

NEW AND CURIOUS.

A trial of the Raddatz submarine boat was made at Milwaukee. It made a trip of a mile under water and returned. Storage batteries are used as a source of power.

The erection of a lofty mast on the Nantucket South Shoal light-ship, is advocated. This is about 240 miles from Fire Island. This will enable vessels to communicate with New York fifteen or sixteen hours before they reach their piers, by telegraph.

A section of the tree which was over David Livingstone's grave has been received by the Royal Geographical Society of London, and placed with the other Livingstone relics in its possession. An iron telegraph pole now marks the spot where the great African explorer breathed his last. The huge block of wood was carried on the shoulders of the natives from the heart of Africa to the coast.

A telescope was recently being tested at the Bausch and Lomb Optical Works, at Rochester, N. Y., and it was turned on a bridge and the observer saw a young thief take a tub of butter from a wagon and conceal it. The police were telephoned to, and the thief was captured as he was attempting to carry away his prize a few hours later. This is an interesting use of the telescope.

A goose market is held regularly in October at Warsaw, Poland, to which about three million geese are brought, most of them to be exported to Germany. Often coming from remote provinces, many of these geese have to travel over long distances, upon roads which would wear out their feet if they were not "shod." For this purpose they are driven first through tar poured upon the ground, then through sand. After the operation has been repeated several times the feet of the geese become covered with a hard crust, that effectively protects them.

A series of experiments have recently been carried out in France by Messrs. Vallot, Jean and Louis Lecarne to determine whether aerial telegraphy can be carried out between the earth and a balloon which floats freely and without earth connections. The experiments seem to demonstrate that the earth wire is not indispensable for transmission under these circumstances, as when the balloon was elevated at a great height the signals were received clearly, even though the two masts were pointing in the same direction.

Pope, Church and Bible Reversed.

[Letter from the Oregonian of Mar. 31, 1900.]

"DOGMA UNCHANGEABLE."

EDITOR OF OREGONIAN:

The letter of Mr. Joseph Schell, in your issue of the 25th inst., entitled, "Dogma Unchangeable," is interesting when considered in the light of some of the records and documents of the Vatican at Rome. Mr. Schell tells us that the dogma of the Catholic church is the same today as it was 300 years ago and before, that it does not and cannot change, and that the Pope as such is infallible independent of any and all outside influences.

It will be remembered that both Pythagoras, in the fourth century B. C., and Copernicus in the 16th century A. D., had taught the doctrine of the immobility of the sun and the mobility of the earth—the doctrine that the sun is stationary and that the earth revolves around it. This theory had never been received kindly by the Christian church, Protestant or Catholic. It seemed to them to be contrary to the plain meaning of certain passages of the Bible. Therefore, the Protestant church refused to allow it to be taught in its schools, and the Catholic church, by the mouth of the Holy Congregation of the Index, of which the then reigning Pope, Paul V., was president, declared, on March 5, 1616, the following decree:

And, whereas, it hath also come to the knowledge of the said Holy Congregation that the false Pythagorean doctrine of the mobility of the earth and the immobility of the sun, entirely opposed to Holy Writ, which is taught by Nicholas Copernicus, is now published abroad and received by many. In order that this opinion may not further spread, to the damage of the Catholic truth, it is ordered that this and all other books teaching the like doctrine be suspended, and by this decree they are respectively suspended, forbidden and condemned.—Prof. John Tyndall, "Fragments of Science," vol. ii., p. 215.

Finally, the Pope, as the documents recently brought to light show, gave to this and like condemnations the most solemn Papal sanction.

Without presuming to question either the statements of Mr. Schell or the findings of the Holy Congregation, it may surely be said that they are interesting when read together.

H. K. SARGENT.

Portland, Ore., Mar. 28, 1900.

Offer Renewed.

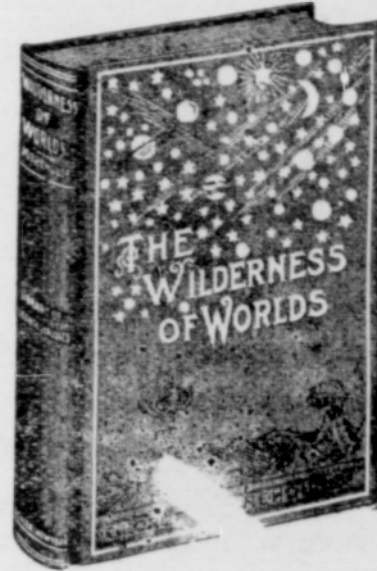
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