

KUBLAI KHAN'S PALACE.

Description of the Famous Building of the Great Tartar Ruler.

You must know that for three months of the year—to wit, December, January and February—the great khan resides in the capital city of Cathay, which is called Cambaluc, and which is at the northeastern extremity of the country. In that city stands his great palace, and now I will tell you what it is like.

It is inclosed all around by a great wall forming a square, each side of which is a mile in length—that is to say, the whole compass thereof is four miles. It is also very thick and a good ten paces in height, whitewashed and loopholed all round.

At each angle of the wall there is a very fine and rich palace, in which the war harness of the emperor is kept, such as bows and quivers, saddles and bridles and bowstrings and everything needful for an army; also midway between every two of these corner palaces there is another of the like, so that, taking the whole compass of the inclosure, you find eight vast palaces stored with the great king's harness of war. And you must understand that each palace is assigned to only one kind of article. Thus one is stored with bows, a second with saddles, a third with bridles, and so on in succession right round.

The great wall has five gates on its southern face, the middle one being the great gate, which is never opened on any occasion except when the great khan himself goes forth or enters. Close on either side of this great gate is a smaller one, by which all other people pass, and then, toward each angle, is another great gate, also open to people in general, so that on that side there are five gates in all.

Inside of this wall there is a second, inclosing a space that is somewhat greater in length than in breadth. This inclosure also has eight palaces, corresponding to those of the outer wall, and stored, like them, with the king's harness of war. The wall also has five gates on the southern face, corresponding to those in the outer wall, and has one gate on each of the other faces, as the outer wall has also. In the middle of the second inclosure is the king's great palace, and I will tell you what it is like.

You must know that it is the greatest palace that ever was. Toward the north it is in contact with the outer wall, while toward the south there is a vacant space which the barons and the soldiers are constantly traversing. The palace itself has no upper story, but is all on the ground floor, only the basement is raised some ten palms above the surrounding soil, and this elevation is retained by a wall of marble raised to the level of the pavement, two paces in width and projecting beyond the base of the palace so as to form a kind of terrace walk, by which people can pass round the building, and which is exposed to view, while on the outer edge of the wall there is a very fine pillared balustrade, and up to this the people are allowed to come. The roof is very lofty, and the walls of the palace are all covered with gold and silver. They are also adorned with representations of dragons, sculptured and gilt, beasts and birds, knights and idols and sundry other subjects. And on the ceiling, too, you see nothing but gold and silver and painting. On each of the four sides there is a great marble staircase leading to the top of the marble wall and forming the approach to the palace.

The hall of the palace is so large that it could easily dine 6,000 people, and it is quite a marvel to see how many rooms there are besides. The building is altogether so vast, so rich and so beautiful that no man on earth could design anything superior to it. The outside of the roof also is all colored with vermilion and yellow and green and blue and other hues, which are fixed with a varnish so fine and exquisite that they shine like crystal and lend a resplendent luster to the palace as seen from a great way round. The roof is made, too, with such strength and solidity that it is fit to last forever.

On the interior side of the palace are large buildings, with halls and chambers, where the emperor's private property is placed, such as his treasures of gold, silver, gems, pearls and gold plate, and in which reside the ladies of the court.—Noah Brooks in St. Nicholas.

Glaciers in New Zealand.

The rocky precipices descended to the very edge of the Fox glacier and were covered with a mass of fern, shrub and semitropical creepers, forming a brilliant wall of intense green down to the very lip of the dazzling white ice. The mists had by this time lifted, and the sun was already making its appearance, and investing this strange and new spectacle with all its splendor. This luxuriant vegetation grew from the moist earth in the crevices of these cliffs, which were almost vertical, but of a stone sufficiently soft and crumbling to allow of numerous fertile deposits in its fissures. These cliffs reached in places some 400 or 500 feet in height, above which the slopes receded, clad with a luxuriant forest of scrub. Here and there little rivulets fell in bright cascades down this veritable tapestry of vegetation.—"Climbs In the New Zealand Alps."

A letter posted in Constantinople will be delivered in New York two weeks later.

BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

It was a Unique Engagement, Says General Horace Porter.

The Union losses in the battle of the Wilderness were found to be: Killed, 2,246; wounded, 12,037; missing, 3,383; total, 17,666. The damage inflicted upon the enemy is not known, but as he was the assaulting party as often as the Union army there is reason to believe that the losses on the two sides were about equal. Taking 24 hours as the time actually occupied in fighting and counting the casualties in both armies, it will be found that on that bloody field every minute recorded the loss of 25 men.

As the staff officers threw themselves upon the ground that night sleep came to them without coaxing. They had been on the move since dawn, galloping over bad roads, struggling about through forest openings, jumping rivulets, wading swamps, helping to rally troops, dodging bullets and searching for commanding officers in all sorts of unknown places. Their horses had been crippled, and they themselves were well nigh exhausted. For the small part I had been able to perform in the engagement the general recommended me for the brevet rank of major in the regular army "for gallant and meritorious services." His recommendation was afterward approved by the president. This promotion was especially gratifying, for the reason that it was conferred for conduct in the first battle in which I had served under the command of the general in chief.

There were features of the battle which have never been matched in the annals of warfare. For two days nearly 200,000 veteran troops confronted at each step with almost every obstacle by which nature could bar their path and groping their way through a tangled forest the impendable gloom of which could be likened only to the shadow of death. The undergrowth staid their progress, the upper growth shut out the light of heaven. Officers could rarely see their troops for any considerable distance, for smoke clouded the vision and a heavy sky obscured the sun. Directions were ascertained and lines established by means of the pocket compass, and a change of position often presented an operation more like a problem of ocean navigation than a question of military maneuvers. It was the sense of sound and of touch rather than the sense of sight which guided the movements. It was a battle fought with the ear and not with the eye.

All circumstances seemed to combine to make the scene one of unutterable horror. At times the wind howled through the tree tops, mingling its moans with the groans of the dying, and heavy branches were cut off by the fire of the artillery and fell crashing upon the heads of the men, adding a new terror to battle. Forest fires raged, ammunition trains exploded, the dead were roasted in the conflagration, the wounded, roused by its hot breath, dragged themselves along with their torn and mangled limbs in the mad energy of despair to escape the ravages of the flames, and every bush seemed hung with shreds of blood-stained clothing. It was as though Christian men had turned to fiends and hell itself had usurped the place of earth.—General Horace Porter in Century.

Manning and Benson.

The late Archbishop Benson of Canterbury and Cardinal Manning used to meet frequently at the Athenaeum club and were good friends, though Manning thought that Benson was not rugged enough in his policy. A correspondent of the archbishop, who was also a friend of the cardinal, received from Lambeth palace in 1886 a letter in which the Anglican primate said of the Roman cardinal: "You are not mistaken in thinking that I highly regard his person and his life and value the goodness of Cardinal Manning's heart toward me," with more to the same purpose. The correspondent showed the letter at the time to Cardinal Manning, who read it with evident pleasure. "And I, too," he said, "as the put it down, 'have a great liking for my dear sister of Canterbury.'"—New York Tribune.

The Lava Lake of Hawaii.

One of the large volcanoes in Hawaii has a large lake of liquid lava in its crater or hollow. This seething, boiling mass looks like red-hot bottle glass to the naked eye, but under the microscope pieces of the original rocks of very minute size may be detected. Where it has cooled in curious festoons along the "coast" it resembles slag from some mammoth furnace.—St. Louis Re-publican.

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Mr. Frank T. Reynolds, of Dalton, Ga., was a sufferer from Rheumatism since his boyhood. He writes: "Ever since I was twelve years of age I have suffered intensely with Muscular Rheumatism, which, at one time, kept me in bed for eighteen months. I took all kinds of treatment, and visited many famous springs, but could get only temporary relief; the disease always returned, and at times was so painful that it was impossible for me to use my arms and legs. I tried almost everything that was suggested, and after eight years of suffering S. S. S. was recommended, and I was happy to, at last, find a cure for this painful trouble. S. S. S. seemed to get at the disease promptly, and afforded immediate relief."

The experience of Mr. E. J. Gibson, of Madison, Ga., was similar to the above. He says: "I tried almost every rheumatic remedy I heard of, but grew worse instead of better. The sharp, aching pains, peculiar to Rheumatism, took possession of my entire body, and the suffering I endured was intense. I was soon unfit for business, and became as helpless as a child. The potash prescriptions of the doctors almost ruined my digestion, and I found no relief in anything until S. S. S. (Swift's Specific) was recommended. Several bottles cured me completely, and for more than four years I have not had a symptom of Rheumatism."

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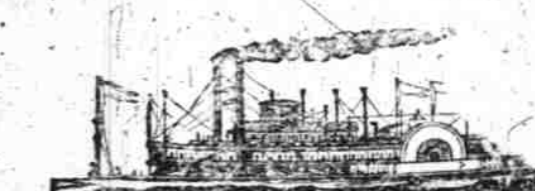
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