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WILL CUBA GET HER?

HURRIED CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBMARINE TORPEDO BOAT.

A Holland Vessel Destroyer Being Rushed Together at the Nixon Shipyard—It Is Not Known What Flag She Will Fly. The United States Is Not Building Her.

Few persons know exactly what the destination will be of the Holland submarine torpedo boat which Louis Nixon is rushing together at his shipyard in Elizabethport, N. J. Few persons also know what flag the craft will fly. The United States government has not authorized the construction of the vessel. No other nation has authorized its construction. No one builds such a vessel for yachting purposes. Still, the craft is being built in a hurry. The frames were bent on early this week, and it is probable that the boat will be finished by Feb. 1 of next year.

Mr. Nixon says he does not know where the vessel is to go nor what flag she is to fly. The officials of the Holland Submarine Boat company in this city declare that they have nothing to say about the vessel except that she will be sent to Washington to be exhibited to members of congress and to the naval authorities. It is broadly intimated that the vessel is built in the belief that she can be sold easily at the present time to some foreign government, if not to that of the United States. It is also intimated that the Cuban junta and the agents of Spain have their eyes on the boat; the junta in the hope of using the craft to destroy the ships that chase filibusters, the Spanish agents in the hope of securing a craft to sink United States war vessels in case of war between the two nations. It is also intimated that the United States may find it to its own advantage to purchase the vessel.

This country two or three years ago authorized the construction of a Holland submarine boat. Delay after delay has marked the progress of the work. It is being built in a Baltimore yard, and neither the government nor the Holland company has been successful in hurrying on the work. Congress has made an appropriation for two more of the boats, provided the one now building in Baltimore is a success. It is entirely improbable that this boat will be finished in time to show to the members of congress during the coming short session.

It is because of the delay in finishing the original boat and also because of the fact that there would probably be a market for a new craft that orders were given to Mr. Nixon to build a smaller vessel of the submarine type. He has agreed to do so in something less than 60 days.

The boat at the Nixon yard will be 50 feet long and 10 feet wide, with a depth of from 8 to 10 feet. This is about half the size of the vessel so long delayed at Baltimore. It will be something of an improvement on the Baltimore boat in that it will carry two guns for throwing dynamite by a powder charge. One of the guns points over the bow and the other over the stern. The torpedo tube in the bow of the vessel. The vessel will be propelled by an air screw, using oil for fuel when the boat is above water and electricity as a motive force when submerged. She will have a speed of 15 miles an hour on the surface and 8 miles an hour when submerged. The diving apparatus and the mechanism used in coming to the surface are practically the same in both boats.

A man has just sailed for Europe who is said to be authorized to call Spain's attention to the desirability of buying this vessel. Spain may purchase her to prevent her from falling into the hands of the Cubans. If the Cuban junta should secure her, the entire navy of this country could not prevent her from stealing out of the harbor. All the boat would have to do would be to disappear and go to sea when she pleased. In the same way it would be easy to enter Havana harbor and destroy any Spanish warships there. It is declared that if this country does not interfere in Cuba and is still determined to prevent filibustering expeditions from going there

ELEPHANTS IN INDIA.

No One Allowed to Shoot Them Without Special Permission.

Nobody may shoot an elephant, says the London Telegraph, on the Annamule or Tipperah hills or anywhere else throughout India and Ceylon without permission unless it be a "rogue," or plainly dangerous and destructive. The capture of the wild elephant and his careful training are things carried out under an admirable and scientific system, which gives to the administration in all its branches and to the native courts a superb staff of massive and faithful servants, the commissariat and artillery elephants.

Although they will seldom or never breed in captivity, the grand creatures are easy to keep and manage, invaluable for many special purposes, and at their demise whatever tasks they may carry go to the world's stock of ivory. The older it is the better generally its quality. But, in any case, how senseless it seems to extirpate the living source of this beautiful commodity, as the reckless hunters and ignorant native chiefs and merchants are still allowed to do in central Africa! When shall we see the governments of these various regions sensible enough to perceive and proclaim that live elephants are very much more valuable even commercially than dead ones, and that the preservation of these stately and serviceable animals shall be henceforward a fixed policy for African benefit?

It has been truly remarked that directly the native and foreign hunters are convinced that one live elephant is worth dozens of tusks they will be as keen to preserve the animal as they now are to exterminate him. We might plead earnestly, even upon the ground of aesthetics and natural science, for the protection in future of the noble beast, whose majesty and tranquillity of mien so well become his silent haunts and philosophic, harmless existence. The ears of those, however, who massacre the innocent giant to cut from him 20 or 30 pounds of material for paper knives and shoe horns would be closed to such remonstrances. The best hope of all who understand the value of the elephant for Africa is that even the most ruthless of his assassins may come to learn that they are destroying their own markets. The rest is for official authorities to do. But certain it is that if decided measures be not promptly taken there will be no elephants to save and, we shall see in another continent the shameful human sin and folly perpetrated which has stripped America of every free living vestige of her noble droves of bison.

THE TIPPING QUESTION.

How It Is Practiced at Home and Abroad and the Need for a Reform.

The question of "tipping" seems small enough in detail, but rather important when exaggerated.

A woman who spent last winter in one of the most sumptuous of New York hotels says she invariably gave a quarter to her waiter at breakfast and luncheon, those being meals taken alone. At dinner time she was joined by her husband, who always handed the servitor 50 cents.

The latter sum seemed to evenly fill the man's idea of what was due him, and his "Thank you, sir!" was bland and gracious, but the lady's modest quarters always found their grave in the black waistcoat pocket, with no expression of gratitude from the recipient's face, which wore a meaning look, as of one who says, "Women are mean, an never knows 'ow to do the right thing by a man, but one 'as to put up with 'em."

It is only in reckless, good natured America that optional fees are so much larger than they ought to be. A dollar, which is a common enough sum for a man to give at dinner in a fashionable restaurant, would make a French waiter stare, although he would have the presence of mind to pocket it quickly.

In Paris there is an unwritten scale which apportions 5 per cent on the amount of a customer's bill as a tip. Thus a person ordering a dinner that costs \$2 would, on settling his bill, add 10 cents for the attendant.

It is time we had either a legal or informal rule governing tips in this country, and it is to be hoped that some rich persons will help on the reform.

It will never be done by those whose means are really small enough to feel the tax, for it is one of the errors of the impetuous to feel obliged to show as much liberality as a millionaire, even if, like the guest in "Charley's Aunt," he has to borrow half a dollar from the butler with which to tip him.—Illustrated American.

A Splendid Crown.

One of the most splendid crowns in the world is that of the Russian empress, Anna Ivanovna. According to Hamilton, it is well proportioned and lightly formed of open gold work, incrustated with a vast number of exquisite gems and among them 2,586 diamonds of great perfection. On its top, serving as a base to a slender cross of pearls, is placed the immense and wonderful ruby which the Russian ambassador purchased at Peking at the price of 120,000 rubles.

The Geranium.

The geranium expresses preference. The idea has not, so far as known, any foundation in history or legend. It is said that Henry VIII first showed marked preference for Anne Boleyn by giving her a bunch of red flowers. Some persons have supposed these flowers to be geraniums, but the plant was little, if at all, known in England at that time.

A Juvenile Taste Explained.

Little Boy—Our cook has gone away, and I'm awfully glad. Now mamma will have to make the cake, and mamma's cake is always heavy.

Guest—Well, I declare! Do you prefer heavy cake?

Little Boy—Yes. You get more chewing in a piece.—London Fun.

NUPKINS AWAKENED.

THE ONLY PLAY EVER WRITTEN BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

It Was a Satire on the Justice Dispensed by Sir Peter Edlin—The Post Artist Took a Part Himself—A Socialist Benefit Performance.

On the subject of the theater, an enthusiastic young first nighter would probably have given Morris up after the first attempt to gather his opinion of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" as an ordinary citizen who had never formed the habit of playgoing, and neither knew nor cared anything about the theater except as a treat for children once a year during the pantomime season. But Morris would have written for the stage if there had been any stage that a poet and artist could write for. When the Socialist league once proposed to raise the wind by a dramatic entertainment and suggested that he should provide the play, he set to at once and provided it.

And what kind of play was it? Was it a miracle play on the lines of those scenes in the Towneley mysteries between the "shepherds abiding in the field," which he used to quote with great relish as his idea of a good bit of comedy? Not at all. It was a topical extravaganza, entitled "Nupkins Awakened," the chief "character parts" being Sir Peter Edlin, Tennyson and an imaginary archbishop of Canterbury. Sir Peter owed the compliment to his activity at that time in sending socialists to prison on charges of "obstruction," which was always proved by getting a policeman to swear that if any passerby or vehicle had wished to pass over the particular spot in a thoroughfare on which the speaker or his audience happened to be standing their presence would have obstructed him.

This contention, which was regarded as quite sensible and unanswerable by the newspapers of the day, was put into a nutshell in the course of Sir Peter's summing up in the play. "In fact, gentlemen, it is a matter of grave doubt whether we are not all of us continually committing this offense from our cradles to our graves." This speech, which the real Sir Peter of course never made, though he certainly would have done so had he had wit enough to see the absurdity of solemnly sending a man to prison for two months because another man could not walk through him, especially when it would have been so easy to look him up for three months on some respectable pretext, will probably keep Sir Peter's memory green when all his actual judicial utterances are forgotten.

As to Tennyson, Morris took a socialist who happened to combine the right sort of beard with a melancholy temperament and drilled him in a certain portentous incivility of speech which, taken from the quality of his remarks, threw a light on Morris' opinion of Tennyson which was all the more instructive because he delighted in Tennyson's verse as keenly as Wagner delighted in the music of Mendelssohn, whose credit for qualities of larger scope he nevertheless wrote down and destroyed.

Morris played the ideal Archbishop himself. He made no attempt to make up the part in the ordinary stage fashion. He always contended that no more was necessary for stage illusion than some indistinct conventional symbol, such as a halo for a saint, a crook for a bishop, or, if you liked, a cloak and dagger for the villain and a red wig for the comedian. A pair of clerical bands and black stockings proclaimed the Archbishop. The rest he did by obliterating his humor and intelligence and presenting his own person to the audience like a lantern with the light blown out, with a dull absorption in his own dignity which several minutes of the wildest screaming laughter at him when he entered could not disturb. I laughed immoderately myself, and I can still see quite clearly the long top floor of that warehouse in the Farringdon road as I saw it in glimpses between my paroxysms, with Morris gravely on the stage in his hands at one end; Mrs. Stillman, a tall and beautiful figure, rising like a delicate spire above a sky line of city chimney pots, at the other, and a motley sea of rolling, wallowing, guffawing socialists between.

There has been no other such successful first night within living memory, I believe, but I remember only one dramatic critic who took care to be present—William Archer. Morris was so interested by his experiment in this sort of composition that he for some time talked of trying his hand at a serious drama and would no doubt have done it had there been any practical occasion for it or any means of consuming it by stage representation under proper conditions without spending more time on the job than it was worth. Later, at one of the annual festivities of the Hammer-smith Socialist society, he played the old gentleman in the bath chair in a short piece called "The Duchess of Bayswater" (not by himself), which once served its turn at the Haymarket as a curtain raiser. It was impossible for such a born teller and devourer of stories as he was to be indifferent to an art which is nothing more than the most vivid and real of all ways of story telling. No man would more willingly have seen his figures move and heard their voices than he.—Saturday Review.

Electric Bitters.

Electric Bitters is a medicine suited for any season, but perhaps more generally needed, when the languid exhausted feeling prevails, when the liver is torpid and sluggish and the need of a tonic and alterative is felt. A prompt use of this has often averted long and perhaps fatal bilious fevers. No medicine will act more surely in counteracting and freeing the system from the malaria poison. Headache, indigestion, constipation, dizziness yield to Electric Bitters. 50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle at F. B. Meyer's drug store.

EASE IN THE SENATE.

MODERN COMFORT FOR STATESMEN AND VISITORS.

System of Improved Ventilation Adopted. Theater Chairs in the Galleries For the Comfort of Lookers-On—Old Tradition Abolished—Few Changes in the House.

When congress reassembled, a marked change was noted in the senate chamber. A complete revolution in heating and ventilating has taken place, under the direction of Dr. Woodbridge of the Boston School of Technology. The unsightly brass and iron ventilators which scarred the senatorial carpets and caused intermittent chills and fevers to creep up the rheumatic limbs of senators have been banished, and fresh air comes into the chamber through perforations in the supports of the desks, at a temperature of about 72 degrees, escaping into the aisles or spaces between the various desks.

In the galleries the greatest transformation has occurred. The old time, straight back benches have been removed, and handsome mahogany framed theater chairs with maroon colored leather backs and seats have been substituted. Each chair is provided with air chambers and perforations on the sides.

The uniformity of the gallery seats wipes out the "class distinction" that hitherto prevailed in favor of the diplomatic and executive galleries. For many years past the upholstering in the diplomatic and executive galleries was a bright blue, while the coloring in the public galleries was a light gray. Now, although the dividing lines are maintained, the furnishing of all the galleries is the same and in harmony with the mahogany effect upon the floor below.

Under the new ventilating system it will not be easy to move the desk at will, as heretofore. The ventilating apparatus is a part of the desk, and to move the desk would require a general mutilation of the flooring. The effect prevailing in the chamber is heightened by the substitution of mahogany doors with frosted glass panels for the yellow pine frames covered with a bilious green covering, which opened into the cloakrooms and the lobbies. The rich green and gold carpet has been replaced upon the floor of the chamber, forming a harmonious groundwork for the highly polished mahogany desks and square backed, leather covered chairs.

Sergeant-at-arms Bright has succeeded in demolishing a long cherished tradition. The senate now contains chairs of but a single pattern. Previous to last session it was the custom of each senator to consult his individual preference in selecting the style of chair he would occupy. The result was an unsightly mixture of mahogany, oak, walnut, cane bottoms and haircloth chairs scattered about the chamber, suggesting a job lot auction room rather than the dignified United States senate.

Electricity has replaced the gas jets in the ceiling and the galleries—in fact, throughout the senate wing—and the electric lighting will reduce the temperature of the building at night at least 10 degrees. The modifications and changes were accomplished at an outlay of something below \$55,000.

Aside from the placing of a new piece of carpet in front of the speaker's desk, no material changes have been made in the furnishing of the house of representatives. The officers of the house are anxious that provision should be made at the coming session for a thorough renovation and the introduction of a new system of ventilation and seating similar to that in the senate.

The house has always been slow to assert its independence in providing for its own comfort. The backwardness is due to the fact that its members stand up for election by the people every two years, while senators have only to run the gantlet of a state legislature once in six years. The house appears positively shabby in comparison with the senate chamber at present.—Washington Post.

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