

The Carolina Watchman.

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Winter Life in Dakota.

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING SOD HOUSES ON THE PRAIRIE.

"I was at the house of an old Scotchman a year or two ago," said an old Dakotan. "Several of us young people were sitting at a table playing cards. Outside a blizzard was howling. The old man said:

"I think I will go out to the sheds and see how the stock are."

"Don't you go," I replied. "I guess I will."

"I looked over my shoulder and said: 'See here, old man, don't you try that; you may stay right here.' You may think this was considerable fuss to make, as the sheds were not over four rods from the house; but I had become acquainted with winter weather on the prairies. We went on with our game and nothing more was said. About ten minutes later I looked up and the old man was gone. 'Did your father go out?' I asked one of the girls. 'Yes,' she replied, 'and I don't see what keeps him. I wish you would go out and find him.'"

"I wrapped up and started out, first taking the precaution to take one end of a rope which I trailed after me. About half way between the sheds and the house I found the old man on his hands and knees in the snow, which was seven feet deep, crawling about, trying to find the house. He was then nearly dead, and ten minutes more would have finished him. I picked him up and carried him to the house, where, with snow, ice water, and whisky, supplemented with an hour or two of hard work, we managed to save his life."

"How do people manage to live in such a climate?"

"Live? Why, they prepare for it. The early comers generally put up sod houses, and there is nothing in the world so warm as a sod house. You can walk around barefoot on the floor of one, if properly constructed, in the coldest weather. After they have been there long enough settlers generally build log houses, hauling logs thirty or forty miles for the purpose. These houses are warm and comfortable. So long as you don't have to go out you don't know what winter is. But the sod house is not to be treated with disdain, I assure you."

"How are they built?"

"In the first place a frame of boards, the size the house is to be, is put up so as to give the house a nice appearance inside; the roof also is boarded over. Then the sod is cut with a plow and a bank three or four feet thick is raised all around this frame. Every sod is laid as carefully as a mason lays a brick, the roots up, and all openings are filled in with fine dirt. Openings are made for the windows and doors, which have frames extending from inside to outside. These will contain sometimes three windows for winter—always two. When the sod rampart is raised to the height of the roof, poles are laid on and then sod put over those. The roots hold everything firm. You would be surprised to see the roots. Some of those grass roots are as thick as my finger, and extend down from ten to fourteen feet."

"What?"

"It's a fact, I assure you. I have followed them down myself when digging wells in that blue joint grass land. Why, a man in plowing has to stop and sharpen his plow every eighty rods if he cares anything for his team. The blacksmith draws out the point, but that and the edge both have to be filed down as sharp as possible, and then, as I say, sharpened every eighty rods. But to return to the sod house. After the outside is completed the inside is finished up to suit the taste and pocket of the proprietor. Some have only the earthen floor, and are divided up into two or three rooms. And, I tell you, for winter comfort in Dakota a sod house beats them all. Besides these there are dugouts on the side of a hill, and occasionally you will meet one on the prairie. The class of settlers that come in there as a rule have to put up with almost everything the first year or two."

Eyes Made of Crystal.

WHAT A NEW YORK DEALER SAYS CONCERNING ARTIFICIAL OPTICS.

It is all wrong to say 'a bully boy with a glass eye,' said a Maiden Lane manufacturer and importer, who is something of a wag.

"Why is it all wrong?"

"Well, there may be bully boys, but there is no such thing as a glass eye."

"What would you call this?" we asked at the same time holding up an artificial human eye.

"I would call that a crystal eye, because it is made out of crystal, and not out of glass."

"Of course there is. As I understand it, crystal eyes cannot be modeled into shape. Just how they are colored and made to imitate the natural eye I have no idea. You see, the method of making artificial human eyes out of crystal is one of the secret arts. I have tried to see whether there is not something in the books, but the writers maintain a deep silence on the subject."

"Where are most of the artificial eyes made?"

"We import most of our eyes from France. The manufacture of artificial human eyes is in the hands of a few French workmen who keep the process a secret, the same as the workers on Gobelin tapestry keep their art a secret. There are two or three in this country engaged in the manufacture of artificial eyes, but their product lacks often the close finish and the naturalness of the French. Yet we can make a good eye to order."

"How much would an eye to order cost?"

"Not over \$15. We keep a large assortment in stock, and if we can fit a man the cost would be only \$10. There is no such a difference in people's eyes as most persons suppose. The ordinary black eye, the light and dark blue eye and the grey eye, and what is called the wall eye are pretty much on the same pattern. Oculists have studied the different shades and tints of the eye so long they make a pretty good match to the natural eye. Not only that, but they can fit an artificial eye exactly in the place of a diseased eye after the latter has been removed. If the muscles have not been damaged, the artificial eye can be made to roll a little after the manner of a good eye, but hardly in 'the fine frenzy' of the past. I have known cases so skillfully done that it was a hard matter to tell at the first glance which was the artificial and which was the natural eye, although a sharp observer would distinguish it in a short time."

"Do you think there are many bully boys in New York with glass eyes?" we inquired laughingly.

"Well, I can hardly say how many New Yorkers sleep with one eye open. A fair estimate would perhaps be over 1,000 or 1,200. A great many from out of the city come to be fitted with artificial eyes. I can judge somewhat of the number by the amount of my sales every year."

What Makes The Gentleman.

PRESIDENT ELIOT BEFORE THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY AT HARVARD COLLEGE.

What is necessary? In the first place, natural gifts. The gentleman is born in a democracy no less than a monarchy. In other words, he is a person of fine bodily and spiritual qualities, mostly innate. Secondly, he must have through elementary education early access to books, and therefore, to great thoughts and high examples. Thirdly, he must be early brought into contact with some refined and noble person—father, mother, teacher, pastor, employer, or friend. Those are the only necessary conditions in peaceful times and in law-abiding communities like ours. Accordingly, such facts as the following are common in the United States: One of the numerous children of a small farmer manages to fit himself for college, works his way through college, becomes a lawyer, and is distinguished for the courtesy and dignity of his bearing and speech. The son of a country blacksmith is taught and helped to a small college by his minister; he himself becomes a minister; he has a long fight with poverty and ill-health, but at forty-five holds as high a place as his profession affords, and every line in his face and every tone in his voice bespeak the gentleman. The sons and daughters of a successful shopkeeper take the highest place in the most cultivated society of their native place, and well deserve the prominence accorded to them. The daughter of a man of very imperfect education, who began life with nothing and became a rich merchant, is singularly beautiful from youth to age, and possesses to the highest degree the charm of dignified and gracious manners. A young girl not long out of school, the child of respectable but obscure parents, marries a public man and in conspicuous station bears herself with a grace, discretion and nobleness which she could not have exceeded had her blood been royal for seven generations. Striking cases of this kind will occur to every person in this assembly. They are every-day phenomena in American society.

What conclusion do they establish? They prove that the social nobility of a democracy, which permits the excellent and well-endowed of either sex to rise and to seek out each other and which gives every advantageous variation or sport in a family stock free opportunity to develop, is immeasurably more beneficial to a nation than any selective inbreeding, founded on class distinctions, which has ever been devised. Since democracy has every advantage for producing in due season and proportion the best human types, it is reasonable to expect that science and literature, music and art, and all the finer graces of society will develop and thrive in America as soon as the more urgent tasks of subduing a wilderness and organizing society upon an untried plan is fairly accomplished.

"Such are some of the reasons drawn from experience for believing that our Ship of State is stout and sound; but she sails

Of storm-engendering liberty the happiness of the greatest number her destined haven. Her safety requires incessant watchfulness and readiness. Without trusty eyes on the lookout and prompt hand at the wheel, the stout ship may be dismantled by a passing squall. It is only intelligence and discipline which carry the ship to its port."

Trying to Cheat the Bank.

"There are any number of people, sometimes, I think, as many as nine out of ten, who seem to think it no crime to cheat a bank," said a clerk in a financial institution to a reporter.

"If there is a streak of meanness anywhere in a man's nature it will crop out when he is put to test on a question of money. Sometimes I have amused myself by experimenting with men to find out whether they were honest. There is an easy way of ascertaining. For instance, a depositor hands in a bank book, together with a number of bills and checks, the amount of which are to be placed to his credit. He has made out a deposit ticket, which he holds in his hands while I count the money. 'How much?' I ask. 'What do you make it?' he inquired. I name a sum \$5 or \$10 larger than I have ascertained the amount to be.

"If the man is honest he will say he thinks I am mistaken, but often he will turn around and make out another deposit ticket, fixing the amount to correspond with the figures I have given. Then, of course, I count the cash again and announce that I have made a mistake, and to prove it hand back the money and let him recount it. Men who nobody would ever suspect of crookedness in business matters are often very quick to take advantage of a little mistake in their favor. I know several wealthy gentlemen who I truly believe would never think of paying back any such large or small, that got into their hands through a bank clerk's mistake."

"Well, sir, the result was boiling hot water all around us for half an hour. We captured over one hundred fish, which were nicely boiled. It was very lucky for us, as the heat of the sun had melted our cook stove and we would have gone hungry. Is it hot out on the lake? Well, you just stay on land during a hot spell if you know what's good for you? Did you say lemonade for two?"

"Public office is a public trust,"

GRAY CLEVELAND.

A Sample of Western Driving.

General Sheridan has often visited Omaha and his face is familiar to many of our citizens, in whose heart he holds a warm place. Of all his visits to Omaha none is more memorable than that in January, 1872, when he and his staff came here to meet the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia and suit, and to go with them on a grand hunt in the western part of the state, which which was then thickly "populated" with buffaloes.

The buffalo hunt, which was conducted under the direction of General Sheridan, was a very successful affair. The details were executed by Buffalo Bill, who was a great favorite with General Sheridan. During the hunt a grand war dance was given by Spotted Tail and his Indians, 1,400 in all, who had been brought down from their agency by Buffalo Bill to entertain the visitors. On the return from the hunt the grand duke and Gen. Sheridan took seats in a double seated open carriage drawn by four splendid cavalry horses which were not much used to the harness. The driver was Bill Reed, an overland stage driver. On the way back the grand duke frequently expressed his admiration of the skillful manner in which Reed handled the reins. Sheridan informed him that Buffalo Bill had also been a stage driver in the Rocky mountains, and thereupon his highness expressed a desire to see him drive. Buffalo Bill was in advance, and Sheridan shouted out to him: "Cody, get in here and show the duke how you can drive." Mr. Reed will change places with you and ride your horse. "All right, General," responded Cody, and in a few moments he had the reins and the horses were dancing over the prairie.

When they were approaching Medicine Creek, Sheridan said, "Shake 'em up a little, Bill, and give us some old time stage driving." Bill gave the horses a crack or two of the whip and the struck an unusually rapid gait. They had a light load to pull and kept increasing their speed at every jump. Bill found it difficult to hold them. They fairly flew over the ground. At last they reached a steep hill or divide, which led down into the valley of the Medicine. There was no brake on the wagon, and the horses were not much on the hold back. Bill saw that it would be impossible to stop them. All he could do was to keep them straight in the track and let them go it down the hill for three miles, which distance was made, it is claimed, in about six minutes. Every once in a while the wheels would strike a rut and take a bound, and not touch the ground again for fifteen or twenty feet. The duke and the general were kept rather busy in holding their position on the seats, but when they saw that Bill was keeping the horses straight in the road they seemed to enjoy the dash. Bill was unable to stop the horses until they ran into the camp where they were to obtain a fresh relay. The grand duke said he didn't want any more of that kind of driving, as he preferred to go a little slower. Gen. Sheridan laughed and said: "That is nothing unusual in this western country. We do everything out here with a grand rush.—Omaha Herald.

Brigham Young's Ready Wit.

It is believed that the following anecdote of Brigham Young has never before been published. The high priest of the mormons often had to exert the whole of his wonderful quick wit in order to preserve the faith that his followers had in him, but he was generally equal to the occasion. A certain elder, while chopping wood, had cut his leg so badly that it had to be amputated. As soon as he was able he came to Young and stated his case to him somewhat as follows: "I have always been a good mormon; I have several wives and a good many children, and in my present maimed condition I do not know how I am to provide for them. I believe truly that you are Christ's representative on earth, and that you have all the power that he had. If you like you can work miracles; if you like you can give me a new leg, and now I ask you to do it."

Young assented to all the flattering propositions as they were laid down, and when the elder had finished speaking he said: "I can give you a new leg, and I will, but I want you to think about it a little at first. When the day of judgment comes, wherever you are buried, your old leg will find you out and join itself to you, but if I give you a new one that will rise with you too, and the question is whether you would rather suffer the inconvenience of getting along with one for a few years here or go through all eternity with three legs."

The choice was quickly made, and Brigham Young's reputation as a miracle worker was saved.—New York Tribune.

A contemporary, after presenting some interesting statistics touching farming in France and Switzerland, says: "The success of European farmers with all the forces of nature against them should be an inspiring lesson to our farmers of the soil. The American small farmer has only to unite brain and hand with hard work to make himself independent and comfortable if not rich. But without this union of the brain and hand there can be no great and permanent success."

Isolation on the Battle Field.

It was an ugly give and take. We could not see the enemy, but the whir and ting of bullets proved that they were not far away. As the excitement increased one of my men in his haste fired off his ramrod, and held up his musket that I might see what he had done. Without thinking I started to the rear, where, a short distance away, lay a musket.

No sooner had I left touching distance of my company than an irresistible sense of loneliness and dread seized me. Every step made the sensation acute. Soon I was practically panic-stricken. Somehow, however, I got the ramrod of the useless musket, and went back to the line on a run. With the return came assurance and courage. I never felt more alone or helpless than in those few moments of isolation. The air seemed full of hissing, shrieking demons. I was sure that each moment would bring death.

What do we know as certain facts with regard to shooting stars?

1. They are vastly more numerous than any one has an idea of who has watched them continuously for many nights. Astronomers who have kept us a record for many years assure us that the average number seen by one observer at one place on a clear, moonless night is fourteen per hour, which is shown by calculation to be equivalent to 20,000,000 daily for the whole earth.

2. They are not terrestrial phenomena, moving in the lower atmosphere, celestial bodies moving in orbits, and with velocities comparable to those of planets and comets. Their velocities are seldom under ten miles a second or over fifty, and average about thirty, the velocity of the earth in its orbit round the sun being eight e n.

3. They are of various compositions, comprising both a large majority of small particles which are set on fire by the resistance of the earth's atmosphere, and are entirely burned up and resolved into vapors long before they reach its surface, and a few larger ones, known as meteors, which are only partly fused or glazed by heat, and reach the earth in the form of stony masses.

4. They are not uniformly distributed through space, but collected in meteoric swarms or streams, two at least of which revolve around the sun in closed rings, which are intersected by the earth's orbit, causing the magnificent displays of shooting stars which are seen in August and November.

5. They are connected with comets, it having been demonstrated by Sciaparelli that the orbit of the comet of 1069 is identical with the August swarm of meteors known as the Perseids, and connection between comet and meteor streams have been found in at least three other cases. The fact is generally believed that comets are nothing but a condensation of meteoric matter rendered incandescent by the heat generated by their mutual collision when brought into close proximity.

6. Their composition, as inferred from the larger meteors which reach the earth, is identical, or nearly so, with that of matter brought up from great depths by volcanic eruptions. In each case they consist of two classes, one composed mainly of native iron alloys with nickel, the other of stony matter, consisting mainly of compounds of silicium and magnetism. Most meteorites consist of compounds of two classes, in which the stony parts seem to have broken into fragments by violent collision, and become imbedded in iron which has been fused by heat into a plastic or pasty condition.—The Contemporary Review.

How One's Destiny is Shaped.

How slight a circumstance may determine a man's destiny! It was Darwin's voyage in the ship Beagle that, without doubt, laid the foundation of his marvelous success as a naturalist and ultimately gave the world "The Origin of Species." Had he not had the wonderful opportunities which this trip around the world afforded him for the observation and study of natural phenomena, he would probably have been known to the world only as a somewhat heterodox clergyman of the Church of England, who had little love of theology but a kind and generous heart and a passion for the study of beetles and plants. His father's opposition at first led him to decline the proposed voyage, and when afterward he was led to reconsider the matter and make a visit to Capt. Fitz-Roy, the commander of the Beagle, that disciple of Lavater came very near rejecting him, as was afterwards confessed, on account of the shape of his nose! The commander had grave doubts whether any one with a nose like Darwin's could possess sufficient energy for such a voyage.

According to Sir John Lubbock, the physiologist and physicist, Helmholtz dates his start in science to an attack of typhoid fever. This illness led him to the acquisition of a microscope, which he was enabled to purchase, owing to his having spent his autumn vacation of 1841 in the hospital prostrated with typhoid fever; being a pupil, he was nursed without expense, and on his recovery he found himself in possession of the savings of his slender resources.—Western Druggist.

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