

The Victoria Cross.

Thursday, January 29, is the anniversary of the institution of the soldier's most precious decoration—perhaps the most precious decoration of the world—the Victoria Cross, for it was instituted by her Majesty the late Queen Victoria on the 29th of January, 1856, and so is not quite fifty years old. While it is the most prized of all the decorations and orders an Englishman can win, it is also the most democratic decoration in the world, for, although it is the official badge of an act of sublime personal courage and daring, it has no concern with rank, long service, or wounds, and it may be won by one who has been only a few months or weeks in the army, while others who have spent their lives in the service and gained rank and other decorations may not possess it. It may be won by a private soldier or a field marshal, and on the roll of the heroes' names are to be found almost every rank in both the services, for the winning of the Cross is possible to any one, as it is granted "as a reward for conspicuous bravery or devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy," or as the inscription upon it records, "For Valor!"

The Victoria Cross had its birth during the Crimean war, when Queen Victoria felt that some recognition of the personal daring and heroism of her soldiers in that terrible struggle was needed; and it is said that the designs for the first Cross were made by no less a person than the late Prince Consort, who, needless to say, was most interested in the institution of the decoration and the selection of those on whom it was first bestowed. The royal warrant clearly lays down the conditions under which the Cross may be won, but the whole of them may be summarized in the one sentence: "For conspicuous bravery or devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy."

There are not many who are unfamiliar with the appearance of the Cross, but for the benefit of those who have only seen it in photographs or pictures, I may say that it is about an inch and a half wide and has in the obverse centre a crowned lion, underneath which is an scroll bearing the words "For Valor." It is attached to a bar on which is a spray of laurel leaves, and is suspended by a broad ribbon, which is blue for the naval service and a dark red for the military. Both the Cross and the bar are made from bronze which formerly formed part of some of the Russian guns captured during the Crimean war, and complete with the ribbon and pin weighs just under an ounce, or 432 grains, to be exact. It is engraved with the name and regiment of the recipient, as well as the date on which he won it, and as soon as this is done it is dispatched from the makers to the Sovereign to bestow upon the hero; for it is the one military decoration which is always when practicable conferred by the Sovereign in person.

One could well fill a bulky volume with stories of how the Cross had been won, for there has not been a single cross granted the winning of which would not fill a chapter of itself, and so only a few details concerning some of its wearers and how they won it can be given. It is strange to have to record that the first Victoria Cross was won by a sailor, for it has come to be looked upon as almost entirely a military decoration. Another feature is that at the time of winning it he was a boy serving his time as a midshipman on board H. M. S. Hecla, and the story of how Charles Davis Lucas, now an admiral, won the Cross as a middy, will always form one of the most glorious stories among the many in its history. It was at the bombardment of Bomarsund, in the Baltic, on June 21, 1854, that a live shell dropped in the midst of a group of men of whom young Lucas was in command. The fuse was almost burned away, and an explosion seemed imminent, but without a moment's hesitation the young midshipman sprang forward, grasped the spluttering shell in his hands, and rushing to the side of the vessel hurled it overboard, where it exploded before it reached the water. Such an act as this displays the sublimest courage, for it combines intelligence and instantaneous action, and in a boy it was especially meritorious, and so young Lucas was chosen as the first recipient of the decoration eighteen months afterwards. The next Cross was also bestowed on a naval officer, now Rear Admiral Bythorpe, for an action performed during the Russian war while he was serving as a lieutenant in H. M. S. Arrogant, on September 16, 1854. During the Crimean war altogether 111 crosses and two clasps were awarded, and it should be explained that a clasp, which is equal to a cross, is awarded to any holder of a cross who performs some act of bravery for which a cross would have been granted were it not possessed already. The winning of a cross, it may be explained, carries with it an annuity of £10, which may be increased to £50, payable quarterly, to all excepting commissioned officers, but including those who have risen from the ranks, while for each clasp an extra annuity of £5 is awarded. The power to increase the annuity for the winner of a cross from £10 to £50 only came into force in 1899, and was directly attributable to Piper Findlater, the Dargai hero's action in going to the music-hall stage.—St. James's Gazette.

Muskrat and Cat Fur.

Collecting muskrat skins affords a means of livelihood to many persons on the eastern shore of Maryland and along Virginia and Delaware waters. The skins bring 15 cent for the brown variety and 25 cents for the black. Large consignments are shipped to London, where they bring good prices.

Dorchester County is the seat of the muskrat industry, many trappers being engaged in the trade there. As many as 300,000 muskrat skins were sent to the Baltimore firm mentioned last year. In addition to the skin, muskrats are in demand for their meat, bringing from 7 to 8 cents apiece. The receipts of muskrats have been smaller this season than last owing to more stringent game laws, which shorten the period when they may be hunted. It formerly began in the late fall and December, but now commences January 1.

Strange to say, the majority of the muskrat skins are shipped abroad, particularly to Germany and Russia, where they are used largely for army gloves. The United States military authorities have also recently adopted the use of the fur for gloves.

House cats are killed in considerable numbers for their pelts in Baltimore, one firm having had last year as high as 2,000 pelts in their warehouse. The skins bring 10 cents for the striped and 20 cents for the plain coats.

There is great fluctuation in the prices of skins from year to year. This year skins have advanced 15 per cent. for mink, 12½ per cent. for marten, 10 per cent. for lynx, 10 per cent. for otter and 15 per cent. for fox. Ermine remains the same and sable has advanced 20 per cent.—[Baltimore Sun.]

Do Your Kidneys Perform Their Functions?

Paine's Celery Compound
Is the World's Spring Remedy for
all Kidney and Bladder
Troubles.

Unless your kidneys properly and regularly perform their functions, the accumulations of morbid materials in your blood will act like a poison upon the nervous system. Have you headache, vertigo, puffiness under the eyes or dropsical tendencies? Have you fever sometimes with chills, and a dry skin? Is the urine high colored, sometimes scanty in quantity, sometimes bloody and foul? Any of these symptoms are true, warning of kidney disease.

Today, a multitude of men and women suffering from various forms of kidney affections, enduring pains and mind agony, are, through the use of Paine's Celery Compound eliminating morbid and poisonous materials from the blood. Wise and able physicians are prescribing Paine's Celery Compound for their patients. No other medicine in the world is so strongly indorsed by the best people of the land. Mrs. E. O. Clairmont, Vancouver, B. C., writes about her blessed experience with Paine's Celery Compound; she says:

"For five years kidney and urinary troubles made life a misery for me. Before coming I was treated by two doctors; both failed to cure me, and my sufferings increased. I was advised by a friend to try Paine's Celery Compound. After use of the second bottle I experienced a happy change. I could see and feel that your wonderful medicine was doing its work well. After using eight bottles I am free from all symptoms of the old troubles, and feel that I am a new person. Paine's Celery Compound is truly a blessing to those afflicted with kidney complaints."

John George's Beginning.

Five years ago John George's father, a miner in Pennsylvania, was killed. All he left to his widow, says the Chicago Tribune, was the task of bringing up John. She took in washing, and the boy helped by picking coal. This last summer the mother died.

"John," said she, just before her tired life came to an end, "here are twenty dollars. The mines are no place for you. Get an education. Go to the University of Chicago."

When the earth had received its own, John spent three-fourths of his capital for a ticket to Chicago. He arrived there without a friend, and set out to find the University. He barely knew the Alphabet, and Mr. McLean, chief the information bureau, when confronted by this strange boy from the mines hardly knew what to do. Finally he sent John to the South Side Academy.

At the academy the boy's story of his hard life, his lonely journey, and his ambition to get an education warmed the heart of Dean Whaley. A meal and a suit of clothes were soon provided. John was then taken to the French Club, on Washington Avenue, where he immediately showed the stuff of which he was made. He took to waiting on the table with an aptitude, considering his previous environment, that was astonishing, and he did more "chores" in twenty minutes than his predecessors had done in two hours.

But John was after an education, and Dean Whaley never had such a pupil. In four weeks the boy learned to read and write, and his English teacher is having him write a story of his trip.

At the French Club, in waiting on the table, he managed to pick up enough French

SHE PATIENTLY
BORE DISGRACE

A Sad Letter from a lady whose
Husband was Dissipated.

How She Cured Him with a Secret
Remedy.



"I had for years patiently borne the disgrace, suffering, misery and privations due to my husband's drinking habits. Hearing of your marvellous remedy for the cure of drunkenness, which I could give my husband secretly, I decided to try it. I procured a package and mixed it in his food and coffee, and, as the remedy was odorless and tasteless, he did not know what it was that so quickly relieved his craving for liquor. He soon began to pick up his flesh, his appetite for solid food returned, he stuck to his work regularly, and we now have a happy home. After he was completely cured I told him what I had done, when he acknowledged that it had been his saving, as he had not the resolution to break off of his own accord. I heartily advise all women afflicted as I was to give your remedy a trial."

FREE SAMPLE

and pamphlet giving full particulars, testimonials and price sent in plain sealed envelope. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Enclose stamp for reply. Address The Samaria Remedy Co., 23 Jordan Street, Toronto, Canada.

to enable him to understand and answer questions. This so delighted the housekeeper that she decided to keep him and give him a home.

Between his early morning chores, his waiting on table, his attendance at school, his evening chores and his midnight studies, John George is busy. But he is evidently one of those who "go to school and are not sent."

Early Marriages.

Before seventeen, few girls have learned to understand what life is, what discipline is, what duty is. They cannot value what is best either in the father's wisdom or the mother's tenderness. They have not had the time to receive the instruction from books, or the education of the kitchen, the needle, or the sickroom; she has intuitions, not experiences; she knows nothing of realities, and less of responsibilities. When married at this immature period, a girl is like a young recruit taken from the farm or workshop and hurried off to a long campaign without any period of preliminary drill and training. She may make a charming wife at first and a tender mother always, but she must stop there; taxed to the utmost, she has no time, nor strength, and, perhaps, no inclination, to read, to study, to keep pace with a husband's advance, or to appreciate it.

Who can help grieving over a child-wife especially if she be a child-mother, too, with a husband who is, perhaps, an inexperienced and possibly exacting boy-man? The ardor of his love soon cools; the visionary happiness of her poetic imagination soon vanishes, and nothing is left but disappointment and wonder that what promised to be so beautiful and long a day should have been clouded over almost before the sunrise. Life, to both, becomes a mere passive existence, with all the beautiful possibilities and wonderful colorings forever hopelessly lost out of it.—Ex.

According to "Truth," a delightful method of dealing summarily with female kleptomaniacs of gentle birth prevails in certain West End shops. Every lady detected in the act is given the option of being prosecuted in a court of law or birched by the manageress, a person specially selected for her biceps. The birch is a formidable one. In one shop alone, it is said, 20 ladies have accepted the ordeal of the birch, in addition to two young girls of foreign nationality, who, in consideration of their tender years, were treated to a milder form of chastisement.

Every kitchen ought to have its pot of growing parsley. The pretty and most useful herb is easily grown, and the advantage of having fresh leaves on hand whenever they are wanted is plain. Buy a five-cent package of seed and sow on top of the soil in a five-inch pot. Water well and set the pot in a light window. In a short time the pot will be a mass of green. Weed out the weak plants.

FITS CURED
Epilepsy, Fits, St. Vitus' Dance,
or have children or relatives that do so, or know
friend that is afflicted, then send for a free trial bottle
and try it. It will be sent by mail
prepaid. It has cured where every-
thing else has failed.
When writing mention this
paper, and give full address to
THE LIEBIG CO., 179 King Street West, Toronto.

HER HUSBAND
WAS A DRUNKARD

A Lady who cures her husband of
his Drinking Habits writes of her
struggle to save her home

A PATHETIC LETTER



"I had for a long time been thinking of trying the Tasteless Samaria Prescription treatment on my husband for his drinking habits, but I was afraid he would discover that I was giving him medicine, and the thought unnerved me. I hesitated for nearly a week, but one day when he came home very much intoxicated and his week's salary nearly all spent, I threw off all fear and determined to make an effort to save our home from the ruin I saw coming at all hazards. I sent for your Tasteless Samaria Prescription, and put it in his coffee as directed next morning and watched and prayed for the result. At noon I gave him more and also at supper. He never suspected a thing, and I then boldly kept right on giving it regularly, as I had discovered something that set every nerve in my body tingling with hope and happiness, and I could see a bright future spread out before me—a peaceful, happy home, a share in the good things of life, an attentive, loving husband, comforts and everything else dear to a woman's heart; for my husband had told me that whiskey was vile stuff and he was taking a dislike to it. It was only too true, for before I had given him the full course he had stopped drinking altogether, but I kept giving him the medicine till it was gone, and then sent for another lot, to have on hand if he should relapse, as he had done from promises before. He never has and I am writing you this letter to tell you how thankful I am. I honestly believe it will cure the worst cases."

HER FATHER
WAS A DRUNKARD

A Plucky Young Lady takes on
Herself to Cure her Father
of the Liquor Habit.

STORY OF HER SUCCESS,



A portion of her letter reads as follows:—
"My father had often promised mother to stop drinking, and would do so for a time but then returned to it stronger than ever. One day after a terrible spree, he said to us: 'It's no use, I can't stop drinking.' Our hearts seemed to turn to stone, and we decided to try the Tasteless Samaria Prescription, which we had read about in the papers. We gave him the remedy, entirely without his knowledge, in his tea, coffee, or food regularly, according to directions, and he never knew he was taking it. One package removed all his desire for liquor, and he says it is now distasteful to him. His health and appetite are also wonderfully improved, and no one would know him for the same man. It is now fifteen months since we gave it to him and we feel sure that the change is for good. Please send me one of your little books, as I want to give it to a friend."

TREES!
TREES! TREES!
That's our business. We want men
to sell TREES of all varieties, fruit and orna-
mental. We are looking for a few hustlers.
Are you one? If so, get our terms.
CHASE BROTHERS COMPANY
Nurserymen,
COLEBORNE, - ONT.

WASHING MACHINES.

Time works wonderful changes in all fields—methods that were considered the best a decade ago are obsolete today. Ideas that prevailed a quarter of a century ago are long since exploded. That which appeared impossible of accomplishment in 1898 is rendered easy in 1903. Progress is the watchword all along the line, and he who does not recognize this fact is soon out of the running.

In no department of the home, we feel safe in saying, has there been a greater transformation brought about in recent years by the introduction of up to date appliances than in the case with respect to the day generally termed WASH DAY.

This day of all days in the week is the one hitherto mostly dreaded; but in the home where proper appliances are used it is not less bright and free from onerous routine than any other of the working days.

The fact is, that in the ideal home wash day is not considered at all in the light of a day of exceptionally heavy and unpleasant work, because it is not by any means a day to be abhorred if a really good WASHING MACHINE is brought into requisition.

The RE-ACTING WASHER fills the bill. It is made of thoroughly seasoned lumber, guaranteed against defects in workmanship or material. The price is so cheap that it is within the reach of every housekeeper.

Call at our store both at Woodstock and Centreville and see this great labor saving machine.

W. F. DIBBLEE & SON.

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is a specialty with us. We can give it to you in large size 24x36 inches, for tub linings or, in printed or unprinted wrappers for one or two pound prints. This paper is the very best on the market and we buy it in such quantities that we can sell it as cheaply as any of it in the province.

THE DISPATCH,