An Inscription on the Parthenon.

Consul Horton, of Athens, writes to the consular department, March 5, 1896: I have to report an archæological discovery of extreme interest recently made by a student in the American School of Classical Studies, of this city. I refer to the deciphering of an inscription on the architrave at the east end of the Parthenon. The face of the eastern architrave is thickly dotted with small holes, and for many years scholars have been under the impression that these holes were the traces of nails which had once held fast the letters of an inscription. It had also been suggested from time to time that a study of the nail holes might give some clew as to the letters themselves, which long ago were torn down, doubtless for the sake of the metal which they contained.

The difficulty of such a task, which has defied the archæologists until now, is evident. The architrave is about 100 feet long, and the holes extend over 90 feet of its length. They dot thickly spaces from 3 to 4 feet in length, between which are circular blanks, where shields about 4 feet in diameter hung at intervals. Various attempts have been made, chiefly by German archæologists, to "read the nail holes." The most notable of the methods employed have been photography and transcribing with the aid of magnifying glasses.

No attempt met with any success until Mr. Eugene Plumb Andrews, of the American School, hit upon a practical method. He threw a rope over the eastern end of the ruined building, and pulled up a rope ladder. Then he suspended a swing in front of the architrave 37 feet from the marble step below, and took what is known as a "squeeze" of the holes. His method was ingenious. Damp "squeeze" paper was first applied to the surface of the stone, and patted well down with a brush. The paper broke through over the holes. Mr. Andrews then forced extra strips into each of the openings and lapped their ends down on the large sheet. When he had thus treated all the holes, he laid another sheet over the first to hold the ends of the strips in place, and pounded all together into one solid sheet, on which the exact position of the nail holes was represented by protuberances.

Mr. Andrews was about one and a half months making his squeezes, twelve in all, representing the twelve spaces between the shields. Then he arranged them in order and began studying them. His greatest difficulty occurred at the start. He did not know whether the inscription ran straight across all the squeezes or whether the squeezes were to be read separately, as the pages of a book.

Moreover, the ancient workman who had nailed up the letters had made numerous mistakes, so that many of the holes were treacherous and confusing.

Mr. Andrews, however, persisted, and light began to dawn. He found, for instance, that three holes placed thus ∴ indicated either a △ or a Λ, the metal letter having been nailed at its three corners, and that three holes placed thus ∘ ⁚ showed where an O had been nailed.

He made a transcript of the squeezes on a long strip of paper, marking the locality of the protuberances with dots, and then attempted to form the ancient letters by drawing lines from dot to dot. Finally, he deciphered the word "Autokratora," which proved that the inscription had been Roman, and not, as formerly supposed, of an earlier date. The word "Nerona" threw further light on the matter.

Here was evidently the dedication of a statue to the Emperor Nero, and the reading was simplified by a study of other similar inscriptions, as the same phraseology is used in all. The inscription, as Mr. Andrews reads it, is translated substantially as follows:

"The council of the Areopagus and the council of the six hundred and the people of the Athenians erect this statue of the Very Great Emperor Nero Cæsar Claudius Sevastos Germanicus, the Son of God, during the generalship over the hoplites for the eighth time of Claudius Novius, the overseer and lawgiver, son of Philinos, during the priestess-ship of . . . daughter of . . . ."

It appears, therefore, that the inscription recorded the erection of a statue to Nero, probably in the Parthenon.

As it is known from another inscription that Claudius Novius was general for the eighth time in the year A. D. 61, we have the exact date of this inscription.

Mr. Andrews graduated at Cornell in 1895, and holds the university fellowship for one year. There are at present twelve students in the American School.

RECENTLY DISCOVERED BUST OF LOUIS XVII.

BY HENRI MORAND.

During the "Reign of Terror," it will be remembered that Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, as well as their son, the Dauphin, were held prisoners in the Temple. On the 21st of January, 1793, the King was beheaded, and the Queen met with the same fate shortly afterward. The Dauphin was intrusted to the care of the cruel shoemaker jailer, Simon, who made the child the subject of his ill treatment, and, it is said, caused his death on the 8th of June, 1795.

BOURBON WAX DOLL OF THE LAST CENTURY IN NANTUCKET MUSEUM.

Many, however, believed that the body of a poor boy was substituted for that of the Dauphin, and that, with enormous sums, the Emperor of Austria, his grandfather, succeeded in bribing Simon, who allowed the child to escape to that country, where he was brought up by a village watchmaker, of the name of Neuendorf, who taught him his trade. At the age of twenty, having obtained cognizance of his high birth, he tried to have himself recognized by the court of Austria, but was ignored.

CONTEMPORANEOUS PORTRAIT OF LOUIS XVII.

He then returned to the village of his youth, married, and later removed to Holland, where he and his family were protected by a secret hand. The sons of Neuendorf entered the Hollandish army and became officers. In the cemetery of Maestrecht his tomb bears, it is said, the following inscription: "Ici repose Louis XVII, roi de France, né à Versailles le 1785, mort à Maestrecht. Priez pour lui."

A book was published, years ago, by Harper & Company, the title of which was: "Have we a King Among Us?" The story tells us that the Dauphin was taken to Florida and brought up by an Indian family. One day, as the Dauphin was taking a bath, he struck his head against a rock. This accident made him forget his past history. Later he was adopted by a missioner among the Indians, followed the same profession, and was known as Rev. Mr. Williams.

Nantucket, Mass., has also its "Dauphin" in the "History Rooms," which is supposed to be a facsimile of Louis XVII when a baby. It is a wax doll, natural size, brought back from France by Captain Coffin, to his daughter, in 1789. There seems to be no doubt that the features are those of the Bourbon family.

A few months ago, as some workmen were making room for some improvements in the palace of Versailles, they discovered the defaced bust of a child. The nose, mouth, and chin broken, undoubtedly by the vandals of the French revolution. After many researches by scientific people, Monsieur de Nolhac, the custodian of the Musée de Versailles and author of "La reine Marie Antoinette," discovered, beyond doubt, that it was no less than the Dauphin of France, or Louis XVII, and the work of one of the most distinguished French sculptors of the time, Deseine.

The French government had the mutilated parts restored and it is now in the above named museum.

BUST OF LOUIS XVII RECENTLY DISCOVERED.

Recovery of Silver and Gold from Photographic Residues.

The American Druggist translates from the Neueste Erfindungen und Erfahrungen an original contribution by Weidert as follows:

Analysis of finished photographs shows that only a very small portion of the gold and silver used in their preparation remain in the finished print, by far the greater portion of the metals being retained in the baths.

The methods of recovery of silver residues vary with their character. The silver from old fixing baths can be recovered in the simplest manner. By hanging strips of copper or zinc in the baths the silver will be deposited on the strips in a grayish black powder or in small leaflets of a metallic luster. This method, however, is tedious and extravagant, since a large portion of the silver remains in this solution. A somewhat better method is to agitate the bath after the addition of zinc dust, and then filter off the precipitate, wash, and then treat with diluted sulphuric or hydrochloric acid in order to dissolve out the valueless zinc. This process also is not particularly to be commended.

It is generally customary to precipitate the silver with an aqueous solution of potassium sulphide, and drain the brownish black sulphide of silver on a muslin filter and dry it. In order to reduce this to silver, it is fused with calcined soda in a porcelain or graphite crucible and poured upon an iron or marble slab.

The sulphide of silver can also be roasted in the atmosphere, then mixed with three or four parts of potassium nitrate and introduced carefully in small portions into a glowing crucible.

In order to recover the silver from the paper clippings, etc., which have not been "fixed," the paper residue should be cut into small pieces and put for two hours into a bottle where the old fixing bath is kept. This bath is then filtered and treated as above directed.

Since all photographic silver paper contains, in addition to the silver chloride, easibly soluble silver nitrate, the first wash water from the toning in particular should be collected and the silver precipitated by the addition of hydrochloric acid and sodium chloride. After drying, this should be reduced in the same manner as the silver sulphide, by the means of potassium or sodium nitrate. One may also pour over this precipitate a five per cent solution of hydrochloric or sulphuric acid, and then hang in the solution a piece of zinc, whereupon the silver is thrown down in the metallic form.

Gold is generally precipitated from the baths by addition of hydrochloric acid and a solution of ferrous sulphate. The gold is thrown down as a brownish red powder, which should be washed well and fused. Occasionally ammonium chloride is added in excess to the toning bath with some hydrochloric acid. The gold then precipitates out after a short time (if in a warm place and particularly in light) in the form of metallic glistening scales.

A CRUSADE against hokey-pokey has been going on in London for some years past, shocking accounts of the millions of microbes found in the mixture being published from time to time. A member of the health board, however, analyzed a strawberry ice cream bought of one of the most fashionable West End caterers recently, and found that it contained from eight to fourteen million bacteria to the cubic centimeter, among them the bacillus coli, which is a worse record than that of the Italian street venders.