

EXPLORING ALASKA.

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A PARTY OF SCIENTISTS.

The Strange Land of the Far Northwest Has Many Interesting Features—Luxuriant Vegetation Where There Is No Ice—St. Elias Not a Volcano.

Mr. Israel C. Russell has returned to Washington from that region of eternal ice and snow in Alaska, where the highest peak in North America rises to an altitude of 19,000 feet from a glacier 1,000 square miles in area and as big as all those of the Alps put together.

Along the edge of the glacier, all the way from Icy Bay to Yakutat Bay, there extends a strip of green coast which is covered with luxuriant vegetation. Strawberry vines cover the ground for miles, and the verdant fields are reddened as far as the eye can reach with luscious fruit, which compares favorably in point of size and flavor with the finest grown in temperate latitudes.

There are huckleberries, too, and "salmon berries," which are something between blackberries and raspberries, but of giant size, measuring nearly two inches in diameter. All the lowlands are carpeted with violets, buttercups, yellow monkey flowers and other wild blossoms. Here and there, in the midst of the vast ice fields, are the loveliest gardens watered by the melting snow.

There are plenty of grizzly bears in the vicinity of Mount St. Elias, but Mr. Russell did not find them very dangerous. He says that his encounters with them reminded him of killing pigs.

Of brown and black bears he saw and shot a great many. The expedition met with enough perils, however, to satisfy the most adventurous geographical explorers. Nearly all of the climbing had to be done up steep walls of ice and snow by cutting steps. At almost any time a slip would have precipitated the party down the frozen precipices thousands of feet.

On one occasion they were descending when they found that an avalanche had carried away the steps which they had made in going up. The impromptu staircase was destroyed for 300 feet, and they had to lower a man by a rope to chop out another, there being no other way of getting down. Such accidents as this were not uncommon.

HAIRBREADTH ESCAPES. Avalanches were continually falling, rushing down the slopes with the speed of railway trains and with a roar like thunder that could be heard twenty miles away.

One night about 12 o'clock the party was passing over a bad place in the Agassiz glacier. Two men were in the lead, drawing a sled. Suddenly they disappeared from sight, having fallen into a fissure in the ice. Luckily they were caught upon a projecting ledge at the depth of about twenty feet, else they would never have been seen again.

They were hauled out with ropes. The next day in the same neighborhood Mr. Russell chanced to look behind him and saw that the ice field over which he had just passed was gone, leaving an enormous hole of unknown depth. Another time one of his men tumbled into a crevice, and was only saved by the pack fastened to his shoulder, which interrupted his progress through a twist in the frozen tunnel that had yawned for him.

The Agassiz glacier is one of the four great glaciers which, together with about a thousand small ones, flow out from the mountains at the north to the mighty Malaspina glacier, pouring their streams of ice continually into this vast frozen sea. This glacier of Malaspina, from 1,500 to 2,000 feet thick, is interesting, not merely because of its enormous size, but also by reason of the fact that it is the only one now in existence of the same type as the glacier which formerly covered all of this continent as far south as Philadelphia and St. Louis, leaving traces that are visible to this day in scratches on the rocks.

A GLACIAL RIVER. Where the land in that region is bare of ice the vegetation attains an almost tropical luxuriance, and the Arctic jungles are well nigh impassable to the explorer. One of the chief obstacles encountered in threading them is a plant known as the "devil's club," which grows to a height of ten or fifteen feet, its stems running along the ground for some distance and then turning upward. Every part of its surface, even to the ribs of the leaves, is thickly set with spines, which inflict painful wounds, and breaking off in the flesh cause festering sores. In the Lucia glacier occurs a most interesting feature in the shape of a glacial river which comes out from a mountain through an archway of ice, flows for a mile and a half in plain view, and then is lost to sight in another tunnel. Where the stream emerges finally is unknown. No explorer has as yet been bold enough to enter the tunnel and drift through, after the fashion of Allan Quatermain and Unalopogans. The greatest risk in such an undertaking would be from fall-id blocks of ice. At the mouth of the tunnel there are always confused noises and rhythmic vibrations to be heard from the dark recesses within. The air is filled with pulsations like deep organ notes, and it requires but little imagination to transform these strange sounds into the voices and songs of inhabitants of the nether world. It used to be supposed that Mount St. Elias was a volcano, and sea captains sailing on the Pacific have often beheld what they imagined to be smoke issuing from its summit; but this is a mistake, and it is probable that the alleged smoke was really avalanche dust blown upward by the wind.—Washington Cor. New York Sun.

DANGER ON THE ELEVATOR.

People Who Should Be Careful How They Use the Rapid Lifts.

The general use of rapid traveling elevators is having an effect upon the people who use them that is causing a good deal of speculation as to whether it is safe for a person having a weak heart to ride up and down on them habitually. Some persons believe that the rapid motion and sudden stops are liable to produce heart disease. Doctors are not positive on the subject, but their opinions seem to lend color to the theory that a person with a weak heart should not ride frequently on such elevators.

"This is certainly a very interesting question," said Dr. Thomas J. Mays, who makes diseases of the heart a specialty. "I have heard people complaining of a sinking feeling in these rapid transit elevators, but whether the movement of the elevator has any effect on the heart or not I am not prepared to say. When a person's heart is diseased in any way the slightest change of environment will affect it, of course. The movement of the elevator causes a change of environment, but it may or may not cause an aggravation of the heart trouble. Doubtless it quickens the movement of the heart, but without investigation of the subject it would seem to me that the movement of a rapid transit elevator would only affect those persons whose hearts are affected. However, I am not prepared to give an opinion without study of the question."

Dr. Frank Woodbury, another physician who gives heart troubles special attention, also said he had not studied the question, but he was rather inclined to think the movement of a rapid transit elevator would affect a person; "but," said he, "I think it would have more effect on the nerves than on the heart. I came down in one of those elevators this morning with a lady, and she complained of a sinking feeling, as if she was going to faint. Not having given the matter any serious consideration, I am not prepared to give an opinion, but I should think nervous people would very probably be affected by the sudden and swift upward or downward motion of an elevator."

Dr. John B. Shoemaker was another physician who declined to express an opinion. "I have heard the matter discussed," said he, "but I have not given it personal attention. The motion of a rapid elevator undoubtedly has a temporary effect on some people, but whether it affects the heart permanently or not I cannot say."

Another physician said that many persons' nerves and hearts are affected by the excessive use of tobacco, and the rapid motion of the elevator will always affect them. The heart is always affected by the constant use of tobacco, and its movement easily quickened by excitement of any kind. This is especially the case with persons of a nervous temperament, and those persons always have sinking feeling when a rapid transit elevator suddenly starts or stops. Whether these rapid transit elevators have a permanent effect upon the heart or nerves, he would not venture an opinion.—Philadelphia Record.

Won by a Cuff Button. "Do you see that peculiar looking stud that man is wearing on his shirt front?" said a hotel clerk the other day, pointing to a gentleman standing near by, and on whose expansive bosom was fastened a gold button with a bird in black enamel upon it.

"That man is a St. Louis drummer, and he has been wearing that stud for twenty years to my knowledge," added the clerk. "It was twenty years ago that he married a relative of Patrick Egan, of Nebraska. Previous to that time a certain young business man of Chicago was also courting her, and among the presents he once gave her was a pair of cuff buttons, of which that stud was one. The rival saw these buttons one day on the young lady's cuffs, and in jest purloined one of them and placed it in his shirt front. When leaving the house afterward he encountered the Chicago suitor, who spied the jewel. An explanation was demanded of the young lady and an angry scene followed, and the Chicago man left in a huff."

When the St. Louis drummer called the next time he proposed and was accepted. After their marriage his wife told him that the Chicago lover proposed first, which he undoubtedly would have done but for the cuff button episode, she would have accepted him. Ever since that time the happy husband has been wearing that button, and money could not buy it of him.—San Francisco Call.

Training a Dog to Dig for Truffles. It has been found that dogs could be trained to hunt truffles, and so great is the demand in France for the truffle that many of the canine species are now, in certain districts, possessed of this estimable talent. The training through which they pass in order to acquire a scent is a decidedly agreeable one. To begin with, finely cut or sliced truffles are mixed daily with their food, until at length they develop a liking for the flavor.

Afterward their owners conceal in some portion of a field where truffles are supposed to exist a little tin dish of filet aux truffes, covering the same with a few handfuls of earth. The dog is then brought out and urged to hunt for the dish, goaded by an empty stomach. When he at length finds it he is cespiced by his master, and thus in the space of a few weeks he will readily learn to hunt for the vegetable itself.—Washington Letter.

Using Amber to Imitate Jewels. Amber is often seen carved into elegant forms in ancient Etruscan jewelry. The magnificent necklace known as the Prince de Cambrino's, the masterpiece of the Etruscan goldsmith, has pendants of alternate beetles of sardonyx and amber. Juvenal represents his patron displaying at his feast a bowl embossed with beryls and raised work of amber. Pliny records the fact that it was used to imitate all the transparent stones, especially the amethyst.—Philadelphia Times.

How Niagara Was Formed.

Once upon a time there was a beautiful Indian maiden who was compelled by her family to engage herself to marry a hideous old man of her tribe. In her desperation she leaped into a canoe and pushed it over the roaring breakers of Niagara, preferring the angry waters to the arms of her detested lover. But the god of thunder, cloud and rain, who watches over the harvest, dwelt in a cave behind the roaring cataract. He caught her just as her frail bark was dashing upon the rocks below and gave her a home for many weeks in his own mysterious cavern.

From him she learned many new things, among them why her people died so often. He told her how an enormous snake lay coiled up under the ground beneath her village, and how he crept out and poisoned the springs, because he craved the flesh of human beings and could never get enough of it so long as they died from natural causes. The maiden remained in the cave until her ugly old suitor was dead; then she returned, and the god killed the serpent with a thunderbolt.

The great dead snake was so huge that when the people laid its body out in death it stretched over more than twenty arrow flights, and as it floated down the waters of the Niagara it was as if a mountain appeared above them. Its corpse was too large to pass the rocks, so it became wedged in between them and the waters rose over it, thus fashioning the horseshoe, which remains to this day.—Washington Star.

The Female Bogtrotter. We are becoming a little surfeited with these wild women as globetrotters and travelers. Their adventures, which for the most part are fictions based on a very small substratum of fact, have ceased to impress, partly because we have ceased to believe, and certainly ceased to respect. Who wanted them to run all these risks, supposing them to be true? What good have they done by their days of starvation and nights of sleeplessness? their perils by land and sea? their chances of being devoured by wild beasts or stuck up by bushrangers? taken by brigands or insulted by rowdies of all nations?

They have contributed nothing to our stock of knowledge, as Marianne North has done. They have solved no ethnological problem; brought to light no new treasures of nature; discovered no new field for British spades to till, no new markets for British manufactures to supply. They have done nothing but lose their beauty, if they had any; for what went out fresh and comely comes back haggard and weather beaten. It was quite unnecessary. They have lost, but the world has not gained; and that doctor's bill will make a hole in the publisher's check.—Mrs. Lynn Linton in Nineteenth Century.

One Way of Giving Satisfaction. Inledon, the once famous singer, never fought a duel, and he never intended to fight one. On one occasion some remarks of his gave offense to a man with whom the singer happened to fall in company, and the offended gentleman resolved to have satisfaction for his wrongs. Accordingly he hunted up Inledon the next afternoon, finding him at dinner in a noted hotel. "Mr. Inledon," said the waiter, "a gentleman wishes to see you, sir." "Show him up, then," said the singer. "Sir," said the visitor, entering the room in a towering passion, "you have been making free with my name in a very improper manner, and I've come to demand satisfaction!"

After some parleying Inledon rose, and, striking a graceful attitude in the center of the room, began to sing "Black Eyed Susan" in his most delightful style. When he had finished the song he said coolly, "There, sir, that has given complete satisfaction to several thousand people, and if you want anything more, I've only to say you're the most unreasonable fellow I ever met!"—San Francisco Argonaut.

Narrow Escape. "An sure," said Patrick to his friend Dennis, "I was near inlading the day to bein made a prisint of a most byootiful horse, wid the coat of a duck, the grace of a dancing masher, and the spade of an anti-luwrp."

"Arrah!" said Dennis. "The loikes o' you bein' near made a prisint of a horse!" "Sure, an that I was, Dennis, dear. 'Twas by a grain that I missed him. It was in a chaise he was, and dhruv by a foine gentleman of me acquaintance. He stopped ferminst the house of me imp'lyer the day. 'It's a fine horse ye hev thayre,' says I. 'I believe ye're roight,' says he. 'Wud ye give him to me?' says I. 'Naw!' says he. 'An begorra, if he'd said 'Yis, I'd 'a had him!'—Yonth's Companion.

The Dear Old Soul. Miss St. Cyr was talking to old Lady Goldfoil about her heart affairs, and during the course of her conversation she said: "Even your own son Harold, Mrs. Goldfoil, was a quondam lover of mine." The old lady almost bounced out of her chair, but laughed it off, and when she had gone to her room she spoke to her husband. "Well," she said, indignantly, "there may be some excuse for fashionable young women talking about their various sweethearts, but profanity is utterly unpardonable."—Detroit Free Press.

Comparing Fruits. In comparing the earlier description of fruits with modern accounts it is well to remember that the high standards by which fruits are now judged are of recent establishment. Fruits which would once have been esteemed excellent would today be passed by as unworthy of regard.—Professor G. L. Goodale in Popular Science Monthly.

For chapped hands the following is a most excellent remedy: Camphor gum, 8 drams; beeswax, 3 drams; spermaceti, 3 drams; olive oil, 2 ounces. Put in a pan and set in boiling water until melted, and apply to the hands.

Frames for Pictures.

Oil paintings should be framed in gold, silver or bronze. A frame of white and gold is best for a water color, while engravings and etchings look best in frames of natural wood, either polished or varnished, but never gilded. Photographs can be framed in natural wood or modest flat gilt or bronzed frames, according to the subject and the tone of the picture. Soft gray or cream tinted mats are the best for pictures in general, throwing the picture back from the glass and softening the effect, but tinted mats may occasionally be used. A dark blue mat, when the picture is blue in tone, or a wine colored or rarely a silvered or gilded one, may be very effective, but should only be used cautiously.

The frame for an oil painting should never be flat, but always thicker at the outer edge, to throw the picture back and increase the perspective in which it is best seen, and harmonize it with the walls. Sometimes an oil is of modest coloring and low tone, and is most effectively framed in dark crimson or dull blue velvet, the pile of the velvet softening the picture yet imparting a luminous and rich effect, which the glitter of a golden frame almost wholly absorbs to itself.

Water colors are often harmoniously framed in tints which carry out the delicate prevailing color in themselves, especially in landscapes and marines. The mat can often be the palest tint of cream, pink, buff, atmospheric gray or sea green, while the frame itself may repeat the tint, with delicate lines of gold, or be made of simple white and gilt molding.—Harper's Bazar.

Beet sugar may be bought in certain stores in our eastern cities. To the taste it cannot be distinguished from the best cane sugar except by experts, who say it is richer in sweets than most cane sugar.

Pimples.

The old idea of 40 years ago was that facial eruptions were due to a "blood humor," for which they gave potash. Thus all the old Sarsaparillas contain potash, a most objectionable and drastic mineral, that instead of decreasing, actually creates more eruptions. You have noticed this when taking other Sarsaparillas than Joy's. It is however now known that the stomach, the blood creating power, is the seat of all vitiating or cleansing operations. A stomach clogged by indigestion or constipation, vitiates the blood, result pimples. A clean stomach and healthful digestion purifies it and they disappear. Thus Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla is compounded after the modern idea to regulate the bowels and stimulate the digestion. The effect is immediate and most satisfactory. A short testimonial to contrast the action of the Sarsaparilla and Joy's modern vegetable preparation. Mrs. C. D. Stuart, of 400 Hayes St., S. F., writes: "I have for years had indigestion, tried a popular Sarsaparilla but it actually caused more pimples to break out on my face. Hearing that Joy's was a later preparation and acted differently, I tried it and the pimples immediately disappeared."

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A Severe Law.

The English people look more closely to the genuineness of these staples than we do. In fact, they have a law under which they make seizures and destroy adulterated products that are not what they are represented to be. Under this statute thousands of pounds of tea have been burned because of their wholesale adulteration. Tea, by the way, is one of the most notoriously adulterated articles of commerce. Not alone are the bright, shiny green teas artificially colored, but thousands of pounds of substitutes for tea leaves are used to swell the bulk of cheap teas; ash, sloe, and willow leaves being those most commonly used. Again, sweepings from tea warehouses are colored and sold as tea. Even exhausted tea leaves gathered from the tea-houses are kept, dried, and made over and find their way into the cheap teas.

The English government attempts to stamp this out by confiscation; but no tea is too poor for us, and the result is, that probably the poorest teas used by any nation are those consumed in America. Beech's Tea is presented with the guaranty that it is uncolored and unadulterated; in fact, the tea-plant tea leaf pure and simple. Its purity insures superior strength, about one third less of it being required for an infusion than of the artificial teas, and its fragrance and exquisite flavor is at once apparent. It will be a revelation to you. In order that its purity and quality may be guaranteed, it is sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:

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