

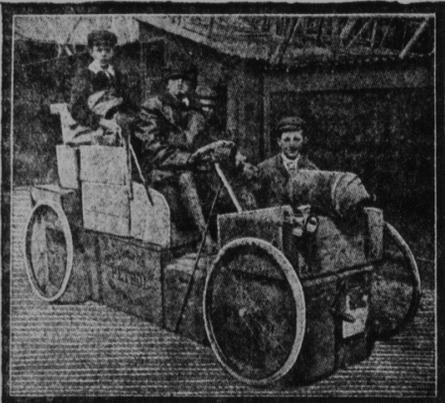
STRANGE AND CURIOUS THINGS THAT ARE ENCOUNTERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD

"REWARD OF MERIT."

"How well I remember that highly illuminated legend, 'Reward of Merit,' on the cards I got at district school long ago," remarked a Pittsburgh man at an uptown hotel the other night. "I felt as if I had been decorated with the Iron Cross whenever I carried one of the things home to my mother. It wasn't usually for good behavior, either, but for scholarship." But anyway mother always kept them for both of us to gloat over. And I guess grownups are only children of a larger growth, after all, for we are always going after some 'reward of merit,' or other, it's a great incentive. Now, you folks up here are having a lot of trouble about your street car transit. Our traction company could give your fellows some pointers about ways of getting good service. Just before Christmas the Pittsburg company distributed \$30,000 to its conductors and motormen, who

had had no accidents for the preceding six months. The gifts were given out according to the conditions announced the summer before, and more than four-fifths of the men got a mighty merry Christmas out of it, and incidentally the public got safer and better service by it. Up here, your traction magnates take the other way round; they make the men stand the loss by delays, paying them by the hour, and never think about the other side, the reward of merit business. They ought to take the affirmative side of the old question for debate that used to come up in the literary societies 30 years ago: 'Resolved, That the hope of reward is a greater incentive to action than the fear of punishment.' They'd find themselves less often called before a judicial board of inquiry, I think."

HAVING FUN IN A BOXOMOBILE



E. A. Stratton, of Cheltenham, England, recently caught his son and three playmates indulging in the very exciting and expensive sport of motoring in the back yard. Here is a photograph which he took of a car they had constructed. They call it a boxomobile. The ingeniousness of the details is quite a remarkable example of a boy's clever and quick

observation. Notice the starting crank in front and the speed lever at the side. The only departure from a "model" touring car is the very high tonneau. Petrol boxes, from which the body is constructed, are especially appropriate, because in England nearly all automobiles are propelled with petrol.

Cheesewring Rock.

This curious rock formation, known locally as the "Cheesewring," is 32 feet high and situated in Cornwall, England. A remarkable thing about it is that several of the upper strata of stone overhang the base by many feet, so that to the nervous visitor it seems inevitable that the mass shall tumble about his head before he has opportunity to get out of range.



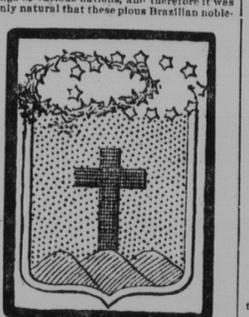
But the "Cheesewring" will not tumble in a hurry, apparently. For centuries it has endured, unshaken by the fiercest hurricanes that ever swept in from the ocean's vast fold over a barren moor. Some antiquarians contend that the pile was erected by the Druids and worshipped as an idol, though certain geologists hold that the singular formation was slowly uncovered by the gradual washing away of the surface of the earth which surrounds it. Atmospheric influences have, no doubt, played their part in moulding the pile into its present shape.

As a curiosity, the "Cheesewring" is almost a match for the "Chimney" on Thunder Mountain, Idaho.

The average age at death of people who die by accident is 35 1/2 years.

Christ's Coat Of Arms.

Wishing to show him the utmost possible honor, some of the great noblemen of Brazil formally decided to admit Jesus Christ as a member of their knightly order, and consequently they awarded to him the coat-of-arms which is shown in the accompanying picture. Conspicuous in it is a black cross, which is mounted on three green hills, in a field of gold, and which is covered with a double crown of stars and thorns.



For centuries a cross has been used on the crests of distinguished families and on the flags of various nations, and therefore it was only natural that these pious Brazilian nobles

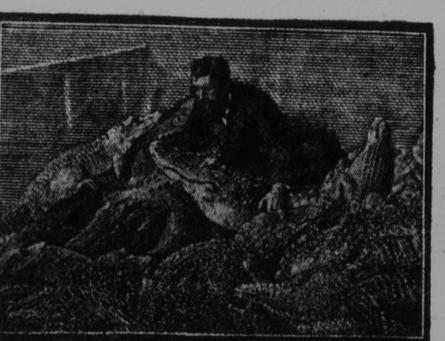
men should have selected it as the most suitable emblem of our Lord when they desired to pay honor to him. They were resolved that he should therefore be officially recognized as one of the grandees of Brazil, and he would not have been eligible for this exalted position without a coat-of-arms.

Lord Salisbury was born only nine days after the death of George IV., and so just missed living in four reigns.

The Homestead mills produce, with about 4,000 men, three times as much steel as the Krupp works produce with 18,000.

The biggest hedges in England are at Hall Barn, in Buckinghamshire. They are of yew, 30 feet high.

CROCODILES HIS PARTICULAR PETS.



When man yearns for the affectionate companionship of animals of a lower order there is no telling in what direction his taste may lie. Here is a gentleman who affects crocodiles and who confesses that he has a perfect passion for such extraordinary pets. He is now engaged in exhibiting daily a collection of crocodiles for the entertainment of

large audiences in Germany. A dozen or more of the reptiles he has succeeded in taming and handling without danger to himself. They appear to be fond of their master and respond readily to the names he has bestowed upon them. The picture shows the "reptile king" in the act of caressing one of his strange pets.

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH LIGHTNING.



A great number of articles have been written regarding the speed of modern lenses, and one lens manufacturer advertises his make of lens as being speedy enough to catch a flash of lightning. To the average person this seems almost a miracle, yet there is no subject that the amateur may select which is more easily photographed than a flash of lightning, and there are few subjects which make a more artistic photograph.

Mr. Richard S. Barrett, of Saugerties, N. Y., who took this photograph, tells how it was done:

"The exposure must be made at night.

This is the whole secret of success. When a thunderstorm occurs learn the direction of its approach and point and focus the camera in that direction. If a box camera is used no focusing is needed; if a cycle model is used focus at a hundred or more feet, the camera resting on a tripod or other support. Uncap the lens or open the shutter, and leave open until a brilliant flash makes its appearance within the field of the lens, then close the shutter or cap the lens at once, and you will find that you have a negative which upon development will give you a flash of lightning photo.

"Pay no attention to the minor flashes or to what is called sheet lightning, as both forms only add to the detail of your negative. Wait for the brilliant flash of chain lightning and the river of light will with its great intensity photograph itself."

The photograph which the writer shows was made with a single lens costing less than \$2.

There are now 385,000 foreign residents in Switzerland; 155,000 of these have settled since 1890.

APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST STEAMBOAT.

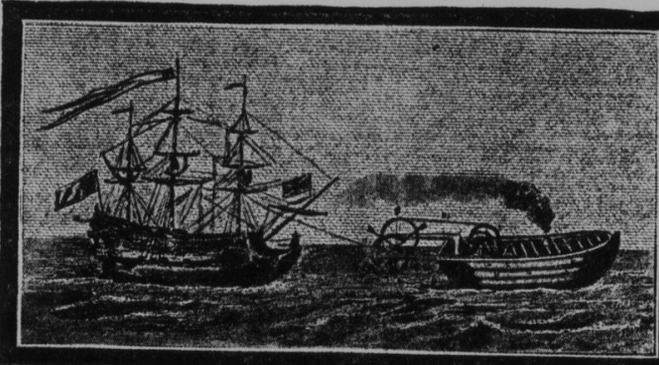
Here is a picture whose chief interest lies in the fact that it shows the beginnings of practical steam navigation, inasmuch as it represents the proposal made by Jonathan Hull, of England, as long ago as 1787, for a machine for carrying ships in and out of harbor against wind and tide.

Hull's invention was greatly improved upon

by what was described at the time as "the first practical steamboat," which in honor of Lord Dundas' daughter, was named the Charlotte Dundas. This was built in 1802, and, like Hull's steamboat, was propelled by a paddle at the stern, but the paddle of the new boat was inclosed in an arched tunnel and the machine altogether wholly im-

proved. Later came Robert Fulton, in America, with his "side-wheeler" and the beginning of practical steam navigation.

Lord Bacon was the youngest barrister ever made a king's counsel. He was 29 when he became king's counsel, in 1590.



Italian Brigandage.

Brigands are constantly giving trouble to the Italian government, which seems rather strange in view of the fact that rewards are assured to any persons who wage a successful war against these law breakers.

According to an edict which dates back to the time when the Pope was all powerful in Italy, and which is still in force, any one who captures a brigand alive and who hands him over to justice is entitled to a reward of \$500; any one who kills a brigand will receive a reward of \$500; any one who captures a brigand chief will get \$1,200, and any brigand who betrays an accomplice will be pardoned for his past crimes and will receive \$100 as an additional reward. This last reward has very seldom been paid, since Italian brigands are not accustomed to betray each other.

Magnetic Persons.

Professor Murani, a distinguished Italian scientist, says that certain persons possess a strange magnetic or electric influence, which produces very curious results.

A few days ago while he was at work on some electrical experiment, one of his friends suddenly entered the room, and at the same moment the needle of his galvanometer moved to and fro very rapidly. He was sure that his friend had in one of his pockets either a magnet or some other electrical instrument, and in order to convince him that he was mistaken his friend removed all his clothes. To the Professor's surprise the galvanometer continued to act just as though a powerful magnet was near it, and the closer his friend approached the more marked its action became. Moreover, the front of the body acted on it in the same manner as the positive pole of a magnet and the back as a negative pole.

Saw Peter The Great.

Leading Russian journals are now proudly drawing attention to the fact that there has been for some time in the hospital at Tomsk a man who has lived for more than two hundred years. Knowing well that the public would be loth to believe such a story unless ample evidence of its truth were forthcoming, they further point out that they have carefully examined his birth and marriage certificates and can testify that his married life lasted forty-seven years and that he has been a widower one hundred and twenty-five years.

This wonderful old man has been bedridden for some time, but his brain is as clear as ever. It was, and nothing pleases him more than to tell visitors how he once had the good fortune to see Peter the Great and Queen Catherine.

LARGEST HAYSTACK IN THE WORLD.

In Australia the haystacks are of enormous size. As in England, immense quantities of hay are stored out of doors and, like their English models, the great stacks are built with picturesque peaked roof lines and smooth well raked sides. It is a common sight in Australia, however, to see a hay stack several times the size of the barn which houses the rest of the crops of the farm.

These enormous haystacks frequently contain some thousands of tons of hay. The accompanying illustration shows the largest of these in process of construction. It was the largest haystack in the world and was situated in the district of Victoria. The length of this mammoth stack, when complete, was 268 feet, while its width was 97 feet. In other words practically a New York

city block and a half in length. The height of the stack when finished was nearly 100 feet. Several weeks were required, with the aid of a score of wagons, to construct the great haystack. It was afterward ground up into chaff to supply a part of the fodder for the horses in the South African War.



REMARKABLE FUNERAL RITES.

"One thing sure to shock the American tourist is a Greek funeral," said a recently returned traveler. "It is a spectacle which most persons of convention-governed decency desire to avoid, because the body of the dead is exposed in an open hearse. The coffin is shallow, so that not only the face and head but the hands and much of the body can be seen from the sidewalk as the procession moves through the streets."

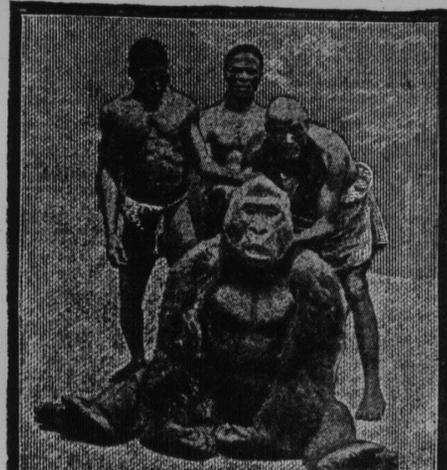
"The lid of the coffin, frequently richly upholstered and decorated with garlands and wreaths, is carried on the hearse by the undertaker. The priest, the relatives and other mourners follow, and as the ghastly spectacle

moves along it is customary for bystanders to remove their headgear and cross themselves.

"In the Athens cemeteries graves are rented for a term of years, just like the habitations of the quills. Only the wealthy own burial lots. This is invariably an evidence of wealth or aristocracy. The poor seldom dream of buying a lot or tomb. Such purchases would be deemed among them an unnecessary luxury."

"At the end of the term for which a grave is rented the bones are dug up, placed in a bag, labelled with the name and date, and deposited in a general receptacle."

LARGEST GORILLA EVER SHOT.



The largest gorilla ever met with was recently slain in the wilds of Africa, that "Heart of Darkness," so eloquently described by Joseph Conrad, and the stuffed body is now on exhibition in a European performing circus. This gigantic and powerful animal, taken only after a desperate struggle, measured more than seven feet in height and

weighed more than 700 pounds. He was slain by the hunters of large game in Africa an "old man gorilla," and one of the most ferocious beasts encountered in the jungle. The illustration shows him a few hours after death, supported by three natives, who took part in the monster's death.

Pencil In Her Face.

A remarkable case comes from Pittsburgh, Pa. It seems that six or seven years ago came to the clinic of the Pittsburgh Dental College. She showed a slight wound on the right cheek which had lately healed. She told the doctors in attendance that she had fallen down stairs and cut her jaw so that a doctor had to sew it up. But there still seemed to be something wrong. There was a lump beneath the wound, and no dentists could find anything wrong with the teeth. The surgeons consulted noticed that there was a distinct hard substance in front of the jawbone, and that it appeared to be movable. When the lump was pressed the flesh and skin in front of the right ear moved as if some substance extended from the mouth to the ear. The doctors agreed that nothing could be done without an incision to find out what was in the tissues, and the parents of the child agreed to it.

The surgeon cut into the cheek at the place lately healed, and the scalpel at once touched something hard. Tweezers were



used, and, to the surprise of all, half of a wooden slate pencil was pulled out. After another attempt the other half of the pencil was removed, with the slate centre unbroken. It was then clear that when the child fell down the stairs she must have run the slate pencil through her cheek, but a part of it had broken off in the wound, so that the point was not visible to the physician who first sewed up the wound.

The peculiar feature of the incident is that a piece of pencil three and one-half inches long should have made its way between the bones of the skull in the only possible way that it could have found entrance. Here is a picture of an adult skull, with a bit of pencil of this length inserted to show exactly how this one was forced in by accident, but it must not be forgotten that the child was only seven years old and the skull is much smaller than that shown here. It is especially remarkable that the point of the pencil did not injure the external maxillary artery, since the point of the pencil must have reached it, if it did not pass it, otherwise the child might have bled to death very quickly.

Very Long Signatures.

The Duc De Veragua, says a French journal, while traveling through America entered one day a telegraph office in Chicago and asked how much it would cost to send a message containing 10 words to Columbus, O.

"Twenty-five cents," replied the clerk.

"Does that include the signature?" asked the Duke.

"Yes," was the answer.

"But suppose the signature is rather long?" asked the Duke.

"That doesn't make the slightest difference," answered the clerk.

The Duke wrote the 10 words which formed the message and then signed his name as follows:

Cristobal Colon de Toledo y Larrazategui de la Cruz, Marqués de Buzquendo y de la Vega, Marqués de la Jamaica, Duc de Veragua y de la Vega, Grande de España, Senador del Reo, Caballero de la Insigne Orden del Torson de Oro, Grand Cruz de la Concepcion de Villavieja, Gentil Hombre de Camara del Re de España."

The clerk, it is said, almost fainted when he saw this signature.

Gigantic Aloe.

This plant, known as the Century aloe, was photographed last October by an amateur photographer at Rockyville, Hautville, St. Petersburg, Island of Guernsey, English Channel, where it grew in the yard of the Friendly Society Medical Association, and at that time brought forth its flower, which was one hundred years in maturing. Its blossom stem was thirty-nine feet high, twelve inches in diameter at its base and contained forty-one clusters of bright yellow



flowers, averaging the size of large cabbage heads. The stems or leaves of the plant resemble the ordinary century species raised hereabout.

Peculiar Ice Coat.

While traveling over a mountain in Germany recently a tourist saw the curious sight which is reproduced in the accompanying picture. There are telegraph poles on the road which passes over the mountain, and two of them were completely covered with ice. Moreover, one had been torn from the ground by a storm, but had been prevented from falling by the rigid shroud which enveloped it.

The two frozen poles presented such a novel appearance that the tourist photographed them, and from this photograph the accompanying picture was taken. The ice surrounding each pole was several inches in thickness.

