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## Gazette-Times

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### THE MYSTERY OF MARS.

Had but Unsolved Problem, Is There Animal Life on the Planet?

With a planet so old as Mars and so far along in the process of life extinction the conditions of life would be severe, and only a highly intellectual and scientifically developed race could endure and master them. The engineering skill and constructive capacity to control the annual floods from the poles, store the waters and build the thousands of miles of huge canals would require scientific knowledge beyond that possessed by us at the present time and financial resources in excess of those we have yet accumulated. The nation that finds the digging of a little ditch at Panama so great a task would be helpless in the face of such a problem as these thousands of miles of Martian canals, if, indeed, canals they be. Yet, in view of the greater life age of Mars, such higher intelligence would be natural in the regular process of development, assuming that it has ever been the abode of intellectual life.

Scientists are in the main in a receptive state on this subject. They are not ready to admit that the existence of life on that planet has been proved. They do not deny it, but call for greater proof than a plausible theory. Among others than scientists there is in the main a disposition not to accept the Martian human life theory or the theory of life on any of the thousands of spheres that wheel and glister in illimitable space. They seem to think that such a theory conflicts with religion and dwarfs man and his importance in the scheme of creation.

This seems to be a very narrow view to take, since it appears to set bounds upon the infinite power and creative desires of the Almighty, whose great scheme of mortal and immortal life is not necessarily confined to a single planet or the few billions of human beings who are born and die upon it. As to dwarfing the importance of man, a few billions more added to the billions on earth would make little difference. Man is at best a small and insignificant creature, but if all embracing wisdom, power and love takes solicited note of him it would be limiting those infinite qualities to say that one planet must be his abiding place. Therefore the question of human intelligence on Mars or any other planet of the solar system or the other great systems in remote space should be purely and simply a scientific one, to be accepted as true only when proved, but not to be rejected through sentiment or for any other reason whatever except lack of proof.—St. Louis Star.

#### An Oriental Blessing.

A well known representative from China, who was a guest at a wedding in a capital city, was approached after the ceremony by the best man and jocularly asked to go over to the young couple and pronounce a parental blessing. The obliging dignitary complied with pleasure. Placing his hands on the blushing bride and shaking bridegroom, he said: "May every new year bless you with a man-child offspring until they shall number twenty-five in all. May these twenty-five man children offspring present you with twenty-five times twenty-five grandchildren, and may these grandchildren—"

But the little bride grew hysterical about this time, and the oriental blessing was ended amid the laughter of the guests.—Ladies' Home Journal.

#### A Cowboy Spider.

"Faking aside," said the nature student, "there is in New Zealand a cowboy spider. This creature throws a coil of web like a lasso over its prey's head, then adds more and more coils and when the prey is bound hand and foot devours it."

"There is a Borneo spider that in the spring days plays a fiddle. It is a common thing for a lovesick spider to dance before his girl, but this Borneo boy my drawing his arm across his tum produces a sweet, clear note. Whenever he sees a good looking young lady spider he stops and gives her a tune, hoping to win her by music."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

#### Miners' Freedom From Cancer.

"Miners never have cancer. In thirty-five years' practice in a mining town I haven't had a single cancerous patient."

"And to what, doctor, do you impute this immunity?"

"Miners are singularly cleanly. They bathe every day. They rarely smoke. They are a temperate and regular set. Above all—"

The physician smiled grimly. "Miners," he said, "die young. Cancer is an old age disease. And there really is the reason of the miner's cancerous immunity."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

#### Not the Same.

"Excuse me," he said as he entered the public library at Pegantic, "but do you have any social registers here?"

"No, we haven't," said the librarian, with considerable hauteur. "This here buildin' is het up by steam, and we hain't got nothin' but radiators, and we don't allow no settin' around with your feet on to them neither. The nearest thing we got to a social registry in this town is the postoffice stove."—Lippincott's.

#### A Reminder.

Mamma—What are you doing with that string, Lola? Lola (aged five)—Tyn' it on my finger, mamma, so if I forget anything I'll be sure to 'member it.—Chicago News.

That experience which does not make us better makes us worse.—Holmes.

## Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

### PERT PARAGRAPHS.

CONFIDENCE game is one that makes a specialty of shattering confidence in the end.

If truth were not elastic and resilient it would never in the world be able to resist the pressure put upon it.

There are people who really seem to think that working for a living isn't worth it.

The man who gets results is seldom questioned too closely as to how he managed it.

You can't tell how much good a man can do by the amount of noise he makes.

He is indeed a clever man who always has a handsome umbrella.

In these modern days love is expected to find a man who will pay the way.

There is plenty of food for thought lying about, but few there be who have appetite for it.

A real grievance is one just the size of the one now in your possession.

There are some people who get just what they want without ever even wanting it.

#### Annual Appeal.

"Help! Help!"  
Calls  
The crops  
In most pathetic tones.  
They can't think  
Of anything  
They need  
Just at this moment  
Quite so much  
As saving.  
It is  
The psychological moment  
For them.  
They have been  
Working overtime  
Growing up  
And getting ripe,  
And now  
They want to be pushed along  
In the direction  
Of the thrashing machine  
Before  
All is lost.  
It is  
A most distressing sight  
To see  
A perfectly good  
Crop  
That could buy  
The baby shoes,  
Furnish  
Skating lessons  
To all the children  
And lift the owner  
Over  
Into the automobile class  
Going to waste  
And doing no good  
Just for the lack of  
Saving.  
Come,  
Ye disconsolate  
And all others  
Out of jobs,  
And pitch in!

#### Her Opportunity.

"How old do you think I am, Mr. Bunk?"  
"Whatever it is, Miss Clara, you do not look it."  
"And I feel younger every year."  
"You must be getting ready for the census."

#### Not So Bloody.

"Mad, is she? Well, it depends on whose ox is gored."  
"Twasn't no ox."  
"Wasn't it?"  
"No; 'twas a shirt waist."

#### Small Trick.

"Is he a handy man?"  
"He must be."  
"Why so?"  
"I have often seen him make a mountain out of a molehill."

#### Planked Fodder.

"Going down to Atlantic City."  
"What is the attraction?"  
"Board is cheap."  
"But what kind?"  
"Board walk."

#### Getting Ready.

"So you're the artist who will take that shirt?"  
"That's the shirt for the minister's son."

"What would you consider good practice for a critic?"  
"A critic?"  
"Yes."  
"An apprenticeship in a blacksmith's shop."  
Varied to Suit.  
"Belong to any organizations?"  
"Just the Down and Out club."  
"What is the initiation fee?"  
"Just all the money you have and can borrow."

#### His View of It.

"She is a very collected person."  
"Well, I don't think much of it."  
"Of what?"  
"The taste of the man who collected her."

#### Hardly.

"How did your uncle make his money?"  
"Betting on horse races."  
"I thought he had some."



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