

THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

W. S. HERBERT, Editor and Prop'r.

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Continued reports of prosperity in Mexico appear. That country is highly prosperous—is prospering at a greater rate than ever before. Mexico is on a silver basis.

It is in the power of the southern farmer to keep the price of cotton up or to put it down. Reasonable acreage will do the former and an over-acreage will do the latter. Which do the farmers prefer?—Atlanta Journal, Dem.

The Progressive Farmer has begun its 15th volume. It changed editors about seven months ago. Mr. Clarence Coe taking charge, and states that it has added a considerable number of new subscribers since the change. The Progressive Farmer is an interesting paper and is neatly printed.

If the farmers cannot make the trusts pay higher prices for their products, they can even matters considerably by raising their supplies and buying less from the trusts for which they have to pay high prices. There are many ways of fighting trusts other than by adopting high sounding resolutions drafted by some politician.—Durham Herald.

The Republican senate financiers are at their old tricks. They added to the financial bill a section which favors bimetalism, provided that the same can be secured by concurrent international agreement at a ratio which shall insure the permanence of the relative value between gold and silver. Two impossible conditions! The senatorial grandmothers are playing politics again.—Philadelphia Record.

Was Queen Bess Handsome?

Sir Horace Walpole's description of the maiden queen, drawn from her portraits and from contemporary accounts, is not a very attractive one. "A pale Roman nose, a head of hair loaded with crowns and powdered with diamonds, a vast ruff, a vaster farthingale and a bushel of pearls are," he says, "the features by which everybody knows at a glance the pictures of Queen Elizabeth."

But notwithstanding that she did not care for art and that, knowing her lack of it, she affected to despise bodily comeliness, still she loved to multiply portraits of herself. "In them she could appear really handsome." Yet if she has been flattered in the existing likenesses of her she must have been not merely plain, but a remarkably ugly woman. Perhaps the truth is that with the most courtly intentions the painters of the time did not know how to prevaricate.

"The queen," says a foreign observer, "is fair, but wrinkled. Her nose is a little hooked, her lips thin and her teeth black. She wore false hair and that red. Her bosom was uncovered, as all the English ladies have it until they marry." That the painters flattered her in some degree we must infer from that fact that she was fond of sitting to them, though she could not bear the sight of a mirror, which so enraged her that her attendants were obliged to hide their when she was present.—Art Amateur.

An Arctic Hotel.

The most northern hotel in the world is on the inhospitable shore of Advent Bay, where it washes the west coast of Spitzbergen. Tourist bythen (Tourist hotel) is the name of the remote establishment. Its season is necessarily short, extending from July 10 to Aug. 18, but it gives a hearty welcome to the few venturesome travelers who have the temerity to seek its shelter. It has accommodations for 30 guests. It is announced that the increase of travel to the gate of the arctic regions has made the establishment of a postoffice in the hotel a necessary feature. The hotel is in an approximate latitude of 78 degrees 15 minutes, or 500 miles farther north than Hammerfest. Probably a better idea of its situation may be gained from the statement that the late quarters of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition in Franz-Josef Land were hardly more than 150 miles nearer the pole. The building naturally is unpretentious in appearance, being only 1½ stories high, with a diminutive porch at the front. As a matter of course it is built of wood.—New York Tribune.

A CURIOSITY OF ALASKA.

Beaches Formed by Driftwood From All Over the World.

One of the greatest curiosities noted by travelers in Alaska is the wonderful haven of driftwood on the coast between Yakutat and Kyak Islands, some 1,200 or 1,500 miles northeast from Seattle. The constant deposit of logs and driftwood in this particular spot, which has been going on for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years, is due to the phenomena of the tides, the Pacific gulf stream, the mysterious ocean currents and the peculiar formation of the shore lines at that point.

Logs and timbers are readily identified there as having come from Japan, China, India and other parts of Asia, as well as from California, Washington and other parts of the American continent. There are fine logs of the camphor tree, the mahogany, the redwood and the pine in this driftage. Some of those from the state of Washington contain the names of the men who felled the trees and of the sawmills for which they were destined, but never reached. Logs eight feet in diameter are in this novel woodyard, and some entire trees 150 feet long are there, uplifted by the roots, cast into the sea by some terrible tempest and sent floating round the world. Other persons on the beach descried big trees floating shoreward, with fantastic roots above the waves like some sea monster. One beach after another has been formed by the floating timbers, and a little distance back from the shore the deposits are so old that the wood in some places is petrified, while a little deeper in the earth it has turned into coal. The newer logs are without bark and as hard as stone, due, it is thought, to their long immersion in salt water. They have all taken on a whitish appearance. In places the timbers are piled 20 feet high; at other points they rise to a height of only four or five feet.

Under this wonderful beach are found large quantities of dark, ruby sand, rich in fine particles of gold, for the separation of which no successful process has yet been discovered.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Lost King.

In olden times, when European kings were as plentiful as Kentucky colts are today, it was not an exceptional occurrence for a king to disappear and never been heard of again. In ancient times, however, the people have been more careful of their kings.

So when King Sebastian of Portugal disappeared in battle July 29, 1578, while fighting the Moors at Alcazar, there was great commotion. The Moors surrendered to the Portuguese a body said to be that of the king, but it was rumored that the Moors had the king alive in custody.

The surrendered body was buried with royal honors at Belem, but the faithful Portuguese persisted in waiting for the return of their king. Long after he would have died in the course of nature his countrymen longingly awaited his coming.

Even up to this day the legend of the return of King Sebastian is believed by many, and on stormy nights credulous Portuguese citizens will wrap their cloaks about them and go outside and watch the storm, thinking that the king may appear in a cloud of fire again to rule.

When Women Played Cricket.

The following is from an article in the London General Advertiser of 1747:

"On Monday last in playing the Women's Cricket Match the Company broke in, so that it was impossible for the game to be play'd out; and some of them being very much frightened, and others hurt, it could not be finish'd till this Morning, when at Nine o'Clock they will finish the same, hoping the Company will be so kind as to indulge them in not walking within the Ring, which will not only be a great Pleasure to them, but a general Satisfaction to the Whole. All Gentlemen and Ladies that have paid to see this Match on Monday shall have the Liberty of the Ground to see it finish'd, without any other charge. And in the Afternoon they will play a Second Match, in the same Place, several large Sums being depending between the Women of the Hills of Sussex, in Orange Colour'd Ribbons, and those of the Dales, in Blue. The Wickets to be pitch'd by One o'Clock, and to begin Play by Two."

The Truly Happy.

"Of course the only truly happy man is the man who devotes his life to doing good for others," said the corn fed philosopher. "That is the only occupation a man can engage in in which people will let him have his own way."—Indianapolis Journal.

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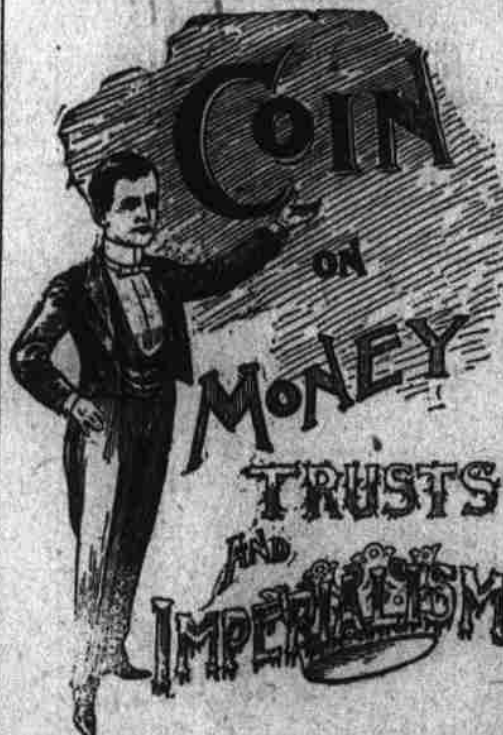


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