

[FOR THE NEWS.]

IN A STRANGE CITY.

BY NED P. MAIL.

Over the iron rail I lean, Where in the stream reflected, glowing, Like fiery poplars downward growing, The city's myriad lights are

I watch the crowd pass to and fro— The idlers whom the scene entrances; Gay stridings—girls with sparkling glances— Among them all no face I know.

And, by the zephyrs, t'wards me blown From yonder café 'neath the arches Flout polkas, waltzes, deus marches— I stand, amid the crowd, alone.

And o'er the bridge—a meteor bright— A train shoots t'wards the station, shrieking, Freight with friends whom friends are seeking— I seek not, nor am sought, to-night.

Heavenward a silent sigh I send And murmur—would my life were ended! Youth, health, enough of money—blended Are nothing—when you lack a friend.

And sadly to myself I own— To him life's fullest joy is meted Who makes another's life completed— It is not good to be alone.

I seek my hostel, wondering Where, trammled by a lot pathetic, Wanders, with yearnings sympathetic, The soul to which my soul is kin?

And by what irony of fate, Filled with good wishes towards others, I walk, a brother among brothers, Yet walk among them isolate?

THE "LEPANTO."

The Lepanto, launched on the 17th of March last, is sister ship to the Italia. The following description is partly abbreviated from one given in King's "War Ships," and copied from that work into Sir Thomas Brassey's work on the "British Navy." Side armor proper is dispensed with, the only plating being about 19 inches of steel-faced or steel armor on the barbettes tower, and horizontal armor in the form of a deck, 4 feet 6 inches below the water line, consisting of three inches of steel. She carries four Armstrong breech-loading 100 ton guns in the centre barbettes tower, which is of peculiar shape, and consists of a wall inclosing two turntables placed diagonally, like the turrets of the Inflectible, and so arranged as to permit of all-round fire from the guns. The hull is of steel sheathed with wood, the lines fore and aft being very fine. It is constructed with the usual double bottom, 3 feet 3 inches between the skins amidships, and divided into numerous separate cells. Great strength is given to the structure by the bulkheads and decks. Two longitudinal water-tight bulkheads extend for the length of 254 feet 6 inches in the ship. These, together with the transverse bulkheads, divide the hull into fifty-three large compartments, which are again subdivided horizontally by four water-tight decks. The first of these is the armored deck above mentioned, which extends from stem to stern, and is incurvated at both extremities, meeting at the bow the extreme point of the ram, and thus adding material strength where most needed in the event of ramming an enemy.

Immediately above this armored or lowest deck is another, 6 feet above the water line, constructed of thin iron or steel and covered with wood. The side compartments between this and the lower deck just named, which are divided into water-tight cells, are to be filled with cork, as in the Inflectible. There is, however, this important difference, that whereas the last named ship has a long citadel in the middle of her length, protected by heavy armor, and relies upon cork only at her extremities, in the Italia the cork and water-tight cells afford the only means of preserving stability when the sides are penetrated near the water-line. The third or battery deck is 14 feet above the water line, and upon it are to be carried twelve guns of 6 inches caliber; and 7 feet 9 inches above this, and 25 feet above the water line, is the fourth or upper deck, supporting the casemate battery, 7 feet 6 inches in height, in which are to be placed the great guns in quadrantal shields at each extremity of the oval. The guns are to be fired en barbette, being supplied with ammunition from below the armored deck through armored cylinders or shafts, of 9 feet inside diameter.

M. Dislère, in the Revue Maritime, gives further particulars as to the Italia and Lepanto. Each vessel is to be propelled by two screws of 19 feet diameter, each of them being worked by an engine of six cylinders. The power expected is 18,000 horses, giving, it is hoped, a speed of sixteen knots. The usual amount of coal is 1,500 tons, but 2,500 can be carried. At low speed the fires might be kept in for six months. The principal dimensions are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Dimension and Value. Includes: Length between perpendiculars (400 ft. 6 in.), Breadth of beam at water line (72 ft. 9 in.), Draught of water forward (25 ft. 6 in.), Area of immersed midship section (1,770 sq. ft.), Displacement at load draught (1,148 tons), Length of armored tower on fore and aft line (88 ft. 6 in.), Breadth of armored tower across ship (72 ft. 6 in.), Length of armored tower per se (96 ft. 0 in.), Breadth of armored tower (52 ft. 9 in.), Distance of stem from armored tower (170 ft. 0 in.), Thickness of sides of tower, including armor (3 ft. 3 in.).

Table with 2 columns: Dimension and Value. Includes: Thickness of iron armor on tower (1 ft. 7 in.), Height of centro of heavy guns above water line (32 ft. 8 in.), Height of top of tower above water line (30 ft. 0 in.), Height of upper deck above water line forward (25 ft. 0 in.), Height of upper deck above water line aft (23 ft. 0 in.), Height of upper deck above water line amidships (22 ft. 6 in.), Height between upper deck and battery deck (7 ft. 9 in.), Height between battery and second deck (7 ft. 9 in.), Height between second and armored deck (7 ft. 6 in.), Depth of lower deck below water line amidships at sides (5 ft. 6 in.), Depth of hold under lower deck (21 ft. 0 in.), Extension of ram beyond forward perpendicular (6 ft. 4 in.), Distance of point of ram below water line (5 ft. 6 in.).

MOTIVE MACHINERY.

Table with 2 columns: Component and Value. Includes: Number of engines (4), Number of cylinders (12), Number of propellers (2), Diameter of propellers (19 ft. 6 in.), Number of boilers (26), Number of furnaces—three to each boiler (78), Length of ship fore and aft occupied by engines, coal and boilers (250 ft.), Hull (5,000 tons), Armor of armored deck (1,200), Citadel (900), Ammunition shafts (246), Chimneys (552), Total weight of armor (2,898), Teak backing (114).

The boilers were designed and made by Messrs. Penn. The engines are two sets of the three-cylinder vertical inverted type, on each of the two screw propeller shafts, making twelve cylinders in all. Twelve of the boilers will be located in three groups aft of the engines, and fourteen in the three groups forward of the engines. The after boilers are placed sufficiently high above the keel to admit of the passage of the screw shafts under them. The engines are of the same type as have been supplied by Messrs. Penn to the Northampton and Agamemnon, the cylinders being of equal diameters, applied to cranks set at equal angles. The steam and exhaust valves are so arranged as to allow the engines to be worked either on the compound or non-compound system, as desired.

THE NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT LIFE-SAVING CORPS.

The first public drill of the newly organized Life-saving Corps of the New York Fire Department took place in Printing House Square on April 15th, in the presence of a large crowd of admiring spectators. The corps was in two gangs of seven men each, under command of Second Assistant Chief Bonner, and under direction of Christopher Hoell, the instructor from St. Louis. First they brought out twelve scaling ladders and laid them in a row in front of French's Hotel. The ladders weigh about thirty pounds each, and vary in length from twelve to fifteen feet. The steps are ranged along one central pole. On the top is an arm of iron, which is hooked like the beak of a bird, and barbed on the under side. The ladders are made of hickory and strengthened with Norway iron. The men, who were young, agile and strong, each had strapped around the waist a wide canvas belt which contained a small pickaxe, a rope slide, and on the front a large spring hook. At a signal from Mr. Hoell the first gang seized their ladders and placed them against the front of the hotel. The head man then thrust the hook of his ladder into the window of the first story, and, having secured a firm hold on the sill, climbed up rapidly until he was on a level with the window. He then caught the spring-hook at his belt into the crook of his ladder and was thus held, his hands being left free. The second man passed up a ladder from below, and the head man hoisted it and caught it in the sill of the second-story window. Then, releasing his hook, he climbed to the second story, while the second ascended to the first story. The other firemen followed in turn with other ladders, and the head man ascended until he had reached the seventh floor. He entered the window there, and all the other men ran up the ladders, which hung in a continuous chain, and disappeared after him. Four minutes elapsed from the placing of the first ladder to the disappearance of the last man. At another signal the men climbed out of the windows, and running down the ladders, took stations at the different stories and passed the ladders down again. Ladders and men were all on the sidewalk in 3½ minutes. The second gang repeated this manœuvre in quicker time, going up in 3 minutes and coming down in 3 minutes.

THE CHAMPION ARMY RIFLE SHOT.

The distinction of being the champion army-shot of the world belongs to Lieutenant J. M. T. Partello, of the Fifth Infantry, United States Army. Lieutenant Partello is an Ohio man, having been born at the capital of that State, March 4th, 1854, but his parents removed to Washington two years later. He attended school there, and at eighteen was appointed a clerk in the War Department. When the American Rifle Team went abroad in 1874 and gained their victory over the Irish Team at Dollymount, he conceived the idea that he could shoot a rifle, and broached the subject to his

father; but he discouraged it in every way, and urged his son to devote his attention to the study of law. The young man complied, and graduated at the Columbian Law University. But the idea of becoming a rifleman could not be extinguished, and in 1878, his father having died, young Partello resolved to at least make the trial. He first bought a small rifle, and, after a little practice, found that he was quite right in thinking that he had a "knack" for shooting. Colonel Burnside, President of the Columbia Rifle Association of Washington, advised him to become a member of that association, and enter the lists as a candidate for membership on the team that was to represent Washington at Creedmoor in the Fall of 1878. He did so, came out number one in thirteen straight competitions for membership, and went to Creedmoor and won a number of matches there. In October, 1878, he made the best record for long-range shooting in the world, scoring 224 points out of a possible 225 at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, the weapon used being a Remington long-range rifle. About this time the officers of the army began to awaken to the importance of the soldiers learning to use their arms, and President Hayes commissioned Mr. Partello an officer of the army, in recognition of his excellent record as a marksman. His duties since then have always been to instruct the line in the use of their arms. Last August Lieut. Partello entered the contest for the Department of Dakota prize, and won it, General Terry presenting the gold medal and announcing that the young lieutenant stood at the head of the 4,500 officers and men in that department. From this contest he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth in September following, to compete for the great division of the Missouri medal, which he won after a hard contest over the pick of the 1,500 troops in that military division. This was the seventeenth prize which he had received for rifle marksmanship.

Lieutenant Partello ascribes his success to the fact that on entering the service he dropped the sporting rifle, and devoted his attention to the military service rifle, until now he understands it probably better than anybody else. His whole duty in the army is as inspector of musketry, and he has charge of the rifle ranges, etc., at Fort Keogh, Montana, the largest post in the army. Lieutenant Partello has won his own way, and his success is in every way creditable to him.

W. C. BRYANT AS A JOURNALIST.

To those who know anything of journalism it is idle to speak of Mr. Bryant as a great journalist. His range of knowledge was not wide, his judgment was frequently unsound, and he had not the rhetorical gifts which commend opinions to the acceptance of a large audience. It was characteristic of the man that while he imagined himself to be a purist in the writing of English and prepared a list of errors which were to be rigorously excluded from the columns of his newspaper, his private letters, and published writings were thickly strewn with solecisms which had escaped his imperfectly instructed eye. Few men whose judgment upon the matter is deserving of respect will deny that the journal with which his name is associated was less skillfully edited under Mr. Bryant's guidance, than it subsequently was in the hands of his son in law, or than it now is under the present management. The author of "Thanatopsis" was never able to give his newspaper a large circulation, but its advertisements proved lucrative, and his profits from this source ultimately brought him a handsome income.—(N. W. Hazeltine in New York Star.)

A DARING RIDE.

The most conspicuous act of reckless courage I ever saw displayed on any battle field during our great civil war occurred at the second battle of Manassas on the 30th of August 1862. It was performed by a Federal artilleryman in the presence of both armies, and was witnessed by at least 1,000 men, many of whom are still living and can readily recall the incident when reminded of the circumstances. Just as Hood's men charged down the hill near the Henry House upon the first Federal line, and it became evident he would capture the battery stationed there, a Federal artilleryman determined to save one of the cannon, if possible, and to do so he had to take it up the side of the ditch in front of the Confederates for half a mile. The ditch was four feet wide and as many deep, and could not be crested with the cannon. How he got his horses hitched or whether they had really ever been taken from the piece I never have known, but the first I saw of him he was coming up our front in a sweeping gallop from the cloud of smoke and Hood's men were firing at him. As soon as he escaped from that volley he came in front of our brigade and under range of our muskets on the left and as he swept on up the line a file fire was opened upon him. Our line was approaching the ditch rapidly at a double-quick and the lasso between us and the ditch was getting narrower each second, but the artilleryman seemed determined to save his gun from capture and he flew along his course at a tremendous rate of speed. He had four large gray or white horses to the cannon and they came up the valley in splendid style. The man sat erect and kept his team well in hand, while his whip seemed to play upon the flanks of the leaders and all four horses appeared to leap together in regular time. The ground was very

dry and a cloud of dust rolled out from under the horses' feet and from the wheels of the cannon as they came thundering along.

Three regiments of our brigade had already fired at him as he rushed along their front and as he approached the left of another I ran down the rear rank shouting to the men: "Shoot at the horses! Let the man alone and shoot at the horses! You are firing too high!" At this I saw a noted marksman in Company F drop upon one knee and sight along the barrel of his musket and fire, but on came the man and the gallop of his team was unbroken. Ramming in another cartridge the marksman was ready again in a minute and just as the cannonier swept across his front within 100 yards, he knelt down and taking deliberate aim at the foremost horse fired again, but on went the team unharmed as before. Thus he passed along the whole front of our regiment and then along another on our right and escaped around the head of the ditch and across the field and up the hill beyond. As far off as we could see him his team was still going in a gallop, but when out of range on the hill beyond the ditch he turned in his saddle, and, taking off his hat, waved it around his head several times and some of the Confederates cheered him.

At least 500 men fired at that Yankee gunner, and I have often wondered if he escaped death in the subsequent battles of the war and lives to tell of the fearful gamut he ran along the front of a whole brigade of Confederates firing at him.—(Capt. H. T. Owen in Philadelphia Times.)

HOUSEHOLD ART HINTS.

There is nothing about a home that makes it so cheerful and healthful as an open fireplace. The fireplaces of the past were cheery, delightful, dirty, warmth-givers. The modern arrangement is a thing of beauty and joy, from its desirability and cleanliness. A mantel of tile of a low tone presenting harmony, contrast, or carrying out the key-note of color in a room is far more artistic and less expensive than one of marble. A corner mantel and fireplace is also very effective.

A ceiling should be the lightest of decorations. One should have, in looking at it, the illusion of an horizon opening to the sky.

One of the most prevalent errors in regard to the ornamentation of the dining-room is that the decoration should be suggestive of the purpose for which the room is used. With this idea the walls are covered with hunting scenes and fruit pieces. In short, wherever the bewildered guest turns he is confronted by food, food everywhere, forcing him to remember that he is in a room for eating alone.

The custom of painting "dove saucers" is being revived. It was once greatly in vogue. It consists of painting the likeness of the lady or gentleman in whom one is most interested. Jugs, plaques or other articles may be similarly ornamented.

The revival of art needle work began in 1872. It was brought about by some ladies of rank, with the Princess Christian at their head. They established a school of art needle work in a house in Sloane street, London. It had two objects in view: To furnish employment for impecunious gentle women, and to restore needlework to the high place it once held among the decorative arts. From the earliest times it has been considered the most suitable employment for women. We read of "the divers colors of needlework in the Bible, in the Iliad and Odyssey. Penelope's never ending labor appeals to the imagination with an ideal of poetry. Various articles of furniture can be richly ornamented by needlework. Screens, piano covers, hangings to place back of piano, all can be decorated in an endless variety of designs. Mirrors are now largely put into worked frames. Curtains of serge, diagonal cloth, silk sheeting, felt, plush, Canton flannel, all can be beautified by embroidery. Hand-made linen is considered the best for outline work, panels and designs of figures. The work is done with bobbin silk, twist silk, flosselle creme, Japanese gold and whatever materials the worker finds desirable.

Screens are one piece of furniture on which the tastes and individuality of those who use them can be the most displayed. There is no other article which gives such scope for the exercise of home talent, and none where the range of expense is so varied.

Very handsome effects are obtained by the use of applique designs upon curtains and chair covers.

REAPPEARANCE OF THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

The reappearance of the star of Bethlehem is predicted by astronomers for this year or the next. On November 11th, 1572, Tycho de Brahe discovered a star in Cassiopea which equaled Sirius, and even Venus, in brightness, for a month, and then fell back into its former insignificance. Conjecture sought to establish a connection between this ephemeral phenomenon and two similar apparitions in 1264 and 945. A not unnatural inference was that the same increase in volume of this remarkable star occurred before 945, and the date of the Nativity. This star is now again due.

The latest story is that of a man who can heat a bucket of water in ten minutes by just sticking his nose into it. That's easily accounted for—his nose has got a boil on it.