

in silver. Of the gold used, \$2,300,000 was reported as United States coin melted. The Assay Office at New York delivered to the manufacturers during the year \$5,700,000 of gold in bars, and \$5,100,000 in silver. Taken together they appear to indicate a consumption of at least \$11,000,000 in gold and \$6,000,000 in silver, which would probably have been confirmed had all manufacturers that were addressed promptly responded.

SAID TO BE THREE CENTURIES OLD.—Mr. G. W. Stimpson, of Old Mackinac, brought into our office, recently, a relic that is a curious combination of wrought silver consisting of five pieces—two seals one watch key, one ring, and a clasp that at one time must have enclosed a watch-guard. One of the seals was in comparatively good shape, and showed the original design very plainly, and in quite plain figures the date 1563 appeared to the naked eye, or 318 years ago. On the ring which connects the different pieces together, is the device of a dagger and the letter "M," thus indicating that it might at one time possibly have been possessed by Father Marquette who founded the first mission at Old Mackinac, over two hundred years ago. It was found by a gentleman looking for relics inside the old fort grounds there, and from him it was purchased by F. J. Stimpson. Our jewelers think that it is of French make. If it was not once owned by Father Marquette, doubtless it must have belonged to some of the early French settlers. Still, it might have been buried by some of the inhabitants of the fort before the massacre of 1763. Quite a number of interesting relics of by-gone ages have been found there recently, including a silver bracelet, now in possession of J. D. McDonald, a large silver cross by Mrs. G. W. Stimpson, and about nine yards of beads by one of Mr. Stimpson's younger sons, and several finger-rings and other curious trinkets.—*Cheboygan (Mich.) Tribune.*

A VALUABLE plastic material has been introduced in Germany for ornamental and other purposes. Five parts of sifted whiting are mixed with a solution of one part of glue, and, on these two being well worked up into a paste, a proportionate quantity of Venetian turpentine is added, in order to prevent brittleness; a small amount of linseed oil is also put with the mixture to obviate its clinging to the hands, and the mass may be colored by kneading in any color that may be desired. The substance thus formed may be pressed into shapes and used for the production of bas-reliefs and other figures, and may be likewise worked by hand into models—the hands to be rubbed with linseed oil, and the mass to be kept warm during the process. On becoming cool and dry, which takes place in a few hours, it is as hard as stone.

The coral fishing industry is one of the points at issue between France and Italy with regard to the ownership of Tunis. The Italians have monopolized this branch of commerce owing to the Imperial Convention of 1832, which reduced the tax (annual) for Italian coral fishers from 800 to 400 francs. The larger sum is, however, exacted from French fishers, who obtained the right by treaty of the same date. The first Tunisian coral fishers were, we are told, natives of Marseilles, who, as early as 1604, formed a company to work coral. Cutting and polishing manufactories have existed in Marseilles before

1807, for at that date as many as seventeen were found, and many hundred hands were employed in them. Coral was, however, of late years, lost favor in France. In Russia the fashion, however, of wearing it has increased, also in the Levant and elsewhere, the Italians supplying these markets, and it is this monopoly that the Algerians and Marseillais wish to break up.

In China an artistic painter gets little more wages than a carpenter, and the best of the fine decorators of porcelain, China, etc., are satisfied if they lay by enough during their lives to buy a coffin. Gold and silversmiths do a little better. The average pay of the skilled laborer is probably \$3 a week for a master, \$1.50 for a workman, and 50 cents for young people and females. The master lives generally at his workshop, having \$20 to \$30 worth of household goods. He pays \$72 a year for food, \$36 for rent and sundries, \$12 for clothing, and is rich with \$36 left. On the farm everybody must work, the children beginning at six years. From two and a half acres of and a well-to-do farmer will make \$500 a year clear. The farm laborer gets 10 to 15 cents a day besides his food, estimated at 10 cents a day about \$2 a year will clothe him, and he does well if he saves \$4 a year.

On the 3rd of October, at the Paris Electrical Exhibition, a gentleman was leaning over a balustrade to examine an extremely interesting machine of M. Christoffe, when his gold chain made a connection between two conducting wires which happened to be exposed. His chain became red hot and set fire to his waistcoat. Today I had some conversation with a gentleman who was nearly killed the other day by a Brush dynamo-electric machine. Part of the conducting wire was not insulated, and was lying on the floor; he touched the stand of a lamp which formed part of the conducting system; his body then formed a connection through the ground to the naked wire, and contracted his muscles so as to cause his hand to clench the lamp. Ten lamps were in circuit at the time, and so much current was passed through him that eight of them were extinguished. He was powerless to unclasp his hand. Every muscle in his body was paralyzed. His face was distorted; his lungs were so acted upon that he could scarcely breathe. He could only utter a faint unnatural cry. The workman in the place fled from the workshop, believing that some explosion was about to happen. A friend came up and tried to unlock his hand. This broke the circuit and his hands were released, while burning sparks flew to his hands in the action of breaking of the circuit. He was insensible, but has since then greatly recovered, and has derived an improvement to the lamp that will prevent a recurrence of such an accident.

In Sheffield, England, on the 3d inst., the spectacle was shown to visitors, of rolling a huge steel-faced plate for a government war steamer now building. The process, known as the Ellias patent, was satisfactorily completed in a quarter of an hour. The weight of the plate was 30 tons 16 cwt., and the length 10 feet 4½ inches; breadth, 8 feet 9 inches; and thickness, 19 inches. Afterwards the visitors witnessed the flanging of marine boiler ends by hydraulic pressure in one operation. A patent recently granted in Vienna and Berlin uses bands of steel, which is tempered and hardened, to transmit motion from one pulley to the other, the faces of the pulleys being turned perfectly flat and then faced with a varnish of rosin, shellac and asphalt.

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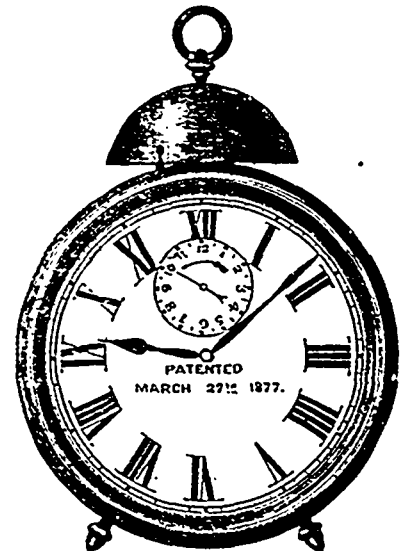
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