

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

NEW YORK'S MONUMENT OF MUNIFICENCE.

THE oft quoted aphorism, "Ars longa, vita brevis"—Art is long, but life is short—receives its exemplification in the monument erected to art at the expense of the individual. Men are born, live awhile, then pass away, perchance leaving the increment of their toils to perpetuate art, sometimes unwittingly, sometimes with direct intention. In its largest sense art may be taken to mean all knowledge or the sum of knowledge, though generally restricted to a narrower range. At all events its monuments endure while men and nations perish, and thus the summum bonum of knowledge is perpetuated.

These thoughts are suggested, and the truth embodied, by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York city, which is itself a noteworthy example of the absorption of human energies directed toward the building of a monument destined to endure perhaps for all time. Other museums have been founded, have advanced to the dignity of national repositories, in which are stored the records of man's most glorious achievements in the world of art, but few, if any, have reached so elevated and commanding a position in so short a time.

Incorporated only 31 years ago and really dating from the purchase of the Cesnola collection of antiquities in 1872, the public spirited citizens who stood its sponsors and their successors have steadily kept in view their grand ideal until now, after nearly a generation has passed away, the museum contains a surpassing art collection and is an influence in art culture everywhere recognized. During the first nine years of its existence the museum occupied a small building on Fourteenth street, New York city, but in 1879 it took possession of the palatial structure situated, as millions are aware, in one of the most beautiful sections of Central park, opposite Fifth avenue and East Eighty-second street. Compared with the magnificent structures since erected as additions, it is dwarfed almost to insignificance, for during the years 1887-9 a southern extension was added, and during 1893-4 a northern wing, giving the museum as then completed a frontage toward Fifth avenue of 335 feet and a width north and south of 233 feet. But even those additions by no means

completed the plans for extension designed by the famous architect, the late Richard M. Hunt, which provided for a series of buildings to cover an area of 18½ acres. Only one-eighth the area was covered by the structures erected up to the end of 1893, and as soon as funds were provided another extension was begun in accordance with the wise and comprehensive plans of the talented architect.

lion dollar hall completed last November, a building with the general form of a parallelogram 305 feet long and 100 feet wide, connected by a gallery 105 feet long and 45 feet wide with the original or central structure of the mu-

seum. This new erection is intended as the main entrance to the entire group of buildings and is not only the finest product of the architect's skill, beautiful and magnificent, but is in harmony with the design as a whole. Even now it is estimated that but one-seventh of the completed museum has been erect-



Jacob S. Rogers.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art as First Erected in Central Park N.Y.



Main Entrance of New Wing.

The latest development of the architectural scheme was the beautiful mil-



Gen. L. P. Di Censola.

General Louis P. Di Censola, and the other Jacob S. Rogers, who recently left the museum the princely bequest of \$3,000,000. General Di Censola's Cypriote collection, as has been said, formed the nucleus of the Metropolitan museum's aggregation, and his services during the past 30 years have been invaluable. He was paid for his collection, to be sure, and also has received a salary as curator, but in the best sense his services have been disinterested, and it is acknowledged that the museum owes to him more than it can ever repay. Born in Italy in 1832 and belonging to a noble Piedmontese family, Censola fought three years in the Italian army, including the Crimean campaign, and coming to New York in 1860, married an American lady and served with distinction through the civil war, being brevetted brigadier general by President Lincoln a few days before the latter's assassination. He was United States consul at Cyprus from 1865 to 1877, during his term of office conducting those explorations which resulted in the collection he afterward brought to the United States and sold to the museum. He has been honored by kings abroad and by colleges in this country, his books having made him famous. Elected a trustee and secretary of the Metropolitan museum in 1878, he has devoted all his energies ever since to the promotion of its interests and is the moving spirit of its development.

A man of different mold was the latest benefactor of the museum, Jacob S. Rogers, the millionaire locomotive builder of Paterson, N. J., who has bestowed upon it the fortune accumulated through the business energy and sagacity of a lifetime and who during his career manifested little interest in art save as an amateur. A bachelor, reclusive, eccentric and reputedly parsimonious, Mr. Rogers divided his time between his elegant home in Paterson, surrounded by a park filled with red deer as pets; his farm at Pompton, where he raised blooded cattle, his club in New York, where he died, and Paris, his favorite city. The contrast between the lives of these two men, the one devoted to art during his life and directing his best endeavors to its promotion, the other apparently indifferent to art for art's sake, but at the end his greatest benefactor, is conspicuous.

LARGEST GORILLA EVER DISCOVERED

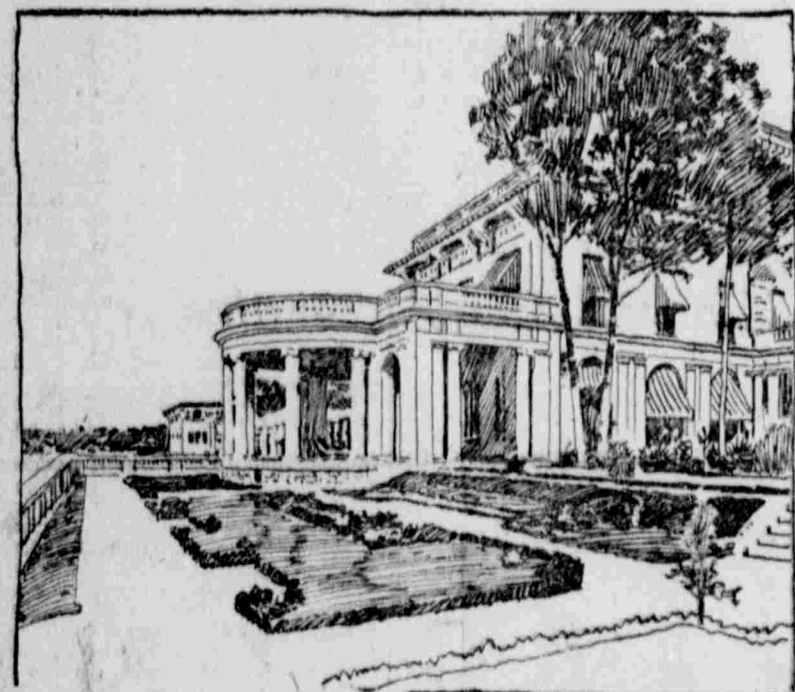
There may be other gorillas in the unexplored forests of Africa, but the accompanying illustration is the largest so far known. It has been seen and killed. The hunter, a man traveler, Herr P. von K. who was in Cameroon territory, brought it to the United States. After four months' manipulation expert taxidermists the skin of this gorilla has been stuffed and mounted.



The Umlauf museum in Hamburg where it may now be seen. Larger than the average man, this gorilla measures 6 feet 10 inches from the crown of his head to the middle of his arm, and along his outstretched arms, from middle finger to middle finger, 3 feet 3 inches. No wonder this beast terrified the country through and that no native in gunshot of him those brave arms.

A RAPID WRITER. Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, whose portrait appears in the work, having written her tragedy, "Madame Delphie," in the incredibly short space of three days. How long she was thinking about it and digesting the material is quite another story. She is the wife of the talented Irishman whose name she bears, but is a native of Texas, the daughter of a local judge. Her reminiscences are supposed to be contained in her sprightly play, "A Lady from Texas." In personal appearance Mrs. O'Connor is small and comely, with dark hair and eyes. She is a bright and witty conversationalist, with a generous fund of anecdote.

E. C. BENEDICT'S SEASIDE RESIDENCE.



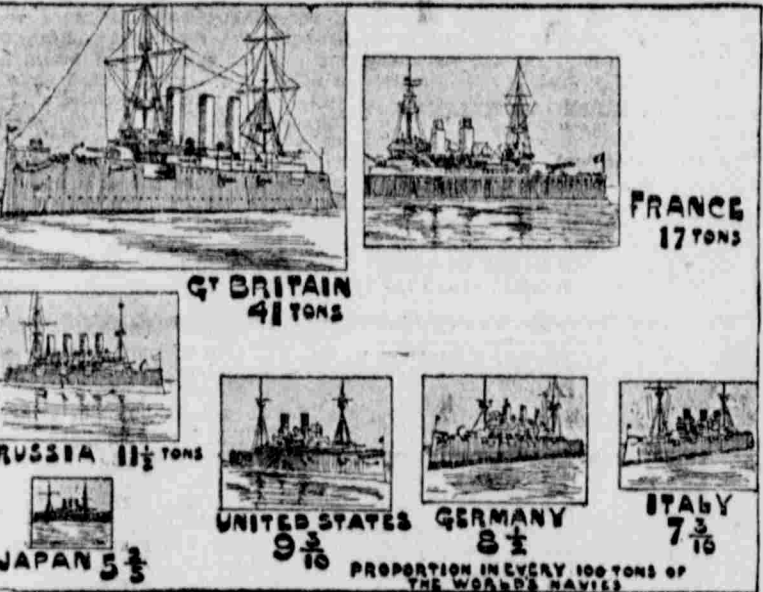
The beautiful structure shown in the illustration herewith has frequently been alluded to as one of the handsomest seaside houses in America, so charmingly does it harmonize with its surroundings. It is the summer residence of E. C. Benedict, retired banker and amateur yachtsman, and is situated at Indian Harbor, the former summer retreat of Boss Tweed. More than a million dollars were spent in improving the property after its acquisition by Benedict, who employed hundreds of workmen and engaged a celebrated architect to draw the plans of the house, which is in the Italian Renaissance style, about 65 feet high, cruciform in shape, with covered colonnades leading down to terraces and the general air of a Mediterranean villa. It is covered with white marbled stucco, has red tiled roof and floors as well as large balconies and miradors, from which are outspread most entrancing views of sea and shore.

A DISTINGUISHED ASTRONOMER. Professor Edward Charles Pickering, who was recently honored by the Royal Astronomical society with a gold medal for his invaluable work on the variable stars, is a descendant of the famous Timothy Pickering who was adjutant general under Washington in the Revolu-



tion and his secretary of state and war when he was president. He was born in Boston in 1846 and is now director of the Harvard university observatory, which he has made one of the foremost in the world. This is the second time he has received a gold medal from the great astronomical society, the first having been awarded for his photometric researches, during which he observed, measured and catalogued many thousand stars.

THE WORLD'S FIGHTING TONNAGE AT A GLANCE.



By means of the comparison presented in the accompanying illustration the world's naval tonnage may be taken in almost at a glance. It is not claimed that it is more than approximately correct; but, so far as can be ascertained, it seems that of the total tonnage of the world's greatest navies Great Britain possesses 1,324,000 tons (41 per cent) and 36 out of every 100 guns, with France coming second with 764,000 tons or an average of 17 out of every 100 guns. The United States does not make quite so good a showing as either France or Great Britain so far, but when all the ships contracted for shall have been launched she will have a different story to tell.

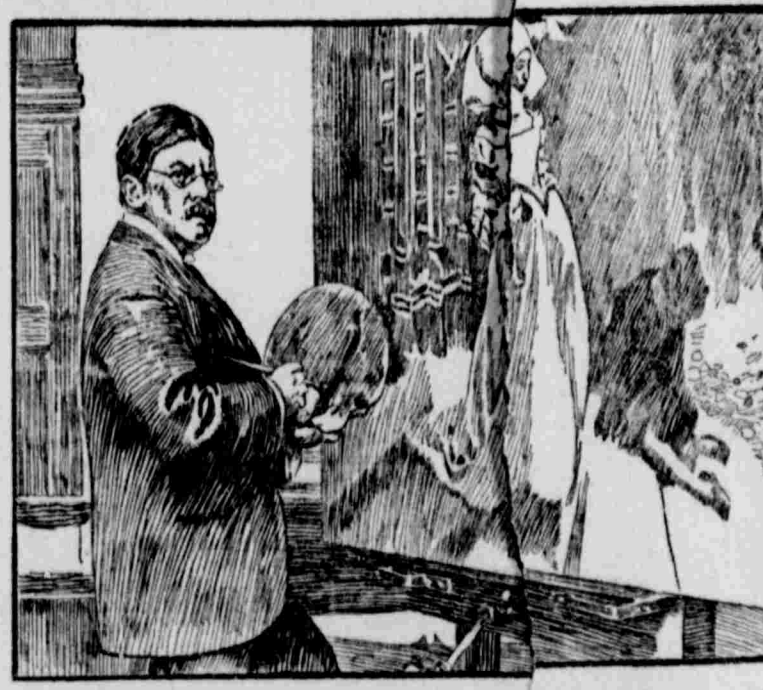
OUR TALLEST MAN. Seven feet seven inches in height is a pretty good showing for a man, and a young man at that, but that is what is claimed by the original of this illustration, Vought Burke of Englishtown, N. J. As a child of 6, when taken to school, he passed for one of 10, and on one occasion when he walked past the schoolroom window on his own feet the master thrashed him for walking on stilts, which were forbidden. Whenever a circus came to town he obtained

THE COUNTESS VON BULOW. This brilliant and fascinating woman, wife of the chancellor of Germany, has had a varied career. She is still considered one of the handsomest women of Europe, though she is now more than 50 years old and has a daughter of 32. More than 25 years ago she posed



in the nude to a famous painter who has immortalized her charms in a painting now owned by the city of Hamburg. The countess is a Sicilian, Marie Zoe Beccadelli di Bologna, princess of Camporeale. She was married when young to Count Doenhoff and met her present husband when he was an underling subject to Doenhoff's orders. Now conditions are reversed, and she is again a countess, while her former husband occupies a position similar to that which Count Bulow held in former times. The wheel of fortune seems to have favored these two, and by right of natural gifts they have won their high positions. The countess, a fine musician, was once a favorite pupil of Liszt and is endowed with many accomplishments which go to make her successful as the "second lady of the empire."

AMERICAN ARTIST TO PAINT A PORTRAIT OF KING EDWARD.



It is not surprising to the friends of Edwin A. Abbey, the American artist so long resident in England, that he has been commissioned by King Edward VII to paint his portrait, for it is now more than ten years since his first successful picture was exhibited in London, and he has been for the last three years an associate of the Royal academy. Born in Philadelphia in 1852, Mr. Abbey won his first laurels on this side the water, becoming an illustrator, but for 13 years past has resided in England.

THE HISTORIC RUINS OF KENILWORTH.



One of the most attractive of purely English ruins is that of Kenilworth castle, a portion of which is presented in the accompanying illustration. It is now greatly decayed, but so far as possible it will be restored so that those who visit it in the future will be able to conjure up its beauties at the time. For instance, when Queen Elizabeth was so royally entertained by the Earl of Leicester for more than two weeks an episode which forms the theme of Sir Walter Scott's romance of "Kenilworth."

A CORNISH FISHWIFE.

The people of Cornwall, the ethnologists say, have a Celtic strain in their composition, as shown by the portrait of a Cornish fishwife presented in the accompanying illustration. The Cornish fishwives, by the way, have taken a hand in the annual fracas which is now going on over a real or fancied invasion of their rights by outsiders. The native fishermen are religiously disposed and go to church on Sundays, holding that the finny inhabitants of



their waters have a right to at least one day in seven for rest and recreation. But the foreign fishermen do not respect these commendable sentiments, hence the excitement of the outraged fishermen and the presence of one of H. I. M.'s gunboats to patrol the coast.

EAGLES OF KILLARNEY.

The famous eagles which used to haunt the lakes of Killarney, making their home in the Eagle's Nest mountain, have been exterminated within the last three years.

HEAD HUNTERS OF THE CAMPHOR COUNTRY.



Since the island of Formosa became a Japanese possession by treaty with the Chinese in 1895 the new owners have turned their attention to the development of its vast resources. One of the most valuable of its productions is camphor, which, though the mikado has a monopoly, he has thrown open to the world. The real reason for this act on his part is said to be that most of the camphor is only to be obtained in the wild interior forests of the island, where the fierce head hunters dwell, and any one who goes in search of it takes his life in his hands. The Formosa head hunters, of whom a group is shown in the illustration, have never been subdued, and there seems little likelihood that they ever will be. Their great desire is to obtain possession of a many human heads as possible, to get which they organize expeditions, destroy peaceful villages and ravage large tracts of country. Fears are entertained for a party of English and American camphor hunters who sailed for Formosa several months ago and from whom no news has been received since they left the coast for the interior.



a free view by looking over the fence, and whenever there is a parade he is in demand to head the procession dressed in costume as Uncle Sam. He admits finding his abnormal inches rather inconvenient at times, but in window washing and picture hanging times he has all he can do, being able to perform his work without the use of a stepladder.

AROUND THE WORLD.

Immigration for the 11 months ending with May increased 46,073. The butter output of Minnesota this year will exceed that of any previous year. During the last summer season the ascent of Mont Blanc was made by 141 tourists. The 4,000 or more Boer prisoners at

St. Helena have started the publication of a weekly newspaper.

The inhabitants of the province of Ontario write more letters than those of all the rest of Canada. The original capital of the Kongo Free State railway is 25,000,000 francs (\$5,000,000), and the receipts at 8,000 francs (\$1,600) per kilometer mean a

dividend of about 150 francs per 50 franc share.

In three months no fewer than 38 German generals have been pensioned and their places filled by younger men. No century has ever begun on a Wednesday, a Friday or a Sunday, and the same order of days is repeated every 29 years. January and October of each year always begin with the same day; so with April and July; so with

September and December; so with February, March and November.

It has been estimated that it will require 55 men working every day until 1917 to unearth the entire ruins of Pompeii. According to the anthropologist Alfredo Niesefer, a north Italian differs less from a German than he does from a Sicilian. It is interesting to know that there

are enough negro bankers in the United States to hold a convention in Buffalo in late September.

Probably the most extraordinary journal in the world is published weekly in Athens. It is written in verse, even the advertisements. A company has just been formed in Geneva, Switzerland, to fill the gap left by ordinary insurance companies and issue policies against accident and loss

of life to Alpine guides. This is the first company of the kind ever formed.

A stingless bee has been discovered in Montserrat, in the West Indies. It gathers honey the quality of which can be improved by modern hives. In 1866 the people paid \$148,000 for interest on the public debt. The amount now is \$29,000,000, and the rate has declined from 7.50 per cent to 2 per cent. A waterproof paper has just

been brought out in Manchester, England, is meeting with great success. It is made up of two sheets of brown paper stuck together with a rubber solution.

The bee and honey raisers of North Germany are having a hard time. They feel the competition of the artificial honey factories very much. The artificial product contains often no more than 10 per cent of natural honey.