

## CAPT. KIDD'S BOX.

THIS TIME IT TURNS UP ON THE COAST OF MAINE.

BANGOR, Sept. 7.—The supposed finding at Eber's Point, of one of the hidden boxes of gold which the doughty Captain Kidd, according to traditions, must have distributed at numerous places along the Atlantic coast has set a portion of Old Town agog during the past few days.

For many years there has been a legend that Captain Kidd visited Old Town, and picking out a spot on Eber's Point, which is now owned by Messrs. Buzzell & Woodman buried one of his boxes of gold. Some of the men who are now bordering on forty or fifty years of age can plainly remember the story and the actual belief of many that a box of gold was buried beneath the surface at the point.

It is now claimed that the coveted box has been found, but by whom it is not known. When Mr. Woodman visited his lot last Friday he came across a hole in the ground in the woods about two hundred feet from the river and 30 rods east from the Stillwater branch. The hole has all evidence of having been a box removed from it about 12 by 16 inches. To all appearances there was a flat rock on the bottom, a rock at each end and one on the top of the box. The roots of the trees had grown up to the box and turned under. As further proof that a box was found, Mr. Woodman found a portion of an old-fashioned lip that covered old-fashioned locks, and a broken key was also found. A pointed iron bar was found near the hole, which had been used in prying out the box.

Mr. Woodman is positive of the fact that a box had been removed from the hole recently, and he has taken his partner, L. A. Buzzell, to the place, and he also verifies all that Mr. Woodman told about it, and he further believes that gold was actually found there.

Many mediums have claimed that a box of gold hidden by Captain Kidd would be found near Eber's Point, and it was only last summer at the Spiritualistic camp meeting at Etna that an Old Town man was told by a medium that gold was hidden in a box at that point. The ground has been dug over many times, and at one time a very beautiful tree of strange species was dug up by the roots in the efforts of a searching party to find the hidden treasure.

Some years ago it was claimed that a chart had been found which was made by Captain Kidd and described a place ten miles east of Bangor at a point where the waters met in three places where he had hidden a portion of his gold. The description exactly tallies with Eber's Point.

The finder of the box is unknown to Old Town parties, but it is hard to shake the faith of some that such a box has been found and taken away. Early in the summer, Auburn parties camped on the ground near where the box was found, and one of the men went away before the rest, and it is thought by some that he is the one who got the treasure. Whether it will have the effect of putting a stop to the digging over of the point which has been done for so many years, or whether it will excite the curiosity of the people to dig in hopes of finding more treasure is not known.

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### THE EXCITEMENT IN THE TEA MARKET IS WEARING OFF.

In an interview with Mr. T. H. Estabrooks to-day we learn that the primary Tea markets are easier. Cables from Calcutta, Colombo and Foochow all report the market as being lower, and considering the quality, prices to-day are as low as at any time during the season.

Mr. Estabrooks several weeks ago expressed the opinion that there would not be any material advance and strongly advised his customers not to buy large quantities on speculation. It would seem now that this was good advice.—St. John Telegraph.

Richard Fitzgerald, an old British pensioner while leaning out of a window in a hotel at Windsor, Ont., Wednesday, lost his balance and fell thirty-five feet to the ground dying instantly.

## A CURIOUS INVENTION

## THE FAMOUS CHESS AUTOMATON THAT PUZZLED THE SAVANTS.

A Game With Napoleon in Which the Great Emperor Was Badly Scolded—How It Was Operated and How the Secret Was Discovered.

On July 5, 1854, a fire broke out in the old National theater, which soon extended from it only by a narrow alley. In the destruction of the museum was lost the most famous automaton the world had ever known, and yet the fact passed unnoted in the Philadelphia newspapers of that day. The automaton chess player, like many of his human antagonists, had outlived his day and for several years had occupied a recess in a small room in a part of the building but little frequented by visitors.

This famous automaton was constructed at Vienna in 1769 by Wolfgang, baron von Kempelen, a man of extraordinary mechanical ability, a good naturalist and an artist.

The automaton consisted of a chest, upon which was seated the figure of a Turk. The chest was 3½ feet long, 2 feet broad and 2½ feet high, placed on casters, which enabled the exhibitor to move it from one part of an apartment to another. The object of this arrangement was to show the spectators that no superior communicated with the chest. The left arm of the Turk was hollow, and through it ran a wire which communicated with the interior of the chest, where, by means of a lever, the operator concealed within it was enabled to give every desired motion to the arm, hand and fingers of the figure.

When the doors of the automaton had been closed, the operator began to make his arrangements for the game. This he did by swinging the whole furniture of the interior of the chest—mock wheels, machinery, etc.—against the outer doors and walls of the box, so as to throw all the subdivided compartment into one apartment. By this means he had room enough to seat himself comfortably before the chessboard on which he played. The moves of the adversary of the Turk, when made on the board before the figure, were communicated to the occupant of the chest by means of wires connected with a number of disks inserted in the top of the apartment, and as soon as any one of the pieces on the Turk's board was touched the fact was communicated by the corresponding disks being put in motion. The concealed chess player reproduced his opponent's moves on his own board, and when he was ready to reply to them he made use of the left arm of the figure for that purpose, as already stated.

The automaton was exhibited in Vienna for some months, attracting a crowd of savants from all parts of the world. Finally, the scientific and mechanical pursuits of the baron having made and insuring his patrimony, he set out on a tour through Europe with the object of endeavoring to retrieve his impaired fortunes by giving exhibitions of his curious invention in the principal cities on the continent.

Before starting on his travels Von Kempelen engaged the services of the most skillful chess player he could find to operate the automaton. To secure, too, the Turk from all hazard of defeat, ending of games were only played, under the pretext that complete games would occupy too much time. A book containing a series of end games was always handed to the opponents of the automaton, and they were allowed their choice of the white or the black pieces. Neither in appearance could be fairer than this; but, as a matter of fact, the positions were so contrived that whoever took the first move—which the Turk invariably claimed—had a force won game.

When Baron von Kempelen died in 1804, his son disposed of the automaton to one Maelzel, court mechanic at Berlin, who occasionally exhibited it. In 1809 Maelzel was occupying some portion of the palace of Schonbrunn, when Napoleon made it his headquarters after the battle of Wagram. It was there that the automaton played with the emperor the now historic game of chess. Napoleon, who was a poor player, quickly lost the game. He then challenged the automaton to a second encounter. In the course of the game he purposely made a false move. The Turk bowed gravely and replaced the piece on its proper square. A few seconds later the emperor repeated his maneuver and with a similar result. But when the thing occurred for the third time the automaton swept the whole of the chessmen off the board. Allzair, the inventor of the gambit named after him, is believed to have been the player who had the temerity to inflict so merited a rebuke upon the "vie" or of a hundred battles.

About two years later Eugene Beaumarchais, then viceroy of Italy, witnessed an exhibition of the automaton, at Milan. His curiosity was so great that he bought of Maelzel both the automaton and the secret of his mechanism for 30,000 francs. The prince, however, soon tired of his purchase, and the Turk, relegated to a lumber room, passed the next four or five years in ignominious seclusion.

In 1817 Maelzel bought back the automaton at the same price Prince Eugene gave for it. After exhibiting the Turk for several years in England and on the continent Maelzel sailed from Havre for New York in December, 1825. Here the automaton defeated the most skillful American amateurs and became the sensation of the day. During the tour of the Turk through the United States he drew great crowds, and the pockets of his owner became well filled.

But in Baltimore, by a curious accident, a discovery was made of the fact that some one was concealed in the automaton. The affair happened in this wise: One day two lads mounted on the roof of a shed commanding a view of the room to which the Turk retired after the exhibition was over. On this occasion Maelzel, as soon as the audience had dispersed, rolled the automaton behind the curtain. Intent only on relieving his ally from his irksome confinement, Maelzel stepped to the window, threw the shutters wide open and then returning to the automaton lifted the top of the chest. From this hiding place there emerged, in full sight of the boys, a man in his shirt sleeves. And so a secret that had baffled all Europe for nearly a century was at last made public by two American schoolboys.

The German peasant of a century ago—the period of the Napoleonic wars—ate little except black bread and potatoes, and in many cases he had barely sufficient of them to sustain life.

## CURTAIN RAISERS.

"Jess of the Bar Z" is Belle Archer's new play.

Duse is making a study of Shelley's "Beatrice Cenci."

W. S. Gilbert's "Comedy and Tragedy" has been translated for Bernhardt.

"The Christian" has passed its one thousandth performance in England.

The Japanese actors who have been making a tour of this country are now playing in London.

A. C. Wheeler (Nym Crinkle) has written a play of New York life that will be among the productions of next season.

Justin Huntly McCarthy has written "The Starved Fawn." It will be first produced in the United States by E. H. Sothern.

The play of longest duration in New York this season is "Sherlock Holmes," which stopped recently at the end of its thirty-second week.

Charles B. Hanford will not be associated with Louis James and Kathryn Kidder next year, but will star in a play, "Private John Allen," by Lee Arthur.

Another Shakespearean play is promised for next year. It will be "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with Louis James as Bottom and Kathryn Kidder as Helena.

Jessie Bartlett Davis, who was offered \$1,000 for a week in vaudeville at Chicago, accepted the offer and turned the whole amount over as her contribution to the Actors' Home fund of New York.

In India it is said many of the theaters are free. The curtain rolls up at 9 o'clock at night and never comes down until 5 the next morning. It usually requires seven nights to present a drama.

## THE VERDICT.

An official report sets forth that 10,000,000 pages of homeopathic literature were published last year. There wasn't anything very homeopathic about a dose like that.

Henry Irving says Shakespeare is a bond between England and America. Sir Henry does not know that the bard has been officially boycotted by the theatrical syndicate.

The ice trust has notified its drivers not to leave ice on the rear porch exposed to the sun's rays. The drivers should shove the ice through the crack under the door.

These Chinese towns have perfectly ridiculous names. Why can't they call themselves something sensible, like Skowhegan, for instance, or Punks-tawney or Caucomgomoc or Kalamazoo?—Boston Globe.

A fine of \$150 has been imposed on Mr. Roberts of Utah, convicted of having one wife more than the law allows. This puts polygamy out there on a cash basis, and the price fixed for a plural marriage cannot be called high.—New York World.

That young woman in Washington who is suing for divorce because her husband is not a "rising statesman," as he had represented himself, evidently bought a pig in a poke, with the usual result of regretting her bargain. Rising young statesmen do not advertise themselves in that way.

## RECENT INVENTIONS.

The latest labor saving contrivance is said to be an electric collection box. No collectors are required, for as soon as the clergyman has touched a button in the pulpit the box runs along wires from pew to pew, and the congregation do the rest.

For sailboats a new attachment allows the mast to be moved to either side of the boat as the wind shifts, a horizontal arm being pivoted at the forward end of the hull, in the outer end of which the mast is set, with a lever which allows the bar to be shifted to adjust the mast.

Street cars are prevented from running into open drawbridges by a southerner's patent safety device which has a wedge shaped block pivoted on either side of the track, with levers connecting the blocks with the bridge to swing the block over the rails as the draw opens.

Vehicle bodies are maintained in a horizontal position on a side hill by an Ohio man's device, in which the body is supported on the axles by four vertical screws, which are provided at the upper end with wheels, to be grasped, to revolve the screws and tilt the body at the desired angle.

## PLANT LIFE.

In southern France successful efforts have been made to arrest forest fires by growing the juicy cactus plants in open spaces separating the sections of the forests.

In England the tallest single stemmed beech tree stands in Lord Brownlow's park at Ashbridge, which overlooks the beech country of Buckinghamshire. It is known as the queen beech and is 150 feet high.

A fad in horticulture which has pretty results is to insert strawberry plants in holes in barrels which have previously been bored for the purpose, and the barrels filled with earth. The plants flourish in this way splendidly, often completely covering the barrel with the leaves, blossoms and fruit.

## SCRAPS OF SCIENCE.

An inventor claims to have discovered a method of obtaining motive power from sunlight.

The nearest approach of a comet to the earth observed was in 1770, when one approached to within 1,400,000 miles of our planet.

The sound of thunder may be heard for 20 to 25 miles, with the ear to the ground much farther. Lightning is reflected for 150 to 200 miles.

Recent experiments by M. Janet show that the temperature of the carbon filament in an electric lamp is between 2,900 degrees and 3,000 degrees F.

## NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

The erosion of rock caused by the Niagara river is said to be from one to five feet a year.

Niagara falls was at one time situated at Queenstown, several miles from its present location.

In the Drakenberg mountains, in Natal, is a natural formation known as Napoleon's kop. It gives an excellent bust representation of the Little Corporal.

## "Good Counsel Has No Price."

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## A REFORM IN BUILDINGS.

The "Little Red School House," of former years is fast being displaced by more modern structures, better adapted for the work of teaching and training the youth of our land. Great changes have been made in public architecture, and the building of to-day is as far in advance of that of former days, as the college is of the public school.

Not only has advance been made in public school architecture, but Sunday-school architecture has also made rapid strides. Instead of "trucking" the Sunday school away in the cellar, or some other out-of-the-way place, the Church is beginning to realize that in the Sunday-school is the future Church, (as 85 per cent. of its additions come from the Sunday-school), and that it is entitled to better quarters and more modern conveniences. Consequently there has been a reform in Church architecture, and they are now being built with some thought of the Sunday-school. The Sunday-school building of to-day is one that can be easily thrown into the Church auditorium by sliding doors; built with a gallery, having class rooms up stairs and down, and so arranged that the platform of the Superintendent can be seen from any section of the room. This Sunday-school architecture is one of the out-growths of the International Sunday-school Convention, which through its various conventions, suggests methods and plans for up-building and strengthening the Sunday-school work of the whole country. The General Secretary of the International Convention, Mr. Marion Lawrence, Toledo, will, upon application, furnish circulars explaining the work in detail.

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How not to support a paper: Borrow it regularly from your neighbor. When you speak of it, just say, in a contemptuous way, that there is nothing in it.

Make it a point to buy of those who seek to attract your custom by advertising; but should you find it to your advantage to patronize them, be very careful not to state that you have seen their advertisement.

Never advertise your business in its columns in the usual legitimate way, but get all the gratis notices that you can.

Make it do all the advertising and job work for your pet charity for nothing and then forget to give it credit. You know the proper way to prove your charity is to abstain vigorously from parting with your own money, and to force others to spend theirs.—Catholic Sentinel.

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