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NEW AND CURIOUS.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works has just installed in its erecting shop a crane which has a span of 158 feet. It will lift a 196,000-pound locomotive 40 feet in the air, carry it 336 feet and set it down again in three minutes and thirty-six seconds.

A Danish expedition has gone to the north coast of Iceland for the purpose of studying during the coming winter, the northern lights, which are magnificently displayed in that country. Elaborate electric and photographic instruments, in the use of which the members of the expedition have been trained for several months past, were taken along. The leader of the expedition is the head of the Danish Meteorological Office, Dr. Adam Paulsen. There are many mysteries about the aurora, and Dr. Paulsen hopes to clear up some of them before he returns.

Prof. J. A. Brashear has developed some of the curved plates on which he photographed the sky one night recently when the meteors were expected to appear. While the night was very bad for photographic purposes, the pictures of the stars which he obtained were excellent. He said that they covered ten times the area that was possible with ordinary plates, and the pictures of the stars were well defined and continued clear to the edge of the plates. The time and labor which were expended in preparing to photograph the meteors was not wasted, because it was shown that curved plates are the proper thing for astronomical photography and have opened up new possibilities in this field.

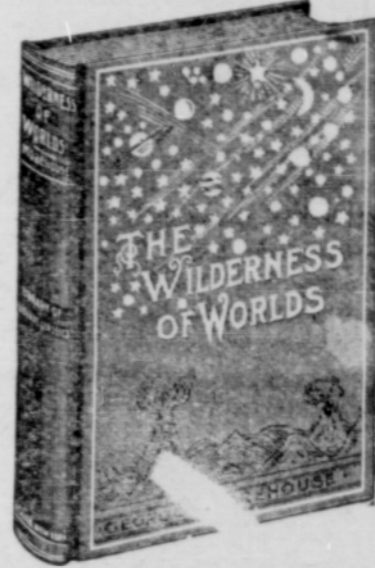
A tunnel under the Bosphorus has been talked of many times. There is large traffic between the two sides of the Bosphorus and the delay caused by the opening and shutting of the bridge of boats which now forms the only connection is a great drawback. The railroad company is now constructing its lines on both sides, but this will not be of very great avail until the lines can be connected. Tunnelling by the ordinary methods is hindered by the fact that the water is extremely deep and there is 20 or 30 feet of mud at the bottom. It has been proposed to suspend or float a tunnel some 35 feet below the surface of the water, thus allowing uninterrupted passage to vessels of even large draft. It is impossible to state whether this plan can be carried out or not. There seems to be great engineering difficulties in the way.

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