

# THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, MAY 28, 1900.

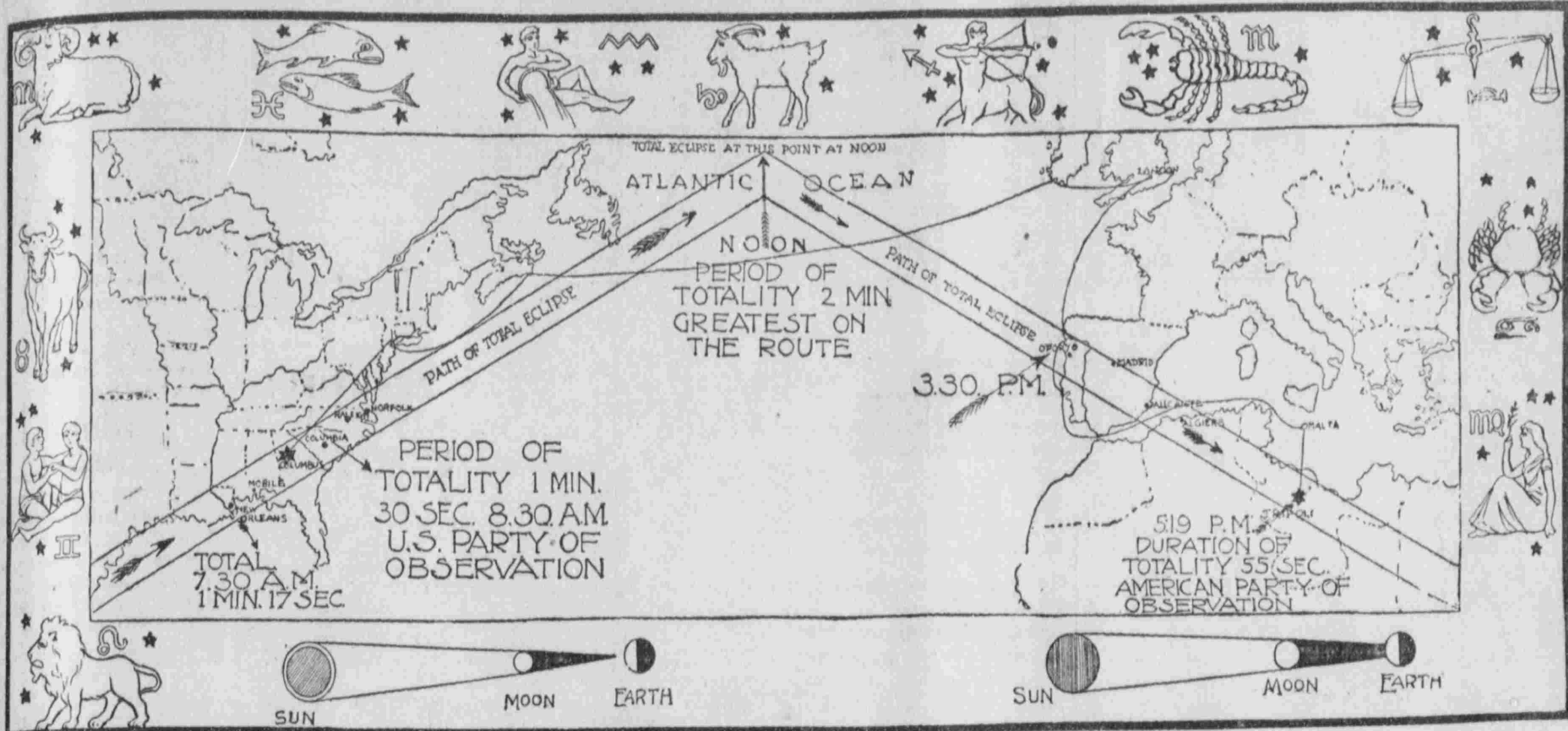


CHART SHOWING THE PATH OF TOTALITY OF ECLIPSE.

THE immeasurable advance that science has made in recent centuries cannot be better exemplified than in the prediction and calculation of eclipses, particularly of the sun, one of which is to occur on the 28th of May. In ancient times, when science was young and struggling through the clouds of ignorance, an eclipse was viewed as a manifestation of the wrath of the gods, and among primitive peoples even at the present time its advent is the signal for an outburst of wild excitement. Within 20 years the Hindus, for example, abandoned themselves to the belief that some great dragon was devouring the god of day, prostrated themselves on the ground in the attitude of prayer and beat tom-toms to frighten the monster away. When at last the sun emerged from its temporary concealment, their joy was exuberant, and they truly believed that the horrible din they raised had driven the dragon away.

One of the oldest traditions of the Chinese is that the earliest eclipse recorded was observed by their astronomers in the year 2133 B. C. But their two great scientists, Hi and Ho, who were to observe it and prepare the people for its coming, neglected their duties and got drunk, losing their heads and their pigails in consequence. In the last century the historians made much of the famous "yellow day," when the sun was obscured for a long time, birds and fowls went to roost, flowers closed their petals and the chill of night came prematurely on.

All these phenomena have sorely disturbed the serenity of dwellers on this solitary sphere, and since the earliest recorded times a cloud of mystery has enveloped the doings of Old Sol. It is no disparagement of the attainments of our astronomers to say that even now there are some phenomena about which they are still in the dark.

But today, now that it is known that an eclipse of the sun is due to its obscuration from the earth by the moon (either in whole or in part), how different is its reception from that which was accorded it in ancient times! For weeks and months our astronomers have been making ready for the great

event. The best places for observation have accurately been forecast, even to projecting a chart of the path of the eclipse across the globe. There will be hundreds of telescopes trained upon the sun on May 28. Two parties of observation equipped in the United States will occupy stations so far apart that the Atlantic and a portion of the Mediterranean will roll between them.

The path of the eclipse takes an erratic course across a portion of the globe, starting in the Pacific ocean at a point southwest of Cape St. Lucas in Lower California, and proceeding northeasterly. It will first be observed on land on the west coast of Mexico, whence the moon's shadow travels at a velocity of a thousand miles an hour, being "total" at New Orleans at 7:30 in the morning, and on the Atlantic coast at or near Norfolk about an hour later.

The United States observers have settled upon two points—Pinehurst, Moore county, N. C., and Barnesville, Pike county, Ga.—as the very best for observation, owing, in the first place, to their being right in the center of the "path of totality," and, in the second, to the probable clearness of the atmosphere there at this season of the year.

To these points they have transported several tons of special apparatus and have erected the largest cameras ever constructed for photographic operations. Each camera is supported upon a pyramidal scaffolding and consists of a gigantic canvas tube or box inclosing a framework of iron 50 feet in length. This will be light tight. At the upper end will be the enormous lenses, while the lower end will receive the immense plates of glass upon which the images of the sun are to be projected. It is the special desire of the astronomers to obtain numerous photographs not only of the occultation and transit of the sun and moon, but of the various solar phenomena, such as the corona, the photosphere and the chromosphere—those vast seas of incandescent gases which are said to extend 1,000,000 miles on each side of the sun, while the jets of flame in the chromosphere are thought to rise to a height of 160,000 miles.

The second American party of observation will take its stand at Tripoli, in north Africa, and will be similarly equipped for the most perfect photographic and spectrographic work. As the "period of totality" in Georgia and Tripoli is respectively 1 minute 30 seconds and 55 seconds, the eminent scientists will have but little time for work; but they purpose to make the best of it and have electrical contrivances to facilitate photographic operations. And, again, as the totality in Georgia occurs at 8:30 a. m., and in Tripoli not until 5:19 p. m., the result of observations in the United States will be cabled to the African party for its guidance, arrangements for leaving open a direct line of telegraph and cable lines along the path of the eclipse and a cipher code for rapid transmission having been made in advance.

While the total eclipse will be visible only in places within a certain area and for not longer than two minutes at any one of them, a partial eclipse may be witnessed in Washington, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New York and other cities.

Although the preparations for this observation of a phenomenon lasting at the longest not more than a few minutes has entailed months of hard work and a voyage half around the world, not to speak of the subsequent calculations and elaborations necessary to a complete presentation of the subject, yet if the day be clear our astronomers will consider themselves richly rewarded for their toil. Should it all prove to have been in vain they will console themselves with the reflection that another and more complete eclipse is scheduled to appear next year which, in the island of Sumatra, will be "total" during the space of six long minutes, thus affording an unprecedented time for observation.

As not more than two eclipses can possibly occur in a year and the sum total of observation is limited to only a few hours in a lifetime, the wise men who pass their lives watching for shots at the sun have to be exceedingly alert and make the most of their opportunity when it arrives.

## LORD DUNRAVEN AS A SOLDIER BOY.

Here is an old friend of Americans, the august Earl of Dunraven, in the guise of a South African warrior. His lordship has given up yacht racing as an amusement and has taken to shoot-



ing Boers instead. He recently organized a company of sharpshooters and went down to the Cape to help defeat Oom Paul and his people. Lord Dunraven is, accordingly, now at the front as an officer of the Sixty-seventh company of the Imperial yeomanry and will undoubtedly distinguish himself for gallantry during a campaign which is presenting so many opportunities to adventurous Britishers in search of glory and a Victoria cross.

## A CAPTURED SHARK.

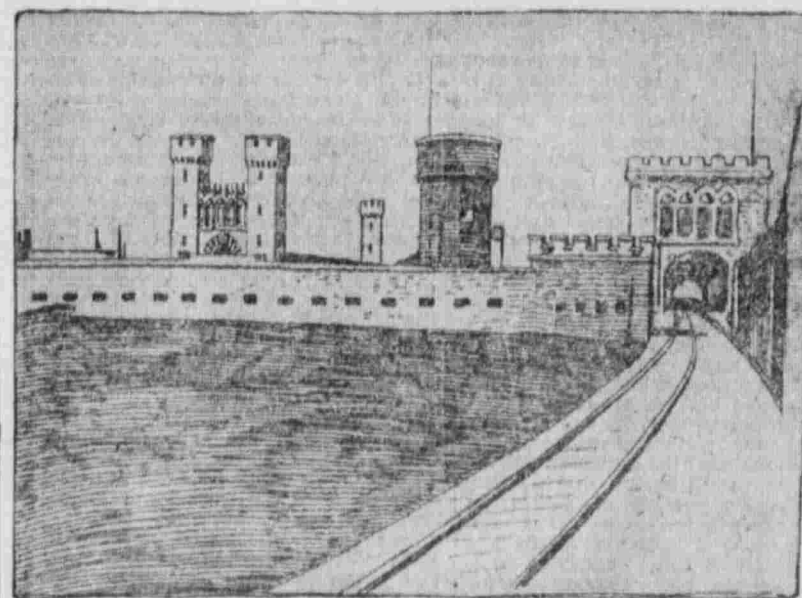
Whenever a shark falls into the hands of the sailor boys on one of our men-of-war it is the invariable custom to open the creature and investigate as to just



what have been his last swallowings. Many strange finds are often made. The accompanying picture is from a photograph showing a number of American seamen and a shark which they captured in the southern Pacific. Such things are among the many little incidents which come to make the sea life of the lonely Jack Tar bearable.

In Belgium penalties are imposed on persons who have the right to vote, but do not avail themselves of it.

## A DOOR TO THE KAISER'S DOMAIN.



The pet fortress of the German kaiser is that at the eastern terminus of the bridge over the Vistula at Marienburg, a part of which is shown in the accompanying illustration. The entrance to this Marienburg bridge is furnished with massive steel gates, loopholed for rifle fire, and in the event of an invasion of northern Germany any sudden capture of such an important strategic position would be no easy matter. The fortress proper is connected with embowered outworks, which could promptly be garrisoned and converted into one of the most formidable defenses in time of need.

## ROPING IN A NERVOUS CHARGER.

Not all of the thousands of horses and mules purchased in this country and elsewhere for service in South Africa are as tractable as their new owners might wish. It is hard, for example, in the first place, to get a raw recruit aboard the train by which it is convey-



ed to the coast. The real trouble, however, comes when the voyage is ended and another rail journey begins. Remembering their former experience in the hot and stifling box cars, few of these new drafts will enter without stubborn resistance to the powers that temporarily be.

In such cases the process of "roping in" is resorted to. This consists of pressure from behind, while the animal, snorting and kicking, is led by the nose, with a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together.

When a horse gives trouble at the stations, the queen's Indian subjects, who are expert at the business, simply run a rope around the animal in the rear and compel him to enter.

## THE PERILS OF A WAR CORRESPONDENT.



Much has been written about the bravery and coolness of the soldiers engaged in the Boer-British war, and each side has been praised unstintingly, but "there are others," as the phrase of the day has it, who imperil their lives. These are the surgeons and nurses, the drivers and ambulance attendants, who can by no means be inspired by the heat of battle. Then there are the war correspondents, who also lack the inspiring motive of patriotism and whose rendering of the word duty is to get as near the front as possible without getting hurt.

It is by no means a part of a war correspondent's business to run any risk in getting the news, and he may as well stay at the rear as not, so far as his plain duty is concerned. But it is not in human nature to see "some other fellow" get ahead of one and "scoop" an important item of news that might as well as not have been picked up by himself had he been with the vanguard instead of among the stragglers. In the war now going on in South Africa there is a friendly rivalry among the correspondents as to which shall secure a "beat" over the other.

A suggestion of some of the perils they run is conveyed in the scene depicted herewith, where a war artist anxious to get to the front was taken for a Boer by a senry overzealous in the performance of his duties and nearly killed.

voters in Lynden he was the only one who voted for McKinley in 1896. The other 261 voted for Bryan.

Within the next six months Chicago hopes to bury 30 miles of overhead telephone, telegraph and electric light circuits at an estimated cost of \$500,000.

Mr. William D. Hall, a street car conductor of St. Louis, is in active service,

though he has celebrated his eightieth birthday.

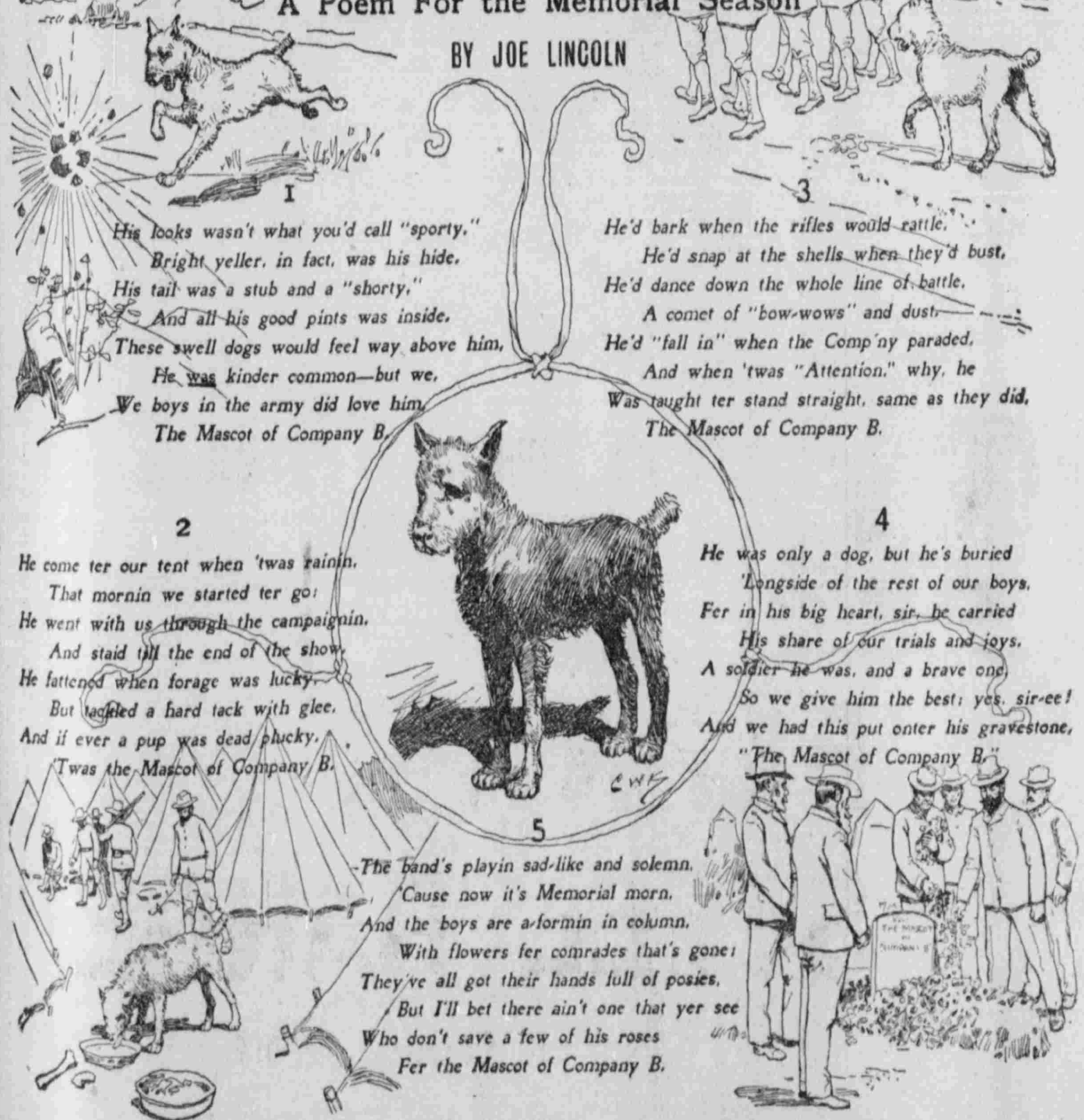
An Indianapolis man operated upon recently for appendicitis was found to have two appendices.

By the caving in of wine vaults at Epernay, France, 1,500,000 bottles and 500 barrels of champagne were destroyed recently.

## THE MASCOT OF COMPANY 'B.'

A Poem For the Memorial Season

BY JOE LINCOLN



1  
His looks wasn't what you'd call "sporty,"  
Bright yellor, in fact, was his hide,  
His tail was a stub and a "shorty,"  
And all his good pints was inside.  
These swell dogs would feel way above him,  
He was kinder common—but we,  
We boys in the army did love him,  
The Mascot of Company B.

2  
He come ter our tent when 'twas rainin',  
That mornin' we started ter go;  
He went with us through the campaignin',  
And staid till the end of the show.  
He fattened when forage was lucky,  
But leggled a hard tack with glee,  
And if ever a pup was dead plucky,  
'Twas the Mascot of Company B.

3  
The band's playin' sad-like and solemn,  
Cause now it's Memorial morn',  
And the boys are a-formin' in column,  
With flowers fer comrades that's gone;  
They've all got their hands full of posies,  
But I'll bet there ain't one that yer see  
Who don't save a few of his roses  
Fer the Mascot of Company B.

4  
He'd bark when the rifles would rattle,  
He'd snap at the shells when they'd bust,  
He'd dance down the whole line of battle,  
A comet of "bow-wows" and dust.  
He'd "fall in" when the Comp'ny paraded,  
And when 'twas "Attention," why, he  
Was taught ter stand straight, same as they did,  
The Mascot of Company B.

5  
He was only a dog, but he's buried  
Longside of the rest of our boys,  
Fer in his big heart, sir, he carried  
His share of our trials and joys.  
A soldier he was, and a brave one,  
So we give him the best; yes, sir-ee!  
And we had this put on his gravestone,  
"The Mascot of Company B."

6  
The band's playin' sad-like and solemn,  
Cause now it's Memorial morn',  
And the boys are a-formin' in column,  
With flowers fer comrades that's gone;  
They've all got their hands full of posies,  
But I'll bet there ain't one that yer see  
Who don't save a few of his roses  
Fer the Mascot of Company B.

## THINGS OF THE MOMENT.

Among the interesting mementos in the literary section of the Paris exhibition are the four inkstands used in completing four great French masterpieces—the most notable works of George Sand, Lamartine, Victor Hugo and Dumas the elder. These inkstands were given to Mme. Hugo to be disposed of at a charity sale and were bought up by Victor Hugo. Each of the inkstands is accompanied by an autograph letter, testifying to its authenticity and bearing the date.

Representative Allen declares that Mississippi has made greater progress

in the last ten years than any other state, and that although the people are not rich they are better off than at any time since the war.

Liverpool is the greatest foreign distributing point for American apples, and as many as 100,000 barrels of our apples have been sold there in one week at remunerative prices. London, Glasgow and Hull also receive immense cargoes of the American fruit.

Robert F. Bevan, an American who is engaged in business at Malaga, Spain, and who is now visiting this country, says that the feeling of antagonism to

Americans has passed away in Spain, and that the recent war has practically been forgotten. "At present," he adds, "the strong feeling against England and everything British has caused a kindly spirit toward America. The war in South Africa has enraged all of the Latin countries in Europe against England, and the dislike is shown in every possible way. The United States is rated highly, however, and everybody is friendly."

Assistant Librarian Merrill of the Newberry library of Chicago has discovered a rare copy of an engraving of Oliver Cromwell among the books on the commonwealth of England at the

library. That the engraving has not been reproduced in any magazine article or memoir of the great protector is proof that it is very rare, says Mr. Merrill. The engraving is by Thomas Jenner, and is in a book written by Cromwell himself. It was "printed by Mr. Simmons for Thomas Jenner at the south entrance of the Royal exchange, 1654."

There is said to be only one Chinaman who has been regularly ordained a minister of the gospel. His name is Jan Jee, and he lives in San Francisco. He came to this country in 1863 and was soon after converted and was ordained in 1871. He has a chapel of his own in

Oakland and wears his cue and native dress in order to have greater influence over his countrymen.

The last survivor of the war of 1812 is Hiram Donk, who lives near Rome, N. Y. He has just passed the century mark of life.

There is one church for every 387 people in the United States. Boston has one for every 1,600 of her population and Minneapolis one for every 1,654. Twenty-four million people attend church in the United States every Sunday.

Joseph Childester of Lynden, Clay county, Mo., calls himself "the solid Republican vote" of that town. Out of 262