

THE SELFRIDGE FAMILY RECORD UNPARALLELED IN NAVAL ANNALS.

THE recent appointment by President McKinley of a grandson of our oldest retired rear admiral to a cadetship at the Naval Academy has called attention to the fact that there will soon be four members of the Selfridge family represented in the navy, extending their record back nearly 100 years. There has been a great deal said of late about the so-called "Victorian era," which has been made to comprehend almost everything notable in the century past, but it is far excelled by the Selfridgian era, which began the year before Victor's was born, when Midshipman Thomas Oliver Selfridge entered our navy at the age of 14. Born in 1804, during Jefferson's first administration, he carries us back almost to the beginning of our presidential era and, had he been so favored, might have seen all our presidents but one, Washington having died five years before his birth, but John Adams surviving it more than 20 years.

He lived during the times of Decatur, Perry, Bainbridge, Preble, Napoleon, Nelson, Lord Pitt and a host of others whose names have been but a memory the past half century and more. He was in service while Napoleon was a prisoner at St. Helena, having entered 13 years after the battle of Trafalgar, and so on, having lived through all the greatest events of the nineteenth century. It happened that during all the long period of the first Selfridge's service there were no great naval battles, and his only participation in active operations was on the west coast of Mexico, where he received a wound that incapacitated him from sea duty in the year 1848.

Soon after the outbreak of our civil war he was assigned to the Charleston and Mare Island navy yards, was promoted to a captaincy in 1855, to commodore in 1862 and retired in April, 1866, being promoted to rear admiral in July of that year. He is now the senior rear admiral on the retired list and, like all his brother heroes "on the shelf," draws an annual salary of \$4,000 and emoluments, as he has been doing for the past 35 years.

It would seem, in fact, that if one desires to live a life of comparative ease, see something of the world in his early manhood and attain to a green old age, perhaps within half of the century mark, he has only to secure a position in our army or navy in line for promotion, behave decently and trust to Providence—and time.

Presidential favor may count for something in the original appointment; but, barring accidents, the "age limit" at 62 does the rest, for on the retired lists of our army and navy registers may be found a vast excess of officers over the number actually in active service. At the beginning of this century there were, for example, 43 rear admirals retired and only 18 in active service, while eight commodores were enjoying the immunities of this veritable "sailors' snug harbor" long after their grade had been abolished.

Rear Admiral T. O. Selfridge, Sr., is now 97 years old, for he and the century were in their teens together. But 23 numbers below him in the list of retired rear admirals is his son, Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr., who was born in 1837 and retired "for age" three years ago. Unlike his father, T. O. Selfridge, Jr., had

the benefit of technical training, having entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, graduating at the head of his class in 1854. Both, of course, entered the navy with a full appreciation of their responsibilities, but it chanced that of the two the son was the one who saw the fighting. He graduated from the academy in time to participate in the tremendous struggle between the different sections of his country and, as second lieutenant, was on the old Cumberland when she was rammed and sunk by the Merrimac in Hampton Roads. His own account of



the affair is mighty interesting reading. "If the Cumberland," he said, "had been shot we might have had some sort of show in fighting the Merrimac."

We had ten guns to her four, and the hall of big shot we poured at her produced considerable effect, knocking away her smokestacks and making

large dents in her armor. As it was, the Merrimac struggled for two or three minutes and then broke free, leaving her ram in the Cumberland,

mer, I came to the surface again and succeeded in reaching a boat." Promoted to lieutenant commander in July, 1882, Selfridge had charge of

the ironclad Cairo, which was blown up by a torpedo in the Yazoo. Then he commanded the Osage in the Red river expedition, and next the Vindicator and the fifth division of the Mississippi river fleet until 1884. While in command of the steamer Conestoga his boat went to the bottom through collision in contact with a Confederate ram, this making three times that Selfridge met with accidents of that nature. He had command of the steamer Huron in both attacks on Fort Fisher and also of the third division of the landing party of sailors that stormed the fort. He was promoted to a commander in 1869 and during the next three years conducted the survey of a ship canal route across Darien. Later he had command in the north Atlantic and Asiatic squadrons and in 1888 was tried by court martial for "criminal carelessness" in target practice off the coast of Japan, when four natives were killed by the bursting of an unexploded shell. He was exonerated and acquitted, but the trial gave point to the story that he had been sent to the bottom twice and blown up twice, having suffered from the sinking of his ships when on the Cumberland and Conestoga, having been "blown up" by a torpedo when on the Cairo and also as the result of target practice. As if this were not enough, he had tempted fate by accepting the command of a torpedo station, but when the period arrived for his retirement—January, 1899—he was in European waters.

With two of its members on the retired list as rear admirals, it might seem that any family should be satisfied, but there is yet another son of the old admiral in naval service in the person of Commander J. R. Selfridge, who entered the navy in 1864 and worked valiantly throughout the Spanish-American war and of late has filled the position of lighthouse inspector for the second district, with headquarters in Boston. Like his father and brother, he was Massachusetts born and educated, and he forms the third of the illustrious trio which comprises two rear admirals and a commander of our navy in one family. With the appointment of the younger son of Rear Admiral T. O. Selfridge, Jr., to Annapolis there will be next May four of the family on the register.

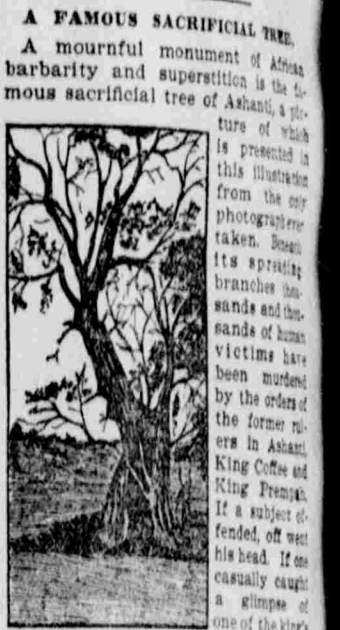
The greatest interest, of course, centers about the old admiral as the senior naval officer, now not far from his hundredth year. He has preserved his health remarkably and attributes it to his correct habits of life, especially to retiring early and abstemiousness in eating and drinking. It is related that some time during the first Grant administration he was present at an evening party, at which he was urged to remain after he had announced his determination to retire. He would not be persuaded and remarked as he left the room, "I am a much older man than the oldest of you, and most of you are now in what you regard as the prime of life, but if you keep on eating these late suppers you may not any of you live as long as I shall." Among that company were Garfield, Belknap, Senator Zach Chandler and other prominent men, but today not one remains alive, while the old admiral still is with us, a living monument to temperance in living and the efficacy of the retired list as conducive to longevity.

HOW CANADA WAS ENRICHED.
W. J. White, inspector of Canadian immigrant agencies, states that the American settlers who went into the Canadian northwest last year took with them cash and effects valued at \$6,000,000. Between 14,000 and 15,000 settlers from the United States crossed the border.

PRIVATE SECRETARY OF KING EDWARD VII.
Of the gentleman whose portrait is presented herewith, Sir Francis Knollys, one of the king's daughters, Knollys, once remarked that he would tick them off at his finger ends without a moment's hesitation. As the Prince of Wales, King Edward of England had an impression that he



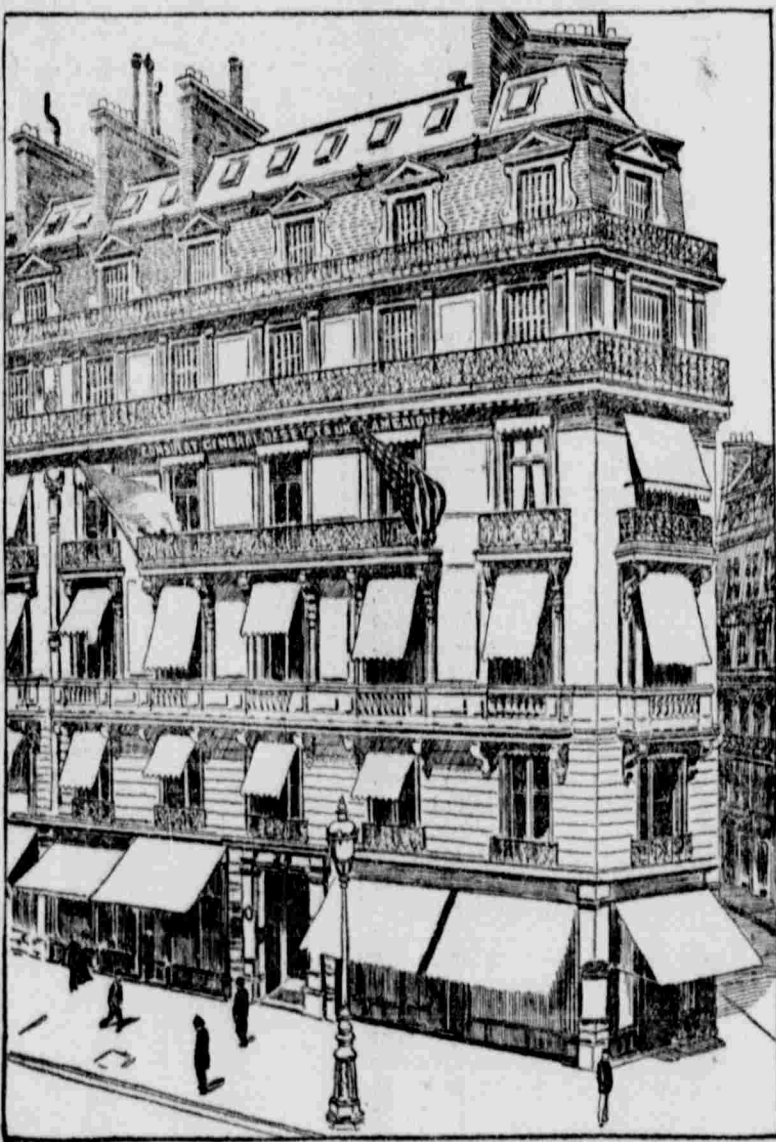
was a very much overrated man, but, as he considered the changing of his clothes a real labor, he may be two or more opinions away from it. However, all his correspondents pass through Sir Francis Knollys' hands, and it is said that he keeps and answers some 600 letters a day, and sends out telegrams and answers to a large number of the time, even though he has two assistants and a staff of clerks.



A FAMOUS SACRIFICIAL TREE.
A mournful monument of Arabian barbarity and superstition is the famous sacrificial tree of Ashraf, a picture of which is presented in this illustration from the copy photograph taken. It is a gnarled, leafless tree, its branches gnarled and twisted, and its trunk is a mass of knots and holes. It is said that the tree has been used for centuries as a place of execution, and that the blood of the victims has been used to fertilize the soil. The tree is now a ruin, and its remains are a monument to the barbarity of the past.

THE COUNTESS OF CASERTA.
Brought into prominence at this time by the marriage of her son, Prince Carlos, to the Princess Mercedes of Spain, the Countess of Caserta is making the most of her popularity. She is one of the few women in the world who thinks she ought to be a queen, for her husband is known as a pretender to the throne of Naples. Sometimes, to please her, she is addressed as queen of the Sicilies or queen of Jerusalem, but the chances are that her chief glory will come through her children, whom she has married off very well indeed. Her eldest son married Princess Marie of Bavaria, a granddaughter of Franz Joseph of Austria; one of her daughters has just married an archduke, and it would seem that two princesses and an archduke is not so bad a record for one who is only the consort of an unrecognized claimant to royalty.

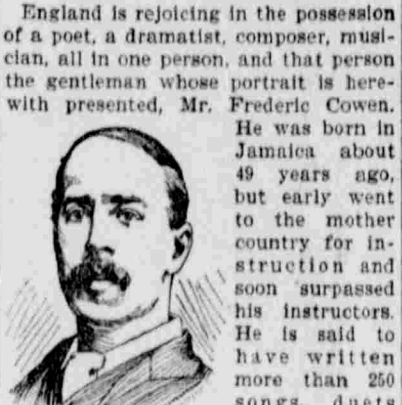
THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN PARIS.



The United States owns very little property in foreign countries, and nearly all its consular residences are in rented quarters, as is the case in France, where the consular general des Etats Unis occupies the second floor of 36 Avenue de l'Opera, one of the finest business streets of Paris. The rooms are spacious and the private office of the consul general is cozy and elegant. The building itself is fairly typical of the structures in the business centers of Paris, with stores and offices in the lower story and the upper rooms occupied for residential purposes. The consul general, who, by the way, is "Oom Jack" Gowdy of Rush county, Ind., and who was a farmer politician before he went to Paris, points with pride to the great feature of this consulate—an elevator that elevates—which in the French capital is a rarity, differing from other French affairs of its genus inasmuch as it carries passengers both ways.

Consul General Gowdy, however, desires it to be particularly understood that the "lift" is not for the use of his numerous fellow countrymen who so frequently visit the consulate in order to "touch" him for loans to accelerate their return to the United States. One of the chief complaints of our consular representatives abroad is that they are frequently obliged to provide for impecunious Americans stranded for various reasons within their jurisdiction, who assume that they have claims upon them for assistance merely because of the same nationality.

A POET FROM JAMAICA.



England is rejoicing in the possession of a poet, a dramatist, composer, musician, all in one person, and that person the gentleman whose portrait is here-with presented, Mr. Frederic Cowen. He was born in Jamaica about 49 years ago, but early went to the mother country for instruction and soon surpassed his instructors. He is said to have written more than 250 songs, duets and piano pieces, besides 20 more ambitious compositions, including five cantatas and four operas, of a quality that those who ought to know pronounce superior to much of what has come into the world during the past hundred years. And yet, with all his genius, Mr. Cowen condescends to a pun, as when, not long ago, he was the recipient of a valuable gift and said, "If absence makes the heart grow fonder, presents make the heart grow fonder still." Perhaps, after all, the critics are wrong in their estimate of his work and he has been overrated.

A BRONZE FETTER FROM AFRICA.



The image figured in this illustration was made by the curious Ben people, who were taught the art of manufacturing objects of bronze by the Portuguese 300 years ago. Some knowledge of art and a great deal of skill are displayed in the grouping of the figures. The base shows the carved tusks that are exported from Benin, with one of the country's first kings sitting on them, holding up a juju stick, with interwoven snakes, leaves, paddles, swords and deer heads. Above these, holding a carved tusk in one hand and a knife in the other, sits another king, with a dog by his side. The height of the fetter is 2 feet 4 inches and its weight about 40 pounds.

Thackeray would produce under pressure a novel in six or eight months. He did not like to work and, as he often stated, only did so under compulsion, and congress is to be asked to give \$500,000.

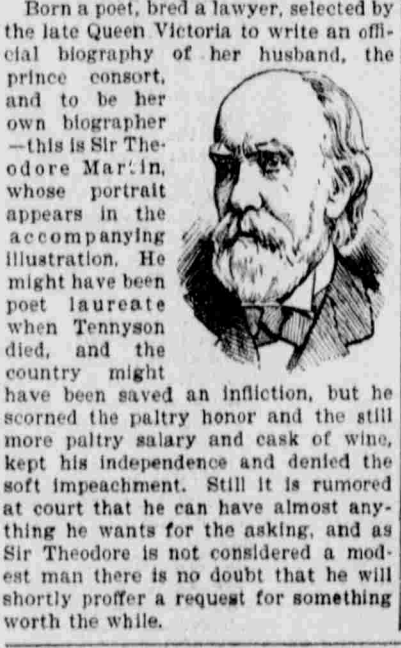
THE NEW AND INGENIOUS COSMO-ROMAN ALPHABET.



This illustration presents the new alphabet of 50 characters recently invented, which not only includes characters for the 45 elementary sounds of English, but five others for the prevailing sounds of all the languages of the world. From the fact that they are cut in the "Roman face" the alphabet has been named the "Cosmo-Roman." The scope and purpose are universal, but it will be first used in Bible work, says its inventor, Professor R. W. Mason. The letters are all distinctively Roman and for the most part are evolutions of their respective original letters or digraphs. Thus the six "A" letters are produced from the original "A," the letters for "th," "dh," "wh," "ng," from their respective digraphs.

The new "k" is of special interest because it is a combination of c, k, q, x, and is intended to serve for all four letters. They do not, therefore, appear in the new alphabet; they are duplicates of "k" or other letters, as in "concern (konsern), quaint (kwaint), extent (ekstent)." The letter "y" is also discarded, being replaced by "j," and a new letter is made for the "j" sound. The alphabet has been thoroughly examined by linguists and has received the unqualified approval of the highest authorities, being pronounced "an achievement of real scientific importance." Its possibilities for coming into general use are not far distant since typesetting machinery has become universal. In case of such an event an improvement in our printed language would surely follow which in time would cause English to be the "fittest tongue of the world." There can be no two opinions as to the possible improvement of our language, and any approach to a phonetic system that will not only reduce the number of characters, but simplify the spelling, will be hailed with joy, especially by the younger generation. It has been estimated that such a system would reduce the labor of beginners and foreigners learning the language very materially, but its practicability is quite another matter.

VICTORIA'S BIOGRAPHER.



JARS OF GRAIN BURIED EIGHTEEN CENTURIES.



The objects shown in this illustration were recently unearthed at a place called the Bosco Reale, at a short distance from Pompeii, and are considered among the most curious and interesting of the many thousands of objects exhumed. More than 18 centuries, as all the world knows, have elapsed since unfortunate Pompeii and Herculaneum were overwhelmed and buried beneath ashes and lava from Vesuvius. During more than 18 centuries the herdsmen wandered with their flocks about the locality until the statues were exhumed by accident in 1748. In 1758 the great amphitheatre was discovered, and since then systematic excavations have been carried on, and not long ago a find of silverware and jewelry was purchased by the government for 40,000 francs and presented to the Louvre. It was in a room attached to one of the buildings revealed by the excavations and filled with large earthen jars was found, arranged chessboard fashion and filled with grain, just as they had been left by those who had created this curious city nearly 1,900 years ago.

Only eight had seen a cow before they had seen a hog and six had seen a sheep. In medieval times not only were prisoners ransomed by their families but a ransom was demanded even for the bodies of those slain in action. In 1816 it cost 25 cents to send a sheet by mail a distance of 60 miles. Today a letter containing seven sheets may go as many thousand miles for 2 cents.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

According to a recent school definition an optimist is an eye doctor and a pessimist a foot doctor. Of the 10,000,000 tons of coal France is obliged to import annually 7,000,000 come from England. New York city is growing in population at the rate of \$9,000 a year, according to the latest municipal figures. Two large seagoing steamers, 450 feet

and tar, 55 gallons; pitch or rosin, 14 barrels; pyroligneous acid, 100 gallons; spirits of turpentine, 20 gallons; tar, 1 barrel; wood spirits, 5 gallons. The city of Birmingham, Ala., has already begun to make preparations for an exposition to be held there from Nov. 15, 1904, to May 5, 1905. The character name of the enterprise is to be the International Metallic and Industrial Exposition. The state is expected to contribute \$100,000 toward the expense,

and congress is to be asked to give \$500,000. Among the holders of the coveted medal of honor authorized by congress is Marcus A. Hanna—not the Ohio senator, but a man who served as sergeant in command of Company B, Fifth Massachusetts Infantry. He earned the medal on July 4, 1863, by voluntarily exposing himself to a heavy fire at Fort Hudson in order to get water for his comrades in the rifle pits.

After considering the matter for 38 years Uncle Sam has concluded that Sergeant Hanna was a hero and has therefore given him a medal. According to the latest report of New York's excise commissioner the Ralnes law has yielded \$61,289,272 to the state and local treasuries since it went into effect, five years ago, thus averaging about \$12,000,000 a year. Meanwhile the arrests for drunkenness throughout the state have diminished from 12 to 9 for

each 1,000 of the state's population, while the number of liquor saloons has decreased from 33,437 to 27,130. Bombardment of the residence portions of towns, now forbidden by the laws of war, has been repeatedly practiced in spite of this prohibition. Children in the big cities do not get a very intimate knowledge of animated nature. The Chicago Journal says: "Seventy-eight school children were killed at the fat stock show recently."