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POLAR EXPEDITIONS.

Their True Purpose Explained to Every Body's Satisfaction.

It is an unscientific and a puerile idea to think of visiting the polar regions merely to reach the terminal of the earth's axis. That is not the purpose which in recent years stimulated polar travel. Arctic and Antarctic explorations will go on because we see more clearly every year that the world is an organic whole, every part of which is of equal interest and importance in the study of nature's laws. The ice-bound regions still hold in their grasp important truths of which our men of science will some day possess themselves, and which will throw light, elsewhere unattainable, upon the circulation of oceanic waters, ice formations, climatology, terrestrial magnetism and other phenomena. The results of the labors at the fourteen circum-polar stations now being worked out, compared and published, bid fair to be worth far more than they cost, to science. The Antarctic regions will probably be the next field of polar inquiry, and some steps to this end have been taken both in Great Britain and Australia. As the south polar region is not, like the Arctic zone, crowded with islands and archipelagoes, it is of much more importance in the study of ocean currents. It has received far less than its share of attention, chiefly because the search for the northwest passage gave a great impetus to Arctic travel, and also because many of the most important discoveries in the north polar regions were made by ship parties whose primary purpose was to succor the Franklin or other distressed expeditions.

Strange as it may seem, the Pacific ocean is still far from well known. When Wilfred Powell expressed the belief that many Pacific islands had never yet been seen by white men, some incredulity was manifested. Since that time Captain Bruce has discovered a little group of islands off the northeast coast of New Guinea, Mr. Romilly found a new island in 1881, and the Germans have recently added two islands to the Bismarck Archipelago. Many large islands, also, like the largest members of the Solomon group and New Britain and New Ireland are familiar in their outlines, though we know little or nothing of their interiors. Some of these islands, which contain thousands of square miles, are still sealed books to us. The largest island of the world, New Guinea, has nowhere been penetrated far except along the Fly and Aiwl rivers, and a great part of the interior of Australia is still wholly unknown.

Our geological survey is pushing forward as rapidly as possible the great work of supplying us with a good topographic map of our three million square miles. The Canadian survey has also extended far within the great Northwestern region, until recently but little known, and has shown that vast areas along the Rocky mountains, formerly supposed to be bleak and inhospitable, are well adapted for settlement. There is little danger of any future misconception of any part of this continent such as that of Sir George Simpson when he testified in a British court not many years ago that the Red river country in Manitoba, now thought to be the finest wheat region in the world, was wholly unfit for human habitation.—*C. C. Adams, in N. Y. Mail and Express.*

SHIMADZU SABURO.

The Japanese Warrior Who Restored the Mikado to Power.

Late reports from Japan announce the death in that country of one of the most noted Japanese of the present century, a man remarkable from the fact that he started a revolution which brought about results diametrically opposite to those which it had been his intention to secure. The name of this important personage during the late feudal period of Japan was Shimadzu Saburo, the head of what was the Satsuma clan, the largest and most powerful tribal organization in that empire; so large, indeed, that its chieftain was able, in the space of a few days, to put into the field fifty thousand well-equiped and well-trained soldiers. In 1862, four years after his accession to the headship of his family, Shimadzu conceived the idea of bringing the Mikado of Japan, the imperial head of the Japanese Government, from the retirement in which he and his predecessors for several generations had been kept by the Shoguns or Tycoons, the great hereditary ministers that, in the name of their sovereign, had exercised autocratic power at Yeddo, the political capital of the country. It was Shimadzu's opinion that the Shogun had been altogether too much contaminated by foreign customs, and that it was necessary for the safety of the country to depose him from his high office, restore to the practical government the legitimate ruler, whose rights had been usurped, and who would practice that conservative policy which befitted a Japanese monarch. By his political and military power, Shimadzu succeeded in carrying out his undertaking. The Shogun was driven into retirement, and the Mikado came to Yeddo and took public control of affairs; but, instead of becoming reactionary in his ideas and appointing Shimadzu his Prime Minister, instructing him to drive all foreigners out of the empire and restoring again the old customs of non-intercourse, the Mikado entered upon a progressive, developing policy, with the idea of making Japan one of the sisterhood of great civilized nations. This led, after a time, to an attempted rebellion, not by Shimadzu himself, but by his immediate followers—an uprising that was put down in consequence of the skill which the Japanese soldiers of the imperial army had acquired in the art of civilized warfare. With this military defeat the old feudal system of Japan went to pieces, and for several years past its last great representative has lived in retirement, cherishing the belief that, through a mistaken act of his own, he had placed his country on the high road to ruin.—*Boston Herald.*

BOY AND GIRL, MAN AND WOMAN.

"Kiss me, Will," sang Marguerite,
To a pretty little tune,
Holding up her dainty lips,
Sweet as roses born in June.
Will was ten years old that day,
And he pulled her golden curls
Tessingly, an answer made,
"I'm too old—I don't kiss girls."

Ten years pass and Marguerite
Smiles as Will kneels at her feet,
Gazing fondly in her eyes,
Praying, "Won't you kiss me, sweet?"
Rite is seventeen to-day;
With her birthday ring she toys
For a moment, then replies,
"I'm too old—I don't kiss boys."

ELAINE'S LOST LOVER.

In 1861 there lived in lower part of this county, near Sandy Ridge Postoffice, an old lady by the name of Swann, and with her a granddaughter, Miss Elaine Marston, a most lovely girl of sixteen summers. Adjoining their home was the plantation of Judge Miller, the wealthy father of handsome young Harry, the devoted sweetheart of the beautiful Elaine. Harry was two years her senior, and when the order came for all of Georgia's sons between the ages of eighteen and fifty years to go to the front, he at once began preparation with all the ardor and enthusiasm of the Southern youth at that time. His last parting was with his "little sweetheart," as he fondly called her, and his promises to return and make her his bride were sealed by many a pure kiss of love and tender embrace. For a while letters full of tenderness, love and devotion—came, filling the heart of Elaine with joy and brightest hopes of the future. Suddenly they ceased, and then comes one written by a friend telling of the capture of young Harry, the bravest of the brave, and his incarceration in a Yankee prison. Months of sorrow and anxiety follow, and then comes the sad news of his death, brought by some "exchanges" from the prison in which he was confined.

The grief of Elaine was terrible, but the young heart—however fondly it may love, however bitterly it may suffer—seldom breaks, and in a few years the handsome Harry was but a dim shadow, and the slender, delicate girl had developed into a handsome, charming woman. She had many admirers, and on December 25, 1869, eight years after—the departure of her boy lover, Elaine Marston stood at the altar to become the wife of one of Henry County's most respected citizens.

Last week a man in the disguise of an old tramp passed through Hampton and inquired for the home of Mrs.——He found the place, beheld the face of his once promised bride, bright and happy with the love of a devoted husband, bright and interesting children, and the many comforts of a beautiful country home, and returned here to take the cars for his home in the far West, not as a tramp, however, but as a handsome gentleman, stout and hearty, and with only a few silver hairs upon his temples. He told us of his life in prison until the close of the war, of the false report which reached him of the marriage of Elaine before his release, which nearly drove him mad; of his wondrous success in life in California, and last, of the report brought across the Continent that Elaine did not marry till 1869, and was now a widow; the latter part of which he did not know to be false until he begged bread at her door.

He says he will never visit Georgia again; that his people are dead, and his heart's best love seared and withered, and nothing remains for him but to go forever from the scenes of his childhood and the land of his birth, to spend the remainder of his life as best he can in honoring the God who gave it. He has many old comrades in arms in this section who will, doubtless, recognize in Harry Miller one of the many brave boys sent out by our old country to fight for our honor, our freedom and our homes.—Hampton (Ga.) *Times.*

HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW?

There is no man living who knows every one of the 75,000 words in Webster's dictionary, nor half, nor a third of them. Nor is there is a man that could define them if we were asked. Shakespeare, who had the richest vocabulary used by any Englishman, employed only 16,000 words. Milton could pick up from 8,000, but the average man graduate from one of the great universities, rarely has a vocabulary of more than 3,000 or 4,000 words. Right here in Buffalo there are Americans born and bred who contrive to express all their wants and opinions in 300 words, and in the rural districts the knowledge of 150 or 200 words is sufficient to carry a man through the world. So the unabridged dictionary is cluttered up with 60,000 or more technical or obsolete words that you never hear in ordinary books and newspapers.—Buffalo *School Teacher.*

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The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped hands, Chilblains Corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by druggists at Weldon, Brown & Carraway, Halifax, Dr. J A McGwigen, Enfield.

CONVICT TELEGRAPHY.

A STRANGE SYSTEM OF SIGNS IN USE IN ALL PRISONS.

Incidents that must necessarily follow from intercommunication often happen in penitentiaries, where the rules are rigid and surveillance so close that a convict is never from under the eye of a guard or taskmaster. No matter to what extreme the rule prohibiting conversation between convicts may be enforced, they find some means by which to inform themselves of what is going on or what is to occur. But, more than this, a convict may conceive the idea of escape or revolt, and for him to communicate it to one he wishes to have as an accomplice is not difficult. They bring others into the plot or plan until twenty or thirty know it, in the details for the carrying out of which each is assigned his particular part. This necessitates a thorough explanation of minutiæ and calls for a system of communication for which a limited use of signs would not answer. The secret use of the latter means for expressing ideas and purposes will not account for the completeness of information convicts obtain of what takes place in prison walls, for, whether anything occurs in the office or the most distant part of the prison, within fifteen minutes there is not a convict who does not know all about it. Penitentiary officials have tried again and again to obtain even a clue to the system, but they are no nearer a solution than when they first began to investigate the matter. They know there is a system, and that it rests on signs, but whether on those made with fingers, eyes and lips, or the bringing into play other features, or whether it depends on all together, they do not know. Prisoners, to curry favor with officials often tell them what they have learned from other convicts. They go to especial trouble at times in exposing plots, and are ready to reveal everything except the means by which they learned the facts. No convict has yet given the slightest suggestion which would lead to the discovery of the secret that has defied the shrewdest detectives.

"I have seen," said an ex-prison official, "two convicts, six feet apart, facing each other. They did not utter a word, nor could I discern the slightest movement of the lips or eyes, yet I knew they were communicating something. They gazed at each other for a minute or two before I had a chance to interfere, but I am satisfied that one told the other all he wished to tell. Three or four of them will be standing around the stove or together in other places of the prison, and yet with sufficient distance between them to lead one to think that they have nothing in common, but while there is not the least sign of conversation observable they are talking to each other in their own way."

Attorney-General Michener relates an incident or two showing the perfection to which the convicts have carried their system of conveying information among themselves. On his first visit to Jeffersonville to look in to the matter of a warden's short comings he was sitting in the office of the prison one afternoon when the deputy warden or some other subordinate asked him if he did not wish to go through the shops. It was something he did not expect to do, but, accepting the invitation, they passed through the inner gates, crossing the first cell rooms, out into the courtyard and across that directly to the shoe factory. They were not three minutes in going, nor did they stop anywhere until they reached the factory. The Attorney-General had gone but a few feet into the room with the prison officer when a convict stepped up, and asking the latter if he could speak to the gentleman with him, said on permission being given him: "You are the Attorney General?"

"Yes," was the only reply of that officer.

"Your name is Michener?"

"Yes, but how do you know that? I have never seen you before."

"That is true, nor did I ever see you until now, although I am from Shelby county." He then went on to tell who he was, where he lived in the county, and what he had done to bring him into the penitentiary. But the convict gave the Attorney-General further cause for wonder by telling him that he knew of his reaching the city the day before, how many visits he had made to the prison, and for what purpose.

Leaving the shoe factory the Attorney-General and prison officer went into another room, and with neither of which could any person in the third have direct communication. Here Mr. Michener was approached by another convict, who told him about what the first had done, except he asked him to see the Governer in his behalf. Going to the foundry, which is a considerable distance from the shoe factory, the third convict came up to the Attorney-General the instant he entered the room. This man had the identity of the visitor and the cause of his coming to Jeffersonville as accurately as the other two. He alo wanted a pardon. On their way to another building the prison official said to Mr. Michener: "Every convict who cared to know had all the information about who you are and why you have come within a few minutes after you came inside the prison door.

The convicts have no privelege of talking or speaking to each other, but so perfect is their system of communicating with each other that in forming plans to escape they can agree on time, leaders, methods and signals. But there is always some convict who, though not in the plot, learns all about it and tells the details to the officers. Investigation always brings to light enough incidents to convince us that their plans are being formed constantly. Just after warden Patton took charge three plans of uniting were discovered and thwarted in one day."

Warden Patton not long ago had occasion to order the punishment of a convict for the infraction of the rules. The convict, without the knowledge of his fellows, was taken to a distant part of the prison where there was not a sign of anyone being near enough to learn what took place. But three minutes afterward every convict of the many hundreds there knew not only the punishment and the kind, but why, and by whom, and at whose orders it was inflicted. An ex-prison official said recently: "Not long ago I took a convict to Michigan City. I reached the prison about 8 o'clock in the evening, after all the convicts had been locked up in their cells. No one knew of my being there but the officer in charge at that time of night. I did not stay longer than five minutes, but, turning over my prisoner, I went to the hotel and to bed. When I came down to breakfast the next morning there was a messenger from the prison stating that such and such a convict wanted to see me. A half a dozen in all wished to have me come out to them. How they knew I was there nobody knows. Prison officials are constantly seeing the effects of communication among the convicts, but cannot detect the system."—Indianapolis *Journal.*

PEACOCK FEATHERS.

In olden times the plumage of the peacock was considered among the brightest of nature's beauties. The proud bird itself was prepared with all its feathers on for the banquets of kings and high nobles, where it held the most prominent place. Until within a few years only a small number of even the wealthiest persons, especially in America, felt that they could afford to intoude peacocks among their pets. The feathers were costly, and every woman prided herself if upon the possession of a few in her bonnet. If she were fortunate enough to have a fan made of these feathers she felt proud indeed. Gradually, as the hunters secured larger quantities, wealthy people began to use them for decorative purposes. Elegant screens, some with the feathers spread thinly on a cloth surface, and others, which were more costly, with the feathers closely sewed together, fans with silver handles, sofa cushions, and chair seats were made of the brilliant plumage. The feathers were even used in the decoration of walls, and for friezes and dados.

But suddenly, and apparently without cause, the demand ceased. The feathers that had previously been the joy of the owner, were looked upon with distaste and pronounced out of fashion. They were ruthlessly torn from the hats they had adorned, from the walls and screens, and thrown into the rubbish heaps.

Whence came this sudden and unexpected dislike? The reporter was told that an ancient superstition to the effect that peacocks and peacocks' feathers were sure to bring bad luck to their owner had been revived and had brought about the downfall of the fashion. He made enquiries at the stores where peacock feathers were formerly supplied, and found that the demand had ceased entirely. At Tiffany's it was said that they had not sold a fan or screen of peacock feathers for several years. Customers never ask for them. The reporter was informed at other houses that feathers that formerly sold at high prices can now be obtained for twenty five, fifty and seventy five cents a bunch. A number of importers said that they were used very little.—New York *Sun.*

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED.

To THE EDITOR.—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and postoffice address.

Respectfully,
T. A. SLOCUM, M. C.,
181 Pearl street, New York.

jan 5-6m.

TWO GOOD FOR THIS EARTH.—"Now that you are going to marry my daughter I would like to know something of your habits." "Very well, sir." "Do you smoke or chew?"

"Never did either in my life." "Do you drink?" "No, sir. I don't drink or patronize horse races or swear or read trashy literature. And now after the wedding, where would you advise me to live?"

"In heaven, my son."

AFRICAN WHITES.

DESCENDENTS OF THE FOOLAHS NOW LIVING IN SOUTHERN LOUISIANA.

Most people who have read Rider Haggard's tale of the great white race in Africa consider it the purest fiction, but such is not the case South of Timbuctoo and north of Kong Mountains in the western part of Africa live the Foolahs, the white tribe of the dark continent. This tribe has good features, a skull molded like that of a white man and a complexion about as dark as that of the Italians. They were great slave traders in the old days, but they made a specialty of the finest grades of captives, and but few of their own number were ever transported. It is said that a shipload of them was once landed on the coast of Louisiana, and that the Creoles, refusing to believe them darkies, set them free and hung the slavers.

These Foolahs settled down in the marshes of Southern Louisiana, and after a while became civilized, and in that part of the State to day you will find tall, dark, rather good looking white men who have all the indolence of the black African, who are sometimes as fierce as the Arab. These people are the descendents of the Foolah's, and are always hospitable and musical. Foolahs, and their Mandingo was a slaver. There are strange people in this great country of ours.

CARS BEFORE THE WAR.

People who travel nowadays in Pullman sleepers and half [illegible] know what railroading [illegible] before the war in the west. Now the percentage of deaths by accident on railroads is very small. Then a man took his life in his hand when he made a trip on the railroad. The rails then were known as strap rails, flat pieces of iron spiked down to the wooden beams laid along the track. Every now and then a wheel of a car would tear one end of a rail loose and it would fly up through the bottom of the car and then smash its way through killing anybody it struck and breaking the woodwork of the car all to pieces.

I was an express messenger in those days on a road running between Cincinnati and Indianapolis. One day one of these rails broke through my car, struck my safe, and then came squirming and twisting like a snake at me. I tried to dodge it, but it seemed to bend all over the car in a second and it caught my breeches, tearing them clear off one leg. If it had struck my body I would have been nailed to the roof by it, as it went on out that way. Sometimes these broken rails threw the train off the track, but generally the cars bowled merrily along over the break, and the passengers were so accustomed to being shaken up that they didn't know that anything extraordinary had happened until some one told them.—Joseph Temple in *Globe-Democrat.*

Some people think that a double wedding is unlucky. Some people think that a single wedding is too. Generally these last are people who have tried it.

Chicago young lady—"Oh, Clara, papa gave me such a beautiful piano for Christmas."

St Louis young lady—"Wasn't that lovely? "Did you get it in your stocking?"

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