

Science Siftings

BY VOLT

Nailmaking.

A common nail is an excellent illustration of the difference between old and new methods. Formerly the metal was cut into strips and then forged into shape with hammers, and an expert took about one and a half minutes for each nail. To-day they are made of steel and are lighter and stronger. Strips are cut with steam shears and fed into automatic nail machines. One man tends three machines, each machine dropping a nail every second.

Thunder's Rumbling.

In accounting for the rumbling or rolling of thunder, which has heretofore been explained by the echo theory, it is now stated that a flash of lightning is made up of innumerable smaller flashes, which go to make up the whole. The rolling thunder is due to the primary sounds of successive discharges or flashes. When we see a relatively prolonged lightning flash we witness in reality a number of discontinuous discharges following down the same path, and the sounds of these successive explosions come to us like the rattle of a rapid fire gun. This continuity is quite different from oscillation.

Watches for the Blind.

On the face of one of the latest watches designed for the use of blind people the hours are indicated by movable buttons in relief on the dial. A strong pointer shows the minutes. The blind person passes his fingers over the dial, the button indicating the hour he finds to be depressed, while the position of the hand gives the minutes. The buttons are held by a circular plate beneath the dial, which has at one point on its circumference a notch into which the buttons drop, one after the other, as the plate revolves with the movement of the works. This plate serves instead of the ordinary hour hand of a watch.

Abysses of Ocean.

More than half the surface of the globe is hidden under water two miles deep. Seven million square miles lie at a depth of 18,000 feet or more. Many places have been found five miles and more in depth. The greatest depth yet sounded is 31,200 feet, near the island of Guam. If Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, were plucked from its seat and dropped into this spot the waves would still roll 2000 feet above its crest. Into this terrific abyss the waters press down with a force of more than 10,000 pounds to the square inch. The staunchest ship ever built would be crumpled under this awful pressure like an eggshell under a steam roller. A pine beam fifteen feet long which held open the mouth of a trawl used in making a cast at a depth of more than 18,000 feet was crushed flat as if it had been passed between rollers.

Morse's Invention.

The Morse telegraph invention lingered for five years in the hands of its starving inventor because capitalists were indifferent or incapable of appreciating its merits. It was several years before Congress voted an appropriation to allow its inventor to make a practical test of it, and burlesque bills were offered to provide means for communicating with the man in the moon. 'He's a very good, but shiftless painter, if he would only stick to his job,' some one said of Morse. 'The idea of telling by a little streak of lightning what a body is saying at the other end of a wire!' His instrument, it was said, was all very well as a mantel ornament or for a mistress to call her maid, but the wires couldn't cross rivers, oceans, and deserts. Even after the line was up between Washington and Baltimore and Silas Wright sent a despatch to the Democratic Convention at Baltimore declining its nomination of him to the vice-presidency, it was not accepted as true until a committee went to Washington.

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Kissing—teasing—
Lovers twain.
Coughing—sneezing—
Cold again!
Lovers quarrel,
All too sure.
What's the moral?
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

Intercolonial

His Excellency the Governor of West Australia, Sir G. Strickland, invited a number of Catholics to meet the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishop of Ballarat on their arrival at Fremantle from Europe, *en route* to their respective dioceses.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne has made the following clerical changes and appointments:—Rev. J. Murphy, from the Cathedral, to be pastor of Northcote; Rev. M. J. Morris (lately arrived from Ireland), to the Cathedral; Rev. C. Conlon, from Geelong to Castlemaine; Rev. J. P. Carney, from Castlemaine to Geelong; Rev. P. D. O'Connor, from Footscray to Mansfield; Rev. J. J. McCarthy, from Mansfield to Footscray. The Rev. T. S. Collins has left for Europe on a health holiday.

Under the presidency of his Lordship Bishop O'Connor, of Armidale, who represented his Eminence the Cardinal, the priests who have been in the diocese of Lismore for seven years continuously made recently their selections of candidates for the vacant See. The result was as follows:—Very Rev. Father John Carroll, Moss Vale, dignissimus; Very Rev. Canon Patrick Sheehan, Cloyne, Ireland, dignior; Very Rev. Father Thomas Hayden, St. Patrick's College, Manly, dignus. On Wednesday, July 14, the Bishops of the Province of New South Wales will meet at the Palace, Manly, under the presidency of his Eminence the Cardinal, and will also make a recommendation to Propaganda.

A movement is on foot to raise a permanent memorial to the late Bishop Doyle (says the North Coast *Daily Mail*). It is one which is worthy of the utmost commendation by every resident of the Richmond River district, no matter what his religious belief. The late prelate was far more than an ecclesiastic. He was a citizen of the foremost rank, and did, perhaps, more for the civic welfare of the district than any other resident, no matter his walk in life. What form that memorial may take remains to be seen, but it should be in thorough keeping with the measure of his achievements. The fund which has been so opportunely inaugurated will no doubt be subscribed to generously, and will, we trust, be worthy of the man who has done so much for this district.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne recently asked the Minister of Education that there should be provisions for the inspection and examination of Catholic schools by State school inspectors on the lines of inspection and examination of State schools. That the existing practice of allowing the winners of scholarships to attend approved secondary schools should be continued, and that in any amendment of the scholarship regulations provision should be made for awarding scholarships to pupils who are educated in schools not under the control of the Education Department, and that in any proposed extension of the facilities for technical education five places and scholarships in technical schools should be open to pupils educated in schools other than State schools. The Archbishop's representations are to be considered by the Cabinet.

Felicitations and hearty rejoicing at his safe return in restored health and vigor have poured in from every side upon his Grace the Archbishop (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*). The spontaneity of the welcome home has served to emphasise the hold that his Grace has on all, irrespective of creed or nationality. There was commingling of citizens which speaks well for the future of this State. The administrative ability and tact so conspicuously displayed by the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., during the absence of the Archbishop, elicited the unstinted commendation of clergy and laity. Proposing a vote of thanks to the Dean on a recent occasion, the Hon. J. G. Duffy, K.S.G., paid a tribute to his labors. On another occasion Mr. Benjamin Hoare paid a meed of praise to the Administrator. But it was the appreciation of his work by the Archbishop when replying to the address of the clergy, who also recalled the success of the Dean's administration, which must have more than satisfied his most daring hopes. His Grace said:—I am pleased and consoled in learning from you that you found, as I expected, in the Very Rev. Dean Phelan an able, zealous, and successful administrator. To him and to you all I return grateful thanks for the good work you have done, and for the most gratifying reception you have given me on my return. Again, in the Cathedral, when giving an account of his visit to the Sovereign Pontiff, the Most Rev. prelate said:—I have to thank in a special manner the Administrator—the Very Rev. Dean Phelan—whose zeal, prudence, and ability in the administration of the diocese have won for him golden opinions on all sides, and have fully realised—nay, much more than realised—the high expectations I had formed of the success of his administration.

DEAR ME!

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