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ROMANCE OF AN EXPLORER. Remarkable information that George Grenfell brought to light. George Grenfell, the African explorer and missionary, who died the other day, had lived nearly a third of a century on the Congo. In all that time he had visited his home in England only twice. While white men were dropping all around him he seemed to bear a charmed life, but he died at last of a disease that carried off many of his co-laborers.

This little man, modest and slow of speech, was a leader among Congo explorers. No other man ever brought to light so many and his dramatic journey through the vast northern forest. But in working out the details of this second greatest geographic system in the world both Grenfell and Delcommune for surpassed him.

Delcommune's work was chiefly the exploration of the upper part of the Southern Congo system, which Stanley never saw. Grenfell's field was the north and south tributaries of the middle Congo in the 900 miles between Stanley Pool and Stanley Falls.

It was here that he completely revolutionized our ideas of Congo hydrography. In his little missionary steamer Peace he pushed up one of these great tributaries after another, exploring them as far as he could force his vessel.

None of the thousands of natives he met had ever seen a white man before and the most remarkable thing about him, they thought, were his white skin and his gold bowed spectacles, which seemed to them a fetish charm of remarkable power.

The first words that Grenfell wished to learn in any language or dialect were "peace." He was a man of peace and never harmed a native in his life. Scores of times his puffing little steamer was attacked by showers of poisoned arrows and all the time Grenfell would stand behind the wire netting that protected the roof and deck of his vessel holding aloft strings of beads and lengths of brass wire and calling out "friends" and "peace" to the infuriated natives on the banks.

He never ran away from them. He would wait till they were convinced that he meant them no harm. Then he would parley with them, learn all he could about their life and habits, give them presents and on his departure, he was usually invited to come again soon.

It was Grenfell who brought to light the dwarf tribes of the middle Congo. Years before Schweinfurth had found a pygmy group hundreds of miles to the northeast, but Grenfell was the first to see the much larger groups of dwarfs on the southern tributaries of the Congo, and as he steamed up the river many of the nimble little fellows would clamber out on the branches of trees overhanging the water to fire their arrows at him.

HOLDS BALLOON RECORD. Aeronaut Went 1000 Miles in Nineteen Hours in 1859. From the Philadelphia North American.

While aeronauts, reveling in their rediscovered sport, are cataloging them, the public over "record-breaking" trips, a voice from the past reminds them that startling feats in ballooning are not new.

For instance the recent trip of 225 miles by Dr. Julian P. Thomas of New York was hailed as a record. Professor John Wise and his wife and Lancaster for outstripped this half a century ago.

Dr. Thomas and Knabenshue, starting Sunday, August 5, from New York, traveled to Brant Rock, Mass., and were eighteen hours in the air. Wise and three companions in July, 1859, had three more than 1000 miles covered in nineteen hours, this recent feat fades into insignificance.

Professor Wise was the most noted aeronaut of the country. He made many long voyages in the air, not a few of which covered 300 miles in length, and on one of which he finally lost his life.

His most memorable feat, however, the establishment of a record which has never been approached by any other aeronaut, and to equal which Dr. Thomas and Knabenshue would have had to travel some 775 miles further, was made on July 1, 1859.

With Professor Wise on this journey were two other aeronauts and a reporter from a St. Louis newspaper. The trip was made to demonstrate the feasibility of Professor's Wise's dream of a balloon voyage across the Atlantic.

Leaving St. Louis at 6:30 o'clock in the evening, the four voyagers sailed all night through the air. In the morning they made a temporary landing near a small town in Ohio and anchored their balloon to a pole, while they had breakfast in a farmhouse.

During the day they had thrilling experiences. Travelling at express train speed, they sailed out over Lake Erie at about 8 o'clock in the morning, and for nearly four hours were above the water.

While they were still more than 100 miles from shore, they were overtaken by a thunderstorm, which had been following them for hours, and which was accompanied by a wind of terrible velocity. When the storm struck them the balloon was hurled almost on its side, the big gasbag offering more resistance to the gale than the car, and it was thought safer to descend near the lake. In the descent shifting currents drove the balloon down to the water, in which the basket dragged for nearly an hour.

ANCIENT SHOES. The First Footwear Was Probably of Raw Skins. Nobody knows who was the first shoemaker. There must have been a time when everybody went barefooted, and the first shoes were probably made of woven reeds or barks of lighter skins protected his ankles and legs from the thorns and bushes.

The Celt, who at times wandered over moor or moorass, at others over mountains, invented a shoe that suited his purpose exactly. A sole of heavy hides protecting his feet from the sharp stones, while, under long leags of lighter skins, protected his ankles and legs from the thorns and bushes. The buskin was so constructed that the water exuded from it as soon as the foot ceased to be immersed. In the modern shoe the idea is that water kept out, not let out.

The Celtic buskin was tough and clavier and could be replaced wherever there were untanned skins at hand. Every Celt was in his own shoemaker.

With the Norman conquest came the introduction into the British Isles of tanned leather, which had long been in use in Normandy where it had been introduced by the Romans.

Shoes then began to take on style, and the styles have never been depulcated in later days. From close fitting shoes fashion went to long, pointed toes, which in time grew so long that they had to be laced to the ankles.

Shoes were gorgeous affairs in the middle ages. King Richard, the Lion hearted, had his boots stamped with gold. John Lackland, his brother, wore boots spotted with golden circles, while Henry II wore boots checked which were enriched with a lion. Cardinal Richelieu's boots were of gold and stone precious.

Costing many thousand pounds. Sir Walter Raleigh wore shoes studied with diamonds said to have cost £50,000. The gallants in Charles II's time wore their high boot tops turned down to the ankles, to show the gorgeous lace with which they were lined.—Indianapolis News.

Mrs. Fleming, of Harvard, is one of the noted Astronomers of the World. St. Louis Republic. To be accredited as the discoverer of more stars than any other living astronomer must be gratifying. Especially should this be the case when the lucky discoverer is a woman.

Such distinction belongs to Mrs. Williamina Paton Fleming, of Harvard Observatory. The results of her investigations have interested the entire world. In addition to her achievements in this line, she is distinctive in being the only woman occupying an official position at Harvard University.

Eight hitherto unobserved stars in the novae have been discovered by her. Of fifth-type stars she has found eighty-four, as compared with fifteen located by her co-workers in science. Incidentally she has found 200 new variables.

is a Scot—in fact, she is a native of Dundee, in the land of oatakes. She was educated there and taught school there for five years. Her father, Robert Stevens, a man whose inclination leads to scientific research, and he was the first in that section to take an interest in the then new daguerretype process of photography.

The daughter, however, was not content to remain amid the rigid environments of the Old World. More than twenty years ago she came to America and soon obtained a position at Harvard observatory as computer. For some time her work there was of the simplest character, but, as the value of her services was recognized, she was quickly advanced from one post to another.

In 1897 she was appointed curator of the astronomical records of the university and since then her work has been directed to study of the heavens. At present she has in charge more than 150,000 glass plates, each covered with almost countless images of stars, and which make a complete record of the heavens since 1886.

Every night when the weather permits the Harvard observatory scans the heavens, both in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Favor C. C. Moore. From all parts of the south there comes a protest against Mr. Richard Cheatham serving longer as secretary of the southern cotton association because of his gambling proclivities.

A movement has been started in North Carolina to have Mr. C. C. Moore of Charlotte succeed him, and we heartily endorse the suggestion. Mr. Moore has as much, if not more ability than Mr. Cheatham, he is enthusiastic to a degree, and, besides, he is not a gambler.—Greensboro Telegram.

Speak Out, Mr. Chairman. If the tariff policy of the Republican party has increased the price of veal and mutton from four to ten times the prices in 1896, then Judge Adams should tell our laboring population why it is the Republican party does not increase the wages paid laboring men in some reasonable ratio as compared with the food he eats.—Asheboro Courier.

THE YELLOW FEVER GERM has recently been discovered. It bears a close resemblance to the malaria germ. To free the system from disease germs, the most effective remedy is Dr. King's New Life Pills. Guaranteed to cure all disease due to malaria, poison and constipation. 25c at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store.

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