

IMPROMPTU BRIDGE BUILDING IN WAR.

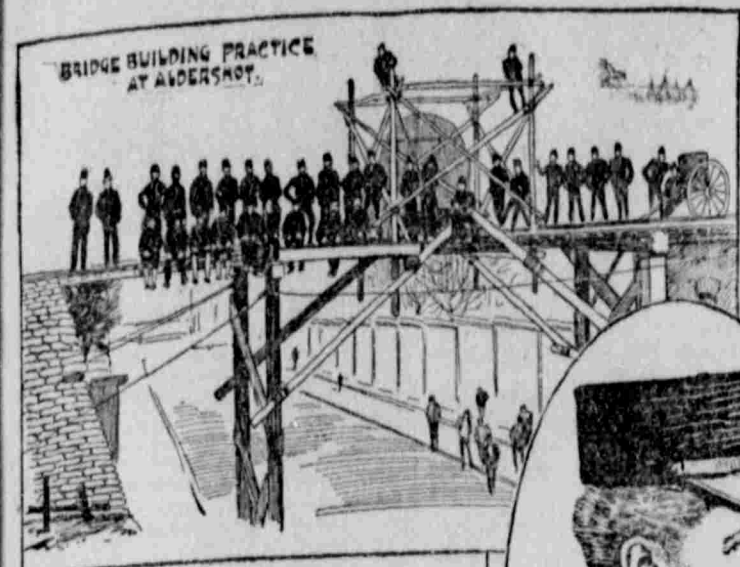
EVERY one who has read Xenophon's famous "Anabasis" will remember how that illustrious general of old describes his method of

structure that will carry the weight of cavalry and heavy artillery. This art of impromptu bridge building is acquired only after long prac-

tice and such work are drilled long and patiently at home in the different forms of structures necessary for the carrying of troops over a stream. These bridges, of course, vary with the size and the nature of the stream to be crossed. If it is a wide river, the pontoon bridge is usually made use of. For this purpose each division in South Africa carries with it a number of strong but light pontoons. These are anchored in a line across the stream, girders are laid from one pontoon to the next, and a planking is then laid over the girders. To put together a bridge of this description is a comparatively simple matter. A far more delicate and difficult operation is to throw a single span over a 30 foot stream, and one that must be strong enough to support several tons weight at one time. The building materials

engineers can throw up with such limited resources in an hour or two. It is not pleasant work, for it means more often than not working up to the waist in running water, the climbing of muddy banks and, in fact, all the hardships of war without any of its glories. It has also all the dangers of active warfare, for, although the engineer corps is always preceded by a reconnoitering party and a guard, the men of such a corps necessarily have to do their work well in advance of the main body of their army and are liable to attack at any moment.

Owing to the nature of the country and the character of the campaigning in South Africa the corps whose forte is bridge building has very often been called into service. One of the most brilliant examples of their skill and



bridge building. During their advance into Persia inflated sheepskins, it will be remembered, were the principal things in the bridges of those early Greeks. Since that time, however, more scientific methods and more satisfactory materials have come into use, and the up to date general always has a specially trained corps of men who are able to throw a bridge over any stream or river or swamp that may lie in the line of march in the twinkling of an eye.

In the British army the corps most noted for this sort of work is the Royal Engineer corps. Some idea of the marvelous work done by these men may be gained from the accompanying illustrations, which show impromptu bridges built out of the crudest material and constructed under the greatest disadvantages. For instance, at Modder river, early in the South African campaign, it was found necessary to throw a good, substantial bridge over the stream during the great battle of Nov. 23. This was done, and it will be remembered that General Methuen specially praised Brigadier General Pole-Carew and his men for their skill and dash in supplying the needed bridge on the spot when it was necessary. This officer was in command of the Guards brigade at the Modder river fight, and his corps of engineers were hurried forward and had their bridge across the Modder almost before the astounded Boers could realize their intentions. When it is remembered that all or most of such construction work takes place under fire, and that the engineers at work have few or none of the implements employed by the expert bridge builder, it seems truly marvelous how they can throw together a



tice and a thorough study of scientific engineering reduced to its simplest and most primitive methods. The different British corps supposed to be expert at

are usually confined to spars and rope. This does not seem much to work with, but it is wonderful what an airy and yet substantial structure these trained

efficiency was the successful bridging of the Tugela by the Royal Engineers, who had long been trained for work of all such character at Aldershot.

THE KING OF THE BASUTOS.



Though the royal costume of the king of the Basutos consists of a discarded and well worn cricket coat, and his trousers an old pair of English infantry breeches, this royal personage is not without a sense of his own regal importance. The accompanying picture shows the king surrounded by his sons and accompanied by his royal secretary, the latter official appearing in an old top hat and a jacket, somewhat the worse for wear, of a grenadier bandsman. King Masupha, in the Transvaal war, has taken active sides with the English, finding it impossible to forget old wrongs inflicted upon him by Oom Paul and his people.

A GALLANT ADMIRAL.

Here is a full fledged admiral who, at the risk of his own life, saved a marine who had fallen overboard from his ship. This hero is Admiral Seymour, the commander of the British fleet in eastern waters, and, although his breast is covered with medals and orders when he is in full dress, he has no badge of which he is prouder than the Royal Humane society medal given for this act of gallantry. Admiral Seymour served on the

Terrible through the Crimean war, and also in the two wars between England and China and in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. For a time he was commander of the channel squadron, but two years ago was appointed to the China station.

Indian scouts among the Nez Perces and Umatillas are being enlisted for the Philippine service.

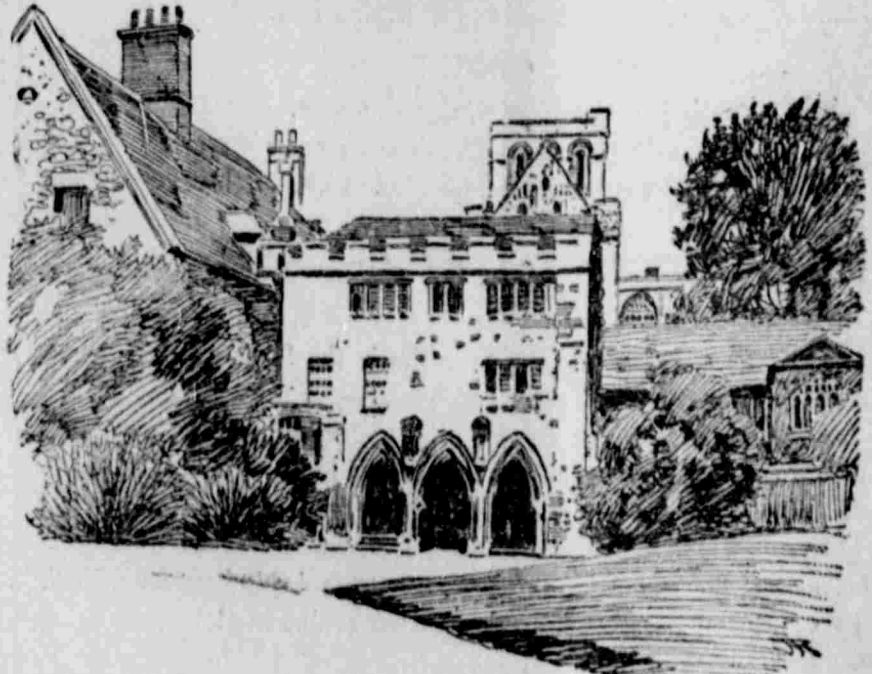


A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE IN FESTIVAL DRESS.



This is the picturesque costume in which the women of Boulogne make their processional pilgrimage each year to the shrine of "Our Lady of Boulogne." Unlike most religious festivities, this pilgrimage is not one of somber colors. It is a celebration attended with great pomp and pageantry, and in the procession first come banners, followed by bluejackets with a model of a ship, next little girls dressed to typify angels, followed by fishermen vailed in white and carrying crosses, then little boys in blue carrying anchors, and at the last the young women in picturesque native dress like that shown in the accompanying illustration. With their bright crimson petticoats, their close fitting and fanlike muslin caps and their many hued silk shawls they present a very attractive picture as they wind their way slowly along the roads of the little French town on their way to the shrine.

A DEANERY WITH A HISTORY.



It is not generally known that the long notorious Nell Gwynn was once the means of securing a bishopric for an English doctor of divinity. The story is an interesting one. During one of the visits of that merry monarch, King Charles, to Winchester, while engrossed with his plans for building a royal residence in that historic city, Mistress Nell Gwynn was, of course, in attendance. It became necessary for Charles to provide her with a lodging, so the merry monarch casually requested that Dr. Ken, then prebendary of Winchester, should receive Mistress Nell into his snug little deanery. This the reverend doctor, who had a will of his own, stoutly refused to do. King Charles was too sensible a man to take umbrage at such a just exhibition of independence and religious integrity, and so when the bishopric of Bath and Wells became vacant this capricious sovereign promptly inquired for the good little man who had refused to take the profligate Mistress Gwynn under his deanery roof, and as promptly made him the next bishop. The accompanying illustration shows this historic old deanery at Winchester which was once the scene of such regal goings on.

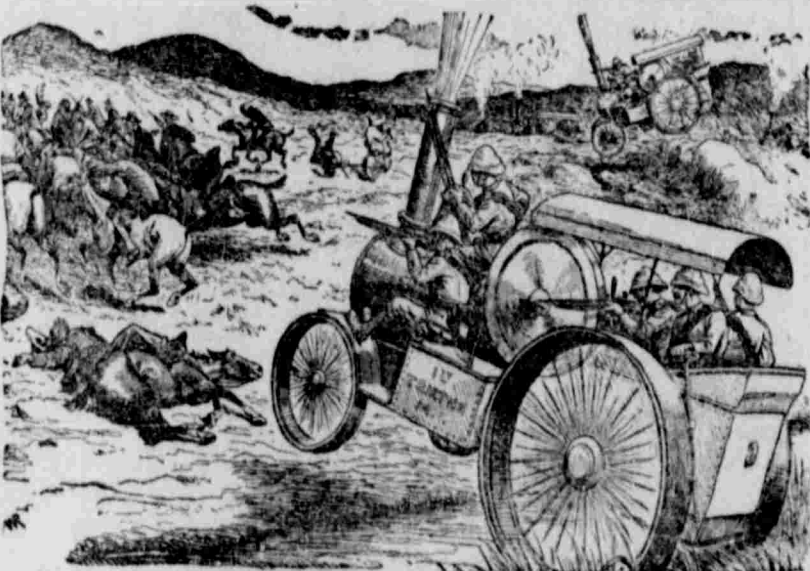
A VALUABLE FRENCH POODLE.

Rajah, whose portrait is herewith reproduced, is one of the costliest French poodles now in existence. Rajah is the property of an English woman who is a devoted dog fancier, and he has won many ribbons at different dog shows on the other side of the wa-



ter. Next year he is to be brought to America to compete for prizes at different dog shows throughout the United States, and as he is one of the handsomest specimens of his class there is every reason to believe he will carry away many honors.

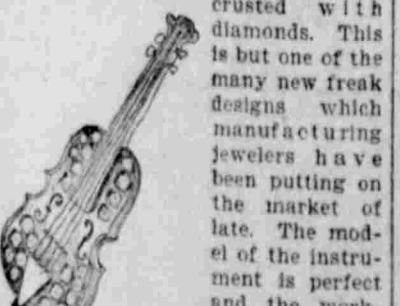
THE AUTOMOBILE IN WAR.



An English officer in South Africa has given the world his idea of how the war of the future will be carried on, and in a rather humorous sketch shows some traction mounted infantry in action against a band of Transvaal burghers. While this officer's drawing, which is herewith reproduced, is more or less of a satire on the mechanical features of modern warfare, it is true that the British have at present in operation in South Africa a great number of traction engines. These engines are used merely for the hauling of the supply wagons, however, and not for charging gallantly over Boer trenches.

A JEWELLED VIOLIN.

One of the season's novelties in the form of jewelry is a gold brooch made in the shape of a violin and richly encrusted with diamonds. This is but one of the many new freak designs which manufacturing jewelers have been putting on the market of late. The model of the instrument is perfect and the workmanship is very fine, but the appropriateness of a miniature violin as a personal ornament seems to be restricted to persons of a musical turn of mind alone.

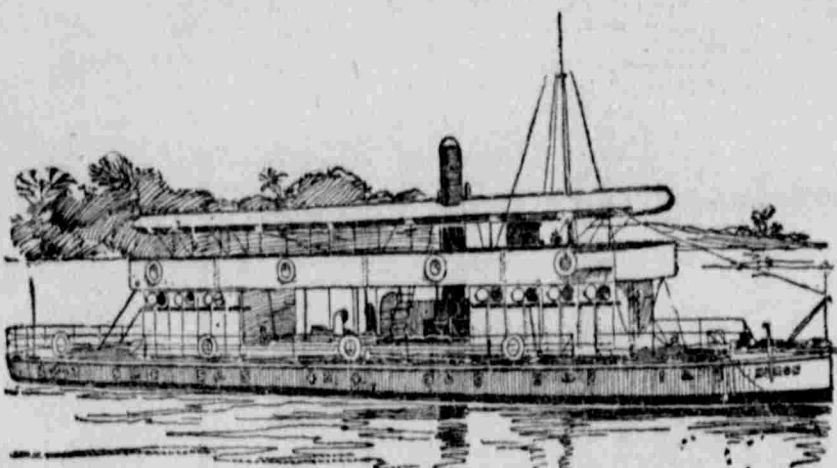


THE SAVONAROLA CHAIR.

One of the latest fads in antique furniture is the Savonarola chair which has recently been introduced into America from England. This quaint old bit of furniture is usually made of oak, heavily carved, with the seat upholstered with genuine pieces of old brocade in order to produce the proper antique effect. The wood is artificially darkened with a stain, and when the back is richly carved, as many of them are, this old fashioned seat makes a very ornamental piece of parlor furniture.



BRITAIN'S GUNBOATS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.



The accompanying illustration shows the new type of shallow draft gunboats recently adopted by the British war office for use in South Africa. Two such boats have just been built and shipped to the Cape, where they will at once be put into service against the Boers. These boats are subdivided into a number of floatable sections arranged in such a way that the different sections can be quickly united while afloat, thus enabling the boats to be put together both easily and expeditiously. Besides this, they are capable of very easy transport, considering their floating capabilities. Craft of this character have been well tested by the Britishers in Egypt during their different advances up the Nile and have proved eminently satisfactory, when armed with quick firing guns, for steaming about in shallow water and routing out an ambushed enemy.

DEWEY'S SNUFFBOX.

One of the most treasured souvenirs possessed by Admiral Dewey, it is said, is a Spanish snuffbox picked up by the admiral while at Manila. This old specimen of the jeweler's art is of silver and heavily chased. It is supposed to have been manufactured

several centuries ago, at a time when Spanish metal workers early acquired a most mysterious skill in the making of such articles as this quaint old snuffbox.

A kind of paper is made from seaweed which is so transparent that it may be used instead of glass for windows.



HISTORIC OLD TRYSTING TREE.



Here is an old, old trysting tree, which, had it the power of conversation, could tell many a tale of love and adventure. This ancient tree stands near the romantic old ruined abbey of Alnwick, and under it the gallant Hotspur once drew up his men. After that for generations it was used as a trysting place for lovers from the neighboring village.

WHERE WOUNDED BRITISHERS ARE NURSED.



The accompanying illustration shows Louresford, the attractive South African home of Sir James Siveright, where a great number of wounded British soldiers are being nursed back to health just at the present time. This picturesque home is near Cape Town, and the grounds surrounding it are a paradise of tropical and European vegetation. Sir James Siveright has not only handed over his house and estates for the use of the wounded, but has also organized a medical and nursing staff which has received official recognition from the war office in London.

A REGIMENTAL MASCOT.

Here is the mascot of one of the Welsh regiments now fighting in the South African campaign. This mascot, which is a long horned, shaggy haired Welsh goat, was presented to the regiment by Queen Victoria, and when the



men went to South Africa accompanied them to the front. On the forehead of the goat, as will be seen from the illustration, always appears the insignia of the regiment which has adopted it as a pet.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

One of the most interesting events in connection with the Paris exposition will be the holding of a world's congress of deaf mutes and their educators—a gathering which will be the first of its kind in history. Paris is the city

where the foundations of deaf mute education were first substantially laid, in 1750. It is expected that the congress will be attended by delegates from every civilized country in the world. The analytical commission appointed

by the London Lancet to investigate the composition of American cigarettes, as well as that of the most popular English makes, reports that the test failed to show opium, arsenic, phosphorus or mercury in a single instance. "There is not a single scintilla of evidence," says The Lancet, "on which

can be fairly based the allegation of the presence of any substance injurious to health." The British government keeps 11 vessels at work sounding and charting the ocean beds to find out where dangers lurk. Last year 10,000 square miles were carefully charted in different

parts of the world—Asia, Africa and the south Pacific. In Tasmania the trade in axes and saws has been almost entirely monopolized by Americans. It is now the intention to carry on international competition between teams of axmen and sawyers, using British and American

tools, with the object of proving which country manufactures the best implements. It is probable that time was first divided into the year by observations of the movements of the sun among the other heavenly bodies; that the revolutions of the moon about the earth de-

termined the length of the month, and the rising and setting of the sun marked the duration of the day. Over 1,000 houses in London are tenanted because they are popularly supposed to be haunted. In battle only one ball out of 85 takes effect.