

# The Salisbury Truth.

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The tendency in gun construction now is for medium bore, greater weight, better material.

There is a notable increase in the number of distributing centres in the West, the custom is gaining ground of chains carrying larger stocks of goods retail requirements than they now

This is a healthy sign, declares Chicago Sun.

Charles and Forrest think so highly of road roads as to believe that if there is a good road between Boston and Chicago there would be thousands of people who would make the entire journey by bicycle next year, and of course would be thousands more who would start from intervening places. If it were for this, says the Boston Transcript, the wheels at least ought to be once to agitate for a road between New York and Philadelphia, or New York and Boston, built in the most approved way and kept in absolute order.

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New York has fewer alleys and Boston more in proportion to population than any other large city in the world.

The proposal to sell eggs by weight instead of by count, as has been the practice heretofore, is finding great favor in the South, and especially in St. Louis, Mo.

A Sumatra newspaper tells of experiments made there last month to test the value of a local petroleum as compared with American and Russian oils, and says the experiment "proved conclusively that it is superior in brilliancy, in permanence and in absence of smoke, color and smell to either American or Russian oil."

With the cost of freight deducted it is said that this Sumatra oil promises to be a formidable competitor with the American products in Japan, China and the far eastern markets generally.

Dr. Arthur Macdonald, specialist in education as related to criminal and abnormal classes, United States Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., has been appointed official representative of the United States to attend the international congress for experimental psychology at London, and also the international congress upon criminology at Brussels.

Some idea of the growth of the country may be gained incidentally from a study of the census bulletin on the operation of telephone companies. It appears that the total investment in enterprises of this kind increased from \$14,895,787 in 1880 to \$72,341,735 in 1890.

The number of subscribers in 1880 was 48,814 and in 1890 there were 227,337, while the number of conversations over the wires in the latter year was 433,200,000. In 1880 the mileage of wire was 34,305, in 1890 it had increased to 240,412 miles. There were 467,353 telephones and transmitters in use in 1890, or more than double the number in 1880.

A record of this kind shows a development which cannot be matched by any other country on the globe.

The New York Sun furnishes some interesting facts about steamers and their owners. The line having the greatest number of steamers is said to be the British-Indian Steam Navigation Company, which runs 100 vessels; the North German Lloyd and the Austrian Lloyd's run each seventy-five vessels.

The French Line, Messageries Maritimes, runs sixty-five steamers, and the British line, Peninsula and Oriental Steamship Company, runs thirty steamers. None of the big lines shows its size by the number of steamers running from that country.

The largest steamer in use is the Furst Bismarck of the Hamburg-American line; its tonnage is 12,000, but it is surpassed in length by several vessels.

The Tonic and the Materic are 582 feet long, and the latter is a tonnage of 4,861, making it the second largest vessel afloat.

"The bicyclers," muses Once-A-Week, continue to be the most effective advocates of the improvement of roads throughout the United States, and it shows how startlingly great the need for improvement is. The several great roads which have been made during the past few weeks have shown that even in the older and most thickly settled States it is almost impossible for men, carrying little more than their own weight, to get through during the wet season, the best roads that can be selected for them.

The most forcible papers that have been written on the subject are from the pens of practical cyclists, and in each of these are statements which cannot be denied or explained away, and nearly all of the comprehensive plans for road improvement are also being devised by the wheelermen. Bicycling has heretofore been regarded only as an amusement, but now it seems probable that the wheelermen will be of more use to the farming community, which suffers most from bad roads, than all legislators, superintenders and town committees combined.

Desertions from the navy at Boston recently have aroused discussion on the subject of the standing of Jack aboard ship, and the rigid discipline under which he lives. Is it so severe as to engender an aversion to the service among the men? A "Coal Heaver, United States Steamer Concord," writes a bitter letter of complaint to the Boston Herald. His style is not grammatical, but it is evidently that of a man laboring under a sense of injury. He says in part: "In joining the service you do such as a volunteer, believing that you ought to be treated as such, but the very reverse is the case. You are not forty-eight hours on an active ship, in my estimation, until you get to be a serf at least to about two-thirds of the officers that I have had an acquaintance of. Here is the principal grievance of blue jackets. Stoppage of money. No liberty. And last and worst the unbearable contempt which some officers hold to blue jackets." The writer asserts that during a year of service as a "first-class man," he has had but one "liberty," and that was in a foreign port. "When we go ashore, very likely once in every three months," he says, "we do appear more like caged animals than like civilized men. After returning from class he seated himself in his chair and gazed

## YESTERDAY.

There were blossoming roses and cloudless skies,  
The freshness and fragrance of summer  
Love unspoken in tender eyes,  
Tears and parting and bitter pain.  
There were frost and tempest and flying  
mist,  
Shorn fields buried beneath the snow,  
Lips in longing and anguish kissed,  
A dream—the sweetest that life may  
know.  
To-day—what matters the dull to-day,  
Morning or noon or its evening?  
Through the hours in their passing the  
heart aches  
Shall cheerly only what Fate denied.  
—Mary H. Krost, in Home Maker.

## SEVERN'S TEMPTATION.

ARTHUR SEVERN raised his head from the book which he had been poring over the greater part of the afternoon and gazed absently at the dingy walls of the room. Finally he rose, and going to the window peered out through the cracked and grimy panes of glass, now streaked with rain, which was driving violently from the east.

From early morning the rain had been falling incessantly, and as darkness began to close around the village the wind blew more violently than ever and the rain fell in heavier torrents. A large brown patch appeared on the ceiling above and the water began to drip down and form little puddles on the uncarpeted floor. It was a melancholy day, and Severn felt that it accorded well with his own evil fortune. He occupied the only habitable room in a large, old, tumble-down house that stood off on one side of the village near the river and had been falling to decay for years.

Severn was striving to make his way through college, and when the landlord's agent suggested taking a room in the "old Holloway House" at a much lower figure than he could obtain lodging for elsewhere, he felt constrained on account of his poverty to accept the offer. His parents were poor, and, moreover, averse to his taking a college course, so that he was unable to receive any aid from them. For some time past he had found himself inextricably involved in financial embarrassment, and he had often been on the point of giving up the whole thing, and the letters which Miss Eldridge, full of encouragement and loving sympathy, always induced him to take a brighter view of the circumstances.

He had met Mary at the academy at Melville and a mutual admiration for each other's scholarly attainments had been the first step in the formation of a friendship that ripened into love. Mary had gone to Wellesley to complete her education and Severn was in his sophomore year in college. Miss Eldridge, came of wealthy parents and had always been surrounded with the comforts of a well-offered home. Severn knew that her unselfish disposition would exert no conditions to their engagement, but he was fully determined never to let her share his lot until he had completed his education and secured a competent income.

During the last year a series of misfortunes had overtaken him. A friend, to whom he had loaned the money with which he expected to meet the bulk of his expenses, suddenly died, leaving the debt wholly unliquidated. Severn himself had undergone a severe illness during the fall, and to satisfy his numerous obligations he secured a few hundred dollars from Mr. Holloway who was always ready to make loans at usurious interest but remorseless in exacting his claims. Finally he began to receive letters from home urging him to return to the farm. "Unless he could give some aid they would lose the old place," his mother wrote.

It duly called him home he would go, but he felt that if he did his prospects were gone. An idea struck his mind, he could induce Mr. Holloway to give him time on his loan and trust him for his rent until he could get to earning something, he would send the money home which he had been accumulating for the payment of the debt. He went to see Mr. Holloway, but the response was so chilly that he felt almost guilty of some heinous crime.

"It is not business," said Mr. Holloway, "not business. Would like to obligue you, but must have some method."

A dunning letter from the agent, following conspicuously close upon his visit to Mr. Holloway, filled his soul with bitterness. The way out of his difficulties seemed as dark as the day on which he found him brooding over his evil fortune in the "old Holloway house. The water fell in torrents and the river in his rear was so swollen by the rain that it had overflowed its banks and was washing the foundation stones of the shaky old structure. The room was chilly and wet, but he built no fire, and though darkness came on early he hardly observed the change, but sat pondering over the hopeless outlook without even the ghostly light from the seams in the rickety stove to reveal the outlines of the room. The light continued to rise and the rain to fall faster, until the old shell quivered and quaked, but Severn paid no attention. His soul was shaken by storm alone. There was as much darkness within as without. He knew his own disposition too well to attempt to study until he could quiet his nerves, so he sat in the darkness until long after midnight listening to the howling wind and the roar of the swollen river.

Suddenly there came a crash; there was a heavy fall of plastering, and for a minute Severn thought that the old house was about to give way. To have its walls fall upon him he knew would be almost certain death, but with a thrill of melancholy pleasure he hoped for a moment that it might happen. The old building creaked and strained, but there came a lull in the storm, and it finally settled back to its normal condition. Severn lighted the lamp to see if his books had been damaged and to investigate the injury to the room. A large patch of plastering had fallen from the wall and lay scattered over the floor. After the investigation he felt calmer and went to bed for the night.

The next morning, contrary to his usual custom, he left the broom in its corner and the room continued to present a very dilapidated appearance. In the afternoon after returning from class he seated himself in his chair and gazed

## CURIOS FACTS.

A pig that climbs trees is the latest story from Australia.  
A railway in the Argentine Republic has one stretch of 211 miles without a curve or bridge.  
In China they tie a red cord around a baby's wrist, so that it may grow up quiet and obedient.  
W. C. Soupham, a Philadelphia druggist, has two boys born on succeeding Fourth of Julys.  
A resident of Manchester, England, has a Bible 200 years old, which is two feet long and about the same in width.  
The corn cob pipe which the manufacturer at Washington, Missouri, sends all over the world is called the "Missouri meerschaum."

Jewelers are coining money out of a recent fad of the fashionables by reducing photographs and copying them on watch crystals.  
On a small twig recently broken from an apple tree near Gainesville, Ga., there were twenty-six apples the size of a large hickory nut.  
A Chinese father is allowed to kill a child for disobedience, and he often does so, and no lawyer ever convicts him, while custom honors him for it.  
A camellia tree near Dresden, Germany, has an annual average of 40,000 blossoms. It is about fifty feet tall and was brought from Japan about 150 years ago.

The largest bell in the world, the famous "Giant or Giants" at Moscow, Russia, has a circumference of sixty-eight feet, is twenty-one feet high and weighs 443,772 pounds.  
A match-cutting machine is an automatic curiosity. It cuts 10,000,000 sticks a day, and then arranges them over a vat, where the heads are put on at a surprising rate of speed.  
Marshall P. Wilder, the humorist, says that one of the strangest experiences of his entertainment business in England is the custom prevailing among managers of paying him in advance.  
White tar is one of the latest inventions or discoveries. It will not become soft under the sun's rays in any climate, and is expected to be used largely in caulking the deck seams of life yachts.

Some ordinary house flies which had been imprisoned in the shaft of a mill near Bangor, Cal., for a long period by the closing of a light wall were found when the shaft was reopened, to have turned to a clear white.  
A bicycle relay run between Indianapolis, Ind., and Columbus, Ohio, a distance of a little less than 200 miles, was made at an average speed from start to finish of a mile in three minutes 27.1 seconds, or 17.35 miles per hour.  
A shaft twenty-six inches long, three and a half inches thick and weighing nine pounds three and a half ounces was caught in the Hudson River recently at Esopus, N. Y. It is considered to be the largest shaft ever taken from the river.

About 1887 a horsehoe was found under the ice of the glacier Thuel, in Switzerland, which led geologists to the idea that this pass, 3322 metres high, was formerly not embedded in ice. This has been further confirmed by a recent find of coins bearing the likeness of Augustus and Diocletian.

The Sand Blast.  
By using the "sand blast" tracing and etching on glass is a matter of easy performance. The mode of operation is as follows: The vessel or plate of glass is covered with wax, and through the designs are cut down to the surface, which is left exposed to a stream of sand thrown from the "blast." The friction soon wears away the hard glass surface, but does not affect the wax protection in the least. When the lace-work, flowers, leaves, or whatever the design may be has been finished, the wax is removed from the polished parts and the article is ready for use.

Formerly the fumes of hydrofluoric acid was used for tracing designs on glass and other hard substances, but owing to the unevenness of the result, and the uncertainty as to when the exposure had reached the proper point, that method has been all but entirely superseded by the "sand blast."  
The idea of cutting designs on glass by forcing sand against the surface of plates and vessels of that material was first suggested by one of nature's freaks, just as hundreds of other inventions have been. An observing young man who was summing on the coast of New England noticed that the wind-driven sea section frequently gathered up large loads of sand and buried it, with much force against exposed window frames, and that these, within a very short time, were worn through and had to be replaced. In places where they were protected by leaves, vines, mosquito netting, etc., the glistening surface was left intact. He set about utilizing old nature's hint at once, the result being a machine which does work that cannot even be imitated in any other way.—St. Louis Republic.

Electing Light Coals Electrically  
There is not a little spice of humor in the way in which both shavers and those whose business it is to circumvent them have recourse to electrical methods for the attaining of their ends. A large consignment in gold eads was sent to a New York bank from California, which on examination was found to contain twenty light-weight coins, bearing the date of 1891. These were apparently new and bright, but they were rejected on being passed into the electric light coin detector. On being examined with a lens their surfaces were found to be covered with infinitesimal pores. About \$1 worth of gold had been extracted from each, by electrolysis, which is a process now in high favor among professional coin "swaters," of whom the American Chinaman has the reputation of being far the most skilful and diligent.  
In the coin detector the coins are pushed in succession from the balance pan to a knife edge, and according as this knife edge is at the right hand limit of its range or the left hand limit the coin, when pushed on it, tilts off to the "light" channel or the "full weight" channel, as the case may be. The right or left position of this shifting knife edge is determined by an electric contact made by the balance beam, and this is pushed in succession from the balance pan to a knife edge, and according as this knife edge is at the right hand limit of its range or the left hand limit the coin, when pushed on it, tilts off to the "light" channel or the "full weight" channel, as the case may be. 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