's Population

Great Britain and Ireland now have a total pojulation of 45,216,665, ex-cluding 148,934 inhabitants of the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey and other islands.

A Big Fish. Weighing 700 pounds, or nearly a third of a ton, the largest halibut on record was recently landed by a Hull trawler at Billingagete merican

deemed to be a girl under eighteen years of age."-London M.A.P.

#### Kilt and Silk Hat.

Kilt and Silk Hat. A good story has been told of Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood's attach-ment to a regiment of Highlandera, when the latter were stationed at Portsmouth. Sir Evelyn, then a captain, one day returned from Lon-don, and with great hurry proceeded to array himself for parade. When he at last emerged he observed that his men were evidently at great pains to conceal their laughter, and he quietly questioned his subaltern as to the probable reason. "Well, sir," replied the latter, "you are dressed correctly as to kilt, sporran, and all the rest of it; but you have forgotten to remove your tall hat!"

#### Ancient Ears Pierced for Earrings

A correspondent writes to The Pall A correspondent writes to The Pall Mall Gazette of London to correct a statement that the ears were not pierced for earrings until the seven-teenth century. The most ancient ear-rings in the museums, he says, were certainly worn in pierced ears. There is a tradition that when Sarah, jealous of Hagar, vowed to dye her hands in the latter's blood, Abra-ham saved the situation by horing

her hands in the latter's blood, Abra-ham saved the situation by boring lagar's ears and letting Sarah insert silver rings, so that her vow was ful-filled. The rings, however, lent such splendor to the girl's dusky cheeks that Sarah soon adopted them herself, and this will the origin of earrings.

An Idol's Long Sleep.

In Pegu may be seen a sentry keep-ing guard over a Burmese idol. The Burmese believe that is asleep and that when he awakes the end of the world will come. The sentry is there to present any one from enter-ing the passes, which is his place of repose; and awakening him. His slumbers have lasted 6,000 years.

#### Anatole France's Sarcasm.

Anatole France finds a certain sat-isfaction in the reflection that all men, whatever their status, are equal be-fore the law. The law, he says, in its majestic equality forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal bread.

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