MAJOR MARCHAND AND HIS MISSION.

A NATIONAL hero is always a heroine to France, regardless of sex, creed or country, she has found, are superior factors, but with the present idol of the French people this is not the case.

All Paris, and indeed all France, is now in a state of fervid enthusiasm over the return home of Major Marchand. It is not an exaggeration to say Kitchener to the French most whether or not the heroic little major accomplishes his object. All that the Frenchman asks for is something on which to vent his passion for hero making. Overfed of late on stock heroes, France is now glad to find her hero in the person of Marchand, the little major from Thoissey.

When Lord Kitchener was in England six months ago this little major came to Paris. Although he has no battle of Omdurman to his credit, Marchand's African expedition has not by any means been fruitless. France certainly scores the satisfaction of knowing that this man's flags on the dark continent have hitherto floated not a little. This alone is worth something to the Gallic mind. When Marchand appeared at Fashoda with his little band of heroes against skirmishers, it was a startling setback to the British foreign office and gave France a fresh hold on the undecided and unreasoning disposition. In 1892 he entered the service and during the same year was sent to Africa. After faithful service there he obtained the rank of sous-lieutenant and on his return to France entered the military school of St. Maixent, where he was sent by his government to Senegambia. In February, 1895 he was present at the siege of Kondiara, where in the thick of the engagement he was slightly wounded. During the following year he proceeded to explore the sources of the Niger and Senegal rivers in the Bagoe. Thanks for some years he supplied the French government and home geographical societies with important information and descriptions of his numerous exploration expeditions in Africa. At the taking of Dinas he was again wounded, this time severely, and found it necessary to return to France before resuming his strength. In the summer of 1898 he was nominated French agent at Bhomar and from that time until his last triumphal return to Paris has been busily engaged in exploration work in the Ubangi valley of the Nile, from which part of the world he has not been seen since left for France.

It is well known in his native country that Major Marchand is an almost romantic believer in the future of France as a colonizing power. As such he has long been the dream of the republic and has already met her magic of his best blood and a great deal of gold, this attitude on the part of this little Corsican Member of the French republic makes him a universal favorite with his people. While this manner and popular of deed is such a particularly brilliant man, he is, like his English prototype Kitchener, a hard worker and a student. The chief secret of his success in life has been his talent for dressing on good terms with the most exacting authorities and his ability to profit in some manner, beneath the most belligerent of African warriors and chieftains. At the same time his personal friends have never been able to make out just how far he is called self possessed in the result of training and vocation, for it is a well known fact that at one time he was often seen indulging in the most violent fits of uncontrollable passion. His strange nature and his strict military training, however, seem to have eliminated this dangerous disposition from his make up. And he is now one of the most self controlled and self control of men.

A Salon Statue.

The piece of sculpture that is attracting most attention perhaps than other figures at the Paris Salon of the present season is that by Barrias known as "The Unveiling of Saturn." As the accompanying reproduction of the statue will show, the design is simply the figure of a beautiful woman disrobing herself, represented as lifting a veil from her face.

Chinese Labor In Hawaii.

In the Hawaiian canal-life have gone one everywhere at present the Chinaman, and his divided shirt and knot of back hair. It is not rather odd this in a land where women are most disposed and oppressed the more classic dress and look more like women than anywhere else?

The knife used by the cane cutter here is exactly the same and as the machete with which the Cuban managed did his double work. One blow of the cleaver severs the hold of the cane stalk, and a second cuts it off near the root. These it lies ready to be loaded upon the flat cars that are drawn by a steam engine through the plantation for this purpose. Sugar cane juice at first tows very like river suspends.

Operations on these great plantations are conducted on a magnificent scale. A first class cane yield is 10½ tons to the acre. Plantations are often 4,000 to 10,000 acres in extent. Some of them employ as many as 2,000 men. Overseers, bookkeepers, engineers, sugar boilers, etc., are white men. The white man will never perform manual labor if he can get anybody else to do it for him, and therein lies his superiority.

It requires six hours to make sugar from the time the cane leaves the mill till it comes out a finished product, packed ready for shipping. Nothing is wasted. The crushed fiber of the cane is fed automatically into furnaces and forms the fuel that boils down the strup and makes the bagasse, which goes into a machine like a cream separator and comes out just twenty seconds at one door and part still browner molasses at another.

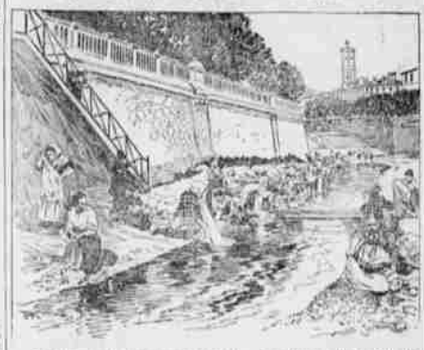
Honolulu. ELIZA ARCHARD COOKER.

An Old French Flag.

There has just been turned over to the Fifty-ninth infantry of the army of France a historic old flag which belonged to that regiment 40 years ago.

This flag, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, came into the possession of two inhabitants of the town of Lille, who hoisted the standard if not of the street and expressed their willingness to restore the banner to its original possessor. It was first given to the Fifty-ninth infantry in 1861, and since it in 1867, it was fell at the battle of Mentana.

A Remarkable Washtub.

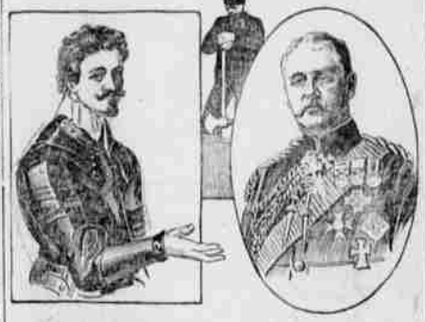


The biggest and at the same time the neatest washtub in the world is that shown in the accompanying illustration. It is the river Dalton, at Nice, and each day hundreds of housewives of all ages and conditions come down from "The City of the Sun," as Nice is fantastically called, and perform their laundry washing along the banks of this little stream. It makes one of the quaintest and most picturesque scenes in the neighborhood of the visitor to the Riviera and is certainly a primitive method of laundry work.

Chinese Medicine.

Here is a very potent Chinese prescription for malaria which is quite unknown in American materia medica. Like every Chinese medical mixture, it contains a lizard and a dried snake. With out these two medicinal animals the other materials constituting a prescription are believed to be entirely useless, and no matter what the ailment may chance to be, the oriental doctor always has to prescribe the necessary lizard and centipede.

England's Ill Fated Family.



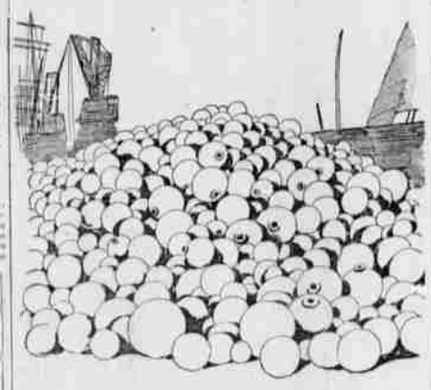
FIRST AND LAST EARLS OF STRAFFORD.

The tragic death of the late Earl of Strafford, who was found decapitated on a railroad track at Potter's Bar, in England, is only another evidence of the fate that sometimes pursues particular families. The earls of Strafford from first to last have been the most unfortunate of titled Englishmen. The first earl is, of course, a familiar figure in history on account of his services to his arrogant sovereign, Charles, and his death on the scaffold at the Tower of London in 1641. During the history of the different nine earls of Strafford the title has been once forfeited, twice extinct, once revived and twice recreated. Five earls have died without having male issue, and the original family which held the title is now entirely extinct, while a relentless nemesis seems to have pursued every person to whom the title was ever attached. Some were killed, some were drowned, some died of disease, and few indeed have been the Straffords who were able to die happy lives.

Historic Schoolhouse.

Each year thousands of visitors pass through Newport, the lake of Windermere, their way to the bewitching famous ruins of Cartmelle, where Charles I was imprisoned and made his unsuccessful attempt to escape. But in Newport itself is an equally interesting spot in the old Jacobite grammar school wherein Charles once held his court. This was during the abortive negotiations with the parliamentary commissioners, who were in session at the old town hall of the same place. The royal apartments were in the quaintly gabled front facing the street, leading to Crown, and the schoolroom was used as the king's presence chamber. All his majesty's letters and documents were dated "From our Court at Newport," and while a prisoner in the town he was allowed a certain amount of freedom on parole. But in this very schoolroom the unfortunate Charles was eventually arrested and conveyed a prisoner to Hurst castle.

Shells to Blow Up Uncle Sam.



Here are a few thousand shells which should have a peculiar interest to all Americans. They were intended for the purpose of blowing up Uncle Sam's navy. They did not, however, do the expected blowing up for obvious reasons and now are lying quietly in Glasgow where waiting to be made use of as old metal. This cargo of Spanish shells, which are of all sizes, were originally loaded and primed for Spain just before the war for use on ships of Americans, but never used. Owing to the recent rise in the European metal market they were sold to a British firm as old iron, and the accompanying picture shows them after the exploders had been removed and the shells themselves ready to be broken up and remelted.

Obelisk to the Late Empress.

The recently unveiled monument to the late empress of Austria, as will be seen from the accompanying illustration, is one of the most beautiful memorial shafts ever put up in France. The circumstances of its erection are both touching and interesting. The Monument was put up at Cap Martin to commemorate the many happy days which the much loved Austrian empress spent at Nice, which was one of her favorite summer homes in France. At the unveiling ceremonies a cantata was sung by a chorus of young Monteneagin girls, and later in the afternoon by the streets of the Austrian national anthem a beautiful crown of roses and palm leaves, tied with black and yellow ribbons, was deposited at the base of the obelisk. Among the many floral tributes was a magnificent wreath of violets and camellias from Queen Victoria.

Victoria's Fiji Island Troops.

Now that the United States possesses colonies there are problems connected with their government which are apt to be suggested at the present juncture in our national affairs. The experience of Great Britain, the greatest colonizer of modern times, in the matter of local self government in the colonies of their predecessors and for methods of ruling for expected dependent races can be studied greatly to our advantage. Only a short time ago native Egyptians were considered fit for power only when trained by British officers proved invaluable in the recent Sudan campaign. In India the British forces numbered 75,000 and the native forces 147,000. Many of these native the Sikhs are especially are almost equal to our troops in the world, and all are regarded as dependable total. Probably the most unique body of native troops of the British empire is the armed constabulary in the Fiji islands. This force was raised in the Southern Cross of King Thakombau and has proved efficient and economical in disciplinary work. There are several officers, as a rule, but very few native instruments and chiefs of local grade. The natives of the Fiji constabulary are very picturesque, one part of it resembling a Highland kilt and the several nations of Dorsia and Alsatia. Doubtless our government will by its usual experiment in our new possessions.

A Very Wise Swan.

One of the swans in New York's Central park has just built a nest in a peculiar manner, as will be seen from the accompanying illustration. To escape molestation from small boys and from this active behind had collected a pile

of reeds and set to work building up a pyramid in the center of one of the park's small lakes. The pyramid was built up until it was well above the surface of the water, and in it she made her home and was quite content on the same when this picture was taken.

The great French composer, M. Saint-Saens, is by turn philosopher, composer, archæologist and astronomer.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The sun now being built at the Western observatory, which will be mounted at the Sandy Hook distance after its footings in September, will be the largest service gun in the world, and it will have a single energy equivalent to the running power of the Southern Oregon going at a 14 knot speed. The

about land from which the mate tube has contracted weighed 111.53 tons.

The first Greek letter society—Phi Beta Kappa—was originated at William and Mary in 1776, and among the charter members were John Marshall, chief justice of the supreme court; Bryson Hanna, who was considered the

ablest jurist ever produced in Virginia; John Brown and Stephen T. Mason, members from Virginia; William Short, minister to Spain and Holland, and Elisha Parmelee, a native of Massachusetts, who established chapters at Yale and Harvard when he returned home.

M. F. Hastings of Weatherford, O. T., recently plowed up on the bottom of the Cimarron river an old army sentinel which bore the inscription, "L. B. Howard, Co. A, 6th Ill. C. S. V. I." He would like to hear from some one who has a claim on the old weapon.

Lester E. Gilbert of Marysville, Mo., recently started from Dallas, Or., with 25,000 shoes, which are to be driven overland to Kansas. Twenty-five men will assist him in herding the sheep, and in herds are to be taken along. The trip will occupy the entire summer and fall.

The Kansas City Star tells of a Trypsit (Kan.) girl who sent it to a small New Yorker for a "pair ears for from Nice." This is the recipe which she received: "Remove the freckles carefully with a pocketknife, soak them overnight in salt water, then hang up in the smokehouse in a good, strong smoke made of sassafras and slippery elm bark for a week. Freckles thus treated never fail to be thoroughly cured."

Hawaii Brandsey was appointed postmaster of North Lansing, Tompkins county, N. Y., June 24, 1893, and has held the position ever since. In all his 6 years of service no complaint has ever been made against him, nor has the slightest error been found in his accounts.

Professor G. K. Gilbert, who appears to have been investigating quietly for several years, says the city of Chicago is sinking into the lake at a rate of nine or ten inches in a century. This is happening because of a gradual tilting of the earth's crust in the lake region.

A GREAT SAVINGS FUND.

For about ten years the Carnegie company of Pittsburg has maintained a savings fund for the benefit of its employees. This fund now amounts to over $1,000,000. The idea was due to the creation of Andrew Carnegie, who, in order to induce the workmen to save their earnings, obligated the Carnegie Steel company, instead, to pay the employees a higher rate of interest on their savings than could be obtained from any bank, building association or other savings institution. The company has not the obligation at all times, regardless of adverse business conditions, of furnishing its interest rates, paying every one of its workmen who deposited his earnings with the company 6 per cent per annum.