ONE OF AMERICA'S OLD CURIOSITY SHOPS.

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IT IS not often that history has been the handmaid of the beer pump. It seems a far cry from foaming lager to colonial furniture, but the death of an eccentric old saloon keeper of Flushing, N. Y., has shown that the mixer of the mint julep may also be a skilled and judicious gleaner of antiquities, as a glimpse at the relics and antique treasures left by the recently deceased John J. Halleran will show.

JOHN J. HALLERAN.

For over a quarter of a century this eccentric old man's place has been the haunt of dealers and private collectors, who came often from long distances to examine and purchase some of the valuable and rare relics which Mr. Halleran was so successful in securing. His advice was frequently sought by private collectors regarding the authenticity of articles in their possession. His knowledge of the subject was the more remarkable as he was a man who had had little opportunity for education in his early years and whose business as saloon keeper would, it might be thought, have left him little leisure for the study of antiques. Many of the articles were collected by Mr. Halleran in the course of driving trips which he made for that purpose among the quaint old Long Island towns. He would stop at the farmhouses, inquire whether their owners had any old things they were willing to sell and would bargain for them until an agreement was effected. Many valuable pieces of china and furniture were obtained from colored families, the older members of whom, when slaves, had received the things from their masters, who then considered them old fashioned and useless.

A ROOMFUL OF HALLERAN'S ANTIQUES.

The Halleran collection now fills not only the entire building—a great, old fashioned, dignified house, formerly used by the family as a residence—from top to bottom, but half a dozen other houses.

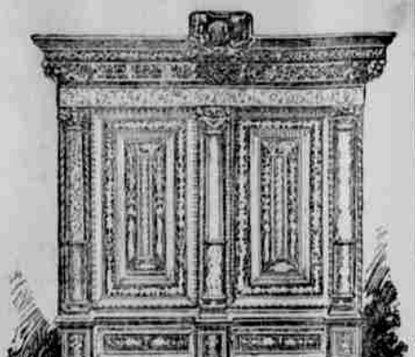
A dealer in antiques who had charge of preparing the valuable collection for sale is authority for the statement that the number of pieces, including prints and bits of virtu, will be at least 10,000.

As a character Mr. Halleran was one of the most curious specimens of modern times. He would never attend a visitor who wished to purchase unless he felt in the humor. It is related of him that he was once visited by some New York people of wealth who were desirous of purchasing a very valuable ring which he had in his possession. When the message was brought to him, he was serving beer to his customers behind the bar in his saloon. At the interruption he looked up with a frown on his usually refined, good humored face and answered shortly, "Tell them I am selling beer today; they will have to come some other time," against which edict there was no appeal. One refined trait which indicates the collector's mania better than anything else was his habit of buying whenever and wherever he could, regardless of the fact that every available empty building was full to overflowing and that it became a matter of serious import where the things were to be put. He had shelves put in the stable over the horses' heads, and it was nothing unusual to see the incongruous combination of an ordinary, everyday horse calmly munching oats surrounded by lime, stale and shelves full of priceless antiques of every description.

Among the odd things of historic interest still in the collection are great numbers of Revolutionary relics, historical engravings and paintings. There is a picture of Edwin Bright, late of Malden, in Essex, who died on Nov. 18, 1759, at the age of 29 years, weighing 680 pounds; one of George Washington's last interviews with his mother, and a letter of Washington where he gives the command, "Put none but Americans on guard tonight." A one horse chaise of the period of 1776 is another queer looking contrivance. The body is painted yellow, and the wheels and shafts are black.

An ancient pipe organ is also in the curiosity shop. It formerly belonged to Dr. Van Zandt of Brooklyn and is said to be over 100 years old. A walking cane with a timepiece in the head of it was one of Mr. Halleran's favorite possessions. The watch is a good timekeeper, it is said. Another oddity is a pair of Spanish dancing boots. The heels are hollow, with little holes bored in the bottom of them. The heels are filled with Spanish coins.

Other curiosities are in the group of relics illustrated, which are interesting and represent forty-seven old pieces. Among these, as will be seen, are quaint or bizarre, colonial hats, Washington guard swords, lanterns of our daddies, Revolutionary swords, flintlock duelling pistols, a Revolutionary cap, a foreign helmet, a sampler with the words "P. M. Atherton, First Massachusetts Cavalry, Company K," engraved thereon, Revolutionary epaulets, a Washington Riflemen's sword, Revolutionary powder flasks, old time bellows, a copper urn, broadsides, Revolutionary stirrups, an army cocked hat, old fashioned tin coffee pots, Spanish dancing boots, a pewter teapot, a pewter pitcher and offertory plate, illustrated, which are interesting and represent forty-seven old pieces. Among these, as will be seen, are quaint or bizarre, colonial hats, Washington guard swords, lanterns of our daddies, Revolutionary swords, flintlock duelling pistols, a Revolutionary cap, a foreign helmet, a sampler with the words "P. M. Atherton, First Massachusetts Cavalry, Company K," engraved thereon, Revolutionary epaulets, a Washington Riflemen's sword, Revolutionary powder flasks, old time bellows, a copper urn, broadsides, Revolutionary stirrups, an army cocked hat, old fashioned tin coffee pots, Spanish dancing boots, a pewter teapot, a pewter pitcher and offertory plate, with maps of the same metal; old fashioned candlesticks, an old basket for flames, old foldpan warmers, old style farmyard pictures, an old fashioned hand painted mirror, an old colonial chair, an old time spinning wheel and tones and stand, andirons, long handled frying pans, an old Dutch vest, flintlock guns, a waffle iron, a Revolutionary warming pan, a Russian samovar and Revolutionary horse bits.



AN OLD WARDROBE.

A splendid piece of furniture is an old fashioned cupboard, which is inlaid with satinwood, mother of pearl, etc. The carving on this piece of furniture is exquisite. There are lots of old newspapers from the seventeenth century up; also a report of the proceedings of the board of village trustees of Flushing for the year 1811 in pamphlet form and a New York and Brooklyn directory for 1811. According to data furnished by this directory, there were 218 business places in Brooklyn at that time.

Some beautiful specimens of Chippendale furniture are included in the collection, one sideboard in particular being a notable example. There is a great Dutch cupboard inlaid with satinwood, ebony and ivory and handsomely carved. It bears the arms of the family of Humphries and was picked up by Mr. Halleran at a storage warehouse sale in New York. Articles of furniture once owned by Henry Clay and others formerly the property of General Winfield Scott have an personal interest from their associations. There are some gold buttons which were presented to Mr. Clay by a few of his admirers and were worn by him for many years.

In the china collection there is a curious set of a dozen plates illustrating Lafayette's arrival in this country. Other historical plates represent Macdonough's victory on Lake Champlain in 1814 and the battle of Bunker Hill.

Two old timepieces are among the collections. One is a clock that dates back 225 days. It was presented as an auction sale of Valentine Hicks's effects in Flushing some time ago and had been in that family half a century, running steadily with but a stoppage in that time. The timepiece is handmade and is said to be about 80 years old.

Another curious piece is a 30 day clock of Swiss make. It is three feet high and 20 inches wide. The case is of hard wood, over the top of which is a deer's head. The dial is of wood, with white letters. Beneath the face are two small doors, by the sides of which hang bags of game, with two rare crooked. The hour is announced by two bagpipes, one of whose steps out of the door at alternate hours and blows a loud blast on his instrument. The clock is operated by weights and is said to be a good timekeeper. Both these clocks are very old and are handsomely mounted, giving evidence of decorative ability.

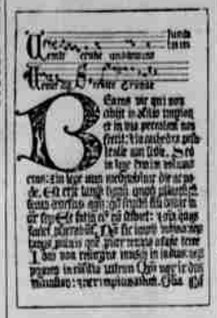
I was shown a facsimile of a gigantic gold ring presented to President Franklin Pierce. The ring, according to history, weighs upward of a pound. This massive ring, for design, elegance of execution and high style of finish, is remarkable. The circular portion of the ring is cut into squares, which stand at right angles with each other, the entire group presenting a historical picture of California, where the gift was sent. The part of the ring reserved for a seal is covered by a solid and deeply carved plate of gold, bearing the arms of the state of California in the center, surmounted by the banner and stars of the United States and, inscribed with "Frank Pierce" in old Roman characters. A lid opens upon a hinge and permits to view underneath a square box divided by bars of gold into separate compartments, each containing a rare specimen of the varieties of ore found in the country. Among the other curiosities is a peculiar pronunciamento, dingy with age and hardly readable, bearing the signature of Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Among Mr. Halleran's many eccentricities was his settled aversion to having his picture taken. By dint of much persuasion in a weak moment a snapshot was taken of him standing near a beer barrel. He insisted on putting it among his antique treasures. I was given permission to use it for the first time.

LOTTIE GERMAINE.

A Page From An Ancient Book.

The interesting page of mediæval typography herewith produced is of particular historical value because of the fact that it is from the second earliest printed book bearing date, place and printer's name now in existence. It is a page of the reprint of the "Psalter printed at Mainz in 1459 by Fauss and Schoeffer. The original Mainz Psalter, which was the world's first printed book bearing date, place and printer's name, was issued by the same printers in August, 1457. It was in large missal type, the text being Latin and above it appearing the various diagonal notes of early Gregorian music. Schoeffer himself manufactured the type for this edition and the same blocks were used for the reprints of 1459, 1490 and in 1502. The copy of the Psalter from which the illustration is taken is valued at over 100,000 by experienced bibliophiles. This is the highest price ever put on a book, Shakespeare's rare folio of 1632 not excepted.



Entrance For Paris Exhibition.

As the date for the opening of the great Paris exhibition gradually draws nearer the world's interest in that gigantic undertaking continues to increase. Our sister republic is making tremendous efforts to outdo us and our historic World's fair, and the flower of her genius, both in the artistic and the mechanical circles of Paris, has been called into requisition for the purpose. M. Binet, who received the honor of the appointment of architect of the exhibition, has now completed his model of the entrance, and by special arrangement we are allowed to reproduce it for the benefit of our readers.

This magnificent entrance arch, as will be seen from the illustration, is unique in architectural design and imposing in dimensions. While certain alterations may yet be made in details the general character of the final arch will be the same as that of the model whose picture we present.

A Half Caste Girl of Samoa.

The dusky young lady whose photograph is here shown may be taken as a type of the Samoan half caste, being the half caste daughter of a German resident at Apia who figured conspicuously in the recent trouble in the islands.

In all tropical countries apart from the more beaten paths of travel whitener a superior race in relatively nearly numbers is thrown into association with a large mass of an inferior and servile race there is a sound disposition of the population which caused claim to be of the superior race, yet is too proud to become a part of the lower. Samoa, in common with similar communities, has its half castes, who are in time to become a considerable factor in the situation.

A Strange Relic.

One of the most precious relics treasured by the church in Rome is the "Santo Bambino" or holy child. It is a small gold image literally incrusted with precious jewels, and from a worldly standpoint is calculated to be worth more than a quarter of a million dollars. But its greatest value is said to lie in its miraculous curative powers. In Rome it is known as the "Little Doctor" and may often be seen driven through the streets of the imperial city in a very expensive carriage, with outriders and a great deal of ceremony, on its way to visit a patient. On the day of the Feast of the Epiphany it is taken out in solemn procession and paraded through the streets of the city for the benefit of the populace. All fervent citizens who catch sight of the sacred relic during this procession instantly fall on their knees.

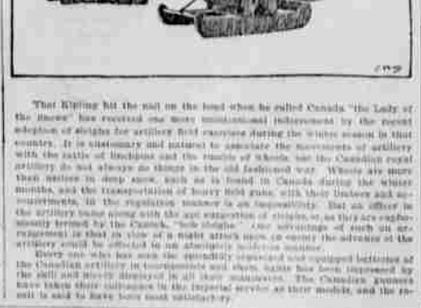
As it has just been announced that a committee of cardinals has recommended a pilgrimage to Rome of all available Catholics to celebrate the passing of the nineteenth century, an opportunity will be given for many of the faithful to see for the first time this sacred relic.

A New Child Author.

Zangwill, the well known Jewish author and lecturer, has just discovered a girl genius in the person of Miss Mary Antin, a little Russian Jew, 11 years of age. Not long ago Mary Antin traveled all the way from the center of Russia to America, settling with her family in Boston. He wrote the story of that long journey, and when Zangwill was in Boston his attention was drawn to this remarkable literary production. He read the narrative with great surprise and delight and was so impressed with the literary skill shown by the girlish author that he has been prophesying great things from her pen.

Boston has the habit of springing a new genius on the world every year or two, and if Mr. Israel Zangwill is not playing a practical joke on his great array of American admirers one feels it soon to be added to the ever swelling list of great persons produced by the country of the czars.

Artillery Mounted on Sleighs.



That Kipling hit the nail on the head when he called Canada "the Lady of the Snows" has received one more unmistakable indorsement by the recent adoption of sleighs for artillery field exercises during the winter season in that country. It is customary and natural to associate the movements of artillery with the rattle of linchpins and the rumble of wheels, but the Canadian royal artillery do not always do things in the old fashioned way. Where are more than usual in deep snow, such as is found in Canada during the winter months, and the transportation of heavy field guns, with their limbers and accoutrements, in the regulation manner is an impossibility. But an officer in the artillery came along with the age suggestion of origin, so that guns ordinarily hitched to the Canada "sole sleighs" can take advantage of such an arrangement in that in case of a night attack men can enjoy the advantage of the artillery could be effected in an absolutely noiseless manner.

Every one who has seen the specially organized and equipped batteries of the Canadian artillery in transportation and drill, must have been impressed by the skill and alacrity displayed in all their maneuvers. The Canadian gunners have taken their calibrations in the imperial service as their models, and the result is said to have been most satisfactory.

How the African Rebels Are Bound.

When a progressive and civilized nation attempts to take up the brown man's burden, its agents are forced at times to resort to almost uncivilized expedients before they can properly impress the irresponsible brown man with their good intentions. In Sierra Leone, for instance, where is one of the African territories under an English protectorate, English officers have to resort to a peculiar method of binding all unruly natives during their transportation to prisons. The English officers in this troublesome African country find that the natives are to be kept down with a very firm hand, and notwithstanding the satisfaction of the English there are numerous and frequent uprisings and revolts. During these disturbances many of the savage "war boys" who are not killed in the engagements are taken prisoners and have to be duly punished for their numerous sins and wickedness. The accompanying illustration shows the method to which the English are forced to resort in preventing the escape of their prisoners before they can be placed in proper confinement.

Postoffice at Khartum.

As Kipling has graphically shown in his poem "The Overland Mail," the mail bags of her gracious majesty Queen Victoria pass through some very peculiar hands and reach some very out of the way corners of this world. One of the oddest postoffices now in the dominion of British rule is the little stone postoffice in the city of Khartum.

As will be seen from the accompanying illustration, that office is a very unpretentious one, but it is said that already a great quantity of mail matter passes through it during the year. One of the first results of the gallant Kitchener's reconquest of the Sudan has been the establishment of a new fast mail route to the outer country.

English officials are now installed in this faraway postoffice, and under them is a body of trained native clerks.

A View of the Island of Jolo.

The accompanying illustration is from the first published photograph of Jolo, the island which the sultan of Sulu has asked to be placed under American protection. Jolo is one of the smaller islands of the southern Philippine group, being one of those picturesque little dots of land which go to make up the by no means inconsiderable archipelago of Sulu. The Mohammedan inhabitants of this island, who are now asking for the American eagle to spread its protective wings over them, have suffered, or rather enjoyed, the blessings of internecine warfare for the last 50 years and naturally enough are now looking for a little rest.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

A Cleveland jury has decided that a young man may not court a girl with impunity after 11 o'clock at night. The New York Press observes that, "coming at this time of year, the jury that gave that verdict must have been composed largely of fathers with eyes wide open for gas on the coal bills."

There are five centenarians in Harrison county, Ind., whose ages aggregate 521 years. They are Alexander Pryor, aged 106 years, and his wife, Mrs. Bettie Carnahan, Thomas Wills, Monroe Hodges and William Blackburn, aged respectively 101, 111, 108, 105 and 105 years.

It is rarely that a man goes to marry five wives. This, however, was the case with Johann Sonnet of Saiern, who has led his fifth bride to the altar. Herr Sonnet is 86 years of age and has 57 children, the eldest of whom is old enough to be the grandfather of the youngest.

The late Judge Reuben Merriweather Rosser of Howard county, Mo., was born during a sandstorm, rode 18 miles through heavy snowdrifts to be married and was buried during the recent blizzard.

A printed notice of the Pioneer club, the lounge woman's club of London, reads curiously to American statesmen. It is, "Gentlemen Are Not Allowed In the Smoking Room."

The sea serpent has been seen near Pic rock, on the south Massachusetts coast, and Mr. Lorenzo Woodbury, who had a close view of the monster, thus describes the style of 1899: "A long, sinuous, barnacled body of whitish appearance, head like a seal, with gleaming eyes, nose, fangs and blessed beasts." The Boston Journal does not doubt Mr. Woodbury's veracity, of course, but mildly suggests that the sea serpent is having the season.

Ground oyster shells were given by the mediæval doctors to children suffering from rickets and scrofula. Now it appears that they were right. The shells contain lime, nitrogen, iron, sulphur, manganese, magnesia, fluorine, bromide, phosphoric acid and iodine, all essential for feeble children. They say that if growing children were to take powdered oyster shells in their food the teeth would be improved.