## MARCO'S VIOLIN.

WRITTEN FOR THE EVENING STAR BY ALEC BRUCE.

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Flip! The crimson sca oped flaps of the | must tell her now," groaned Callagan, performers' entrance parted suddenly, and

Geronimo stepped out into the night. "Black, black as pitch," he muttered; and at the swift change from ring glare to inky darkness his tired eyes blinked as he swept the darker silhouettes, the sun-blistered

light under the high, covered archway big, sparkling drops glistened on the fly's edge, tattooed the taut-stretched roof of the mammoth tent and splashed into the trench below. No other sounds save the shuffling of feet, the buzz of many voices and the muffled strains of the violins within. Mar-

line was juggling with the ten golden balls. Standing a moment beneath the dazzling archway, Geronimo satisfied the longing of his lungs. "Me-ah!" again and again he breathed, for the fragrance of sprouting sage filled the rain-cooled air, and the heat of the ring had been intense.

"But the light in the troupe car, sick Marco's light? I cannot see it," he muttered, stepping into the shadows and shad-ing his eyes with his hands. "And-and

cred, stepping into the shadows and shading his eyes with his hands. "And—and Caliagan said there was a light!"

From the bunching searlet and yellow on his bosom he pulled out his watch and glanced at it; then over at the big, green posters flapping idly on the canvas walls. "Ah only five minutes till I hold the drum, and I must not keep ma'amselle waiting. I have never kept her waiting! But Marco. I have never kept her waiting! But Marco, her brother Marco! Ma'amselle is so anxfous; she will ask-and then-I cannot tell Bah. Geronimo! you have time—time and to spare. Go; ask Marco how he fares. He has drawn down the shade, that is all."
Glumly he glanced down at his shoes,

spangled, immaculate, white. But Geronimo's mind was made up. Where Ma'amselle Marie Selini was concerned it did not take him long to decide. So, thrusting his hands deep into the wide, frilled pockets of his long, yellow pantaloons, he drew them up almost to his knees and tiptoed quickly off in the direction of the troupe car.
Almost at its platform he halted sudden-

muttering anathemas on a miniature nd lake shimmering between him and the car. Bah! to think there had not been a spot on his shoes, and now?

A dark figure sprang down from the platform into the surface water. Geronimo felt the spray on his powdered face.

Up went his hands. The leopard spotted frills of his pantaloons touched mud. His hear gave one great bound and like m'sieur." a drumstick thumped against his chest. "Geronimo, Geronimo!" whispered a fa-"Ah, si Senor Quereno, y-you? It is you," stammered the clown. "And — and Marco; what of Marco?"

"Dead, d-dead!" gulped the tightwire walker, suppressing the excitement in his voice. "M-Ma'amselle, she-she sent me. I found him dead. Come-come with me, Geronimo. We must report to Callagan at

For a moment Geronimo stood as one From the crimson star on his flake-

must tell her now," groaned Callagan, stepping swiftly back from the eye-hole.
"Quereno, Quereno," he whispered. But Senor Quereno was nowhere to be seen.
"Hip, hip, hurrah! Hurrah! Hip, hip, hurrah!"
The grash of conleyer was load, long and

The crash of applause was loud, long and deafening, and in the waiting interval Cal-lagan's big heart grew bigger.

on a side track.

Tap-tip-tapplty-tip! A heavy rain had just ceased falling, and in the blaze of light under the blaze of "Marie, Marie!" whispered Callagan, stretching out his strong, fatherly arms. And in a moment the fluttering pink form of the circus' darling was in them.

> Next morning a gloom had fallen on Tim Callagan's roystering troupe. Alike to acrobat, to clown, to the rough horsegroom. a still, small voice had spoken. Women, their petty jealousies all forgotten, bunche together like sorrowing sisters. "Ma'am-selle, Ma'amselle, ah, poor Ma'amselle!" Men, dissolute fellows mostly, conversing in whispers, sauntered aimlessly round the tent. "Marco, poor Marco, yah, yah, Mar-

co was a man!" All eyes were riveted on the troupe car. Sympathy, sorrow, bereavement transfixed them, and Manager Callagan, it was known, had a message to convey. Senor Quereno and the manager had been closeted together all morning. Ah, and ma'amselle, neither to hold nor to bind, she wan going to leave them.

In the little churchyard across the seas, a little churchyard where the channel waves to all eternity would sing the requiem, there would Marco Selini sleep. Had been ma'amselle, the great sun-scorched esert would have served. But Marco? No. no, brother, Marco must go home.

"Ma'amselle, Ma'amselle," Callagan had protested, "you must not leave us." But ma'amselle was obdurate. "Marie, Marie, take me home. You will take me home?" with his tired arms fondly encircling her, Marco had pleaded. And though not in words had ma'amselle promised, her kiss, her tender pressure, the love-light in her eyes had been a promise, and when ma'amselle promited she fulfilled.
Yah, yah, and there was money, Marco's

money. "Lots of mon-ey, vun tousand dollars on his person."
"On his person? On-his-person?" Callagan's speaking eyes had framed the ques-

"Ah, oui, you see-you see, he did not trust, an' we haf traveled much, m'sieur."
she answered with a smile. "Bah! an'
Senor Quereno, he is beesiness, he confer
with Marco. He not believe in—in banks.
"They fail sometimes? No, no, very often,'
he say. And so, our mon-ey he haf it here,
m'sieur."

Suddenly out from the troupe car to the ittle railed platform stepped Senor Quereno, a burnished megaphone at his lips. "Brothers, sisters, members of the troupe, Manager Callagan would speak with you. "To the ring, to the ring," he says. Come

"My friends, my friends," said the sadfaced Callagan, mounting slowly to the band stand, and facing the eager group below "you - you have heard that - that her Marco Selini has-left us; that white cheek, leaving its colored wake behind, a big, glittering drop rolled down to the crescent on his quivering chin. He looked the fool he nightly acied.

"Ah, but no, but no, Senor Quereno," he was arguing, "Ma'amselle did not send you."

"Al how called you here. Our Marco had



"ONCE AGAIN I ASK YOU, IS YOUR OFFER GOOD?"

head.

Callagan hoarsely, "you bring me oa I news, sad news Marco, Marco, and so young, so young? A violinist, Quereno; a trick per-former, Geronimo; a horseman, a gentle lad, I shall never engage his like again. Faults, Quereno, faults? Have we not all

The apple at the manager's throat slipped a cog as he spoke. A few quavering notes trilled in his even pitched tones; but no one had even seen a tear in Callagan's And-and, gentlemen." he continued sud-

denly, "not a hint to ma amselle; not a word, remember! She is in the ring now and she must not know. It's the high jump through the drum tonight. There must be no heartache, no strain upon her. And the no heartache, no strain upon her. And the Interlude comical? Why, Geronimo, you are billed with her. You are due now, Heavens, man, a brave face, a brave face!" Ting, ting, ting. A bell rang in the ring. The orchestra struck up a horse-prancing air, and Geronimo brushed through the cur-

'Ladies and shentlemen! Shentlemen and ladies-ta-rum, ta-rum, ta-rah-rah!" He was stalking round the ring in his inimitable way, high long pantaloons drawn up to his ankles, marching time to the music. matching the long, pawing steps of the ma'amselle's steed. "Ha, ha, ha!"

Loud roars of laughter, round after round applause greeted the droll exhibition, and rippled throughout the interlude.
"Listen to him, listen to him, Quereno." whispered Calagan, peering earnestly through the curtains; "and ma'amselle, ma'amselle, she is laughing, too. She cannot help it. God bless you, Geronimo!" In a few minutes came the equestrienne's final dashing act, the high jump from horseback through the drum, the act of the

evening. "Ta-rum, ta-rum, ta-rah-rah! Whoop-lah, whoop-lah!" Crack! Whoop-whoop-whoop!" Swish!

You say so, but Ma'amselle does not trust you. I know! And Marco? No, no, you lie! Bah! that spell in your eyes, senor. Keep that for fools!"

"Come, come," urged the Spaniard, "we must hurry, Geronimo."

"Ah, Senor Quereno, Geronimo." muttared Callagan hoarsely, "you bring me oal news, and news. Marco, Marco to understand. 'Home, home, home,' she cries, 'Marco must go home!' There is no other answer, friends. What shall we do?

other answer, friends. What shall we do?
We all love Ma'amselle. We all love Marco. Shall we help?"

"Aye, aye, we must help! We will all
help!" Not a single dissenting voice, not a
look farred the unanimity in the ring.

"Fifty dollars!" volunteered Marlino.

"Hurrah, hurrah!"

"One hundred!" shouted Geronimo. "Hurrah, hurrah!"

For an instant a tear diamond sparkled for an instant a tear diamond sparkled in Callagan's eye. Bah! with a smile he brushed it away. "Gentlemen, gentlemen," he cried, "I am proud-very proud. You-you are generous! But-but Senor Quereno has suggested, perhaps, a—a better way. Ma'amselle is so independent. Ah, friends, you will understand. Not one penny of your hard-earned savings would she have you sacrifice. No, no! So, the senor suggested. gests, and Ma'amselle she concurs, thatthat we auction, such as they are, our Marco's little effects. There are jewels, a diamond ring, Ma'amselle's horse, some lit-

tle trinkets, his and hers - for remem-Some of you will value them, his violin, for instance." "Remembrances, ah, yah, Senor Calla-an," muttered the Spaniard, advancing closer to the speaker and nodding his curly

Geronimo's eyes followed his every move-Geronimo's eyes followed his every movement. The money, that money, where was it? But yesternoon to Geronimo Marco had confided where he kept it. "Only to you, Jerry, only to you," he had said. "I have told no other." Aye, and Geronimo had seen it, next the mother's hair; one bill, one great big bill in the little gold locket slung round the sick man's neck, hidden away beside his heart. Did Quereno know? Ah, Quereno's eyes were everywhere. In the dressing room, perhaps? Yah, yah, in the dressing room, before Marco turned sick, that was where he had seen it!

"My friends, continued Callagan slowly, "with your permission I will start the auction. For Morkin Brothers, the circus own-

fer to purchase the horse. Does any one bid higher?"

bid higher?"
"No, no; agreed, agreed!" assented
Quereno loftil;
"Agreed, agreed!" echoed the troupe.
Then, solemnly, item by item, the auction
proceeded until three hundred dollars had
been raised. And be it known that Senor
Quereno nurchased sparingly. Quereno purchased sparingly.

At last came the violin, Selini's sweettoned violin, a violin that had made the
breasts of wild men heave.

"How much?" cried Callagan. "You have
heard its intermezzo. Gentlemen! Ladies!
How much?" How much?"
"Fifty dollars," in a low voice offered

Quereno.
"Sixty," muttered Geronimo.
"One hundred," whispered the Spaniard.
"One hundred and fifty," capped th clown. "Two-two hundred!" stammered Quereno, surprised.

surprised.
"Three," quavered Geronimo.
"Jerry, Jerry!" warned Marlino.
But the clown heard nothing. A wild, insistent suspicion flashed into his brain. His blood was tingling through his veins, and a shell-like murmur drummed in his ears, the murmur of intense excitement. "Three hundred, sir, three hundred!" he repeated loudly. "If he tons that then I know. I loudly. "If he tops that, then I know, I risk, I challenge."
"Three hundred dollars, gentlemen."
Bang, bang, bang! "Three hundred! Going at three hundred," announced the auction-

at three hundred," announced the auctioneer. "Going, going—"
Senor Quereno's face went white; his lips trembled; nervously he stroked his long, black mustache. Bah! a fool's purse must soon give out. "Four hundred dollars, four hundred, sir!"
"Enough, enough, Mister Callagan," cried the clown. "I cannot offer more. But if he wants the violin, only the violin, at \$400, let him have it!"
"Ha ha!" laughed Ouereno. But the

"Ha ha!" laughed Quereno. But the laugh had a mirthless ring. "The—the violin—and the bow, ha ha! That is all I want." "Geronimo!" with arching brows, inter-

rupted Callagan, "what else could the senor want? Explain." For a moment Geronimo seemed to weigh his answer. One moment only, but during that brief space Senor Quereno passed through fire. His whole passionate nature rose in rebellion, flerce and ill concealed. Curse of all curses on that clown! "Geronimo!" insisted Callagan.

"Geronimo!" Insisted Callagan, sir," mut-tered Geronimo, trembling. "Ma'amselle's money, you say it is lost. You have looked everywhere, everywhere. Did you look in the violin. Shake it, sir, shake it. Look in the sound holes. One bill, one great, big bill, that's what brother Marco had. big bill, that's what brother Marco had, and—ah, y-yes, Marco—Marco might have put it there. Why not, why not, sir?"
"Ha—ha! Ah—ahahah." From fifty throats the loud murmur of surprise swelled to one long continued roar.

"Gentlemen, gentlemen! Ma'amselle Selini, hush-sh!" with uplifted hands warned Callagan. "Hush-sh-sh!"

A tattered old program fluttered and whirled from the gallery to the ring. Every one heard it. Suddenly to his ear the manager raised he instrument high and shook it. friends," he cried, "there is something in it! A bill, a bill, Marco Selini's bill. Aha. thank God, thank God! Geronimo, it is found!" And in his glance, directed squarely at the Spaniard, a new-born suspicion lurked. "Ah, Senor Quereno, Senor Que-reno," in tones full of meaning he whispered, "once again I ask you, is your offer good? Four hundred dollars for the vio--only the violin-and the bow? All eyes turned rudely on the tight-wire walker. The infection of suspicion had spread to every member of the troupe.

Yah, yah. I-I will buy-will offer-t-that sum," stammered Quereno, crimsoning, "But-but, Senor Callagan, ah, and do you not think so, too, that this discovery might influence Ma'amselle? Er-the-the violin, ow, she may desire to-to keep? A remembrance, senor, a—a remembrance?"
"Hem! Possibly, senor, possibly." said
Callagan, descending slowly from the
stand. "But I will see. I will explain to
ma'amselle. One moment, please!"
In a few minutes he returned. "No, senor. no. Ma'amselle desires to sell. 'How kind you are,' she says, 'to offer so much money.' My friends, three cheers, three cheers for Senor Quereno. Come! Hip, hip—"
And "Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!" to a man jeered Tim Callagan's angry troupe.

CHEAP HOME-MADE FILTER. Also How to Mend China and How to

Remove a Glass Stopper.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. as additions to her store of information, but generally we don't even knew ourselves the value of this miscellaneous knowledge until something arises that puts it in practice," Mr. Julison A. Parker, who is in the housefurnishing trade, said to me.

"As an instance of this, at my house last week one of my wife's friends, who is visiting us, found that the glass stopper in her cologne bottle was fast and she couldn't remove it. This is an easy thing to overcome when one knows how. I look a bit of cloth, soaked it in some hot water and wrapped it around the neck of the bottle. In a moment the glass had expanded sufficiently to a ble us to remove the extension. ficiently to enable us to remove the stopper

"There is another thing that recurs to me will not be marred and will stay mended. Take some cuicklime and poweler it, then pour on this the white of an egg. A whey of vinegar and milk in equal parts must then be made and added to the lime and egg, after which the whole must be beaten well and slightly warmed. The broken edges of whatever is to be mended must then be exposed to heat for a few seconds, only a very thin coat, the broken edges pressed firmly together, and when the cement has dried it will be more enduring than the plate or cup itself. I have seen broken flints so mended, and after a few days hammered with an ax. The stone broke of course days hammered with an ax. The stone broke, of course, under the hammering, but in other places than where the break had been. That shows the enduring

'Here is another piece of information that may be valuable, and that is how to make an inexpensive, but entirely reliable, filter. For this purpose one had better take a stone jar, though for that matter most any receptacle will do. A hole sufficiently large for the stream of water one desires to enter the filter should be bored in the bottom and after this is accomplished the recepta-cle must be filled, first with a layer of sand several inches deep, then a layer of bits of sponge, and on this, to a level even with the top of the jar, plenty of small gravel or pebbles.

"When the receptacle has been so filled

"When the receptacie has been so filled a piece of wire screen is to be fastened over the top, made secure with bands of wire. The home-made filter must then be inverted over another receptacle into which the filtered water is to drop, the little orifice attached to the hydrant by means of a small hose, and it is ready for business—ready to purify the water and render it as clear as the proverbial crystal. Except for the original cost of the jar and hose, which may be used indefinitely, the entire cost of the thing will not be more than a couple of cents, and the filtering ingredients may be cleaned each day with hot water without very much trouble, or new sand and gravel used frequently, just as one may elect."

For the Training of Husbands. From Harper's Weekly. But the college has not simply aided in

the making of a good home better; it has also aided in making the good home itself. A coilege president, speaking to the freshmen at the opening of their course, said: "You are here in order to become good husbands." The idea is common that college men do not marry so largely as do other men, and do not wish to marry. Of course there are men, college as well as non-college, who neither marry nor wish to marry, and also there are college and noncollege men who ought not either to marry or to wish to marry. Such men, however, are few. The family is normal, and marriage is its foundation. Most college men, riage is its foundation. Most college men, like most college women, marry late, but they do marry. When the class of 1876 of Harvard College had been graduated twenty-five years it had living 116 members. Of this number no less than ninety were married. Only twenty-six were bachwere married. Only twenty-six were bach-elors. More than 77 per cent had mar-ried and only 22 per cent remained sin-gle. When one considers the causes which worthily influence men to remain unmar-ried—duty to parents, ill health, such as tendency to tuberculosis or insanity, cer-tain forms of mission or philanthropic serv-ice—it is at once clearly seen that the pro-portion of college men in this class of 1876 who had remained bachelors for what some would call unworthy reasons was probably very small. The college does seek to make men of the types who can be

Vessel Assigned to District dicated horse power of 3,760. At a speed of ten knots an hour the Puritan has a steam-Naval Militia.

VALUED ACQUISITION

WILL BE BROUGHT TO WASHING-TON EARLY NEXT MONTH.

History of Auxiliary to Regular Establishment-Encouraged by Congress - Its Purposes.

The final arrangements have been completed for an event which is considered to be of the greatest importance, not only to



the District Naval Battalion, but to the entire naval militia of the country as wellthe transfer of the first-class double-turret monitor, the Puritan, to the District Naval Battalion for the use of that organization. This transfer will place the naval battalion in possession of one of the finest ships owned by the United States; but more than that, the transfer, it is declared, will be one full of significance to the naval militia of the various states, in that the assignment of this vessel to the District organization will mark the beginning of a new era in naval militia affairs-an era fraught with great possibilities for the future welfare and development of the naval militia of the whole

The Puritan was assigned to the Naval Battalion of the National Guard of the District of Columbia by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles H. Darling, in June of this year. The vessel, which is now at League Island navy yard, Philadelphia, has been ordered to go into commission August 30, and the 3d of September the officers and enlisted men of the District naval militla will go to Phila-delphia for the purpose of bringing the vessel to this city.

According to the final plans for bringing the Puritan to Washington, the District Naval Battalion, together with a skeleton "In our business we come to acquire a knowledge of how to do many little things that the housekeeper would gladly welcome to acquire a least the housekeeper would gladly welcome to acquire a least the housekeeper would gladly welcome to acquire a least the housekeeper would gladly welcome to acquire a least least the housekeeper would gladly welcome to acquire a least l five days getting the vessel into shape after which they will proceed to sea. Tar-get practice with all the guns on board will drilled in various features of a "jacky's" work; a cruise lasting about ten days will be taken along the coast and the ship will then be brought up the bay and the Poto-mac river to the Washington channel, where it will be anchored near the present wharf of the District Naval Battation and turned over to that organization.

The Finest Ever. The Puritan, it is authoritatively stated, is the finest ship ever loaned by the government to the naval militia. With the ac quisition of this vessel the District organization will be equipped with the Oneida, a which house beepers might like to know. large steam launch, and a number of and that is how to mend china so that it smaller craft in addition to be been and a number of and that is how to mend china so that it smaller craft, in addition to the Puritan. With this outfit it is considered large opportunities will be afforded young men to acquire, outside of their regular employment, a vast amount of information conthen be exposed to heat for a few seconds, after which the cement may be applied, in only a very thin coat, the broken edges pressed firmly together, and when the

raphy by those so inclined.

In general features the Puritan differs but battalion has been strengthened, it is



The condition of the District naval battalion at present is considered as the most satisfactory of any period since its organization. The battalion has had a varied experience, but just now, it is believed, it has struck upon the smooth track.

ing radius of 1,647 miles, normal coal sup-

One of Six Monitors. The construction of the Puritan was be-

Roach, in Chester, Pa. It was one of six

1885, the other vessels being the Amphi-

trite, Miantenomah, Monadnock, Monterey

The new vessel to be turned over to the District naval-militia is considerably larger than the single-turreted monitors, the Arkansas and Florida, new anchored in Wash-larter, when the

ington channel. A comparison between the Puritan and the Arkansas will perhaps give Washingtonians a clearer idea of the for-

mer's size. The Puritan is about fifty feet longer than the Arkanses, has ten feet greater breadth of beam, draws six feet more water, besides having twice the dis-

placement, and has double the battery of the Arkansas. The gross tomage of the Puritan is 2.144, while that of the Arkansas

and monitors of the single-turreted class is

Several times in past years the District

naval militia has applied to the Navy De-partment for other vessels much inferior to the Puritan to replace the present training

ship Fern. The applications were however, without success, for the stated reason that the department officials did not have sufficient confidence in the efficiency of the District naval organization. Under the command of Lieutenant Commander R. B. Brummett it is stated the District naval

Brummett, it is stated, the District naval battalion has had a rapid growth, and has

developed greatly in efficiency and num-

bers, naval discipline and exercises being strictly adhered to, and the assignment of

this important vessel to the battalion at this time, it is considered, is a proper rec-

ognition of Licutenant Commander Brum-mett's success, and also a mark of confi-dence on the part of the Navy Department in the future administration of this young and popular officer.

In Satisfactory Condition.

The first commanding officer of the battalion was Robert P. Haines, a grad-uate of the Annapolis Naval Academy, who served over a year and then resigned, being succeeded by Lieut. Commander Sherbourne G. Hopkins. Commander Haines was recommissioned as commanding officer of the battalion, but on account of pressing business was oblig-ed to resign. Lieut. Commander Hopkins, who again succeeded Commander Haines



Chasles H. Darling, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

also found it necessary to resign for urgent business reasons.

After the resignation of Mr. Hopkins, After the resignation of Mr. Hopkins, Lieut. R. B. Brummett was directed to take charge of the battalion, and later, as a recognition of his efficient administration of the militia's affairs, he was appointed Heutenant commander, and holds that position in the battalion at present. Under Lieut. Commander Brummett the battallon discarded vessels, but to give them the increased not only in efficiency, but also "best ships available." The loaning of the increased not only in efficiency, but also "best ships available." The loaning of the in numbers, and for some time the Fern Puritan to the District is the first step in has been too small to accommodate the battalion. The battalion now includes nearsioned officers. The naval militia has authority to enlist 400 men and commission twenty-one officers, and with the new vestel it is anticulated the naval battalion of the United States of the United States of the result of that plungs, the District of Columbia since 1898 have gone into the service of the United States to carry off a heavy burden or to free hims twenty-one officers, and with the new ves-sel it is anticipated the full complement will be raised without any difficulty.

guns.

The Puritan is fitted with twin screws, the engines being of the horizontal compound type, with Scotch boilers. On her trial trip the Puritan maintained a speed of twelve and four-tenths knots, with an inful applicants will be commissioned in time to go on the annual cruise of the battalion, their names having been sent to the Navy Department last Wednesday. The coming of the Puritan will witness the passing of the Fern, which has been

with the District Naval Battalion practi-cally since its legal organization, and while gladly receiving the modern and splendidly equipped monitor, yet some of the older members of the battalion will part with the Fern with sentiments of regret, because of gun at the shipbuilding works of John the associations clustered about the old schooner. The Fern, however, is practically unfit for active service, it is said, and it monitors authorized by Congress, March 3, is probable that when she leaves the Dis-trict battalin she will be discarded and thrown on the junk pile, her usefulness as a vessel being at an end.

and Terror. The Puritan was the largest of The Fern was built in 1871 by Delamater & Stack of New York. She is a two-masted these vessels. She is thirty feet longer and considerably wider than any of the vessels in her class, her gross tonnage is 500 tons greater and she carries a larger battery than that of any of the other vesschooner, 160 feet long, and 28 feet in breadth, drawing nearly twelve feet of water with a displacement of 840 tons. sels in the same class.

The Puritan was launched from the Roach shipbuilding yards, but circumstances made it necessary that the finishing work be done at the New York navy She was the first United States ship in the harbor of Havana after the blowing up of the battle ship Maine, the 15th of February, 1898, and carried the commission ap-

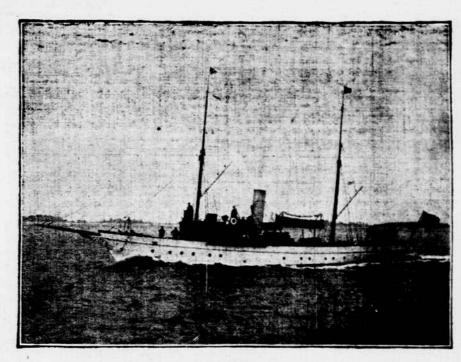
ing one-pounders and two 3-caliber gattling of United States naval officers for exami-guns. of United States naval officers for exami-nation, and it is learned that the success-at the industrious manner in which the at the industrious manner in which th lads scrubbed and rubbed and scoured the worn-out relics of a past period of naval history as though they were fresh from the

shipyard.

In 1895 the increase was rather slow, the muster rolls sent in showing a total of only 2,695 men caused by the organization of branches in New Jersey and Georgia, but the year following brought a considerable augmentation of numbers, the total of strength of the naval militia for 1896 being 3,339 men. A branch of the naval militia was organized in Louisiana, and it was during this year that the Navy Department granted authority for the officers of the naval militia to attend courses at the Naval Academy, a ruling that was at the Naval Academy, a ruling that was received with great enthusiasm by the members of the ellitla. Finally on the declaration of war with Spain in 1898, the naval militia entered the service of the country 4,000 strong.

In the War With Spain.

They more than filled expectations during the war with Spain, and in speaking of them Commander M. E. Hall said: "They were a well-drilled, intelligent and disalpointed to inquire into the causes of the plined body of men. In infantry, field-gun



ONEIDA.

the inquiry were held. There have been rumors to the effect that several state naval militia organizations have been destrous of securing the Fern as a training ship, but it is stated that the Navy Department will probably discard the vessel rather than send it out in its present condition, which, it is stated, is even better than when the vessel was first assigned to the District battalion five years ago.

Improving the Navy.

The glving of the Puritan to the District "jackies" is a sort of experiment, entered into after careful consideration, with the purpose of testing the development and progress that may be made by the naval militia if equipped with proper ships and afforded adequate facilities for training in seamanship and naval affairs. The experiment is also entered into with the idea of increasing the numerical strength of the naval militia of the coun-

The problem before the department officials is that of securing sufficient men to properly man the ships of the United States navy. To adequately man the ships now built and in course of construction for the American navy, it is stated, over 43,000 seamen are required. At present 31,500 men are authorized by law. For a number of years past 3,000 additional seamen have been authorized annually, 1,000 less than has been desired. It has not been deemed practicable, however, it is stated, to increase the number to 4,000 annually, on account of the present limited large baldheaded eagle in the eddy back facilities for training the men. The navy is getting the ships, but it is not getis a deficiency of seamen every year, force, coming down from an immense and while the number of ships conheight. At times he would dive under the ting the seamen to man them. There tinues to increase and the number of new enlistments does not increase in proportion there is a constantly widening gap in the naval personnel. Assistant Secretary Darling's Purpose.

Assistant Secretary C. H. Darling of the Navy Department has taken up the problem of adequately manning the ships of the United States navy and has turned to the naval militia of the country with the hope that in this organization will be found the solution of the perplexing question. From his interest in the naval militia and his inauguration of this new policy with respect to that organization Mr. Darling has been given the title of "The Father of the New Naval Militia." To that official is ascribed the credit for

The new policy contemplates a decided change from the former treatment of the naval militia, and it is proposed in the future not to give the organizations old, that new regime.

It is stated that 45 per cent of the men

navy. With the carrying out of Assistant Secretary Darling's new policy toward the naval militia it is considered that the Navy Department will have done its full part, and then it will be up to the naval militia organizations to "make good." The depart-ment will have done all that has been asked of it by the promoters of the naval militia of the country, and it will be the concern of the state and District of Columbia naval organizations to see to it that the experiment undertaken by the government is justified and is productive of satisfactory results. To this end the District of Colum- found it was my eagle fast fixed to a bia battalion has resolved to work, and sturgeon, fully six feet long. Both were already the effects of prospective increased facilities and improved opportunities is being noted in the earnestness and bearing of the members of the battalion.

Result of Conference.

The Naval Militia Association of the United States held a meeting in Washington last January, and it was at that time that the differences which had existed between the Navy Department and the naval militia for a decade past were settled. President Roosevelt. Speaker Cannon, Secretary Moody, Assistant Secretary Darling, Representative Foss, chairman committee on naval affairs of the House; Representative Dayton, member of the committee on naval affairs, and the late Admiral Taylor all made addresses enthusiastic for the future upbuilding of the naval militia of the

Curiously enough, the problem of securing good material for the United States navy was not as serious at the beginning and early period of the country's history as it was at a later date and is today. The New Bedford whaling industry and the Gloucester cod and mackerel fisheries furnished splendid material for the navy, New Bedford being not only a nursery, but a storehouse of naval heroes, fighters and able seamen.

According to ex-Secretary Long, Congress in 1837 was prompted to pass a law enlist-ing several hundred youngsters, who were placed on different vessels of the navy, but when the boys discovered they could aspire to commissions they soon left the service.

Speaking of this, ex-Secretary Long states that it taught the department a lesson, and in 1864, when Secretary Welles enlisted a number of small boys, he gave out the statement that they would receive com-missions, and afterward had a number of them sent to Annapolis.

Loan of Vessels Authorized. Friends of the movement secured the pas-

sage of an act of Congress authorizing the loan of vessels to the naval militia, "such as were not required in the general service of the navy." The result of this was that of the navy." The result of this was that a fine lot of old wooden tubs that had seen their best days and lay tenanted by rats and mice at the different navy yards were turned over to the various naval militia bodies. The New York boys received the New Hampshire, those of Pennsylvania the St. Louis, the Wyandotte was placed at the disposal of the Maryland branch, the Nantucket went to North Carolina and the Swatara was assigned to the California boys. Ancient and out-of-date old tubs as they were, they were golden caravels in the eyes of the youngsters who formed the naval militia, and the care which they bestowed on these out-of-date hulks, while it

Maine disaster. In her cabin the sessions of and boat drills they were fully equal to the sailors of the regular service. I consider the naval militia a very valuable auxillary to the naval defense of the coun-

During 1898 the District of Columbia, During 1898 the District of Columbia, Ohio, Oregon and Virginia organized branches of the naval militia, swelling the total strength to 5,439 men by 1899, which proved a great year in the history of the militia. Congress increased their appropriation from \$25,000 to \$60,000, and provided them with clothing, while the Navy Department distributed a considerable fleet of ancient tubs among the different naval bettallons. The assignment was as folof ancient tubs among the different naval battallons. The assignment was as follows: Alleen and New Hampshire, New York: Fern. District of Columbia; Inea and Minnesota. Masschusetts: St. Louis and Shearwater, Pennsylvania; Dale and Sylvia, Maryland: Hornet, North Carolina; Marion and Pinta, California; Stranger, Louisiana; Siren, Virginia; Elfrida, Connecticut; Huntress and Portsmouth, New Jersey; Yantic, Michigan.

## EAGLE AND STURGEON FIGHT.

Combat Between Big Bird and Fish in a Western River. From the Gateway.

We had been camped for a few days of a point on the upper reaches of the Pic river waiting for a few of the party who were running a side line. A source of

of the point. He would strike the water with great height. At times he would dive under the surface, to reappear a moment or two later, generally with a fish clutched in his claws, when he would fly, freighted with his fish, to a very high mountain, on the

overhanging crest of which the nest with his mate and young was quite visible to us with our field glass.

I had noticed his success and journeys to the nest for two mornings. On the third morning a shadow coming across the sun's rays caused me to look up, and there was the great bird at his usual hunt to supply the young eagles with breakfast. With his keep eye piercing the river depths he poised over a particular spot for a few moments and then shot down with the velocity of a

cannon ball. The waters parted and the eagle was lost to view. I watched and waited to see him emerge with his prey, but moments length-ened into minutes and minutes into a quarter of an hour and the surface of the water remained undisturbed.

What could it mean? Even if he had struck himself against some hidden rock and been killed the body would have floated to the profession of the struck of the struck. to the surface. It passed my reasoning powers to solve the result of that plunge. into foam and the bird again disappeared,

and all was still.

This lashing of the water and disappearing were repeated again and again, each time further down stream. A bend in the Calling one of our four men from the tent, we embarked in a canoe and started down the river to view the strange proceedings closer. When we had doubled the point below I saw lodged against the beach in a small bay something that did not look natural to the place. We paddled down and motionless. The king of fish and the king of birds had met death together.

Almost Called Him a Hog.

From the New York Tribune. "The late Paul Joseph Blanc, the French artist, studied in Rome in his youth," said an American painter, "and he was noted in those days for his truculence. "Blanc dined at a students' cafe one evening in Rome, and a young German who sat near him said:

"'It is easy enough to see, sir, that you are a Frenchman."
"How so?" said Blanc, frowning. "'Because you eat so much bread.'
"Blanc did not like this. He retorted:

'It is easy to see that you are a German. "'Why?' asked the other. "'Because,' said Blanc, 'you eat so much of everything.'

Brown-"I have just discovered what it is that destroys a man's memory completely." Green-"What is it-alcohol or tobacco?".

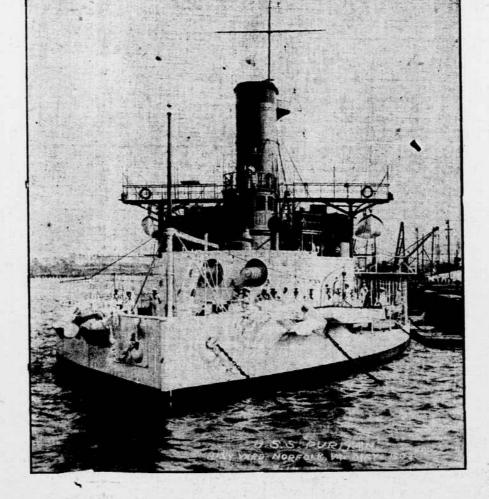
Brown-"Neither; it's doing him a favor."

A Point of View.

-Chicago News.



"Engaged to Jack! Why, you're the



PURITAN.

little from a modern first-class battle ship. It is a double-turret armored menttor, with a low fron freeboard and one military mast, and was built for coast defense. At either end is a steel barbette turret. The cost of constructing, the hull and the machinery for the Puritan was over \$2,300,000, not in-

the full armament. The dimensions of the ship are as follows: Length over all, 238 feet 9 inches; length between perpendiculars, 231 feet 8 inches; mean draft, 18 feet; extreme breadth, 69 feet 1½ inches; displacement, 6,060 tons; coal capacity, 314 tons. The Puritan's battery, it is said, is equal to that of a battle ship like the Iowa, and includes four 12-inch breech-loading rifles, six 4-inch rapid-Whoop-lah, whoop-lah!" Crack! Whoop-whoop!" Swish!

"Ladies and shentlemen, there is no deception!"

"Early whoop-lah, whoop-lah!" Swish!

"Ladies and shentlemen, there is no deception!"

"Early whoop-whoop!" Swish!

"Ladies and shentlemen, there is no deception!"

"She's through the drum, Quereno, "She's through, through the dressing room, before Marco turned the types who can be they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has been established they were, they were golden caravels in the engineer's division, has

Applicants are carefully examined as to their character before they are directed to appear before the surgeon for physical ex-

As the result of the acquisition of the Puritan an additional division, known as

amination. Additional Division Formed.