

**A HISTORIC STONE.**  
How the City Has Grown Around an Old Mile Post.

A landmark in the shape of an old milestone stands on the triangular piece of ground at the juncture of Susquehanna and Germantown avenues and Sixth street, on which is cut "2 miles to P." The stone, says the Philadelphia Bulletin, which is of granite, is about 30 inches high, 5 inches thick and 12 inches in width. It has not suffered from the ravages of age, but bears in several places the result of vandalism, although it is guarded by two brass cannon, a metal dog, and over it floating from a flagstaff is "Old Glory." The guardians are the property of Gen. D. Birney post 63, G. A. R., the comrades of which keep the triangular piece of ground in a sightly and good condition. The stone has been there for many years, how long no person residing in the neighborhood can say, while one man says that it has been there more than half a century.

It is evident that it was erected when Philadelphia was not of such an extensive area as at present, and was placed there to direct persons coming from the country and show them that they had only two miles further to travel before reaching Market street.

The stone may have been there for over two centuries, as in 1682 the boundaries of the city were declared to be Vine street and Cedar street to the north and south and the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers to the east and west. In 1753 the number of houses was only 2,600 and the population about 15,000. In 1704 the city was divided into ten wards, which division continued up to 1800, and then the city did not reach much further south than Spring Garden street.

**GREAT QUANTITIES OF FOOD.**

The Productive Power of the United States Is Now in Evidence.

Michael G. Muthall, F. S. S., in North American Review, writes: It appears that as regards quantity three Americans now export as much as five did 20 years ago, which suffices to show how groundless are the predictions of some writers who tell us that as population increases so the surplus products for exportation must diminish. In the last 20 years population has risen from 45,000,000 to 71,000,000 souls, an increase of 58 per cent, and at the same time the weight of exports has risen 175 per cent; that is, three times as fast as population.

The quantities of food yearly exported are sufficient to feed 30,000,000 persons in Europe, from which it appears that American farms raise food for 100,000,000 people yearly. The western prairies are capable of carrying double the present number of live stock, and producing ten times as much grain as they do so far; for at least a century to come, there is every probability that the exportation of food will increase with population. The same is true as regards cotton, the crop having risen 125 per cent. in 20 years.

The world is only beginning to have evidence of the enormous productive power of the United States.

**A DONE OF CONTENTION.**

American Big-Bop Predicts European War on African Soil.

It has been predicted that Africa would be the theater of the great struggle between the European powers in the next century, as America was in the last two centuries. Bishop Hartel, of the Methodist Episcopal church, after a close observation of the situation, indorses the opinion. There are already signs of the coming trouble. Germany is watching British progress in Africa with jealous eyes and only wants a pretext to interfere in order to stop that progress. The French are continually encroaching on the sphere of British influence, and though the French government disowns the acts of overzealous French officers, still the government holds whatever they acquire. Africa is a rich prize, and English, Germans and French, to say nothing of Italians, will all seek to gain as large a slice of the continent as possible. It requires prophetic powers to predict that England will outstrip all her rivals in the race. She has a firm foothold now both in Egypt and south Africa and every year is acquiring additional territory. England is the great colonizer of the age, and her great naval power will give her an immense advantage in the coming struggle.

**NEW IMPLEMENT OF WARFARE.**  
Invention by a Pole Which Renders Destructive Weapons Useless.

The greatest benefactor of modern times may be found in a poor Polish chemist named Simon Pavlovski, of Warsaw. This obscure chemist has invented a new gas, which, if used in the battles of the future, will put an end to the horrible mutilations and terrible deaths on the battle field, says the New York World.

The battles of the future will be the harmless bursting of Pavlovski shells, filled with a gas which, as soon as fired from its gelatin cage, will permeate the atmosphere breathed by the enemy and kill them into a 15-hours sleep, from which they will not awaken until their standards have been seized by the opposing army and their sleeping bodies removed to a place of safety.

The gas invented by Pavlovski is an anesthetic which is forced into a shell made of gelatin. When the latter bursts in the ranks of the enemy this gas escapes, rendering every soldier in the immediate vicinity soothingly unconscious for a long time, but with no other injury than to incapacitate him for the time from working against the opposing army.

**The Census of Fuzina.**  
According to Prince Krapotkin this is the way they take a census in Russia: The official of the village takes a nip of brandy and says: "How many children were born last year?" "Oh, 25." Then he takes another nip and says: "Oh, let's say 50."

**Protected by Nature.**  
The summer coat of the polar fox is dark, almost black. In winter it is so white that the animal can hardly be seen as it runs over the snow.

**COST OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.**

The Seven Years' Work Figured Out in Dollars and Cents.

A noted statistician and investigator who has lots of time for such work has been doing some figuring in New York state, fuel oil being used instead of wood or coal oil to burn a kiln of bricks. Fuel oil is the product left after crude petroleum has been refined. It has been used for some time as fuel for engines and furnaces, but its adaptability for the more delicate operation of burning pottery or bricks is a recent discovery. The success of the experiment, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch, is likely to reduce the cost of brick making in a considerable degree. Forced draught is an important factor in the system, and by it the heat from the burner can be directed at a uniform temperature toward any part of the arch of the kiln. The oil runs in pipes around the base of the kiln and feeds directly from the burner in the arch in the interior. The forced draught "feeds in" with the oil, and by the turning of a valve the heat can be regulated at any point within the arch.

It is claimed that the use of oil is much cheaper than that of either coal or wood for brick burning. The cost of burning 1,000 bricks with wood at five dollars a cord is 80 cents; the cost where coal is used is 50 cents; with oil the cost is 38 cents. In burning bricks with oil 12 men are required every 24 hours; if oil is used two men can do the work. The new method is quicker, completing the burning of the kiln in six days, instead of seven or eight, as formerly, and the bricks are better, because with the forced air straight the temperature of the kiln is entirely under control.

If their daily food was worth 50 cents, the sum total for all was £63,877,088 during the time of building. The materials in the rough are estimated as having been worth £2,545,337,000. This gives a total, just for this much of the expense, which by no means expresses the whole cost, of \$10,719,700,261, or about £52,117,034,867,46.

**THE RETIRED BURGLAR.**

A Brief and Quiet Chapter from the Story of His Varied Life.

"I don't think I was ever much scared," said a retired burglar, according to the Norfolk Sun, "but I have been as much scared by slight, little things, that were of no real account as by anything else. For instance, by the scratching of a rat, starting up suddenly and running around in the wall. I was never more disturbed than that I was once by the absolute stillness of a room that I was in. It was dead and oppressive; and I couldn't account for it.

"I swung my lamp around and saw the usual things that you might expect to see in such a room—it was a dining room, including a clock on the mantel. It was a pendulum clock, one of the kind that has a little clear space in the lower part of the glass front, through which you can see the pendulum as it swings back and forth. The lamp simply swept across the face of the clock, as it swung around, and an instant later I realized that I had seen no pendulum swinging back and forth behind that clear space. It wasn't swinging. The clock had stopped."

"I set my lamp on the shelf, and opened the door of the clock and started up the pendulum, and then I heard the regular ticking of the clock. And that was all I wanted. But what a relief it was to hear it. I could sort the spooks now with a cheerful spirit."

**STATES WITH INDIAN NAMES.**

American Big-Bop Predicts European War on African Soil.

Our state got its name before the revolution, or it would have been named Oglethorpe, says the Atlanta Constitution. After the revolution was over and peace was made, it was proposed to change its name, but it did not carry. Several of the states had been named for Indians, and that is about all the poor Indian got as he moved toward the setting sun. He left his name behind him. Seventeen of the new states have Indian names, and it is a curious fact that only one state bears the name of a great man of our country, and that is the state of Washington. One other state chose the name of Franklin, and kept it for some time, but for some reason it did not stick, and was changed to Tennessee. But the great man has 24 counties named for him in 24 different states. I don't see why some of the new states that came in after the revolution were not named for Adams and Jefferson and Monroe and Madison and Patrick Henry and other fathers of liberty. But I suppose that when these great men had their enemies in congress, and they compromised on the Indians, it was a great man of our country, and that is the state of Washington. One other state chose the name of Franklin, and kept it for some time, but for some reason it did not stick, and was changed to Tennessee. But the great man has 24 counties named for him in 24 different states. I don't see why some of the new states that came in after the revolution were not named for Adams and Jefferson and Monroe and Madison and Patrick Henry and other fathers of liberty. But I suppose that when these great men had their enemies in congress, and they compromised on the Indians, it was a great man of our country, and that is the state of Washington. One other state chose the name of Franklin, and kept it for some time, but for some reason it did not stick, and was changed to Tennessee. But the great man has 24 counties named for him in 24 different states. 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