

Own Your Homes.

Every man, says the *Building News*, whether he is a workman in the common acceptance of the word or not, feels a deep interest in the management of the affairs of the city, county, and State in which he lives wherever he owns a home. He is more patriotic, and in many ways is a better citizen, than the man who simply rents, and who has but little, if any, assurance of how long it will be before he can be ordered to move, to which may be added in many cases the saving of more money.

Of course it requires some economy to lay up a sufficient amount of money to purchase and pay for a home, but this very fact, if properly carried out after the home is acquired, may be the instrument of furnishing the means to commence and prosecute a business upon one's own responsibility. True, in some cases it will require more economy, perhaps, than is now practiced. But the question with every man, and especially if he is the head of a family, is, can he afford it? That is, can he afford to live up his wages as fast as he earns them, without laying up anything for the future?

If he is the head of a family, he is obliged to pay rent, and it does not require very many years of rent

the currant bush treated with a solution of alum produces a brown. Yellow is obtained from the bark of the apple tree, the box, the ash, the buckthorn, poplar, elm, etc., when boiled in water and treated with alum. A lively green is furnished by the broom corn.

RESTORATION OF ROMAN RUIN AT REIMS, FRANCE.

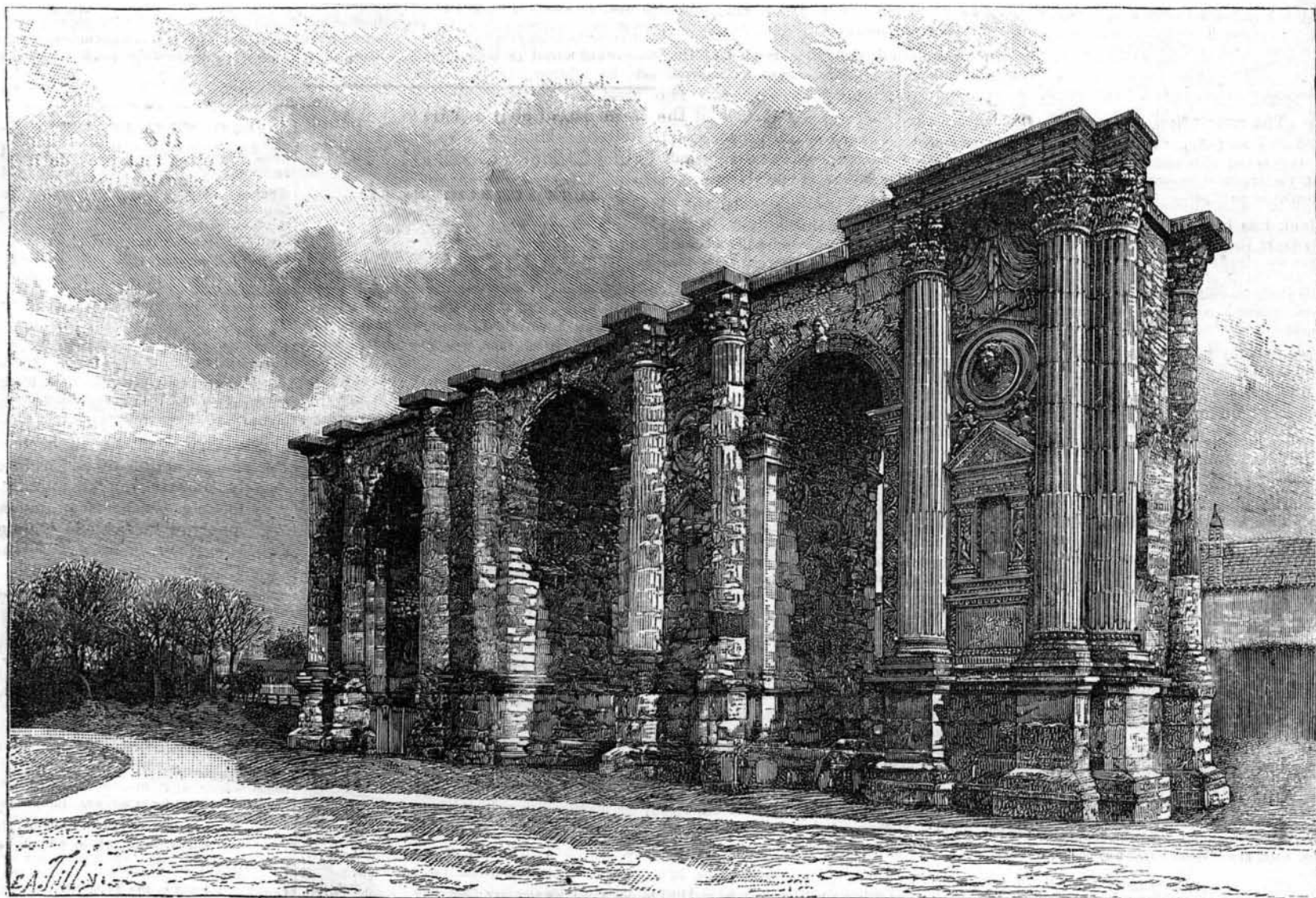
The gate known as the Porte de Mars at Reims, in France, one arch of which has been recently restored, a first step toward the restoration of the whole monument, is the only one remaining of four similar gates or triumphal arches which were used in the city of Reims while under the dominion of Rome. It consists of three arches and eight columns of the Corinthian order, measuring 42½ feet in height. The middle arch, which is the largest, measures 49 feet in width and 38 feet in height. It is called the Arch of the Seasons, and the sculptor had represented the twelve months of the year. Unfortunately, five of these bass-reliefs are almost entirely destroyed, and the seven others are very much damaged. The left hand arch is called the Arch of Remus, and represents Romulus and Remus under the wolf, and at the right and left of the children are standing figures of Faustulus and Acca Laurentia. The arch at the right is called that of Leda, and represents

World, that this subject will meet with the attention it merits, and that light will be shed upon a still obscure subject.

The Dynamite Gun.

At a recent meeting of the United States Military Service Institution, General H. L. Abbot, of the Corps of Engineers, criticised this weapon adversely. He did not believe in the practical value of the pneumatic gun in coast defense, because its short range restricted its fire to the area already obstructed by submarine mines, and the defenders cannot afford to make every shot that misses the enemy a countermine to destroy the mines, and thus open a route for his passage. The mines are indispensable, because steam vessels can force their way through any unobstructed channel under cover of darkness, whether the projectiles thrown at them contain gunpowder or dynamite; and it would be inadvisable to introduce a new weapon that directly antagonizes another of prime importance, which it cannot replace.

If it be suggested that the use of the "aerial torpedo" may be restricted to the period of the siege, when, the submarine mines having been destroyed by the enemy, he is ready to attempt to pass the forts, we



THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF FRANCE—THE ROMAN ARCH OF MARS, AT REIMS.

paying to make up an amount sufficient to purchase and pay for a comfortable home. You have to pay rent. This you say you cannot avoid and be honest. Well, you cannot be honest with your family unless you make a reasonable attempt to provide them a home of their own in case anything should happen to you.

And the obligation to do this should be as strong as the one to pay rent or provide the other necessities for the comfort of your family. When you own a home, you will feel a direct interest in public affairs that otherwise you might consider were of little interest.

Dye Colors from Plants and Shrubs.

A variety of very useful colors and dyes may be obtained from very common plants, growing in abundance almost everywhere. The well known huckleberry or blueberry, when boiled down with an addition of a little alum and a solution of copperas, will develop an excellent blue color; treated in the same manner with solution of nut galls, they produce a clear dark brown tint, while with alum, verdigris, and sal ammoniac, various shades of purple and red can be obtained. The fruit of the elder, so frequently used for coloring spirits, will also produce a blue color when treated with alum. The privet, boiled in a solution of salt, furnishes a serviceable color, and the over-ripe berries yield a serviceable red. The seeds of the common burning bush, "euonymus," when treated with sal ammoniac, produce a beautiful purple red. The bark of

Leda and the swan, with a Cupid carrying a torch above them.

Until 1544 the Porte de Mars was actually used as the gate of Reims, but at that time, owing to the growth of the city, it became necessary to carry the gates further out, and the Porte de Mars is found buried (incredible to believe) under the rubbish brought there for leveling the new routes. Discovered and unearthed in 1812, the government has recently classed it among the monuments of historical interest, and has voted, in conjunction with the municipal government, the funds necessary for the preservation and restoration of this important ruin.—*Illustration.*

Danger from Electric Wires.

The number of deaths in this and other cities caused by the electric wires in our streets seems to call for a thorough investigation on the part of our city authorities and electrical engineering associations here and elsewhere.

In a paper presented by Mr. P. B. Delany before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, a suggestion to this end was thrown out. The causes of death by electricity, its nature and limitations, as well as the probable means for its prevention, are of sufficient practical importance to warrant earnest investigation. The investigations which have thus far been undertaken in this direction have for the most part been isolated and limited in their scope, and there is thus left for the Institute a clear field for work, the result of which will redound to its credit. We hope, with the *Electric*

must remember the high trajectory of the weapon. Vertical fire is not effective against a rapidly moving target, such as would be presented by the enemy's ships when once the channel is opened. For the dynamite gun was claimed the exclusive ability to throw detonating substances with safety; but it was stated on good authority that mortar shells charged with 110 lb. of wet guncotton were fired successfully in Germany, and improvements in the manufacture of such substances pointed to their early use even in guns.

The pneumatic gun was more useful in the navy than the army. As a counterminer to destroy submarine mines it might have a value, although without absolute proof he would be loth to believe that it could do more than moderately assist in the opening of any known and well defined channel from four to six miles long, without which no armored ship could safely pass the forts. Even then it would be a serious matter to maneuver an unarmed floating magazine, containing many tons of dynamite, under the fire of high power guns, mounted on land at a range of one or two miles.

Telegraph vs. Telephone.

A speed trial between the telegraph and telephone from New York to Boston was lately undertaken at the *Sun* newspaper office in this city. The contest lasted for ten minutes; 330 words were delivered in Boston, ready for the printer, by the telegraph, and 346 words by telephone. But many of the telephone words were incorrectly received. So the telegraph was the winner.