

TO CORRESPONDENTS  
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## TO DEFEND NEW YORK

### IMMENSE FORTIFICATIONS TO BE BUILT.

One of the Standing Jokes on Uncle Sam to Be Terminated—Mortal Batteries of Vast Destructive Power Will Be Mounted Behind an Impregnable Fortress.

Coney Island Cannon.  
The engineering department of the United States army has perfected the last details of the plans for a work of vast importance, as it will complete the defenses of New York harbor against any known power of war. These plans are for a great fort of modern mortar batteries, to be constructed facing the ocean and defending the broad gateway of the harbor. The land on which this fort will stand lies at the east end of Coney Island and has been purchased by the Government for \$90,000.

For many years the engineers of the War Department have been casting solicitous glances at the most dangerous omission in the line of defense about the ocean entrance to New York harbor, endeavoring every year more dangerous by the improvements in carrying capacity and destructiveness of the guns placed on ships of war. This danger is a secret from no foreign power. The Coast Survey charts in currency all over the world show it at a glance and in graphic figures. Besides the two or three narrow channels that are navigable through the entrance to New York harbor, in the waters between Coney Island and Sandy Hook, there is a pocket of deep water approaching the Long Island shore from the ocean, some miles east of these channels, that is navigable

high tide. During the heavy seas of early spring a large part of the island is under water. Its only buildings are three fishermen's shanties, now uninhabited. No drearier spot exists on the ocean shore than this isle of a hundred acres, whose air is polluted by the stenches from the fertilizer factories at Breezy Island, just across the narrow inlet to Jamaica Bay.

The importance of the work on this desolate little slip of sea sand can not be overstated. It includes the entire outering ocean defense of the greatest of

the American harbors and the protection from bombardment of its greatest cities.

A glance at the map accompanying this article will show the location and strategic importance of the new mortar batteries.

They will command not only the deep-water pocket that would allow an ironclad to approach the shore from the ocean, but in the longest ranges of its guns can defend the channels of the Narrows against the entrance of the foreign hostile fleet to the New York harbor. In case a fleet of warships succeeded in entering the lower bay it could join in the grand conflict that would arise when they met the guns of the fort that stand at the entrance to the upper bay.

The Coney Island mortar batteries are to be arranged in two fortifications of earthworks standing side by side and facing the ocean at a southwest angle. Each fort is to be 600x400 feet, according to Gen. Henry C. Abbott, president of the board of engineers, in whose office the plans have been prepared. The ramparts of the fort are to be thirty-five feet above ebb tide, and the guns will rest on a body of cement raised ten feet above the low water.

The interior of each fort is to be divided into four pits, each containing four of those terrible engines of destruction, 12-inch howitzers. The guns will be fired out of a great well, as the earth-walls of the fort will rise twenty-five feet above the level on which the cannons are operated. The mortars will thus be entirely invisible from the ocean. In the deep pits the guns will be safely protected from the impact of the shot driven by the gun as the mounds of earth forming the ramparts are to be of a thickness impenetrable by any known projectile. Within each pit is to be a storage magazine for powder, protected by masonry and earth, and there are to be extensive magazines for high explosives, located at some distance from the batteries. The powder magazines for each battery will hold 100 tons. In the rear two forts will not be quarreled, but will be left open.

The thirty-two great guns for the two Plum's Island batteries are to be the new pattern of two-inch mortars known as howitzers, of which successful tests have been made within the last ten days at Sandy Hook. They are breech-loading, and constructed on the built-up plan, steel lined, rifle bored, and steel-hooped. It is much longer than the old pattern of mortars and is capable of extracting accuracy in firing. The projectiles for these mortars consist of shells which, dropped on the deck of the best armored ironclad in existence, would pierce the entire ship, is of solid bulk of steel three feet long, weighing 225 pounds and costing \$300. Eighty pounds of powder will drive this large projectile eight miles. The gun will also throw shells containing high explosives. By this means it can drop enough nitroglycerine on a ship's deck to scatter an ironclad into 10,000 pieces.

It is one of the new twelve-inch howitzers whose detonation during its test firing shattered windows six miles away and with which a single shot has destroyed \$2,000 worth of armor plating.

The Caravel Santa Maria.

Among the Columbian Exposition attractions is to be a fac-simile of the caravel Santa Maria, in which Columbus sailed. It is proposed to have this caravel as nearly exact as possible. It will be manned by Spanish sailors in the costume of the time of Columbus, and it will be rigged with the same sort of rigging that he used. There will be on board copies of the same charts that he had; fac-similes of the same nautical instruments. The crew will be of the same number, and it has been suggested that to carry out the truth of history there should be in the crew an Englishman and an Irishman, for, according to Navarrete, the eminent Spanish historian, William Harris, an Englishman, and Arthur Lake an Irishman, were members of Columbus' crew.

There will also be a notary on board wearing the ancient costume, and representatives of all other functionaries who accompanied Columbus.

It is proposed to have this vessel make its first appearance at the grand naval review, which is to take place in the harbor of New York, where the little ship will be saluted by the monstrous cruisers of modern invention, representing all the navies of the world. At the close of the naval review it is proposed to have this vessel transferred, with ceremony, by the representatives of the Government of Spain, to the President of the United States, and then have it towed through the lakes and Welland Canal to Chicago, where it will be one of the most interesting features of the exposition.

A Cold-Blooded Husband.

A coroner sees many curious sights. Deputy Coroner — was telling of a circumstance that came under his notice recently that surpassed everything ever heard of in the way of heartless indifference. He was called to investigate a case where a man's wife had died very suddenly. It was plainly a case of heart failure, but the husband insisted on an autopsy. He not only wanted the autopsy, but he wanted to see it performed. The body was placed on a table and the doctor began work. The husband watched every movement very closely. Finally the liver and heart were exposed and the heart was found to be greatly enlarged. The husband, more deeply interested than ever, stepped forward and took hold of the heart with his fingers.

"It made my blood run cold," said

the deputy, "and I pushed the man away." He seemed to resent the coroner's action very much and insisted on knowing what caused his wife's death. The doctor explained that it was caused by an enlargement of the heart.

"Wall, by thunder!" mused the man, "I don't understand that. I supposed a big heart made folks genorous like, but that woman was the dullest, stingiest critter I ever saw."

—St. Louis Star.

\$1,500 an acre for their land and \$15,000 for the damages that the erection of the fort would do to their adjacent property.

Plumb Island is partly in the rear of the low bar of sand forming the eastern end of Coney Island, known as Point Breeze. The island has a low, slanting beach backed by a few sand-hills and stretches of salt meadows. Behind, across Hog Creek and Broad Creek, the low meadowland extends back for many hundred acres. The highest spot on the island is not fifteen feet above mean

high tide. During the heavy seas of early spring a large part of the island is under water. Its only buildings are three fishermen's shanties, now uninhabited. No drearier spot exists on the ocean shore than this isle of a hundred acres, whose air is polluted by the stenches from the fertilizer factories at Breezy Island, just across the narrow inlet to Jamaica Bay.

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### "PREACHER OF NATURE."

A Reformer Prussian Soldier Who Believes in Dress Reform and a Simple Religion. Johannes Gutzeit, the so-called "preacher of nature," who attracts considerable attention in the famous old city of Leipzig, is an ex-Prussian army officer, who has taken up his abode in that hotbed of German socialism. He is a tall, handsome man, and he affects a curious costume which excites amusement and astonishment alike in strangers. His shoes are heavy and low cut; gray woolen stockings reach to his knees; his trousers of white wool cover the upper part of his legs, while a broad, loose gown of the same material falls almost to his feet. This gown is fastened about his body by two long rows of buttons and a waist-girdle of cloth. On his head, from which long hair falls to his broad shoulders, he wears at times a crown of leaves.

Gutzeit was born in Koenigsberg, Prussia, in 1853, and was a member of a wealthy family. He early entered the army in 1871. For a number of years he served as a lieutenant and differed little from his comrades. At the end of that time, however, he determined to quit the service in order to give to the world his religious and sanitary theories. He advocates a return to the simple life in vogue in the days of the apostles and is a strict vegetarian. He is a dress

dencies which might otherwise result in grave harm. Indeed, attention to diet, with a little letting down of the average cerebral activity, professional, business or domestic, will generally insure a comparative immunity from attack.

Acute rheumatism often gives rise to permanent heart trouble. Chronic rheumatism, on the contrary, may be helpful in cases of heart disease.

For instance, enlargement of the heart tends to increase until it reaches the dangerous limit. The patient's safety depends largely on his training himself to such habits as reduce strain on the heart, rheumatic joints in the lower limbs are an admirable aid in this respect. The former rapid movements cease. A fatal running to meet the cars or the ferryboat is out of the question.

The rheumatism is an uncomfortable companion, no doubt, but it may help to a long life—a decade or more, perhaps, beyond the three-score and ten.—*Youth's Companion*.

### A CITY OF RUNAWAY HORSES.

Dangerous Character of a Stroll in Bangor — The Wild Maine Colt.

The report of the statisticians that more lives are lost in the United States every year through runaways than by railroad disasters will be readily believed by Maine people, for in that state the runaway horse often causes more fatalities in a single month than can be laid to the railroads for the entire year. Almost every other man in Maine owns a horse of some kind, but only a small proportion of the owners are horsemen, and the horses for the most part are a wild, untrained lot, easily frightened by the breaking of a breeching, tug or whiffetree, or by any of the numerous little accidents that are liable to occur at any time. Thousands of fine colts are raised in Maine, but few of them are properly broken, with the result that the state is filled with unmanageable, dangerous horses.

Bangor has long been noted for the runaways that occur almost daily in its streets, and so pronounced has the nuisance become that in certain localities pedestrians are in more danger than they would be in crossing West street or Broadway in New York. Bangor is the center of a large farming district, and hundreds of untrained colts and green horses come into the city every day from the surrounding country. At this season of the year several hundred farmers' teams are daily huddled together in the open market places of Pickering and Haymarket squares, and when a runaway occurs there the results are disastrous. The principal streets of the city are traversed by an electric railroad, and the cars on the line, with their peculiar noise and occasional emission of sparks, are the pet aversion of the country horses.

It is no unusual thing to see a horse or a pair of horses, attached to a heavy cart, go tearing along one of the crowded business streets, wrecking carriages and knocking down pedestrians in their path, and perhaps finally taking to the sidewalk and crashing through the front of a shop. Four and five runaways frequently occur in a single day and the exciting events are a fruitful source of items for the local newspapers. Occasionally human life is sacrificed. Within a year two of the most eminent lawyers of the city, the Hon. Lewis Barker and ex-Judge James F. Rawson, have met their death in the streets from runaway horses, and matters have reached such a stage that a promenade in a saw-mill is a safe undertaking compared with a stroll in Bangor's business streets.

Old Aztec Mines.

A group of old Spanish or Aztec mines have recently been discovered at Las Placitas of this county, about twenty miles from this city, says an Albuquerque (New Mexico) correspondent of the St. Louis Republic. So many years have elapsed since these mines were worked that all trace of their history has been lost and the present inhabitants of the country knew absolutely nothing about them.

Prospectors recently got on to the trail of what they thought was something good, and by pushing their investigation came upon unmistakable evidences of what were undoubtedly once rich workings.

A very extensive system of underground work has been brought to light. The mineral discovered, while not of the highest grade, is rich enough to pay handsomely, and runs generally from \$50 to \$60 to the ton. The remains have been found in several places of what were once furnaces for smelting the ore. There are also large quantities of slag, and in several instances have been found what are clearly remains of implements used by the workmen.

But what will still be more interesting to the general reader is that these explorations have developed unmistakable evidences of the fact that the work on these mines which was performed nobody knows how many centuries ago was brought to a summary conclusion by an earthquake or general upheaval of some sort, for not only are the mine workings, smelters, furnaces, etc., buried under some fifteen feet of earth, but there have been found on the same level the ruins of what was once an aqueduct for bringing water to the camp from a source about ten miles distant.

The camp of Las Placitas, referred to, is on the eastern slope of the Sandia Mountains, about twenty miles from Albuquerque, and promises to become one of the most interesting fields of archaeological research yet discovered in this country.

A Helpful Aliment.

The value of cow-pox, voluntarily induced, as a protection against smallpox, is generally recognized. The same principle has been successfully extended to some of the worst diseases among animals, and it is expected that it may yet be applied in the case of some virulent human diseases.

In England gout is a very prevalent and painful disease. In this country it is less common. Our climate inclines us to excessive mental activity.

As a result of this the brain appropriates nervous force at the expense of the digestive system, and so disposes us to dyspepsia; but dyspepsia compels its victims, in spite of themselves, to indulge somewhat sparingly in rich food, in the too free eating of which gout originates.

Of the two diseases, dyspepsia is to be preferred. It seldom interferes with the day's work, and except in very obstinate cases, is almost certain to be relieved by proper diet and exercise.

Sick headache may often be counted

in the class of helpful ailments, though it is a "bitter pill." There are two forms of it: one has its primary source in the brain, the other in the stomach. In both cases there is commonly some hereditary tendency to the disease, but the exciting cause is overwork; of the brain in one case, of the stomach in the other.

The headaches necessitate occasional rest, while the dread of them acts as a constant check upon ten-

dencies which might otherwise result in grave harm. Indeed, attention to diet, with a little letting down of the average cerebral activity, professional, business or domestic, will generally insure a comparative immunity from attack.

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### A GOWN FOR CALLING.

One of the Newest and Most Striking of Fashion's Fancies.

One of the latest models is a close-fitting coat of black broadcloth, with skirts which are long in the back and sides, but slope away in front, to show a deep waistcoat of watermelon pink cloth, which has rows of black braid forming a series of points down the front. The collar is flaring and does not close. It is lined with black velvet. A very handsome calling gown is made of biscuit-colored vogue,

### A YOUTHFUL SPECULATOR.

He Corners the Shoestring Market and Makes \$55,000 in Three Months.

A coterie of traveling salesmen in the lobby of the Palmer House, Chicago, were discussing the subject of fortunate investments and enterprises that have proved unusually profitable when one of the gentlemen remarked: "The queerest case that I ever knew of this kind was that of a boy at Andover, Mass. The youngster was the only son of an old cobbler who had mended shoes and boots all his life and had saved enough to buy a modest home and to lay up a small balance in the bank. The old man died awhile ago, leaving everything to his overgrown, gawky, shiftless son.

"The latter never did a day's work in his life, and as soon as he found the possession of the little shoe shop he at once commenced casting about for a purchaser. He soon converted his property into cash. Then he went down to a suburb of Boston to talk with the manager of a large factory that turns out about half of the shoestrings made in this country. The youngster contracted for the entire output of that shoestring factory for one year. Then he went to another large manufactory at Newark, N. J., and secured a similar contract.

"These two institutions are the only shoestring factories in America. The shoestring business for the ensuing year had been cornered, excepting the goods that were already in the hands of wholesale shoe men in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. The young speculator invested his cash in buying up this stock and within a few weeks had everything in his own hands. This was a corner which the trade had not foreseen. Shoe dealers throughout the country who had ordered their usual stock of goods were horror stricken to learn that there was a shortage in shoestrings. Well, now, shoestrings are very small things, but they are quite necessary to the shoe business. Within three months the Andover boy sold his contracts with the manufacturing concern at a net profit of \$55,000, and if he had had nerve enough to continue the fight he undoubtedly would have made double that amount."—Chicago Mail.

### A CURE FOR CROUP.

Nicaragua Has a Plant with a Single Leaf Thirteen Feet Long.

Nicaragua has one of the most peculiar plants to be found anywhere. In 1869 Dr. Berthold Seeman discovered it and in 1872 it was forwarded to Mr. Hull, an English horticulturist. It was a plant with a single leaf and the latter was thirteen feet long and embroidered on the front of the skirt with silk, shading from biscuit to cinnamon brown, with a touch of gold here and there to illuminate it. Around the bottom is a ruche of cinnamon brown feathers. The coat bodice is very long in the back, but only covers the hips; it is open and an embroidered waistcoat which fastens with small gilt buttons. The high flaming collar and revers are faced with brown velvet and edged with the feather trimming. The felt hat is the same color as the dress, and is trimmed with cinnamon velvet, ribbons, and feathers.

### A PECULIAR PRODUCT.

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