

ISLANDS FOUND BY SPANIARD

Solomons, in the Southern Pacific, Were Discovered in 1567 by Alvare de Mendana.

The Solomon Islands, in the southern Pacific, long before Australia was discovered, were known to daring voyagers. In 1567 a famous Spanish navigator named Alvare de Mendana sailed from Peru to discover a great south continent. Three months' cruising brought him to the Solomons and Ysabel Island, which he named, as his log states, "after his much-loved wife."

Mendana cruised for six months in the group, and was so impressed with the richness and fertility of these tropic lands that he named them the Solomons, in the hope that on his return his countrymen would believe they were the source from which King Solomon obtained the gold for his great temple. This story, he thought, would encourage the colonization of the islands, and he conceived the valiant ambition of becoming the king of a new Spain. On his return home, so brightly did he paint the prospects that he was soon able to prepare an expedition of many hundreds of settlers, including his wife and her three brothers. In the party were also two sailors, afterward known to fame as connected with the discovery of Australia—Fernandez de Quiros and Luis Vaez de Torres.

The expedition failed through sickness and bad management; in fact, it never reached the Solomons at all, but instead—owing to faulty navigation—arrived at the northern islands of the New Hebrides group. Here after a few months, Mendana died, a disappointed and broken-hearted man.

GREAT TUN OF HEIDELBERG

Constructed in the Middle Ages, Monaster Recaptacle Held 528 Hogsheads of Wine.

The construction of the great tun of Heidelberg, in the castle of the Princes Palatine of the Rhine, was begun in 1559 and was not finished until more than two years later.

It was composed of beams twenty-seven feet long and had a diameter of eighteen feet. The iron hoops were 1,100 pounds in weight, and the cost, figured in our money, was nearly \$12,000. It could hold 528 hogsheds and the value at that time of the wine it contained was in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

When the cellarer drew wine out of the cask he ascended several flights of wooden stairs leading to the top; about the middle was a bung-hole, into which was inserted an instrument made in the form of a spout, with which the wine was drawn up and placed in a vessel provided for the purpose.

There was another tun built, evidently succeeding the one just described. In 1751, this was 36 feet long and 24 feet high, with a capacity of 800 hogsheds, or 283,200 bottles. This cask has not been in use since the latter part of the Eighteenth century.

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BUILT THE FIRST SKYSCRAPER

Whitelaw Reid's Structure That Housed the Tribune Was the Wonder of Its Day.

The skyscraper was undreamed of—until Whitelaw Reid laid the corner stone of the Tribune building in 1874. The Florentine campanile that he then lifted into the air gave his contemporaries what was, for them, a greater sensation than their descendants have received from Manhattan's tallest towers. Voyagers coming up the bay hailed it with astonishment, little imagining the formidable structures it foreshadowed.

The skyline it broke was that of an essentially flat, low-lying city. In Reid's eyes New York was not then precisely beautiful. So we may judge from the instructions he sent to Clarence Cook in 1870, with a request for a series of architectural articles. "What I want," he wrote, "is first a crisp editorial on the prevailing lack of architectural taste in New York; the dreary miles of brownstone fronts, the worthlessness of brownstone as a material for building, the mostroities given us by our wealthiest men."

Then article after article was to be written, discussing the question of architecture in our cities generally, but particularly in New York. The "frightful example" was to be fearlessly pilloried, and suggestions were to be made.—From "The Life of Whitelaw Reid," by Royal Cortissoz.

HONOR CLAIMED FOR BOSTON

First Public School in United States Is Said to Have Been in That City.

It is probable that the beginning of the American public school was in Massachusetts. In 1635 the people of Boston assembled in town meeting, requested Philimon Parnum to become schoolmaster and voted him 30 acres of land in part pay for his services. The school begun by Parnum later became the Boston Latin school and has had continuous existence to the present time. Other settlements followed Boston's example and within the next ten years common schools were established in all the New England settlements. In 1647 the general court of Massachusetts ordered every town having 50 families to appoint a teacher, whose wages were to be paid by the parents of the children he taught or by the inhabitants in general. At the same time townships having 100 families were required to establish a grammar school to fit youth for college. The law establishing these two grades of schools laid the foundation of the public school system in the United States. Three years later a similar law was passed in Connecticut, but Rhode Island made no attempt to form a school system until 1790.

Only Outdoor Inauguration.

The United States, although its capital is in a more rigorous climate than those of many republics, is alone in having an "al fresco" inauguration. The first four Presidents were inaugurated indoors, and beginning with the third President, Jefferson, the inaugurations took place in Washington. Monroe, the first President to be sworn in out of doors, chose the east portico of the capitol because of a dispute as to whether he should be inaugurated in the house of representatives or the senate chamber. After a return to the indoor inauguration by Jackson, the outdoor ceremonies were resumed. Because they seemed to fit in so well with American ideas of democracy, permitting the general public to see the procedure, they have been retained.—National Geographic Society Magazine.

Length of Hair Marked Caste.

For a long time the length of hair was considered a mark of caste in France. Only members of the royal family and princes of the blood could wear their hair long. Poiled hair was a sign of obedience and inferiority. To cut the hair of a prince was to deprive him of his right of succession to the throne.

Notwithstanding these facts, Charlemagne liked to wear his hair short. The name of his son, Charles the Bald, indicates the style of coiffure he affected. The Emperor Theophilus was also afflicted with a bare crown and he, to shun the notoriety of it, strongly urged his subjects to cut the hair on their heads, advancing numerous reasons, sanitary and otherwise, for its accomplishment.

Playthings for Baby.

Many playthings can be made for small children from pasteboard.

To make a wagon use a four-cornered box to which pasteboard wheels should be attached by wooden axles, these latter put through the sides of the box close to the bottom. Use common pins or small nails to hold the wheels on the axles. A small box inside the wagon does for a seat. Cut out a horse from pasteboard, stand him in front of the wagon, then cut the dasher down a little way. Put Dobbin's tail into this and if his feet touch level the rig is complete.

Unfair Advantage.

"That's an alert office boy you have."

"This is his first day on the job," said Mr. Dubwaite. "Tomorrow I'll put him to the acid test."

"How?"

"I'll leave a 'dime novel' lying around where he can find it."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

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Broccoli Industry Increases Rapidly

The Willamette valley is really going into the broccoli industry to the extent of about 500 acres this season, according to authentic information.

Already members of the Oregon Growers' Cooperative Association have signed for 312 acres. In that part of the Willamette valley between Independence and Sheridan, in addition, there is a scattered acreage of those who are not yet members of the association, but who will in all probability, take advantage of markets already established by the sales department and sell through the association.

The Independence district that had 25 acres last season has already bought seed for the planting of 112 acres. Growers getting their mail through Salem, will put in 67 acres of broccoli. Newberg growers have

signed for 42 acres and already have purchased the seed. Sheridan growers will put in 37 acres. In the Amity district of Yamhill county growers already have the seed for 22½ acres while near Rickreall, in Polk county, there will be planted 17 acres. Other acreage of 5½ acres are from smaller towns.

On account of the lateness of the season in the Willamette valley, planting of seed was until May 20th. The bureau of markets of the U. S. department of agriculture will station an expert in the shipping of fruits and broccoli to study conditions of shipments especially in regard to proper refrigeration and temperatures at which broccoli may be handled in order to arrive in good condition in the eastern markets.

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