

O grant me, heaven, a middle state, neither too humble nor too great...

Death is the crown of life; death denied, poor man would live in vain...

THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

The Members at Work—A Pleasant and Interesting Picture—Visitors.

The daily sessions of the interstate commission present a pleasant and interesting picture...

Judge Cooley swears the witness, who ever he asked to be heard, called attention and now then cuts short an im- pertinent line of argument with a curt but expressed objection.

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WEARING THE MODERN HAT.

The real cause of baldness appears to be set forth by W. G. Goninlock in The Popular Science Monthly. It is the use of hard felt hats or any other head covering that constricts the blood vessels which nourish the hair bulbs.

It is the use of hard felt hats or any other head covering that constricts the blood vessels which nourish the hair bulbs. The scalp, in which these bulbs are set, is thin, and it lies upon the smooth and right surface of the skull. It is irrigated, so to speak, by arteries extending upward to it, through which the blood is forced to the top of the head.

It follows that the use of soft and loose head coverings tends to prevent baldness. Mr. Goninlock points out that agriculturists, whose habit is to wear the loosest head coverings during the greater part of their lives, usually have an abundance of hair, while their sons who have taken to city ways are bald at 20.

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CAUSE OF BALDNESS.

THEORIES OFFERED BY SCIENTIFIC PEOPLE NOT SATISFACTORY.

The Real Cause Set Forth—The Use of Hard Felt Hats—Sluggish Circulation in the Capillaries of the Scalp—The Remedy.

There has been much learned speculation as to the cause of baldness. Scientific persons committed to the theories of evolution have found in the multiplication of smooth and glittering skulls in the members of civilization evidence that the man of the future will differ greatly in appearance from the man of the past.

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RUSSIAN LADY STUDENTS.

Their Ways in Paris—All Smokers—A Romantic Career.

The attempt on the czar brings the nihilists again to the fore and will have the effect of exposing the Russian lady students here to much nagging police espionage.

A student told me that the only cheery cases among them are Jewesses, and that they are not very wealthy; but they meet with moral, and indeed, often material, support from persons of their race settled in Paris. I also learned from her that not a few of her companions are girls of influential families, and that they have broken away from home and come here under assumed names to study. The difficulties with which some of them had to contend in making their way here would strike you, were I to relate them, as belonging to the domain of romance.

As soon as she had given a small cue she came to Paris, and before she could find a lodging she had to pass her nights in a casual asylum. Being a person of first rate education, she now prepares girls wanting to be admitted to the new high schools. The new school she resides in is a big left over a cart-monger's shed, which has been fitted up as a dormitory and living room for about twenty students. Another left serves as a canteen, where meals are cooked at a large stove. Each student takes a turn at cooking. The tables on which dinner is served are made of boards placed on trestles. When the plates and dishes are removed in the evening, all sit down to study. The brain of the Russian girl is a receptive one, and retains when it takes in. I don't think that the studentesses are engaged in dynastic conspiracies, but they wish well to those who are.—Paris Cor. London Truth.

Smuggling the Tauchnitz Books.

It is popularly supposed that the baron's continental series is read only by the traveling English, yet these form but a small portion of its public; it is exported everywhere, except to England and English colonies. The author himself, upon signing a certain formula to satisfy the custom house, can procure as many copies as he pleases; but every one else who imports a copy into England breaks the law. He also trusts the English traveler, who finds the Tauchnitz edition, he says, "so handy"—so easy, he also means, to smuggle.

It is the ladies, however, who are the greatest sinners in this way. A charming young literary smuggler was bringing home with her a Tauchnitz novel from Antwerp the other day, and made acquaintance with an agreeable stranger on the way, to whom she confided her nefarious intention. At London bridge he recognized her frankness by informing her that he was a custom-house officer, and demanding that the volume should be given up. "But I have not finished it yet," she murmured pleadingly. "Where have you got it?" he inquired. She pointed with her taper finger, gently taking the book from the fair contrabandist, he tore away what she had read and threw it in the river, returning the portion that was so precious to her with the customary bow. This was a man with some notion of duty; but I am afraid such crimes are only too often winked at.—Cornhill Magazine.

A Novel Athletic Contest.

Mr. Maurice Bernhardt, the son of the tragedienne, was the hero of a novel athletic contest the other night. La savatte is a savage French sport that would not be tolerated among the most brutal Anglo-Saxon classes. It is a combination of boxing and parring, which latter is an old English game of shia kicking. But the aim in la savatte is not to merely break your opponent's legs. Its chief end is to assail him where no boxer is allowed to enter the ring—that is, under the belt. A more malignantly savage and diabolically brutal sport cannot be seen. Bull fighting is picturesque and cruel. La savatte is simply indecently fiendish. Slugging with the bare fists is a gentle and noble art beside it. I have seen it practiced in Paris and have seen some results of it that curdled my philosophic blood. His proficiency is no credit to young Mr. Bernhardt any more than the ability to brass-knuckle or slungshot a man with dexterity is a credit. The only thing to be said in favor of la savatte is that the people who engage in it know what to expect.—Alfred Traubman in New York Times.

Gambling for Food.

The Game restaurant is not exactly what its name seems to mean, though the title is, after all, literally descriptive. The establishment is aloft in a large on the Harlem river, at the northern end of the city, where people resort on Sunday morn multitudes. The "game" does not consist of wild meat, but of the method by which the customers get the viands. Arranged on an incline twenty feet back of a stout railing are mulishes as pork and beans, corned beef, kassles, and cheese and sandwiches in profusion, while here and there among the cheap things are placed a few plates of chicken, woodcock, lobster and other costly delicacies. In each dish is stuck a long steel pin. For five cents anybody gets a ring to throw, after the manner of the old game of ring toss, and he can claim whatever viand the pin of which his ring encircles.—New York Letter.

Beware of "They Say."

Wall street men are great on quotations. When a reporter remarked to a big man in the street, "They say so and so is going up," he got this for an answer: "Young man, beware of the expression, 'They say.' It is the catchword of gossip and the shillabob of liars."

For the Present Only.

The fascination of journalism can only be compared to that of the footlights. In literature posterity has a voice. In journalism one snaps his fingers at the future and refuses to be awed by the past. The present—the present—to-day is king.—The Epoch.

Brighter Hopes.

A lovely young lady of 16. With her fellow girl ready to die. But her heart is not alone. And, remaining at home, she still waits for the second to die. —Washington Post.

POPOCATEPETL'S CONE.

MAKING THE ASCENT WITHOUT AID OF GUIDES OR MULES.

Visit to the Volcano Which Looks Down Upon the City of Mexico—A View of the Crater—Gathering Sulphur.

About noon I reached Amecameca, and after a good dinner and a few glasses of pulque I vowed that I would reach the summit of Popocatepetl, and that without guides or mules if it took a whole year to do it. The resolution having been duly made, I laid in extra supplies of underclothing, blankets and provisions, and then made arrangements to start early the next morning. The next day shortly after sunrise I was up and ready to start. The path was, of course, the same over which I had gone the previous day, but somehow I managed to wander off on a branch road, and only discovered my mistake when the path came to a sudden end. A Mexican would consider a few cents very appropriate on such an occasion, but, being a good American, I merely turned around and retraced my steps.

The mistake was certainly a serious one, as it took nearly two hours of fast walking to reach the right path. After trudging and walking over twelve miles of road and seeing no signs of the crater, I determined to leave the path, and across the spur of the mountain and make the ascent from the west side, instead of taking the long and tedious path usually followed. About 5 o'clock I came to the line where vegetation ended, and decided to pass the night at that place. For hours I had been walking through forests of pines, but had at last reached the limit beyond which neither plant nor tree dared to go. The mighty peak, towered with the dazzling coat of snow from the summit to a point 3,000 or 4,000 feet below, lay close at hand, while the distant fields, valleys and hills stretched in all directions. The edge of the forest seemed to be particularly sheltered from the winds, and would thus make the best camping place to be found. Having plenty of time, I was not hurried, and was able to construct a substantial hut in which to pass the night. The pine trees were dry, so that it was an easy matter to break off great branches. Thus by dark the work was finished, and after putting on all my extra clothing and having a hearty lunch I crawled inside and prepared to pass the night. It was a little cold—the thermometer being considerably below the freezing point—and yet I managed to sleep well and wake up bright and early the next morning, prepared to finish the undertaking.

ASCENT TO THE SNOW LINE.

I left the camp and struck across a sloping ridge composed entirely of fine volcanic dust and ashes. Walking was extremely difficult, as the loose ashes had a disagreeable way of flying in all directions, and although the distance was less than 1,000 feet, nearly two hours were consumed in crossing the strip. A steep, rocky ravine then followed and led to the foot of the glacier. A large stream of water, coming from the east of the field of ice, dashed over precipices in its mad course, and was finally lost in the distance. The ascent to the snow line was rapid but very laborious, and resulted in numerous bruises and scratches.

By alternate freezing and thawing the snow on the cone has been turned into clear, transparent ice, in some places from 50 to 100 feet thick. The surface, however, is covered with half frozen snow, partially melted, during the day time, but solid at night. Numerous small crevices are on the lower edge, but none of them large enough to be at all dangerous. The ascent at first was at an angle of twenty degrees, but soon increased to nearly forty, making it almost impossible to advance except by crawling on the hands and knees. The air became so rarefied that only a few steps could be taken at a time without panting and fairly choking to death.

After three hours of such climbing I arrived suddenly at the crater. Before me lay an immense plain nearly half a mile in diameter and perhaps 1,000 feet deep. The atmosphere was a trifle misty, and hid the more distant mountains, but almost at my feet lay the valley of Mexico, Puebla, and its fields, while far away the faint white outlines of Mount Orizaba could be seen. The edge of the crater is of loose sand, the ice and snow ending abruptly, being prevented from advancing farther by the heat which rises from below. The vapors issuing from the various solfataras, the dazzling whiteness of the cone and the blue sky above produced a scene of wonderful beauty.

WHERE SULPHUR IS OBTAINED.

Wishing to learn how the sulphur is obtained, I walked on the lip of the crater to the opposite side, and there, by means of a clumsy heating machine, descended several hundred feet to a level where a number of Indians were at work. The air was filled with poisonous vapors so dense that it seemed impossible for a human being to remain in the place. Numerous small holes and crevices could be seen in the bottom of the aloys, from which the deadly vapors issued with considerable force. Around each opening a large quantity of sulphur is deposited each day, and forms the mine from which the valuable mineral is obtained. The supply seems to be inexhaustible, for, no matter how much is gathered during the day, enough will be deposited the following night to more than make up for what has been taken. After being gathered, the crude sulphur is carried to the top of the crater and then shot down a slide over the ice for a distance of 2,000 or 3,000 feet. A small sublimating works is situated near the snow line, and there the raw material is put into marketable shape and sent to different parts of the country. The poor wretches who work in the crater stay up there about two weeks at a time, and then are sent to a lower altitude, where they remain for perhaps three weeks.

After being on the summit for an hour, I began to feel a strange, dizzy sensation, and realized the necessity of returning at once to the valley below. Taking one last look at the crater, and the panorama which was spread on every side, I began the descent. The glacier, which had been so hard to ascend, proved to be a capital sliding place in coming down, while the loose ashes made the steepest part of a cushion to run and leap upon. The path through the forest and across the fields was as dusty as ever, and it was only after a long and tiresome tramp that I finally arrived at Amecameca several hours after sunset. Thus the trip, although it had its little drawbacks, was most successful, and once more my exchequer, which was not in the most flourishing condition, was saved from ruin.—City of Mexico Cor. Chicago Times.

The World Moves.

"Well, well, it's astonishing how the young ones of to-day play their games," said an old gentleman the other day as he stood on a corner adjusting his glasses to watch some girls jumping rope on the other side of the street. "Just look at them girls jumping rope with wheels tied to their shoes, and, by Jove, they jump two ropes going different ways at the same time. When I was a lad it was as much as we could do to jump one rope with our plain shoes on." The girls he referred to had on roller skates and were performing the difficult feat of "saw scotch" with a couple of actively turned ropes.—Philadelphia Call.

PATTI'S PASTE BRILLIANTS.

The Great Singer's Wealth of Precious Stones—A Very Necessary Precaution.

In no part she plays does Mme. Patti wear such a wealth of precious stones as when she undertakes Violetta in "La Traviata," and on this occasion, as on all others, not alone were her head, her neck and her arms covered with gems, but her dress as well. What did not strike the admiring crowds of women, who, through their opera glasses, paid as much attention to the precious stones as they did to the singing, was that fully half of the stones were paste. Patti happens to be one of the few women in the world who can afford to wear paste diamonds and tell it without suffering any decreased consideration for that reason. It is one thing to wear paste diamonds yet own the real ones, but it is quite another thing to wear the paste imitations and not have the genuine article ready at hand.

The fact is that Patti has a duplicate in paste of every precious stone she possesses. Half of these could hardly be told from the real, excepting very near by or by connoisseurs, they look so exactly alike and the paste are of so fine a quality.

It has become wearisome and rather expensive, too, for Signor Nicolini to hire a carriage and a detective to go down to the Lincoln bank on Forty-second street to take out the big box containing all these brilliants. Besides that, there is always some danger attached to it, for they have to be kept all night out of the bank, and are usually confined to the proprietor of the hotel where Patti happens to lodge. Next morning another carriage has to be hired, and the detective also, and then with all sorts of precautions the \$500,000 worth of precious stones are put back. Nicolini confesses that the most ticklish time always is when leaving the opera house or concert hall at night with his wife, when he must make his way across the sidewalk to the carriage with the box of diamonds. There is always an armed man behind him, and the coachman also is given a revolver. But these precautions, he says, makes life wearisome, and really just as many people come to hear Patti without her diamonds as with them.

"One great reason," added Signor Nicolini, "why we had the paste imitations made was that any one having a design upon the diamonds can never feel certain whether he is getting the real or the imitation, and this very doubt is an excellent precaution against loss."

Mme. Patti says that when she gets back to Europe she will probably leave the more valuable stones at her jeweler's and travel with only such few trifles as she may need. The care of such a lot of precious stones is too great for life to be comfortable.—New York Journal.

Queer Use for the Darlings.

A farmer named August Pirch, who lives near Garzano, is the happy possessor of a dozen fine, healthy children. These young ones grow fast, eat three or four hearty meals a day, and the way they wear out clothes is enough to make a woolen factory think a cyclone had struck it. Mr. Pirch has been in hot water with his little fishes for years, and was about to give up in despair when a bright idea struck him. He had a tract of land that could not be used for the water. But how to irrigate the land without spending a large sum of money was a mystery. A ditch would cost thousands of dollars, but corner lots have not been so plentiful in the Pirch family as the happy father could have wished, and his bankbook simply showed a balance of a few hundreds instead of thousands. He figured on the cost of a well and found that he could stand a sixty foot well, a cheap pump and one of those great big family swings which are noticed at pleasure gardens and German picnic grounds. The well was bored, the pump was set up and the swing was put in working order.

"Here, you little rascals," said the elder Pirch to his little fishes, "come out here and get in this swing. I'm going to give you something to play with." In five minutes the children were flying back and forth through the air. The pump worked up and down, making a merry tone, and a fourteen inch stream of water flowed from the well. The children don't know that they are working, as the swing is some distance from the well and is connected by an iron rod which works the pump as the swing vibrates back and forth. Mr. Pirch is positive that the youngsters will pump enough water during the day to irrigate a large tract of land.—Los Angeles (Cal.) Times.

A Rare Experience.

Stephen A. Douglas, Jr., the popular campaign speaker, had an experience a few years ago which few men have known. Mr. Douglas, the senator, died in 1861, and was buried on the lake shore near his old home, at Thirty-fifth street, where stands the monument, surmounted by the "Little Giant's" figure. Nineteen years later, or in 1880, workmen opened the metallic case of the sarcophagus to renew the zinc lining. Stephen A., Jr., was sent for, and in a few moments stood looking through the glass lid of the coffin upon the face of his father. No perceptible change had taken place in the score of years. Aside from the leathery sallowness which the flesh of the dead takes on, the face had the naturalness of life itself. The cheeks were not sunken, there had been no falling away of the flesh, and the expression was as perfect as when the blood of life coursed through the veins long years before. For an hour the son, a man of 30 years, sat gazing upon and studying the face of the father who had died when this son was a boy of 11 years.—Chicago