

# The Orphans' Friend.

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## THE SPONGE FISHERY.

The sponge-fishery is exclusively practiced by the Greeks and Syrians; that of coral by the Genoese and Neapolitans; that of pearls and mother-of-pearl, in Asia by the Cingalese and Malays, in America by the Indians and negroes.

Sponges were formerly caught in the Red Sea and along a great part of the north coast of Africa. At present, the fishery is principally pursued in the Greek Archipelago and on the Syrian shores. It is open to all nations; but, as I have just said, the Greeks and Syrians alone follow it up as a regular trade, and make its products the staple of a regular commerce with the West. Operations ordinarily begin early in June, and terminate in October; but the least favorable months are those of July and August. The barks sail from Tripoli, Batroun, the Isle of Rouard, Latakia, Kalki, Stampalia, Castel-Rosso, Simi, and Kalminos; each boat usually carries four or six men. The sponges are found at a distance of 1,000 to 2,000 yards out at sea, on banks of rocks formed by molluscous débris. The finest specimens lie at a depth of twelve to twenty fathoms; those collected in shallower waters are of inferior quality.

At the opening of the fishery, the Greeks and Syrians arrive at Smyrna, Beyroun, Latakia and other in large sloops, which they dismantle in order to equip the small craft suitable for the operations, and then disperse along the coasts. The fishery is conducted in two ways. For the common kinds they employ three-toothed harpoons, by means of which they catch hold of the sponges. But this implement would injure the finer species; and in quest of these, skillful divers descend to the bottom of the sea, and carefully detach them with a strong knife. Hence the enormous difference of price between the divers' sponges and the harpooned sponges.

The Greek divers are, as a rule, bolder and more skillful than the Syrians. Those of Kalminos and Pera are the most renowned. While they can remain in the water longer than the Syrians, their fishing is generally more abundant. They dive to a depth of twenty-five fathoms, while their rivals, for most part, cannot descend beyond fifteen or twenty at the utmost. The product of the sponge-fishery varies, moreover, according to the weather and the circumstances. In 1827 it was valued at an average of 2 lbs. 6 oz. avoirdupois for a boat manned by five or six divers, and this calculation is confirmed by the most recent documents. The proportions of the different qualities in this total are valued approximately at one-third of the superfine, and two-thirds for the medium and rough. Between the two latter varieties, the proportion varies according to locality. The Greeks devote themselves more particularly to the fishing of the large sponges called *Venetian*, although they sell them by weight four or five times cheaper than the fine sponges; but the inferiority in price is bal-

anced by the much greater facility of the fishing.

There has been introduced into European commerce, within the last few years, a species of sponge collected on the coasts of the Lucayos Islands, in the Caribbean Sea, which is known as the Bahama sponge. It is of a peculiarly attractive appearance, thanks to its fine close tissue, and to the preparations which it undergoes, in order to give it a beautiful pale blond color but it is hard, strong and without solidity.

## CRANBERRY ORE BANK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTH CAROLINA, BY PROF. W. C. KERR.

In Mitchell county is found one of the most remarkable iron-ore deposits in North America. It lies on the western slope of the Iron Mountain, (a part of the Great Smoky range,) in the northeast corner of the county, 3 miles from the Tennessee line, and about a mile from the rapid torrent of Elk River, the principal affluent of the Watauga. It has been long known as the Cranberry Ore Bank, from Cranberry Creek, which flows at the foot of the steep mountain spurs, on which it outcrops. The prevalent and characteristic rock of the mountains in this locality is hornblende, slate and syenite, and is on the northern margin of a mountainous ledge of such rocks, that the ore-bed occurs, gray gneisses and gneissoid slates coming in beyond in immediate succession and association, in part.

The ore is a pure magnetite, massive and generally coarse granular, and exhibits strong polarity. It is associated with pyroxene and epidote, in certain parts of the bed. The steep slope of the mountain gorge and ridges which the bed occupies, are covered with blocks of ore, often of hundreds of pounds weight, and in many places, bare vertical walls of massive ore, 10 and 15 feet thick, are exposed, and the trenches and open diggings, which are scattered, without order, over many acres of surface, every where reach the solid ore within a few feet of the surface. The length of the outcrop is about 1500 feet and the breadth 200 to 800. A large quantity of ore has been quarried and smelted here during the last two or three generations, but no mining has been done, the loose and partly decomposed and disintegrated masses of ore and magnetic gravel mixed with the surface earth, having been preferred by the ore diggers, as being more easily obtained, and much more readily stamped and granulated for the forge fire. The smiths and farmers of the region will use no other iron, if the Cranberry can be had, and they willingly pay fifty per cent more for it than any other in the market. The softness and toughness of this iron is very remarkable, and its tensile strength, as tested by the United States Ordnance Department, ranks with that of the best irons known.

The blooms from the Cranberry forges have been extensively us-

ed in Baltimore for boiler iron, and commanded fifteen dollars a ton above the market. In quality it is unsurpassed by any iron in the world. And in regard to quantity the bed much exceeds the great deposits of Missouri and Michigan, and at least equals anything in the Champlain region. So that it has not probably an equal in this country. It has been recently sold to one of the leading iron manufacturing companies in Pennsylvania, for \$175,000, and when they shall have completed the branch railroad, thirty miles in length, from the ore to the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, no doubt the iron world will begin to hear of the deposit in a practical way.

## A very Ancient wall in Mississippi.

About eighteen miles from Port Gibson, and one mile from Brandywine Springs, on the place of Mr. O'Quin, the existence of a great number of blocks of cut-stone has been known for an indefinite time, and the people in the neighborhood have used them for props for their houses. Mr. James Gage, Jr., went out there a few days ago to explore, and had a specimen stone brought into town. It is about three feet long, by about twenty inches square, resembling in shape a bar of soap. It is probably a native sand stone. Mr. Gage took this block himself from beneath the roots of a large pine tree. It formed a portion of a wall about twenty feet broad on the top, which Mr. Gage traced for a distance of two hundred and fifty yards. The inference that one would naturally draw from this superficial view is that this must have been a city wall, but deep exploration might show it to be a portion of a fort, temple or other building. Anyway, its antiquity is probably immense, antedating the history of the red men.—*Port Gibson Standard*.

## Cheap Capital.

We often hear men complaining of the want of 'capital' with which to prosecute business and make their way in the world—to support themselves and families and reach a competency in worldly store. You will see them lounging on street corners, sitting at the tavern or post office, whittling chairs and goods-boxes, or in their offices propping their feet upon the table or window-sills, repining over the lack of starting capital—building air-castles and laying schemes, like Col. Sellers, with "millions in them" if only the capital was at hand with which to prosecute and develop them. And all the while there is 'capital' within their reach;—not money resources, perhaps, but capital more necessary and powerful than money and much cheaper—capital without which money is of little avail. Every man with a modicum of sense and good health can be readily furnished with capital if he would only utilize it. A good name is the starting point—not an aristocratic name with the accumulated dignity and importance that attaches to an illustrious family, but a name among one's neigh-

bors for sobriety and honesty—a name that when mentioned elicits respect because of the virtue and worth of him who bears it. Any one can acquire this capital by careful conversation and upright conduct among his fellow-men, and when acquired is an invaluable means to success in business. Honesty, scrupulous, unbending honesty in dealing, in buying and selling, though it may sometimes require the sacrifice of some temporary advantage and gain, will in the end bring patronage and prosperity, if conjoined with other qualities.

Attention to business, punctuality in meeting engagements, fidelity in keeping promises, energy and zeal in the prosecution of what the hand finds to do, economy in expenditures, politeness toward equals, inferiors and superiors in age, experience and station, are all elements of capital stock within the power of every one to seize and use. Nature, the great capitalist, furnishes these to all her children, without usury, only requiring that they shall be employed and cultivated.—*Raleigh Christian Advocate*.

## Cloves.

Cloves are the unopened flowers of a small evergreen tree that resembles in appearance the laurel or the bay. It is a native of the Molucca or Spice Islands, but has been carried to all the warmer parts of the world, and it is now cultivated in the tropical regions of America. The flowers are small in size, and grow in large numbers, in clusters, to the very end of the branches. The cloves we use are the flowers gathered before they are opened, and while they are still green. After being gathered they are smoked by a wood fire, and then dried in the sun. Each clove consists of two parts—of a round head, which is the four petals, or leaves, or flowers rolled up, inclosing a number of small stalks or filaments; the other part of the clove is terminated with four points, and is, in fact, the flower-cup of the unripe seed-vessel. All these parts may be distinctly seen if a few cloves are soaked for a short time in hot water, when the leaves of the flowers soften, and readily unroll. Both the taste and the smell of cloves depend on the quantity of oil they contain. Sometimes the oil is separated from the cloves before they are sold, and the odor and taste are, in consequence, much weakened.

A quiet reproof was adroitly given by Dr. Bethune to the Rev. Dr. Tyng in a platform meeting in Philadelphia, A. D. 1873. Dr. Tyng had introduced himself to us by assuring us of his firmness as an Episcopalian; that in his birth, baptism, confirmation, &c., he had been an Episcopalian; that he expected to live, and die, and go to heaven an Episcopalian, and to be an Episcopalian in heaven. Dr. Bethune, being introduced, said: "As for myself, I am nothing but a Reformed Dutchman. I expect to live and die a Reformed Dutchman; but when I get to heaven, I shall be an Episcopalian, for I am determined to be with brother Tyng.

Emerson discourses as follows: "Show us an intelligent family of boys and girls, and we shall show you a family where newspapers and periodicals are plentiful. Nobody, who has been without these silent, private tutors, can know their educational power for good and for evil. Have you never thought of the innumerable topics of discussion which they suggest at the breakfast table, the most important public measures with which, thus early our children become familiarly acquainted; great philanthropic questions of the day, to which unconsciously their attention is awakened, and the general spirit of intelligence which is evoked by these quiet visitors? Anything that makes home pleasant, cheerful and charity thins the haunts of vice, and the thousand and one avenues of temptation, should certainly be regarded, when we consider its influence on the mind of the young as a great moral and social blessing."

## Reading for the Young.

There is in market a flood of literature that is fit only for kindling fires, that should never be read; and there is a flood, also, of pure, fine, high-toned literature for men and women, for boys and girls, for the old and young, for the intellectual and unintellectual, but discrimination must be used in selection, and few children are capable of making a wholesome choice in books. Their habits and tastes in reading must be formed, if formed aright, by wise and judicious counselors. A boy or girl accustomed to eat at a clean, orderly, well-furnished table will have no appetite for food that is filthy, unwholesome, illecooked, and will starve long before he will feed on it. Just so a young person whose intellectual appetite has been stimulated and gratified by intimate acquaintance with pure and noble writers will loathe the productions of vicious and depraved authors.

In Cashmere 100,000 persons are employed in the shawl manufacture. The weavers are all men, and most of the spinners women. The real Cashmere thread is made from down, not the hair, of the Thibet goat. This down, or wool, is all carried to Cashmere for manufacture, the business being under such strict governmental control that no real wool can be sold, or smuggled into any other province of India. Fine shawls are made in other provinces and sold as genuine Cashmere, but are an inferior article. These shawls are of two kinds: one is made by weaving small pieces and sewing them together, the other by embroidering the pattern on a plain woven cloth. The weaving of a shawl of ordinary pattern occupies three weavers three months; the more elaborate ones from twelve to fifteen months.

True piety is not a morose, but a cheerful thing; whilst it makes us joyful, it delivers us from frivolity; yet it causes us to be pleasant.