FORTS OF SOLID STEEL.

A Bold Idea in Iron Work Such as Might Abash Great Vulcan.

From the New Orleans Picayune.

When Sir Henry Bessemer began his experiments, cast-steel railroad bars were worth more than $200 a ton; that is the same thing as saying they were worth so much that they could not be used at all. Now they can be bought for $18 to $20 a ton, and it is certainly impossible to say that the limit has been reached. The difficulty with the costly steel plates for armor for ships and forts lies in the fact that they have to be cast by a costly process, their edges planed, and then they must be bolted together and fitted in place. To make a fort is a tedious and very costly process. But Sir Henry himself says that it is not necessary. No one has attempted to obviate it, and no individual can; but a nation could do it. Suppose that we wish to cast the side of a fort in steel, say 200 feet long, 16 feet high and 3 feet thick. We have only to build a gigantic mold out of brick and concrete, build on top of this mold say eight or ten 20-ton Bessemer converters capable of turning out three charges in twenty-four hours; they would run into the mold a ton of molten steel every thirty seconds, and the mold would be filled in sixteen hours. The melted steel would solidify as it was poured it, so that there would only be six or eight inches of melted metal on the surface at any stage of the filling.

It sounds preposterous to speak of casting the whole side of a fort in one plate or piece, embrasures and all. But Sir Henry says it can be done. He will undertake also to cast the turret for a warship in one solid piece of steel. It makes no difference what shape the fort or turret is to take, or where or how many are to be its loop holes or posts; it is merely a question of building the matrix in the first instance in this or that shape. Suppose that the face of a fort weighs 2000 tons, it is clear that it could be cast in a single piece for about $40,000. Built up of plates in the usual style it might cost ten times that sum. It is but a step from this theory to one for the casting of an entire fortress. Whether turrets can be cast as proposed is another question, because the difficulty of casting them in situ would have to be surmounted. It would not be difficult to cast the turret to a matrix on shore; but to put it in position afterward would tax the ingenuity of the engineers.

Sir Henry says that a fort cast in one piece three feet thick could not be destroyed by any artillery now in existence. At any rate, the process of casting is cheap and easy, the thickness can be increased to any required extent. It is only necessary that there should be enough converters in operation to supply a sufficient flow of molten steel. It would need a 10-ton converter for every 75 square feet of horizontal section. There is no limit practically to the number of converters which could be caused to pour their floods into a matrix for a fort, but it would burst the matrix if too many converters were emptying into it at the same time. It would not be unreasonable for Congress to authorize an experiment on these lines.

—It outrivals all—Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

GET THERE AMES.

How He Took All the Boys Out to Toss the Rosy.

From the Chicago Herald.

One day last year a mail carrier left a bulky looking letter in the composing-room of a Fifth-avenue newspaper. The address on the yellow envelope read: "Albert Ames, —— office, Chicago, Ill." Not one of the hundred or more printers knew Albert Ames. He was not employed in the office, and there was no one who could tell where he worked. The letter lay upon the imposing stone for weeks and weeks. Printers, for the sake of killing time used to write all manner of things on the yellow envelope, and one of them figured up his week's "string" on the flap. This species of innocent vandalism continued until the superscription was nearly obliterated. "Who the devil is Ames?" "Get there, Ames," and "Rats," were some of the inscriptions scrawled on the envelope. About a week ago a thin, pale-faced man, with soiled linen and shoes a great deal the worse for wear, walked timidly into the composing room. The yellow envelope, now soiled and stampless, was the last to be picked up. The sickly looking fellow scrutinized the superscription and post-mark with great deliberation, and then opened one end with his lead rule. Two of his long white fingers stole into the package, and when they were withdrawn they held a slip of white paper and three book notes. The printers, who had been eyeing the pale-faced man, dropped their sticks on their cases and came over to where he was standing. "I thought I'd find it here, boys," he said in a weak voice, as he turned his cavernous eyes upon the toilers; "it's $300 from my brother. Comes rather nice when a fellow is on his uppers. I see by the envelop some of you boys want to know who the devil Ames is. Well, I'm the fellow, and if you'll all put on your coats we'll go out and toss the rosy."

—There are cheap panaceas for various human ailments continually cropping up. Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspepsia Cure has no affinity with any of these. Unlike them, the article is derived from the purest sources, is prepared with the utmost chemical skill, and is a genuine remedy and not a palliative for biliousness, constipation, kidney troubles, impurity of the blood, and female complaints.

"I don't know," said a paragrapher to a friend who was afflicted with rheumatism, "whether there is any virtue in the thing or not, but I have heard that carrying a chestnut in the pocket is a cure for rheumatism." "No good," answered the friend. "No?" "Not a bit of good; I slip your column of jokes out of your paper every week and carry it in my pocket, and, instead of getting better, I seem to get worse."

—As a toilet article, Ayer's Hair Vigor stands unrivaled. It cleanses the scalp and removes dandruff, cures itching humors, restores the original color to faded and gray hair, and promotes its growth. d

The other morning a farmer's wagon which was rattling down Michigan Grand-avenue to the market struck a colored man and sent him sprawling into the mud. Several people rushed to help him up, and one inquired if he were much hurt. "Only in my feelin's, sah; de passon who knocks me down an' won't stop to beg my pardon am no gem'lan, an' he tires my feelin's."

—West's Cough Syrup stops tickling in the throat, stops that hacking cough, and gives perfect relief; it is certainly worth a trial. All druggists. ed

"It strikes me," said a city and county hall man yesterday, "that we do not want any war with Canada. When we were drafted in 1861-4 we knew where to go, but in case of trouble with Canada where could we go?"

—There are so many cough medicines in the market, that it is sometimes difficult to tell which to buy; but if we had a cough, a cold or any affliction of the throat or lungs, we would try Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. Those who have used it think it is far ahead of all other preparations recommended for such complaints. The little folks like it as it is as pleasant as syrup.

Mrs. Brimmer—"Why, Mr. Brimmer, here's a fly. Where did he come from this cold weather. See him hover around that book. What is he after?" Mr. Brimmer—"Looking for the fly leaf, I suppose."

—Why will you suffer with a bad cold when a few doses of West's Cough Syrup will cure you? Invaluable for all throat and lung troubles. Consumptives try it. Small size 25c., large bottles $1. All druggists. ed

"If there is anything I like better than classical music," said Major Brannigan, in a high voice, as he moved with the throng out of the concert-room, "it's lemons. They both set my teeth on edge."

—Much distress and sickness in children is caused by worms. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator gives relief by removing the cause. Give it a trial and be convinced. d

Brown—"What do you think of the play?" Fogg—"Fairly good thing; but what I object to is the intense realism in the third act—a church scene, you know; it was so natural that I actually went to sleep."

—To ladies. The great beautifier for the complexion: One of West's sugar-coated Liver Pills taken nightly. 30 pills 25c. All druggists. ed

It was a horrible slip of the tongue when a Philadelphia lady, instead of saying that her church was going to have a cantata, remarked that it was going to have a cancan.

A SINGULAR SUPERSTITION.

A Farmer Who Believes that Departed Souls Dwell in Rocks.

From the Binghampton Leader.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Superstition plays a more eimportant part in determining the actions of men than most people are willing to admit, and almost every one has his pet belief as to what will bring good or ill luck. Hallucinations of one sort or another, too, often take possession of people who are otherwise quite sane.

One of the strangest hallucinations on record is the singular notion of a farmer named Edgar G. Stokes, who used to live and very likely still lives near Middletown in Connecticut. He is a man of culture and some thirty odd years ago was graduated with high honor from a noted New England college.

He believes that the souls of dead persons reside in rocks and pebbles. This post mortem existence in stones is ordained, he believes, for the purpose of purifying and refining the spirits. But only the souls of the great are thus purified. And acting on a sort of theory that it is well to be near the departed spirits of great persons, he has collected from every part of the state, and even from outside its boundaries, such stones as he fancies are now inhabited by certain individuals whose career in the flesh he admires. It doesn't matter whether the stones be large or small, handsome or ugly; by some theory of his own which he only understands, he thinks he can tell what particular soul is now the inhabitant of any given stone. And when he has found such a stone he instantly procures it, and gives it a place upon his farm.

Of course this does not enhance the value of the farm to anyone but himself. In fact, it decreases the practical worth of the place, for the stones are often placed just where they interfere with cultivation.

Sometimes he secures a stone that is, as yet, uninhabited. Close by his door is a smooth granite bowlder brought all the way from the Rocky Mountains which had not been taken possession of at last advices. Not far away from this now lifeless rock is a rough jagged stone, wherein abides the soul of George Washington. Over there is a smooth faced crystal which by and by will receive the soul of Farmer Stokes himself. Beyond is a granite spar possessed by good Queen Bess. Napoleon Bonaparte is apart from the rest in a "back lot." Hannibal is in another field and not far from him is Cæsar. Many other great men of the past are in the collection, but it is not known if Grant, or Garfield, or Tilden, or Hendricks have yet found a resting place on the Stokes farm.

It was only a few years ago that any one knew why Farmer Stokes collected the rocks that adorn his farm, and his neighbors always treat his idiosyncracy with respect now, for he is a shrewd business man and in every other respect of well balanced mind.

—The great demand for a pleasant, safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It is a purely Vegetable Compound, and acts promptly and magically in subduing all coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc. It is so palatable that a child will not refuse it, and is put at a price that will not exclude the poor from its benefits.

"Yes," said Mr. Jams, "I did consent to have my son named James, but I must insist that it shall never be shortened to Jim. Who would employ a boy named Jim Jams?"

—Holloway's Corn Cure destroys all kinds of corns and warts, root and branch. Who then would endure them with such a cheap and effectual remedy within reach?

"How did you enjoy the sermon yesterday morning?" "I didn't hear it. Mrs. Jarvey's bonnet was so loud that I didn't really know the minister was talking."

A Long Look Ahead.

From the Omaha World.

Young Husband—"It does seem to me you might learn how to cook better than that; my mother—" Young wife—"There that will do; I refrain from learning how to cook on principle." "Oh, you do; thinking of me, of course?" "No, of my son." "Son?" "Ye, I don't intend he shall ever make any nice girl miserable bragging about my cooking."

—D. Sullivan, Malcolm, Ont., writes: "I have been selling Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for some years, and have no hesitation in saying that it has given better satisfaction than any other medicine I have ever sold. I consider it the only patent medicine that cures more than it is recommended to cure."

Twenty-eight kinds of mince pie are served in New York restaurants. Nightmares in New York are evidently as badly mixed as New Jersey politics.

—Wonderful is the effect of West's World's Wonder or Family Liniment. One bottle will effect more cures than four times the number of any other liniment. 25 and 50c. All druggists. ed

THE SEWERS OF PARIS.

A Pleasure Trip Under the Streets of the Gay Metropolis.

From the New York Sun.

Excursions under Paris form one of the features in the movement for the benefit of the sufferers from the recent floods in France, and the gorgeous sewers are liberally patronized by the fashionable world. A reporter of the Gil Blas gives this description:

"We started from the Place Chatelet at 3 o'clock and descended a little winding staircase, the steps and walls of which were covered with a green cloth fringed by a red border. There is not the slightest danger of soiling your clothes or of encountering the slightest disagreeable odor. On arriving at the foot of the stairs a fine display of fruits and vegetables was the first thing to greet our eyes. These products were from Gennevilliers, and were grown in gardens that are watered by the sewers. We got into a wagon, in which were seats for twenty persons. Off we went, shoved along by solid looking fellows, all neatly dressed. Above us was a mass of tubes and pipes. They are the water pipes, the two largest containing our drinking water from the Vaune and the water of the Ourcq, which is used for washing the streets and sidewalks. Then there are the pneumatic tubes, in which we can hear the rattle of the dispatch boxes as they shoot along.

"Suddenly we heard the passengers in the wagon ahead of us uttering cries of admiration. We were under the Rue de Rivoli, but soon we reached the crossing of the Rue du Pont Neuf. This tunnel is lighted from end to end with garlands of colored lamps. The effect is fairylike. The same effect is reproduced under the Rue du Louvre, the Rue de Richelieu and the Place des Pyramides, where precisely under the statue of Joan of Arc appear in luminous glass the arms of the city of Paris. We passed along, still following the Rue de Rivoli, where each house has its number in the sewer, just as in the street, until we reached the Place de la Concorde. There the electric lights, crossing their fires with the reflections of the Venetian lamps, turn the square into a sort of ball room. Nothing is wanting, not even the music. We all got out of the wagons to embark in large boats furnished with cushioned seats. The music was in the first boat, which was decorated with flags and lamps. The boats were started. We followed the entire route of the Rue Royale by the light of fifty dazzling electric lights.

"After a quarter of an hour in this boat we landed at the foot of a staircase, which we mounted, and in three minutes we were above ground at La Madeleine. It is much colder in the streets than it was in the sewers, where the temperature, summer and winter, is always uniformly pleasant."

First sweet girl—"Do you like tobogganing?" Second sweet girl—"Not so much as dancing." "Neither do I." "No; it's too long between hugs."

—No other spring medicine has won for itself such universal confidence as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It is the most powerful combination of vegetable alteratives ever offered to the public, and is acknowledged by the medical profession to be the best blood purifier. d

A man in St. Paul the other day tripped and fell forward and was nearly strangled by having his frozen breath driven down his throat.

A Fair Proposition.

—There could be no offer more fair than that of the proprietors of Hagyard's Yellow Oil, who have long offered to refund every cent expended for that remedy if it fails to give satisfaction on fair trial for rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat and all painful complaints. 246

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