

VESUVIUS SLEEPS LONG

"VESUVIUS again active; subterranean rumblings and earthquakes have occurred; fresh devastating outbursts of lava may be expected any moment." So ran the telegraphic rumors in the Roman and the foreign press shortly after my arrival in Naples, says a writer in the London Chronicle.

From the window of my room, with its superb view of Vesuvius, at the Hotel de Geneve—the same room that I was wont to find each night thick strewn with volcanic ash during the terrific eruption of April, 1906—nothing out of the normal was to be seen. Vesuvius was simply indulging in those light, leisurely whiffs of light smoke that have become a habit of hers in her calmest, laziest moments. However, on a volcano fifteen miles in girth a good deal may be taking place invisible from the Naples side. I would, therefore, go to see for myself, and hear, too, what account the men of science in yonder observatory on the heights had got to give of the behavior of the fiery mount whereon they keep perpetual vigil.

Fine View of the Crater.

Since the 1906 eruption the crater bottom which Matteucci then estimated at from 2,033 feet to 2,275 feet deep, has been rising fast. Never was it visible to such great advantage as on the day of my latest visit. Just after I last left, on March 12, 1911, a mass of the cone 130 feet high crashed into the crater over an area of 700 yards, forming a declivity that rose to within two-thirds the height of its inner walls.

Then, on January 21, 1912, came a strong earthquake with loud rumblings. For a space of twenty minutes the crater throat was sucking down thousands of tons of rock and cinders till the big central fissure was destroyed.

Descending to the observatory, I found absorbed in his mathematical calculations the venerable Prof. Giuseppe Mercalli, the world-famed vulcanologist and expert in seismic science. He is a priest of the Roman Catholic church whom the Vatican has let alone in his new government post, and he says mass in a tiny ora-

period is about ended; but nothing momentous has happened yet."

Prof. Alessandra Malladra, to whom his illustrious master introduced me, was far more explicit. He is a much younger man, full of zest and enthusiasm in his work. Before Mercalli brought him here as vice-director, Malladra had acquired fame at the geophysical observatory of Demodossola as the greatest living authority on the geology and seismology of the simphon. In his present position he has become famous for his daring descent last May deep down, nearly one thousand feet, into the crater of Vesuvius.

"What a risky time you must have had," I remarked, encouraging the professor to talk on his experiences.

"Well, it was nerve trying work," was his modest reply, "for constant landslips are occurring on the inner walls and slopes of the crater, and there are steep precipices to scale. Then I had a good deal to carry, what with my mensuration and temperature taking instruments, and my photographic apparatus. Once on the crater floor I found myself in spots where I could with comfort have pitched a tent and remained indefinitely while there were other tracts, even close at hand across which I had to haste in imminent danger of asphyxiation.

"I proved the highest point of the crater to be 3,851 feet above sea level. Before the 1906 eruption it stood 4,275 feet. I found the center of the crater floor 861 feet deep. The lowest parts reach down to 987 feet. In other words, I found that on the crater floor, which to the casual gazer from above appears almost perfectly level, I had to negotiate hillocks 126 feet high. Besides, what seem from the verge of the crater to be scattered lumps of stone, I found to be monoliths measuring from 18 to 10 cubic meters. As regards temperature, a notable discovery I made was that since Doctor Chappello descended by 167 degrees centigrade. The most intense heat is concentrated at the great yellow sulphur fissure."

"Do you think, professor, that Vesuvius has entered upon her death agony?" I queried.

"Oh, far from it! True, there are visible symptoms of creeping paraly-



AS SEEN FROM POMPEII

tory on the volcano. As director of the Royal Vesuvian observatory he has succeeded to the late Professor Matteucci, whose heroic devotion to duty throughout the last fearful outbreak sent his name ringing through every civilized land.

"Well, the fact is," began Professor Mercalli, as he showed me a well filled scrapbook of recent foreign press cuttings about Vesuvius, "most of these reports are inventive or exaggerated. The tourist season here has for one season or another considerably slackened off in late years; but since these rumors have gone abroad the mountain has become unusually alive with visitors. The smoke funnels in the main crater have been active all along. Still, their activity is evidently increasing, and there are not wanting signs that Vesuvius is stirring from her long slumber. Yes, her repose

sis, since Monte Somma over yonder was once the true center of Vesuvian energy, and is now, however, practically extinct. The vapors arising there at the present time are due to the fact that, owing to the ordinary outlets of the volcano being temporarily smothered with accumulated debris, the immensely high pressure beneath is finding vent by its more ancient apertures. But though Vesuvius is suffering severely from this restriction I give her still from 1,000 to 1,500 years of fairly vigorous activity. The old age of a volcano is a very indefinite period."

"One more question, professor. Do you apprehend some momentous development in the near future?"

"Alas, I do. Never before, so far back as data aid us, has Vesuvius slept so long and sound a slumber as that from which she is now stirring. Something critical is going to happen."

FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

HOW SOME WORDS ORIGINATE

Construction of Language as Much a Piece of Carpentry as Building of Ordinary House.

Word building is as much a piece of carpentry as is house building. Only it takes longer. Sometimes a century or more. And by that time the word's first meaning is usually changed.

For example, the old word for "neighbor" was "sib." One's good neighbor was known as one's "good sib." This became shortened to "god-sib," and later to "gossip." Then the word's whole meaning changed and gossip no longer meant good neighbor, but applied to the sort of talk exchanged between good neighbors.

Take the word "farmer," too. The old word for "farmer" was "boor." (And "boor" later was used for describing farmerlike or rough persons.) The farmer living nearest to one was known as the "nighboor," and this phrase, in course of time, was twisted to "neighbor."

You've heard the proverb, "Little pitchers have big ears." Well, it doesn't refer to the utensil that holds water or goes to the corner side door. "Pitcher" was a slang term with some such meaning as our word "chap" or "fellow." Thus, "Little fellows have big ears" is a more sensible rendering of the proverb.

RECORD OF "THIRTEEN" YEAR

Period of American History That Brought Much Good to Nation—Europe Was at War.

In the year 1813 the thirteenth congress of the United States assembled. That portentous conjunction did not bring evil to the nation in which we are all most interested. It is true, remarks the New York Sun, that the republic was then in armed strife with Great Britain, but the year witnessed a succession of American triumphs on shore and sea—Commodore Perry's victory was one of them, giving us control of the great lakes, which prepared the way for the treaty of Ghent in 1814, and the glorious peace that has now endured for almost a century between the two great English-speaking peoples—may it never be broken or sullied by fault of ours!

James Madison was inaugurated in 1813 for his second term.

Europe was at war. That year saw the inception of the alliance and the mighty operations which resulted in the overthrow of Napoleon. The "battle of the nations" at Leipzig foretold Waterloo and a long period of peace and prosperous development.

In that year Argentina threw off the yoke of Spain and established her independence.

The resources of the printer's art were enriched by the process of stereotyping. There were born that year, among millions of others who exercised more or less influence on the resultant line of human progress, Richard Wagner, Henry Bessemer, David Livingstone, Isaac Pitman, Stephen A. Douglas, Admiral Porter and John C. Fremont, the Pathfinder.

Such is a part of the record of a thirteen year that did not turn out very badly on the whole for the world we live in.

MOST ALL CHILDREN ARE FOND OF PONIES



As a child's pony the Shetland has no equal. Children and Shetland ponies seem to have for each other a natural affinity. This pony combines with the highest order of equine intelligence a disposition wonderfully free from vice and trickiness.

CHINESE FIRST TO USE TEA

How the Custom Originated is Told in Legend Dating 2,000 Years Before Coming of Christ.

The Chinese claim to be the first users of tea as a drink, and how it originated is told in a pretty little legend that dates from 2,000 years before the coming of Christ.

A daughter of a then reigning sovereign fell in love with a young nobleman whose humble birth excluded him from marrying her. They managed to exchange glances, and he occasionally gathered a few blossoms and had them conveyed to her.

One day in the palace garden the lovers met and the young man endeavored to give her a few flowers; but so keen was the watchfulness of her attendants all she could grasp was a little twig with green leaves.

On reaching her room she put the twig in water, and towards evening she drank the water in which the twig had been kept. So agreeable was the taste that she even ate the leaves and stalks. Every day afterwards she had bunches of the tea tree brought her, which she treated in the same way.

Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, the ladies of the court tried the experiment and with such pleasing results that the custom spread throughout the kingdom—and the great Chinese tea industry became a fait accompli.

Steps.

"Mammy, dear," said little Matty, "what is a stepmother?"

"If I should die and your dad should marry again, the lady would be a stepmother."

"Oh, I see," remarked Matty; "you'd step out and she'd step in."

His Experience.

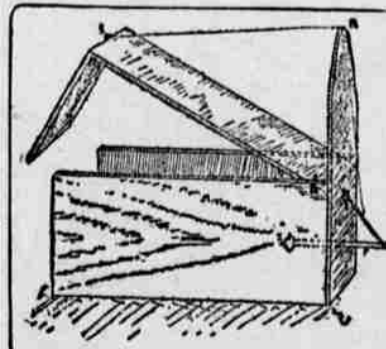
"Tommy, what is the hardest wood that grows?" asked the father.

"I don't know, pop," replied the boy; "but I know I tried to split some of it once."

HOW TO MAKE RABBIT TRAP

Carefully Remove One End of Ordinary Soap Box and Cleat Along Sides and Bottom.

This is how I make a rabbit trap: I take a box, such as one can get at the store—a soap box is the right size—and carefully take out one end, first nailing cleats along the sides and the bottom, so that the box will not fall apart when the end is removed, says a writer in the Farm, Stock and Home. Then I build up the other end as shown in the illustration, and bore a small hole through it for the bait-stick, and with my jack-knife make a notch still higher up, to hold the brace stick in place. Then I clean the top together, and nail the end to it, and from the front end of the top to the brace stick run a cord. I fast-



Rabbit Trap.

en the top to the box with a couple of small hinges. If one has nothing better, two strips of leather will do first rate. Then bait the trap with a piece of apple, setting it in a runway, and go to it every morning and evening.

Immune.

"Bobby," said the lady in the street car, severely, "why don't you get up and give your seat to your father? Doesn't it pain you to see him reaching for the strap?"

"Not in a car," said Bobby. "It does at home."—Ladies' Home Journal.

RAISES THE DOUGH BETTER
ALL GROCERS

In—How Long?

A number of men gathered in the smoking car of a train from Little Rock to another point in Arkansas were talking of the food best calculated to sustain health, says the House-keeper.

One Arkansan, a stout, florid man with short gray hair and a self-satisfied air, was holding forth in great style.

"Look at me!" he exclaimed. "Never had a day's sickness in my life. All due to simple food. Why, gents, from the time I was 20 to when I reached 40 I lived a regular life. None of these effeminate delicacies for me. No late hours. Every day, summer and winter, I went to bed at 9; got up at 5. Lived principally on corned beef and cornbread. Worked hard, gents—worked hard from 8 to 1. Then dinner; plain dinner; then an hour's exercise, and then—"

"Excuse me," interrupted the stranger, who had remained silent, "but what were you in for?"

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Sugar-coated, tiny granules, easy to take. Do not gripe.

Carelessness.

Old Lady (who has been lurching with her son)—"Here, William, you left this quarter on the table by mistake. It's lucky I saw it, because the waiter had his eye on it."—Life.

A New Yorker has invented a motor-truck with four rear wheels instead of two, so mounted on short axles that the load is equally distributed among all of them regardless of the roughness of the road.

Owing to expansions of industries and to general prosperity throughout Norway, the circulation of bank notes in 1912 was several millions greater than in 1911, and exceeds 100,000,000 crowns (\$26,800,000) for the first time.

SUFFERED AWFUL PAINS

For Sixteen Years. Restored To Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Moretown, Vermont.—"I was troubled with pains and irregularities for sixteen years, and was thin, weak and nervous. When I would lie down it would seem as if I was going right down into some dark hole, and the window curtains had faces that would peek out at me, and when I was out of doors it would seem as if something was going to happen. My blood was poor, my circulation was so bad I would be like a dead person at times. I had female weakness badly, my abdomen was sore and I had awful pains.



"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and used the Sanative Wash and they certainly did wonders for me. My troubles disappeared and I am able to work hard every day."—Mrs. W. F. SAWYER, River View Farm, Moretown, Vermont.

Another Case.

Gifford, Iowa.—"I was troubled with female weakness, also with displacement. I had very severe and steady headache, also pain in back and was very thin and tired all the time. I commenced taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I am cured of these troubles. I cannot praise your medicine too highly."—Mrs. INA MILL-SLADLE, Gifford, Iowa.