

LIEUTENANT FRANK H. NEWCOMB AND THE GOLD MEDAL AWARDED HIM FOR HEROISM AT CARDENAS.

ONE of the most satisfactory results of the Spanish-American war was the multitude of heroes evoked by that short but decisive conflict. While it might seem invidious to discriminate or differentiate where every man seems to have done his duty and to have fought as though the outcome of the war depended upon his personal effort, there are a few instances of American valor that stand forth conspicuously from all the rest. Among them is the feat performed by Lieutenant Frank H. Newcomb at the outset of the war, which is commemorated by the gold medal awarded him by congress and recently presented.

The heroic deed may have been lost sight of by the public in the stirring events that followed immediately after, but official cognizance of it was taken not only at the time, but subsequently, as appears from the documents in the case, which narrate the story in detail and authenticate the daring act.

It may be recalled that at the time orders were given for the blockade of Cuba's ports in 1898 much uncertainty existed as to the location of the Spanish fleets and there was great doubt as to the base of operations. Cervera's selection of Santiago as a refuge decided the latter point, and the scene of operations was quickly transferred from the north coast to the south. But at the beginning our vessels were assembled chiefly off Havana and Cardenas, where, like hounds held in leash, they watched their chance for an opening with the enemy. The Wilmington, Machias, Winslow and Hudson were stationed off Cardenas, a port with shallow harbor, within which were several Spanish gunboats whose fire had become annoying. Orders were issued to attempt to cut them out and develop the defenses of the enemy on shore. The Winslow and the Hudson, being of light draft, were delegated to this duty, having already made several spirited dashes into the harbor so far as the obstructions would allow. They were deceived under the guns of a masked battery, by which the Winslow was soon disabled.

The rest of the story is told in the official dispatches, the first portion of which is the report from Lieutenant Bernadou, the commander of the Winslow, incorporated in Commodore Remy's official report to the navy department at Washington. It is dated May

12, 1898, the day after the engagement occurred.

"I was directed by Commander Todd to approach a small steamer alongside the wharf at the eastern end of the

fight, as the Spaniards had concentrated their fire upon the craft with a view to her complete destruction. Yet in went the Hudson and its crew and hatched on to the Winslow as coolly as

ury department accompanying the medal presented to Lieutenant Newcomb.

Sir—Under the following provisions of a joint resolution of the congress of the

representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled. That in recognition of the gallantry of First Lieutenant Frank H. Newcomb of the revenue cutter Hudson, commanding the revenue cutter Hudson, his officers and the men



of his command, for his intrepid and heroic gallantry in the action at Cardenas, Cuba, on the eleventh day of May, 1898, when the Hudson rescued the United States torpedo boat Winslow in the face of a most galling fire from the enemy's guns, the Winslow being disabled, her captain wounded, her only other officer and half of her crew killed, the commander of the Hudson kept his vessel in the very center of the hottest fire of the action, although in constant danger of going ashore on account of the shallow water, until finally he got a line fast to the Winslow and towed that vessel out of range of the enemy's guns. In commemoration of this signal act of heroism it is hereby enacted that the secretary of the treasury be authorized and directed to cause to be prepared and to present to Lieutenant Frank H. Newcomb, revenue cutter service, a gold medal and to each of his officers a silver medal and to each member of his crew a bronze medal.

Yours is the proud distinction of being the only commissioned officer of any service to whom congress awarded a gold medal for heroism in battle during the war with Spain.

I take pleasure in presenting to you the medal awarded in and congratulating you upon the recognition thus bestowed by the national legislature. Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR, Acting Secretary.

Not less gratifying, perhaps, to the gallant lieutenant was the assurance of

town and examine her character. Steamed toward the mole at full speed. On approaching within 1500 yards gunboat and battery on shore opened fire. The Winslow returned and maintained fire until the end of the action. She was riddled and was finally towed out of range by the Hudson. Casualties as reported this morning. I desire to express my thanks to Lieutenant Newcomb, commanding officer of the Hudson, as he towed our vessel out of action while we were under heavy fire.

This is the terse, sailorlike dispatch of the commander of the Winslow to his superior officer. The "casualties" to which he referred included five men killed and five wounded. In this first engagement of the Spanish-American war the first blood was also shed, when the lamented Ensign Bagley and four of his companion sailors were killed. All were heroes. There was not a shirk among them. And when Lieutenant Newcomb ran in with the Hudson, to which he had succeeded as commander but a few months previously and had taken to Cuba as soon as war was declared, he performed his duty as he saw it. "The air was full of shrieking shells," says an eyewitness of the

If they were about towing a barge in a peaceful harbor."

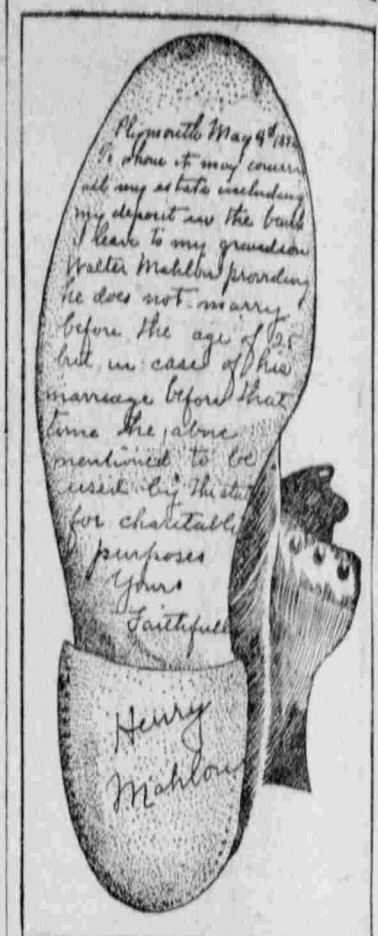
More than three years later the events of that May day were narrated in a letter from the United States treasury

United States, approved May 2, 1900, there was awarded to you a gold medal in recognition of your conduct and services in the battle of Cardenas, Cuba, on the eleventh day of May, 1898.

"Resolved by the senate and house of

A WILL WRITTEN ON THE SOLE OF A SHOE.

"Where there's a will there's a way," according to the proverb, though it may not have meant the kind of will shown in the accompanying illustration. The picture tells almost the whole story. A fisherman in a New England town was fatally injured by a rock falling upon him as he was walking at the base of a

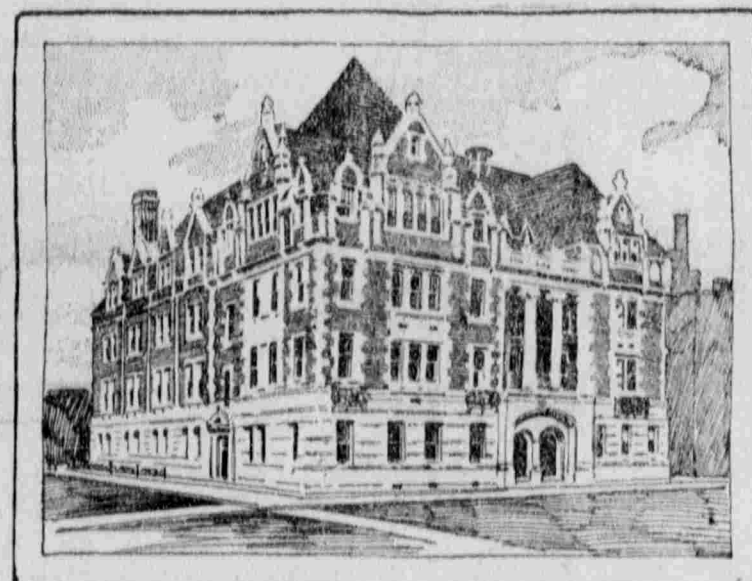


cliff. When found, he was dead, but clutched in one hand was one of his shoes, upon which he had written: "To whom it may concern: All my estate, including my deposit in the bank, I leave to my grandson, Walter Mahlon, providing he does not marry before the age of twenty-five, but in case of his marriage before that time the above mentioned to be used for charitable purposes." Yours Faithfully, Henry Mahlon.

THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG.

Before the Australian flag was chosen more than 33,000 designs were carefully examined. The competition was originally started by a magazine, and as many of the designs were well worth notice the government took the matter up and offered a reward of \$1,000 for the best suggestion. A board of naval experts was appointed to examine those sent in, and the decision appears to have given universal satisfaction.

THIS COTTAGE HOSPITAL IS CONSIDERED NEARLY PERFECT.



There has just been completed at Peoria, Ill., a cottage hospital which was erected at a cost of about \$125,000 and is said to be one of the most nearly perfect structures of its kind extant. It covers a site 90 by 130 feet and contains 100 rooms, besides two large wards. The floors and walls are constructed on aseptic principles and with strict regard to sanitary laws. The hospital has four stories, is built of brick and stone and is considered entirely fireproof. Electric elevators and other conveniences are provided for the patients, and everything has been done, it is believed, to make it first class in all respects.

BARTHOLOMEW AND HIS STATUE OF VERGINTORIX ON A MOTOR CAR.



Extremes meet in the accompanying illustration, which shows Bartholdi and his heroic statue of the ancient Gallic warrior Vergintorix taking a ride on a modern motor car. Sculptor Bartholdi, creator of the statue of Liberty in New York harbor and other great works, is too well known to call for more than passing mention. His hero, Vergintorix, is not so generally known, for he flourished nearly 1300 years ago. He was a leader of the Gauls who conducted a successful rebellion against the Romans, was finally taken by Caesar about 52 B. C., and, after adorning one of his triumphs, was beheaded six years later. As a defender of France he was considered by Bartholdi worthy this heroic statue, only recently completed and set up beneath the central dome of the Grand Palais, Champs Elysees.

NOTABLE PEOPLE.

The queen of Serbia had a Christmas tree for her pet dogs.

The assertion that Emperor William is the richest monarch in the world has been incorrectly made by many newspapers. He is very rich, but the czar of Russia's wealth is incalculably greater than his.

General Lew Wallace is busy at his

home in Crawfordsville, Ind., on his autobiography. He expects to complete the work within a year.

Six New York members of the Federation of Fine Arts have been named as a committee to consider ways and means for raising \$1,500,000 to erect a central art gallery in that city. They are Frederick Crowninshield, Henry

YOUNGEST ACTRESS IN THE WORLD.

Little Suzanne Hattot, the child actress who is attracting so much attention at the Opera Comique in Paris and who is announced as soon to visit the United States, is a charming, blue-eyed tot with a very fascinating manner that wins the hearts of all who see her, on the stage or off. She will not be three years old until next April, yet has been called the sensation of the season and is

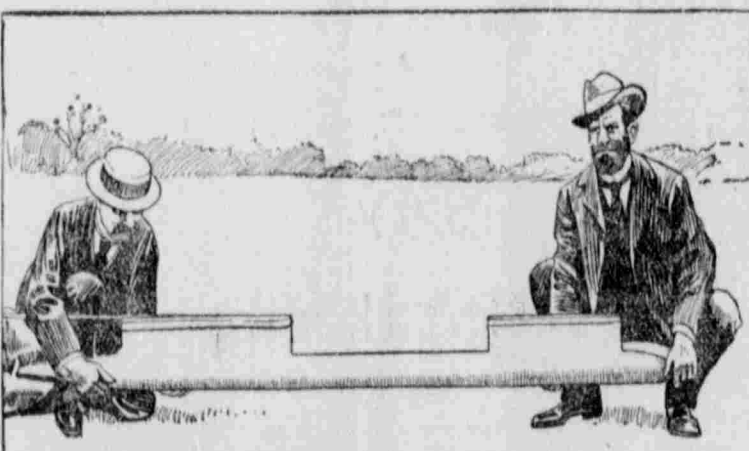


said to surpass many an actress of larger growth. She is very frank and engaging and is especially "taking" in her part of little Lolo in "Griseida."

A UNIQUE CUSTOM.

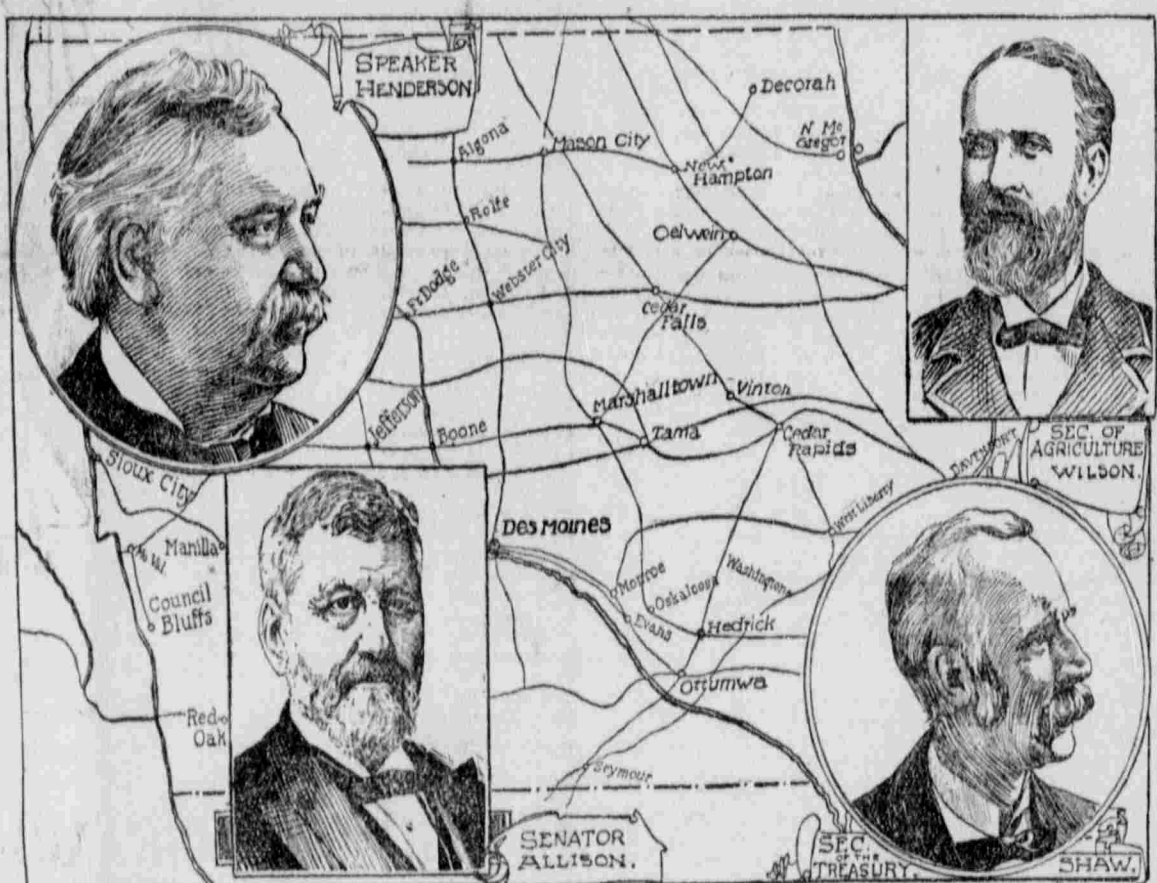
In a village in the Cotswolds it is the custom to place a small mirror on the front door under the knocker in which the visitor may examine his appearance before entering.

THE LATEST "WIRELESS WONDER."



What has been declared to be the most wonderful electrical discovery of the century, and consequently of all time, is the method of transmitting electrical impulses or waves through the ground or water to any desired point within the radius of energy. It is by means of this method, which was discovered by a Swede, Axel Orling, that the miniature torpedo boat shown in the illustration has been propelled at a distance and guided with facility without any person being near it. The energy was furnished by invisible forces generated by a battery so small that it may be carried in one's pocket. The same system has worked railway signals at a distance of more than a thousand yards, has sent the human voice through solid earth as the telephone transmits it by wire and has effected the most startling results without any visible means of transmission. It is claimed that torpedo and submarine boats can be guided against an enemy's ships from almost any distance.

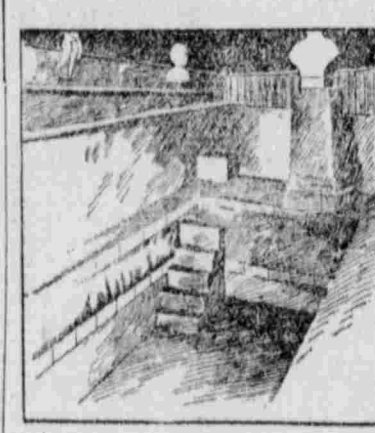
FOUR ADOPTED SONS OF IOWA PROMINENT AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL.



In connection with the acceptance of the treasury portfolio by Governor Shaw it is pointed out that the state of Iowa now has at least four prominent representatives at Washington who will have a guiding hand in future events, the other three being Senator Allison, Speaker Henderson and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. But another curious fact, which has been generally overlooked, is that, while all these men hail from Iowa, not one of them can lay claim to that state as his birthplace. The oldest of the quartet, Senator William B. Allison, was born at Perry, O., March 2, 1822, and removed to Iowa in 1857. Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson was born in Yorkshire, Scotland, in 1835, and came to the United States in 1852 and settled in Iowa in 1855. Speaker David B. Henderson is a native of Old Deer, Scotland, born there 1840, who was brought to this country by his parents in 1846 and taken to Iowa in 1849; and finally, Governor Leslie M. Shaw was born at Morrisville, Vt., in 1848. He went to Iowa as a young man, graduated at one of its colleges and began the practice of law at Denison in 1876. As president of a bank in Denison and another in Manila, Ia., he has long been known as a man well up in finance, with a reputation more than local as a "hard money" Republican. He has held but few offices, but has been twice elected governor of his state, for the terms between 1898 and 1902, and in the last presidential campaign became prominent as a McKinley advocate. His home is in Denison, Senator Allison's is in Dubuque, where also Speaker Henderson resides when congress is not in session, and Secretary Wilson's Iowa residence is in Traer, Tama county.

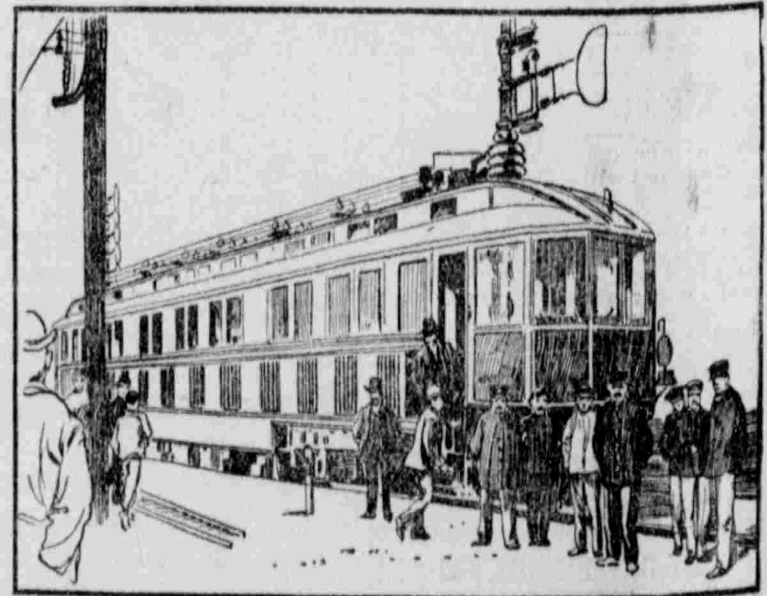
A CHICAGOAN'S ROMAN BATH.

One of the unique accessories of a recently erected house in Chicago is said to be a replica of a famous ancient Roman bath. It is not generally known, but at least one American found it out



and benefited by the knowledge, that the original of this illustration may still be seen in the London Strand and, what is more, may be enjoyed by the payment of a small fee. This old Roman bath is found in a rural looking cottage and is still supplied with pure water from a natural spring in Holywell street, which doubtless gave the street its name.

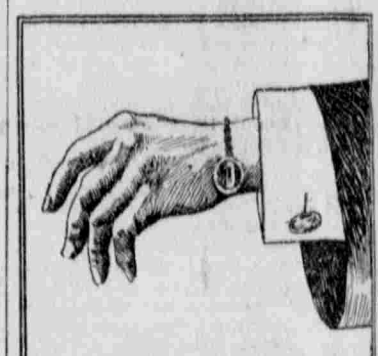
CAR TO TRAVEL 125 MILES PER HOUR.



In the accompanying illustration, from a recent photograph, is shown the electric car which has been built in Germany to travel 125 miles per hour. Experiments have been made on the new electric route between Berlin and Hamburg which seem to prove this feat feasible, and as soon as the new system has been pronounced a perfect success measures will be taken to build and equip a similar road between two great cities of the United States. The photograph presented, taken just before the trial spin, shows the huge car, with its staff of operators, as well as some of the visiting engineers.

SANTOS-DUMONT'S HAND.

The successful aeronaut M. Santos-Dumont has probably been photographed in every attitude and amid all sorts of surroundings, but the very latest photograph is that of his hand and wrist, taken for the purpose of display.



THE ROBERT BARR OF TODAY.

Robert Barr, who has achieved fame as an author, was born in Scotland fifty-one years ago, educated in Canada, worked awhile as an editor in the United States, but since 1881 has resided in England. When on the editorial staff of the Detroit Free Press, he wrote over the pen name of Luke Sharp, and his romantic experiences include the chieftainship of an Irish tribe. In England he succeeded that eminent biographer, Jerome K. Jerome, as editor of The Idler and afterward discarded his nom de plume and wrote over his own name. The illustration is from a photograph of Mr. Barr taken but a few weeks ago.



lets, who are well and in business in the west and who were fifty years old last May. They are of New Hampshire birth, and their father is still living in Keene.

Mr. W. D. Howells says of Mark Twain: "He is not only the greatest living humorist, but incomparably the greatest and without a rival since Cervantes and Shakespeare unless it be that eternal Jew Heinrich Heine, who of all humorists is the least like him. Heine's humor is at every moment autobiographical, and far the greater part of Mr. Clemens' humor is as Shakespeare's alone is impersonal, this may be on account of the dramatic form and more apparent than real. Heine and Mark Twain are both achromatic, just as they are both autobiographical, though to what different ends!"