

The New Age.

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CHANGED GEOGRAPHY.

Changes in maps of the known world were formerly due almost exclusively to war. Later, discovery played an important part, as when the western hemisphere began to be explored by Europeans. But even in the nineteenth century war exerted no small influence upon boundary lines, and the men of middle age, in looking over a recently compiled atlas, will meet many surprises. A writer in Scribner's, enlarging upon changes that have occurred, goes somewhat farther back and points out the contrast between the countries of 1825 and those of the present. An epitome of his discoveries will be interesting to the student of history covering the period indicated.

In 1825 Australia was an unknown region with a fringe of settlements along a portion of the coast. Now it has 12,000 miles of railroad, a 2,000-mile transcontinental telegraph line and the beginning of an imperial federation. The changes on the map of North America are comparatively familiar, yet many persons forget the extent of the transformation that has taken place in the Dominion of Canada, where the great north-west has been erected into ten territories of vast area and great potential prosperity. In South America, in 1825, population was confined to a 100-mile strip of coast. Now the frontier line has been pushed back to an average of 300 miles from the sea. Where there were fourteen cities of 25,000 inhabitants or over, there are now forty-six, and recent years have seen the growth of two great nations—great, compared with the typical South American republic, at least—the Argentine republic and Chile.

In the north of South America, in 1825, the province of Colombia occupied an extended area. Now it is divided among the republics of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, the latter of which alone is as large as the Atlantic and Gulf state of the American union, from Maine to Louisiana.

In Africa the changes on the map have been perhaps more apparent than real. The heart of the continent remains much as it was at the earlier date, though new lines of railroad and telegraph have been built and new names have been given to the countries. In 1825, the entire continent, except a narrow strip, was practically unknown. Now it has been traversed from end to end and from side to side, the geographical iconoclast breaking down before him many a pretty fable and tradition.

In Asia, vast territories have been acquired by Russia, England and France; and China and Persia, of the many principalities of other days, are the sole important survivors of the old order of things. Russia has pushed her way southward close to the northern borders of the British empire, and Britain has increased her holdings fourfold. Of all the old Asiatic states, the only one to rise to the rank of a modern power is Japan.

The magazine writer says that it is now almost fair to bound China on the north and west by Russia, on the east by the assembled fleets of Japan and Europe, and on the south by France and England.

In Europe the thirty-six German sovereignties of an older day have been welded together. Austria and Russia have had their full share in the consolidation tendency. Italy has been unified and the Turks' boundaries have been reduced from 200,000 square miles in 1825 to 63,000 now. He has meanwhile taken possession of a long strip of Arabian territory on the shore of the Red sea, and it looks as if he would ultimately remove from the west bank of the Bosphorus and establish himself wholly within the confines of Asia.

Our own excursions into the island regions of the earth are too familiar to be more than cited. These are mighty changes in the geography of the world in a period of three-quarters of a century.

WORTHY OF EMULATION.

There is a novel relief association in a great store in Indianapolis that is worthy of being copied everywhere. All the clerks and employes in the establishment pay into a common fund weekly dues in amounts from 2 1/2 to 25 cents, in proportion to wages re-

ceived, to enable any of the members of the association, when sick, thus to receive one-half weekly salary. The other half of the salary is paid by the firm, the latter receiving its compensation in the good-will, increased interest and greater efficiency of the employes.

It was feared that there might be some abuse of the system, but a trial of sixteen months negatives the idea; for, while many have been relieved in that time, the society has accumulated a surplus of \$318. When this surplus shall amount to \$600, dues are to cease until it falls to \$400.

In addition to the purely financial aspect of such an organization, there is in it a moral value, for it teaches humanity, mutual dependence and practical charity. And aside from its selfishness, it must operate beneficently upon the hearts of those who engage in it.

THE PENSION OCTOPUS.

The new pension legislation so strenuously urged upon the last congress by a committee of the Grand Army would have brought the total pension expenditures of the government up to the enormous sum of \$1,000,000 a year. This would be one and a third times the annual expenses of the United States for all purposes. Fortunately for the people who pay what congress appropriates, this proposed legislation did not become law. There is, however every reason to believe that it will be revived next fall and earnest efforts will be made by pension attorneys and others to induce congress to pass it. Constant vigilance will be necessary to prevent it by those who do not care to see the national treasury looted so outrageously.

Emilio Aguinaldo has sworn allegiance to the government of the United States, and it is believed that he, as the recognized head and leader of the insurrectionists in the Philippine archipelago, will carry with him at an early day tens of thousands of his "subjects." The remnant of the insurgent elements will soon follow, leaving only the half-savage tribes, bushwhackers and guerrillas to get killed. That is the only method of civilizing some people, anyway.

The elections in Kansas, just held in the municipalities, resulted chiefly in discouraging the prohibitionists. This should be charged to Carrie Nation's little hatchet. The intelligent voters of that peculiar state refused to endorse outlawry such as the crazy, brawny-handed, beefy-faced woman and her equally demented followers had been engaged in so sensationally for months.

A merchant down in Arkansas refuses to advertise, "because," he says, if he does "somebody will be a pestering me all the time to show 'em my goods." He is the same man who when a customer came in and wanted a suit of clothes, asked him to come again some time "when I'm a standin' up." This may be a lie, but there is a moral to it.

The San Francisco Call complacently remarks that in these strenuous times "we may felicitate ourselves that we are paying less than four times as much per capita as government cost 100 years ago." In other words we should be glad we are paying only a little less than \$4 per head to be governed to where our forefathers paid \$1.

Since District Attorney Chamberlain has discovered that the new law affecting the collection of poll and road taxes does not repeal the old statute relative thereto, those of us between the ages of 21 and 50 may as well conclude that our poll tax this year will be \$4 per head. There are more ways than one to raise revenue—and other things.

Mrs. Nation got the cold shake in St. Louis the other day, and left in a pout, swearing that she would return later and tear the town down if she were not treated more cordially on her second visit. If Carrie is really looking for a big job, she will find it when she goes back to the big town on the banks of the Mississippi.

Carter Harrison has again been re-elected mayor of Chicago and will soon begin his third term. This result of the recent contest in that great city will no doubt strengthen Carter Harrison's chance for the democratic nomination for the presidency three years hence.

Hon. John Gilbert, father of United States Circuit Judge Gilbert of this city, died at his home in Clark county, Washington, on Monday, after 83 years of eventful life, during which he held many prominent government positions.

The anti-imperialists appear to be more concerned about that portion of General MacArthur's correspondence with headquarters at Washington which has not yet been made public than with that which has already been divulged.

President McKinley and his distinguished party will arrive in Portland on May 22 and remain one day. Elaborate preparations are being perfected by the chamber of commerce for his reception in a manner befitting the occasion.

Denver has gone republican by a big majority, though the parties were considerably divided by independent tickets and candidates. But Arkansas went the other way, of course.

Rolla Wells, democrat, will be St. Louis' world's fair mayor, having been elected on Tuesday by a plurality of 10,000. But, then St. Louis is still in Missouri.

Portland's great fair now being discussed for 1905 is a subject of much encouraging comment by leading publications all over the country. It will be a grand affair.

St. Louis proposes to show that even if nothing else had come of it, the Louisiana purchase would have been worth while for exposition purposes.

Only one man from Indiana has filled the presidential chair, but Senator Fairbanks is understood to be having his measure taken for the seat.

The independence which the United States will give Cuba is beautifully done up in red tape with the long end in Washington.

There is small comfort for Colonel Bryan in the prediction that "there will be an emperor in Washington within twenty-five years."

England will send out no more doves of peace for fear the Boers might shoot them to make a pot pie.

The second annual report of the Oregon Historical Society has been received. It is a pamphlet 6 1/4 x 9 1/4 inches and contains 124 pages. It shows that the society had 627 members on November 30, 1900, distributed in twenty-three counties in Oregon and four in Washington. The material collected during the year is classified as follows: Library department—Documents, 134; diaries, account books, etc., 18; maps and charts, 15; bound newspaper files, 27; miscellaneous papers, unbound, 53; pamphlets, 165; miscellaneous books, 106; early school books, 48. Museum department—Pioneer relics, 207; archaeological relics, 172; pioneer photographs, 448; other pictures, 129. The documents consist mainly of letters and other written matter relating to the early social and business life of the country, and the relics are such as were used while crossing the plains with teams or in the early industries of the country. Visitors at the rooms in the city hall, Portland, average 1500 a month, and all who visit that city are cordially invited to call.

The picturesque line and the royal one back to the home of your childhood is via the Northern Pacific.

You will ride over the Rockies, along Clark's fork of the Columbia and the beautiful Yellowstone; skirting the shores of Lake Pend d'Oreille, through the famous Bad Lands of Pyramid Park and across the wheat fields of the Red river valley you go at fifty miles an hour, and sleep and eat in perfect comfort as the solid vestibuled train rushes along.

For detailed information, tickets, sleeping car reservations, maps of routes, etc., call on or write

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Three hundred and twenty-seven acres of choice land in a good farming section in the Willamette valley; 165 acres under the plow, balance in pasture and brush, all under new eight-rail fence, staked and wired; nicely watered by springs and brooks; a good seven-room house, painted white; large barn, 30 x 60 feet; four acres in orchard. This farm is gently rolling and fine quality, 1 1/4 miles from postoffice. This is a fine stock ranch, and lies in shape so that three families can make a nice home each out of the one farm; price, \$5750, \$2500 cash, balance in yearly payments. VALLEY REAL ESTATE EXC., 9 1/2 First St., Portland, Or.

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RECENT INVENTIONS.

Bath tubs are to be fitted with a rubbing attachment for scrubbing the bather's back as he lies in the tub, a supporting plate being placed in a position to receive a cushion of material which is secured by stitches and can be removed for cleaning.

An Englishman has designed a circular cartridge pocket, formed of two metal plates fastened to a flat ring, the latter having perforations in its face for the insertion of the shells, which lap each other at the center on opposite sides of a central disk.

Gun barrels are easily cleaned by an Englishman's device, a piece of prepared paper or cloth being attached to a cord to be drawn back and forth in the barrel and scrape the sides, the cleaner being cut to assume conical shape when rolled up for use.

A convertible table and series of shelves has been designed, in which the table top is formed of leaves pivoted in bars at either end, the latter being suspended on the base to tilt into a vertical position, when the leaves arrange themselves one above another.

A combined whip socket and retractor holder has been patented, comprising a plate hinged to the dashboard, with an adjustable spring to tighten it and form a spring clip, in which the reins are inserted, a tube being carried by the plate for the reception of the whip.

For use in indicating when the firemen have reached the fire with the nozzle and desire the water turned on an electric signal has been patented, composed of a wire inserted in the hose, with push-buttons in each length to complete the circuit and ring a bell on the engine.

When to Pass the Hat.

Mark Twain has wisdom on occasions as well as wit. He declares that when a man makes an appeal for charity it is a great mistake to get everybody ready to give money and then not pass the hat. "Some years ago in Hartford," he said the other day, "we all went to the church on a hot, sweltering night to hear the annual report of Mr. Hawley, a city missionary, who went around finding the people who needed help and didn't want to ask for it. He told of the life in the cellars where poverty resided, he gave instances of heroism and devotion of the poor. The poor are always good to each other. When a man with millions gives me make a great deal of noise. It's noise in the wrong place. For it's the widow's mite that counts. Well, Hawley worked me up to a great state. I couldn't wait for him to get through. I had \$400 in my pocket. I wanted to give that and borrow more to give. You could see greenbacks in every eye. But he didn't pass the plate, and it grew hotter and we grew sleepier. My enthusiasm went down, down, down—\$100 at a time—till finally, when the plate came round, I stole 10 cents out of it. So you see a neglect like this may lead to crime."

In His Hand.

In a court-room in a Western city, says an exchange, a tramp stood charged with stealing a watch. He stoutly denied the impeachment, and brought a countercharge against his accuser for assault committed with a frying-pan. The judge was inclined to take a common-sense view of the case, and regarding the prisoner, said: "Why did you allow the prosecutor, who is a smaller man than yourself, to assault you without resistance? Had you nothing in your hand with which to defend yourself?" "Bedad, your honor," answered the tramp, "I had his watch, but what was that against a frying-pan?"

We often hear of the globe's four quarters but never a word of its hind-quarters.

A successful physician is one who succeeds in concealing his ignorance.

CROOK PERSONATES A GIRL.

Nebraska Hotel Clerk Fell in Love and Wanted to Marry Him.

Denver, Col. "Dear Mr. Crawford: Since there is no law which permits two men to marry it will be impossible for me to consent to become your wife. You will find all the evidence of my womanly charms which so attracted you, as well as the 'form' which you so admired in my room upstairs. I am sorry to blast your fondest wishes, beg to remain your sister.

"Minnie Swift."

That was the reply which Harry R. Crawford, night clerk of the Midway hotel at Kearney, Neb., received from his lady love at the Windsor hotel in Denver when anticipating an acceptance of his offer of marriage. Behind the sarcastic little note is the story of a shrewd little bunco game.

Last November a handsome, flax-haired young woman appeared at the Midway hotel in Kearney, Neb., and was hired as waitress by Landford Casey. She said her name was Minnie Swift and that she was trying to care for herself, as her mother was an invalid and dependent for support upon her only brother, who was a struggling mining operator at Cripple Creek.

She had many admirers, among them W. S. Weaver, a cattle buyer from Wyoming. After three weeks she asked for leave to stay at home for a few days. Next evening a slender young man registered at the Midway hotel as Arthur J. Swift, Cripple Creek, Colo. Harry R. Crawford, night clerk, asked if he was related to Minnie Swift.

"She's my sister," answered the young man. "Do you know her?"

When he learned that Minnie was a waitress at the hotel he inquired eagerly about her, and obtaining her address went away. The following morning he brought a note from Minnie asking permission to stay at home while her brother was in town. On the afternoon of the fifth day he asked Mr. Casey to cash a draft for "only \$250."

The proprietor couldn't, but W. S. Weaver was only too happy to accommodate his sweetheart's brother, who had to leave town that night. Next day Minnie Swift returned to work. The draft was protested. Minnie cried and said that there must be some mistake; that her brother was in Denver closing a mining deal. Weaver, being unable to go, sent Clerk Crawford with the girl to Denver to find Arthur Swift and rectify the error. Weaver paid the expenses of the trip. Crawford proposed on the train and Minnie promised him an answer next morning. In the morning Crawford found the note given above. He went to the room adjoining his, which was occupied by the girl. On the floor was a corset, a wig of yellow hair, powder, rouge and curling irons. Crawford notified the police and went home.

MADE STRANGE CONFESSIONS.

Men Who Have Owned to Crimes They Never Committed.

That a man on the rack, with every nerve quivering, with every nerve drawn to its utmost tension, with the pain increasing in intensity and violence, should confess himself the perpetrator of crime is natural enough. The prospect of relief from actual pain is a temptation that blinds the sufferer to the future. But it may seem strange, and is indeed one of the most inexplicable things in human history, that men have been induced by religious exhortations and other means of persuasion to sign their own death warrants by confessing crimes actually never committed. Such in England was the case of John Perry, executed near Camden in 1861, with his mother and brother, for murdering William Harrison, steward for Lady Campden. The testimony against them was chiefly the confession of John Berry himself, but, to the astonishment of all, Harrison, who had been kidnapped and carried off, returned two years after the execution.

In 1812 a man named Russell Colvin, living at Manchester, Vt., disappeared, and suspicions of foul play were entertained. Public opinion attributed his murder to Stephen and Jesse Boorn. Still, as there was no definite ground on which to arrest them, the excitement gradually drew away. In 1819, however, a Mr. Boorn dreamed that he had been murdered by two men, whom he fixed upon as his nephews, Stephen and Jesse. The ghost of the murdered man even specified the place of the murder, and the old cellar hole where the mangled body had been thrust. Here a knife and buttons were found, which were identified as belonging to Colvin. On this the men were arrested. Stephen and Colvin had quarreled just before the disappearance of the latter, and Stephen had been seen to strike him with a club and knock him down.

In a short time Jesse confessed that he and Stephen, with their father, after Stephen knocked him down, had carried him to the cellar and cut his throat with a jackknife. He further stated that the next year they made away with the most of the bones of their victim. Stephen, after a time, admitted the truth of Jesse's confession, and actually signed a written confession. On this they were convicted, and sentenced to be hanged the 28th day of January, 1820. They applied for commutation of the sentence, and, as some believed their innocence, advertisements were inserted in various papers for Colvin. Not long afterward a letter appeared in the New York Evening Post, signed by a Mr. Chadwick, and dated Shrewsbury, N. J., Dec. 6, 1818, and stating that a slightly deranged man named Russell Colvin had been there five years before. This was generally looked upon as a hoax, but James Whelpley of New York, who knew Colvin, resolved to follow up the clue, and actually found Colvin at the house of William Polhemus, at Dover, N. J., where he had been since April, 1813.

Mr. Whelpley took him to New York, the common council gave him means to proceed to Vermont, and he arrived at Manchester the 22d day of December. The whole place was in a state of wild excitement. People gathered in from all the surrounding country to see the dead alive. A cannon was brought out, and Colvin was saluted with a discharge of cannon and small arms. Stephen Boorn firing the first piece. There was much discussion as to the motive for the confession, some attributing it to the effect of imprisonment, a general sort of panic, terror, and others to the injudicious advice and exhortations of a clergyman.—Wonderful Events and Startling Incidents.

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