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MADONNA WITH SILVER HALO

Remarkable Picture Among
 Fine Specimens in Historic
 Church at Sitka, Alaska.

Way up in Sitka, Alaska, that delightful old place of Russian memories where the thermometer seldom goes below zero in winter, there is an old Greek church which is famous all along the Pacific coast. Dating from the days of Baranoff, it has stood through many storms and vicissitudes, and was for years the chief see in the Russian-Greek church of western America.

There are several unique paintings in this church which were brought over from Russia in the early years, and everyone who is fortunate enough to go to Alaska comes away from this dingy, faded, green-colored church with enthusiasm over the examples of fine art that decorate the chancel and altar. Chief among these paintings is one of the so-called Sitka Madonna.

The peculiar feature about these paintings, which is said to be employed nowhere else in the world, is the use of beaten silver for halos and accessories. The metal is laid on such a manner that it is almost impossible to separate it from the rest of the painting, and it produces a rich effect that pigments cannot attain. The picture of the Madonna and Child has voluminous drapery of this beaten silver, and the fame of its beauty is well understood along the Pacific coast.

The Ascension, over the bronze doors to the holy of holy screen, is a gem of Byzantine art, and the jeweled helmets and halos in the paintings of the saints show the wonderful versatility of the old-time Russian artists. Massive candlesticks, jeweled crowns, and robes of cloth of gold are in this historic church—a reminder of historic Alaska and the time when stern Baranoff and his iron-hearted followers held full sway.

Mining Methods.

In the construction of the Tieton dam of the Yakima project in Washington the United States reclamation service will have added another noteworthy achievement to its already long list. The dam itself will be one of the largest earth dams in the United States, having a visible height of 230 feet and a length along the crest of 900 feet, with a top width of twenty-five feet.

A heavy concrete corewall will extend through the full length of the dam and from its crest into the bedrock. The excavation for and placing of the corewall is one of the features of the work. The following method is being used: Three shafts are being sunk from the surface of the ground into the bedrock. Drifts six feet high and five feet wide are then driven in both directions along the line of the corewall. After the lower drift is completed, a second drift is driven immediately above it. The material from this second drift is broken down into mine cars placed in the lower drift, and from there is taken to the shaft and hoisted to the surface. After the two drifts are completed the lower drift is filled with concrete from chutes running in the second drift. A third drift immediately above the second drift is then driven, and the process is repeated until the surface is reached.

Gifts Doubly Useful.

"The most useful gift is the hockable one," philosophized "uncle" as he dusted off the pledges. "For the past month or more we have been getting in the presents from the holiday season, the ones for which there was no use first. Now, as hard times begin to pinch, we are getting in more."

Watches head the list, according to the pawnbrokers. The little ivory clock sent to the boy living in the hall room of the boarding house is of use in riding over tight week ends. Girls bring in their wrist watches and trinkets and explain in detail just what the circumstances are that force this last resort. That many new customers are being created was evidenced by the manner in which they approached the shops. They enter cautiously and should there be another customer inside, try to whisper their wants and are reluctant to show the article carried.

Costs Money to Run Hotel.

Twenty-two thousand dollars' worth is a lot of pants pressing, but that's what the annual statement of a leading Chicago hotel put before the board of directors, showed as one operating item. There were soft drinks and other beverages listed at \$32,516.70; barber and boots, \$16,714.50; laundry, \$19,613.16, and telephone calls \$37,452.96. Those were just the few little things. The hotel itself took in \$1,157,334.56, and the restaurants \$1,115,331.81. The grand total, under the earnings title amounts up to \$2,400,421.20. Against the gross income the balance sheet shows expenses of \$2,424,634.91, a superficial loss of \$24,213.71.

Remarkable Carving.

San Franciscans are paying homage to one of the most remarkable wooden statues ever received, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. It is the work of Hananuma Masakichi, greatest Japanese artist in wood or ivory, who posed for himself by the aid of adjustable mirrors and carved his own life-sized image from wood. The hair on the figure is the artist's own. He used the clippings from his head and beard, boring tiny holes for the hairs and setting them in place one by one. The figure is in every particular, even the most minute, an exact counterpart of the artist himself. The carving required the aid of a special tool to see all its details.

ART IN CUTTING DIAMONDS

Peculiar Properties of the Precious Gem Must Be Thoroughly Understood by the Lapidary.

A diamond cutter, writing for the London Mail, relates some interesting facts as to forms into which diamonds are cut to enhance their luster. A diamond is the hardest substance in nature and cannot even be scratched except with another diamond, while some stones can be cut only with their own powder.

Yet the hardest of all can be cleft by a heavy blow delivered in the right direction; that is, parallel to the faces of the eight sides which its crystal shows. It is this property that permits the very large stones, such as the "Cullinan" diamond, to be worked.

In spite of this, a diamond has the simplest composition of all precious stones, for it is only crystallized carbon, and a near relation to ordinary graphite, usually called "blacklead."

But it has been formed by enormous pressure in the remotest depths of the earth's crust, and probably forced toward the surface by steam.

The principal forms into which a diamond is cut are:

Brilliant, with an octagonal face surrounded by many smaller facets.

Rose diamonds, with a flat base, above which are two rows of triangular facets, the uppermost terminating in a point.

Table diamonds, which are thin stones cut with triangular facets.

What makes the diamond so precious is the presence of inward, "fire"—the mysterious gleams of blue and red that change with every movement, and which makes such an appeal to our sense of beauty.

The charm of precious stones lies in their brilliancy and luster, the intensity of the latter depending upon the polish of the surface; for if the stone is dull or uneven the light is scattered and not reflected.

The only stones at all approaching it are zircon and the green garnet called "olivine." The luster of all other stones is vitreous, such as seen on the surface of broken glass. And the third type is that shown by resins.

In order to bring out the full beauty of a stone it must be cut in such a way that the facets reveal its splendor, and the art of the lapidary rests upon his knowledge of what becomes of the light when it falls upon the stone; so he must understand the laws of reflection and refraction.

When a white light is refracted into a colorless stone it changes and is split up into a spectrum. Since the refractive index increases progressively as the wavelength of the light decreases, a normal spectrum is violet at one end and passes through green and yellow to red at the other end; for instance, in the familiar rainbow. The width of the spectrum also varies, and it is this "dispersion" that determines the "fire."

It would be difficult to name any substance around which has been woven such a web of romance.

Safety Deposit Free.

The story comes from Scottsburg and it shows all the shrewd persons are not in the large centers of population. A stranger of ordinary appearance and apparently of moderate means walked into the bank and asked to borrow \$5. He was told the bank did not loan such small sums, but when he insisted that the business of a bank was to loan money, that he needed the sum mentioned, and that he had good collateral, the note was made out, the banker regarding it as a good joke. Then the stranger pulled out \$10,000 worth of Liberty bonds as collateral and left them, remembering that at another bank they had wished to charge him \$5 for a safe deposit box to keep them in, but now the bank would keep them for him free, and he would have the bank's \$5 to amuse himself with.—Indianapolis News.

Easy street never leads anywhere.

"That schoolgirl complexion" is artificial, too.

Any man who agrees with his wife can have his way.

Aviators are now breaking more records and fewer necks.

There seems to have been much less profit in profiteering last year.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

North Carolina, Transylvania County.

Having qualified as executrix of the last will and testament of J. F. Hays, late of Transylvania county, N. C. this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of J. F. Hays, deceased, to present them to the undersigned, or to her agent, T. H. Shipman, at the office of Brevard Banking Company, Brevard, N. C. on or before the 22nd day of March 1922, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons in anyway indebted to said estate are hereby required to make immediate settlement.

March 22, 1922.
 MABEL C. WILSON, Executrix of Last Will of J. F. Hays, deceased.

NOTICE

Brevard, N. C., April 12, 1922
 To the Stockholders of the Transylvania Railroad Company:

The Annual Stockholders' meeting of the Transylvania Railroad Company will be held at the general offices of the Company in the McMinn Building, Brevard, N. C., on Wednesday, the 3rd day of May 1922, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the election of officers and directors to serve during the ensuing year, and for the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting.

Your attendance is requested, but if unable to attend, please sign, have witnessed and return promptly to this office the enclosed proxy.
 A. K. ORR, Sec.

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The best credentials any young man can offer is proof of a good savings account.

It signifies good habits, ambition, thrift and perseverance—all worthy characteristics that employers appreciate.

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BREVARD, N. C.

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J. A. MILLER, Manager



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 Good line of Brooms, cheap

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"The Clean Grocery"

Brevard, N. C.

Warranty Deeds at the News Office.