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**LETTERHEADS** 

The oldest and most remarkable

ship in the world is the old British prison ship Success, built in 1790 and now the only survivor of England's felon fleet. The old ship is now a floating museum, illustrating the horrible treat-

ment of prisoners in an almost forgotten time. On every one of her sails are painted broad arrowheads, the distinguishing mark of the English convict's garb, and her interior is divided into an array of cells, "tiger dens," "black holes" and bilboes, save in that part reserved for the

Built in 1790 at Moulmein, by the old pagoda "looking eastward to the sea," the Success is now 123 years old. No ship of anything like her great age to-day is seaworthy, yet this old hulk under her own sail succeeded in crossing the Atlantic, her time of ninety-six days, however, creating no new record.

Massively built throughout of solid Burman teak, the Success was first launched as an armed East India merchantman, with beautiful brass guns bristling from her sides and fitted handsomely for the reception of princes, nabobs and the wealthy raders of the orient.

Her tonnage is 589 and she is 135 eet long and twenty-nine feet beam. Her solid sides are two feet six inches thick at the bilge and her keelson is a solid teak baulk of tremendous thickness, with sister keelsons little less

Broken only by an occasional conflict with a pirate craft, the Success had an honored life on the ocean until 1802, when she was first chartered by the British Government to transport to Australia the overflow of the home

The human cargoes on these convict ships died off like sheep during the long journeys. Engaged in this hideous trade the uccess continued to serve until 1851.

in which years she was permanently stationed as a receiving prison in Hobson's Bay, Ausralia.

The corner cells on either side of the lower deck are the dreaded "black holes," in which prisoners who had been guilty of some breach of discipline were punished by solitary confinement lasting from one to a hun-

These small and tapering torture chambers measure only two feet eight inches across. In 1857 the disclosures that had been made of the brutal and inhuman

treatment meted out to prisoners resulted in the abandonment of the hulk system. For some years later-from 1860 to 1867—the Success was used as a wo-

men's prison. Later all the prison hulks were ordered to be sold on the express condition that they were to be oroken up.

By a clerical error, however, that condition did not appear upon the terms of the sale of the Success; hence she became the only British convict ship affoat.

The Famous Kew Gar The pre-eminence of London's Kew Gardens in the botanical world dates from 1773. In the preceding year George III. was induced to send one of the gardeners to the Cape of Good Hope, "provided his expenses do not exceed \$1,000 a year," and he brought back 400 species of new plants. This collection, being entirely new to Europe, placed the gardens at Kew above all those on the continent. Similar expeditions were sent out at the expense of the Government to India, China, Brazil, Fiji, Australia and the Philippines. Before the close of the eighteenth century Kew Gardens were generally admitted to possess the finest variety of plants in Europe. Till then this distinction was claimed both by the Paris Jardin des Plantes and

the Upsala botanic gardens. English Triumphant. One of the reasons why English is

expected to become a world language s that English people refuse to learn another. A correspondent sends the following example: At Muscat, at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, there lived for many years an Englishman, supposed to be the only, or almost the only, British resident on the 1,500 miles of Arabian coastline from Aden to Koweit. It would seem that he could hardly have escaped knowing Arabic. Yet he confessed that he could not speak a dozen words of that language.

"But how do you carry on your trade?" some one asked. "Oh," he replied, "the beggare have to learn English."-London

Humor of a Genius.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning combined with an exalted spirituality an inimitable sense of humor which pervaded all her days. As illustrating this humor Lilian Whiting tells in "The Brownings-Their Life and Art," the story of the time Poe sent Mrs. Browning a volume of his poems with an inscription on the flyleaf that de-clared her to be the" noblest of her

"And what could I say in reply," Mrs. Brown laughingly remarked, "but 'Sir, you are the most discerning of yours?"

Did You Ever Drink Choca?

No one probably drinks "choca" now, a mixture of coffee with milk and chocolate. Yet it was a favorite beverage of many eminent persons, including Voltaire and Napoleon, And some years ago it was enthusiastically advocated in England by the late W. J. Thomas, first editor of London Notes and Queries, who wrote, "I do not know a draft which so perfectly soothes and revives as that of hot, well trothed choca." His recommendation fell . flat

Real "Little Derrit" Dies.

Mary Ann Cooper, a childhood friend of Charles Dickens and said to be the original of his Little Dorrit character, died recently in London at the age of ninety-nine.

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