

Mount Vesuvius and the Modern Neapolitan; He Is Very Like His Volcano Trusting Ancestor



within hearing of the almost constant muttering and howling of the mountain.

Many of these habitations have their foundations laid in banks of lava which has come down from the mountain. When they are buried in a fresh

have been seismic disturbances at intervals sufficient to prove that the fiery monster has only been sleeping.

But it has taught the Neapolitan no especial lesson. He is the same today as ever, and there is no promise that tomorrow will work any change in him. Naples is in all things superlative and self contradictory. Its people

is a region of caricature, and every bargain sounds like a battle. It seems to you that all the city's inhabitants are in the open air and that all its trade is carried on in the street. All sorts of vendors jostle each other on every side, and the atmosphere is rent with their not unmelodious importunities.

Besides the dealers in lemonade and melons and hot sausages and roasted chestnuts and macaroni in its protean forms that are common to all Italian cities there are professional letter writers who for an infinitesimal fee will indite a love letter or a dun, street cobblers who will mend your shoes while you wait, barbers who will shave you or cut your hair on the pavement and a thousand and one other persons who are willing, but not over-anxious, to serve you in as many ways.

When you see it all and become somewhat acquainted with the nature of the Neapolitan you no longer wonder why it is that even Mount Vesuvius with its towering menace through all the centuries has not been able to make a lasting impression on the happy go lucky Neapolitan.

EDWARD J. STILES.

POSTMEN ON SNOWSHOES.

Strength and courage are needed by the men employed in delivering the mails in the Rocky mountains. In winter the undertaking is difficult and dangerous. Sometimes the carrier is swept away by a snowslide, and months roll by before the brave fellow and the mail pouch are found. About fifty of these mountain carriers risk their lives daily on the dangerous trails in Colorado, carrying the mails on snowshoes to the most remote mining camps.

Only hardy men of resource can do this work, for twenty-five pounds of letters, papers and packages become very heavy and burdensome in climbing the mountains. These carriers know the peaks, passes and trails as well as the city carriers do the streets and numbers of their districts.

On reaching the summit the carrier straddles the pole, and placing his snowshoes close together, begins his descent. One accustomed to the work will go down the mountains with the swiftness of the wind—a mile a minute.

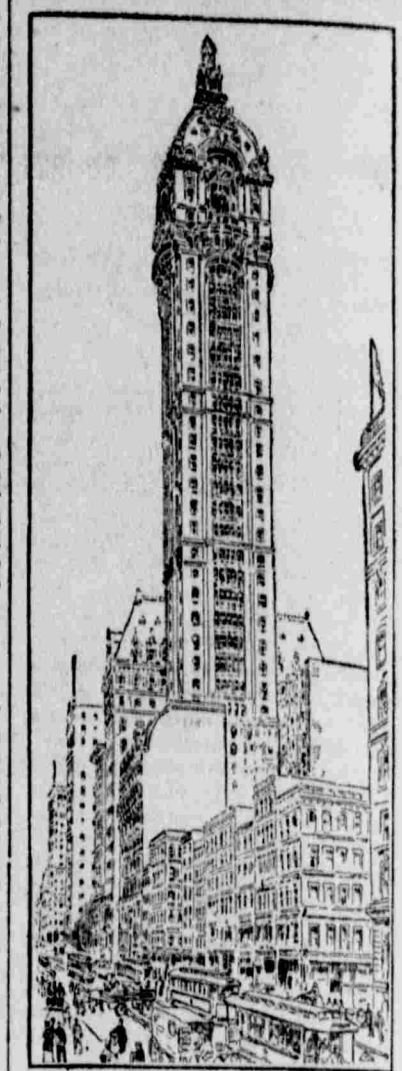
But it is not so with the one who is inexperienced, for out slips the guiding pole, up come the snowshoes and the unfortunate carrier, mail bag and all, goes rolling down the mountains instead of sliding down them.

AN ENORMOUS SEAL.

Not the least interesting thing in the recent French presidential election was the great seal of the republic—a seal so great that its progress to and from Versailles entails something like a procession. It dates from the national assembly of 1871 and exhibits a full sized France on her feet. It is so tremendous an instrument that it is mounted on a wheel and requires three men to maneuver it. On the day of the election it was affixed to the three regulation copies of the official record of the proceedings—one for the new president and one for each of the archives of the senate and of the chamber, after which it was solemnly escorted back to its domicile in Paris.

THE WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING IN NEW YORK

No skyscraper that has ever been erected can compare in loftiness with the Singer building, which will tower above Broadway at the corner of Liberty street, New York city. It will soar upward to a height of forty stories, 555 feet from the ground level to the highest point of the cupola. The



famous Park Row building, which has enjoyed the reputation of being the champion skyscraper, has only thirty-two stories, and the new structure will be twice the height of the Flatiron building, which has been one of the sights of the metropolis ever since its erection.

THE LAZY MAN.

It must be admitted that some of the best work that has lived has been done by indolent men. This is especially true as regards literature. The finest description of a sunrise was written by the poet Thomson in bed. Coleridge was one of the most indolent of men, yet his work is, of its kind, unsurpassed.

One of the most important improvements in the steam engine was due to the indolence of James Watt. Many other examples might be quoted; but, as a general rule, it is fairly correct to say that work which is the outcome of meditation or prolonged observation is best performed by people whose natural indolence makes them careless of the strife and bustle in which an active temperament would tend to immerse them.

Electric fishes, exposed to the action of radium, have been found to lose their electric power completely and to suffer in health.

Unique Phases of Life From All Over the World; Strange People, Interesting Scenes and Famous Folk

A RICH BRETON PEASANT.

Mlle. de Gueneo, herewith reproduced from a recent photograph, is a young Frenchwoman who has been painted by many great artists. She is the daughter of one of the richest peasant farmers in Brittany. At her wedding,



which occurred recently, over \$4,000 was spent in the attendant festivities. No fewer than 2,000 peasants were present as guests, and the number of tents required for their accommodation during the three days necessitated the cutting down of several acres of woodland.

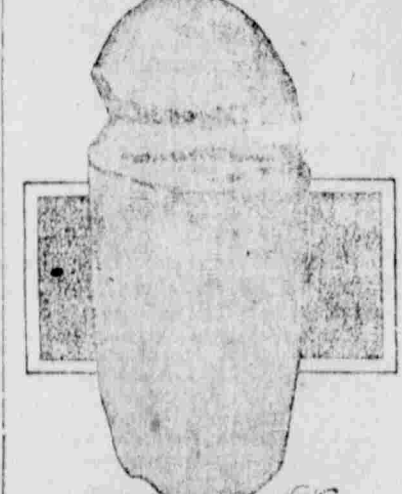
A MACHINE WHICH SUPPLIES AND PRINTS TICKETS.



The tessograph, an automatic contrivance which prints, issues and registers railway tickets with a speed that meets the approval of even the most impatient traveler, is the invention of an Italian, Count Piscicella. It is intended to protect the railway company from dishonesty as well as to save time and labor. The value, number and description of each ticket are registered.

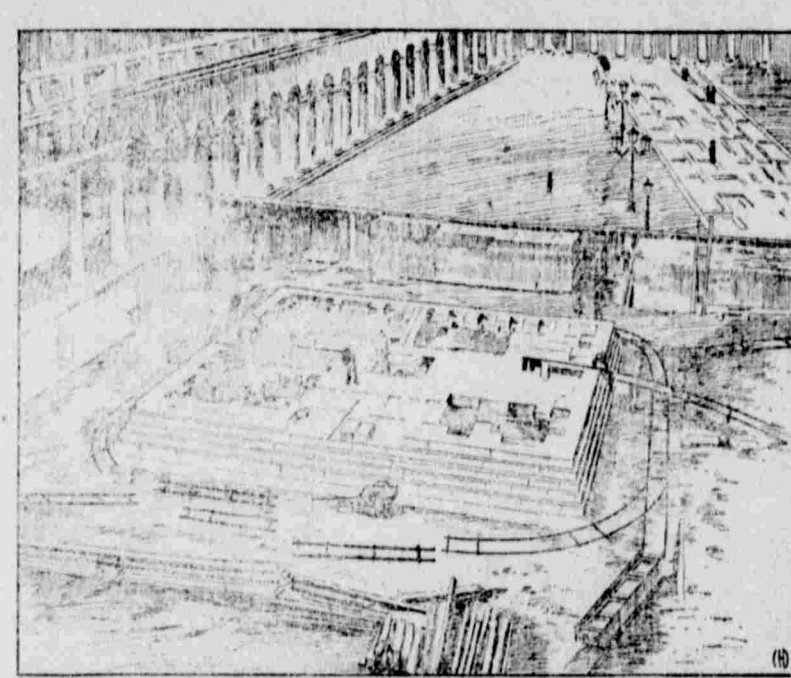
AN ANCIENT RELIC.

The curious object herewith pictured is the stone battleaxe once wielded by that renowned Indian warrior, King Philip, chief of the Wampanoags or Pokanokets. This formidable weapon



is eight inches in length, four in width and about two and a quarter in thickness at the middle. It is now in the possession of Miss Betty Ide Goldthwait, a descendant of Daniel Ide of Rehoboth, Mass., one of those who in 1676 pursued the valiant Indian chieftain to his death.

REBUILDING THE CAMPANILE.



The cut shows the present condition of the work on the tower of St. Mark, Venice, the famous campanile which collapsed suddenly over three years ago. The foundations have been laid and the work of laying the superstructure has recently begun. Ample means have been secured to complete the rebuilding, and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. Restoration of some portion of the great basilica is going on constantly.

A VALUABLE BIBLE.

The Bible once owned by Ben Jonson is to be sold at auction in London. It is written in Latin and was published by John Moestus of Antwerp, Belgium, in 1599. It is the vulgate of Pope Six-



tus V., and the title page is a beautiful piece of work. On a fly leaf, in the great writer's own quaint handwriting, is the inscription, "Ex dono Thomae Strange, Benjamin Jonsonius me tenet."

FENCING AS PRACTICED AT A JAPANESE POLICE STATION IN TOKYO



AN UNEQUAL CONTEST.
Returning visitors from Japan have had a good deal to say about the admirable fencing of the Tokyo police force. The cut shows a rather unequal contest between two Japanese policemen. One is armed with a sword and the other with a stick.



MASKS AND ARMOR.
The principals in these practice duels wear helmets and body armor made of skins. Wire masks protect the face, and all the ordinary precautions against injury are employed. Both singlesticks and swords are used as well as double sticks of bamboo.



A LEFT HAND THRUST.
One of the most deadly strokes in Japanese fencing is the left hand thrust. As practiced by the Tokyo police this move is especially effective, much stress being put on its proper delivery. How to guard against this powerful lunge is also taught exhaustively.



GROUP OF JAPANESE FENCERS.
The cut shows a group of Tokyo policemen equipped for practice. While fencing they behave as if they were in actual warfare, springing about with catlike movements and yelling as the excitement increases until one or the other is obliged to acknowledge defeat.



A DESPERATE SITUATION.
One of the contestants, as appears in the picture, has been felled to the ground by a heavy blow from his opponent's stick. His only available resource is to make a thrust at the lower part of his adversary's body, and it is doubtful if he has the strength.



ARMED WITH TWO SWORDS.
Sometimes a stirring bout with two swords is fought. The short weapon is used for defense and the longer one for the attack. This kind of fencing requires the most skillful and alert management to steer clear of accident, even though the contest is a mimic one.



OFF HIS GUARD.
In the picture one of the lighters has raised his weapon in both hands to inflict a crushing blow, but before he can launch it his wily and agile opponent will seize the opportunity to pierce his unguarded body. This is one of the most telling moves in Japanese fencing.