The American Soldier.

To know the American soldier well you must toil with him over the desert trail when the sun beats hotly down on the dry and verdureless earth, and the dust rises in white clouds that hide the column from view, and fills the eyes, the mustache, the ears, the mouth, with profanity and vexation. Here is where his songs and jokes proclaim the stuff that he is made of. Then when you are sent out with him in the dead of winter over twenty inches of snow, your equipments and supplies on bob-sleds, he it is that dismounts time and again without a murmur, pushing to help the mules up hill, and repacking the overturned sled a dozen times in a day; then after it all digging his hole in the snow, and putting up his tent at night, all the time joking with his "Bunkie," and ready as ever to steal a wisp of hay or a handful of oats for his shivering horse.

He it is that jumped into a boiling hot spring to save the life of the daughter of a private citizen—a deed for which the citizen, who was a rich man, proffered the astounding sum of five dollars, and the government the gold medal of honor; he that took a flat bottomed boat out in a heavy sea in New York harbor to rescue a drowning boy; that lost his life for his fidelity while attempting to swim an icy stream with dispatches; who single handed served a field gun through an action with a bullet in his leg, to hold a position; he that you believe incapable of anything but "bucking faro" and drinking strong liquors.—Harper's Weekly.

Roman Wealth.

When L. Calpurnius Piso was appointed governor of Macedonia for one year he drew for his outfit from the public treasury 18,000,000 sesterces or £150,000. He did not want the money for that purpose; everything required by a proconsul was supplied to him by the province. Piso simply took the money for himself, and lent it out in Rome at high interest. C. Verres was charged by Cicero with having robbed Sicily of £350,000 in three years, besides many valuable works of art. He practically admitted his guilt by retiring from Rome without attempting any defense. Cicero, when governor of the poor province of Cilicia, found himself the richer in one year by £20,000, and he was perhaps the only proconsul who ever handed over his surplus to the state.

There can be no doubt that Cicero and the younger Pliny received large sums from their clients while those clients were still living. Balbus is not likely to have secured the argument "Pro Balbo" for a mere trifle, and the gratitude of Sicily for the prosecution of Verres undoubtedly took a very substantial form. Apart from all such honoraria, it is recorded that both Cicero and the younger Pliny received legacies from clients to the amount of £170,000. Gibbon tells us on the authority of Olympiodorus that several of the richest senators had an income of £160,000 a year—without computing the stated provision of corn and wine.—National Review.

The Folly of Suicide.

The sin of suicide is not more evident than is its folly. In the vast majority of cases the ills which provoke this desperate act derive their force not from the actual misery they inflict, but from nervous apprehensiveness. They are the shadows of clouds which threaten, but may and often do pass away.

It was one of the cruel ironies of fate that the suicide of M. Prevost-Paradol, who had stultified his most brilliant writings by accepting a post—that of minister from France to Washington—under the Second Empire, took place just as the Liberal cause, with which his name had always been associated, was on the eve of triumph.

When Mary Wollstonecraft, deserted by her American lover, paced up and down Putney bridge saturating her garments with the rain so that they might not prevent her from sinking in the water her life seemed indescribably dreary—without a ray of hope. Yet this very hour of despair proved to be the turning point in her history, and from it dated the truest bliss she had ever known—a period of wedded happiness and joyous work. And so with "the marvelous boy, the sleepless soul that perished in his pride," Chatterton. He poisoned himself in his wretched garret at the very time when the feet of one who would have relieved his poverty were turned toward the street in which he died.—Boston Transcript.

Bravery in a Crow.

Some years ago at a hawking party on Salisbury Plain, a falcon was flown at a carrion crow, which it struck after a long fight, and the two birds came down like a parachute to the ground.

The party galloped up and were about to dismount to take up the falcon, when the mate of the crow suddenly descended from a great height with such velocity that the wings made a whizzing sound like that of a falling stone and dashed onto the falcon. The force of the blow struck the hawk from its quarry, which was uninjured by the grapple in the air, and both crows flew off unhurt into a copse near. In this case the crow clearly understood the cause of the danger and the possibility of a rescue when the falcon was on the ground and least able to act on the offensive.

But the courage and devotion which prompted it to overcome the natural dread which the falcon inspires, and the added terror of a party of mounted men in hot pursuit, place the crow's claim to admiration on a very high level.—London Spectator.

Sealed.

"Maudie," he faltered after he had made his trembling confession and the dear girl had said yes, "shall—shall—are you going to—to tell anybody about it?"

"How can I keep from telling it, Harold?" said the maiden. "My lips are not sealed."

And Harold attended to the sealing at once.—Chicago Tribune.

The Light of the Future.

It seems hard to believe that in a very few years the incandescent lamp, which we now regard as in many respects an almost perfect light, will be regarded as a crude makeshift which mankind availed itself of while science stood on the threshold of the discovery of the perfect luminant. Mr. Tesla has shown in his experiments an ideal form of electric lighting which would transcend in luxury and convenience our present system of electric lighting by incandescent lamps as far as the latter transcends the oil lamps and tallow dips used by our near ancestors.

Every drawing room would become an electric field in a continual state of rapidly alternating stress, in which the occupants would live, experiencing no unpleasant effect whatever, while vacuous tubes of phosphorescent globes and tubes, without care or attention, would shed a soft diffuse light of color and intensity arranged to suit the most luxurious fancy.

Mr. Tesla's watchword is that the phosphorescent glow is the light of the future. He hints at artificial auroræ spreading from the summits of towers or hitherto undreamed of height, and he has at all events got as far as producing in the air at atmospheric pressure a glowing plane bounded by two rings about a foot and thirty inches in diameter respectively. Whether all his visions will be realized remains to be proved. There is no doubt that they are guiding him right.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Electric Lamps Instead of Lanterns.

The experiment which has been tried in London of supplying the metropolitan police force with small electric lamps instead of the ordinary bullseye lantern is said to have been entirely successful. The lamp used weighs four pounds and is guaranteed to give a continuous light for seven hours. It has proved so handy and effective that the "tramway" companies have been led to take up the question of permanently adopting electricity for lighting. It is quite possible that before long the storage battery will come into use in England for train lighting.—Pittsburg Dispatch.



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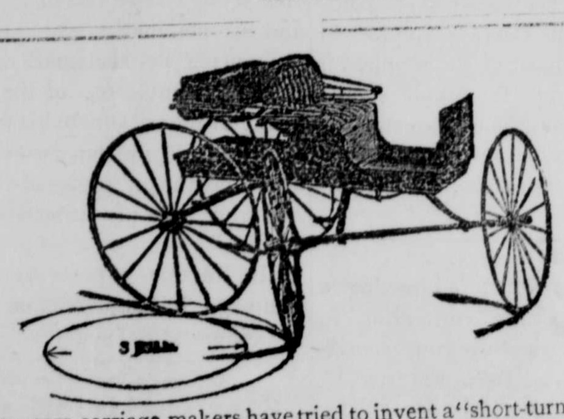
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☞ Will leave Queenstown for Baltimore at 9:45 a. m.

Beginning on Friday, March 22, the Steamer Gratitude will make daily round trips (except Sunday) from Centreville to Baltimore. Will leave Centreville at 7 a. m., Jackson Creek about 8,15 a. m.

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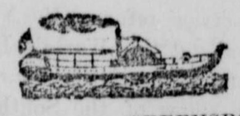
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