

1066. At Monte Santogelo the Pantaleoni are again the generous donors of the bronze doors there. In the Duomo at Salerno are fine bronze doors, once containing silver inlays, given by Landolpho Butromile and his wife, 1090. The design consists of crosses and figures of six of the Apostles. The similarity of the five examples all point to a common origin; the same stiff Byzantine treatment of the figures and heads, which are shown by incising lines into the bronze and filling them with silver. These were evidently done to order at Constantinople, and are ascribed to a Greek workman, Staurachios—Romanized into Starontius—who flourished about 1050-1072.—*Exchange*.

THE BOY TRADER.

"Where are you going with the puppies, my little man?" asked a gentleman of a small boy whom he met with three pups in a basket.

"Goin' to drown them," was the reply.

"I want a pup for my little boy to play with. What do you say to letting me take one of them?"

"I'll sell you one," spoke up the kid, with American enterprise. "I'll sell you this yaller one for 50 cents, the black one for 75 cents, and the spotted one is worth \$1 of any man's money."

"I think my little boy would like the spotted one best, but you ask too much for it. You had intended drowning all of them, but I'll give you 25 cents and save you the trouble of drowning the spotted one."

"Twenty-five cents for the spotted pup!" exclaimed the boy. "I can't stand it; taxes is high; rent is high. It costs good money to get into the roller rink. Oh, no; I can't take less than \$1."

"But you intend to drown—"

"Take the black one at 75 cents."

"My little boy wouldn't like the black one."

"Take the yaller one at half a dollar. He's dirt cheap."

"My little boy wouldn't like his color."

"Well, then, you better tell your little boy to play with his toes," and he continued towards the river. "No party can deadbeat his way on me these hard times."
—*Baltimore Times*.

There are times in a man's life when the whole sky seems rose colored, and this old, dull world a paradise. One of these is when he has discovered a quarter in the lining of his last summer's vest.

THE ORIGIN OF EAR-RINGS.

According to the Moslem creed the reason why every Mohammedan lady considers it her duty to wear ear-rings is attributed to the following curious legend: Sarah, tradition tells us, was so jealous of the preference shown by Abraham for Hagar that she took a solemn vow that she would give herself no rest until she had mutilated the fair face of her hated rival and bondmaid.

Abraham, who had knowledge of his wife's intention, did his utmost to pacify his embittered spouse, but long in vain. At length, however, she relented and decided to forego her plan of revenge. But how was she to fulfil the terms of the vow she had entered into? After mature reflection she saw her way out of the difficulty.

Instead of disfiguring the lovely features of her bondmaid, she contented herself with boring a hole in each of the rosy lobes of her ears. The legend does not inform us whether Abraham afterward felt it incumbent upon him to mitigate the smart of these little wounds by the gift of a costly pair of ear-rings, or whether Hagar procured the trinkets for herself. The fact remains, however, that the Turkish women, all of whom wear ear-rings from their seventh year, derive the use of these jewels from Hagar, who is held in veneration as the mother of Ishmael, the founder of their race.—*Deutsche Roman-Bibliothek*.

THE BASE BALL MANUFACTURE.

It is estimated that 10,000,000 base balls are made and sold in this country every year. Perhaps very few persons know the process by which these balls are manufactured or the nature of the stuffs used in constructing a standard ball. The most expert workmen are employed. First there is a little hard rubber ball, and around that the wrapper winds a strong, blue, coarse yarn. When this reaches a prescribed size, it is firmly wrapped with white Venetian yarn.

The balls are then placed in an oven and baked until all the moisture is taken out of them and they are reduced in size. This makes them solid. After this they are coated with cement. This causes the balls to retain their shape, and they cannot be knocked crooked. Then comes some fine blue yarn, and around the whole is placed some fine white gilling twine.

The balls are weighed, for each must be of certain weight, and are now ready for the covers. These latter are made of the best quality of horse hide. The cover consists of two pieces, each cut in the shape of the figure "8." By bending one section one way and the other in an opposite direction, a complete cover is obtained.

For years balls were covered with four pieces of leather, and at one time two covers were placed upon a ball; that is, the ball was half made before it was covered, and then another ball constructed over it. But even that did not prevent its being knocked out of shape. They cannot disturb the ball as now made, because the cement holds it.

A little machine owned by a Philadelphia firm is used for winding the balls. It wraps 2½ ounces of the American Association balls in a minute, and the rest is finished by hand. This apparatus is a little wonder. It does its work as neatly as if it had brains, but is capable, say its owners, of a good deal of improvement.—*Ex.*

NEW USE FOR COPPER.

New uses for copper are coming to the front daily, says a Michigan paper. The last channel found is in the manufacture of white bronze, which is composed of equal parts of copper and ferro-manganese, which produce a metal of such tenacity that it surpasses the best steel armour plates. The melted mixture is cast in block, and is perfectly malleable. To obtain a white metal that can be rolled out in sheets the above alloy is melted again, and twenty or twenty-five per cent. of zinc and white metal added, which imparts to it the desired quality. A plate of the first named alloy two inches thick was found by experiment to offer more resistance to a cannon ball than a steel armour plate of the same thickness. This new kind of "white bronze" is not to be confounded with the alloy used in this country under the same name for monuments. The latter consists principally of zinc.—*Exchange*.

Three 110-ton guns have been ordered by the English Government. The first will be delivered in October next, the others in the following January and April. Each gun will cost £19,500; the weight of projectile will be 1,800 lbs., and the weight of powder charge 900 lbs.