

# THE WEST

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## FROM A SACRED QUARRY

### Pipestone Curiosities for the Columbian Exposition.

Something New About the Material Used by the Aboriginal Smokers in the Manufacture of Their Pipes.

An expedition sent out by the bureau of ethnology for the purpose of making collections to illustrate aboriginal quarrying and mining at the Columbian exposition has just returned to Washington with a remarkable and most interesting assemblage of objects secured.

Among these objects are a number of pipes and fragments of pipestone obtained from the famous pipestone quarry in southwest Minnesota, whence the Indians of North America have got the material for their pipes since very ancient days, long before Columbus landed upon this continent. From that time down to the present the working of this same mineral deposit has been kept up continuously, even the savage Sioux traveling annually two hundred miles to spend a month at the quarry. For centuries the place was regarded as sacred and all tribes met there, preserving peace religiously while on the spot, says the Washington Star.

For miles around the quarry the plains are covered with the rings which mark the sites where Indian lodges were once established, and everywhere are scattered fragments of pipestone, representing the waste of manufacture. This material seems to have been selected by the savages because of its beauty and softness when fresh. The latter quality renders it easy to carve, while subsequently it becomes extremely hard. Its color is an exquisite "Indian red."

Much of the carving work done on the pipes is of highly artistic quality. Some of the specimens secured by Prof. Holmes, who made the collection referred to, would do credit to the most skilled workers in meerschaum.

On account of the difficulties attending the mining of the pipestone it is quite a precious substance, a piece one foot square being worth from two to three dollars in the crude. The stratum described is about twelve inches in thickness and seems to be evenly continuous for an indefinite distance through the hill. However, only two inches of this thickness is of good quality, being smooth to the touch and free from grit.

Of recent years the Indians have learned how to inlay the pipes with silver and other metals, performing this kind of work in a manner very artistic. They do all the pipemaking, the labor involved being too great to pay the white man for his time. White people buy the pipestone and make many other articles out of it for sale, from a complete house down to miniature pieces of furniture and trinkets.

The fact that this pipestone quarry was regarded as sacred is indicated by extensive pictographs on the rocks in the vicinity of certain huge boulders found on the spot, representing aboriginal gods and other things of religious significance.

### ASKING FOR AUTOGRAPHS.

When Done with Modesty and Tact Most Men Will Grant the Request.

The most elementary form of the stranger's letter is, of course, the application for an autograph, says T. W. Higginson in Harper's Bazar. This ap-

plication is now reduced to such a system that it causes little inconvenience, and should not be refused. There is usually sent with the request a blank card on which the name is to be written, with an envelope stamped and addressed for its return. Nothing can be more unobtrusive or mechanical, though the line of propriety is at once passed, we may say, where two cards are sent, the second one being obviously for exchange purposes, or perhaps for sale. The wary author never, I suspect, writes on both cards, since he does not aim to help out a mere business transaction. Where any applicant goes farther, and asks an original letter or copied passage, the affair becomes more serious, and some authors and public men ignore such requests altogether, as being much more serious consumers of time. But on the subject of autograph applications there is to be pointed out a curious want of tact, into which almost all applicants fall. They almost always take pains to explain to the person applied to that they have already a very large collection, including most of the notabilities of this country and age, and that they wish to add his name to their list. The effect is to impress the proposed victim with a sense of his own insignificance, in that he was asked so late to the entertainment. More tact would be shown by trying to convince the person to whom you apply that you are just beginning a very small and choice collection, and that you have come to him as early as possible in order to make a good start. If this would seem dishonest, it is at least unnecessary to make it plain that you regard his autograph as of less value than the thousand others previously solicited.

### FARTHEST NORTH.

Sufferings and Perseverance That Characterized the Arctic Explorers.

The story of American explorers who have braved the perils of the northern seas, knowing that almost superhuman efforts were to be required of them, shows that they had the same enthusiasm that characterized and sustained the early discoverers. One of the members of the Greely expedition gives an account in Scribner's Magazine of their sufferings and perseverance:

"Fatigue, thirst, hunger, cold and even heat at times beset us.

"Each camp found us physically exhausted. We scanted our food, and with envious, regretful eyes saw each bit disappear, since it shortened the length of our possible journey northward.

"Finally the coveted honor was in sight. Realizing that this was indeed the 'Farthest North,' we unfurled the flag of our country, the glorious 'Stars and Stripes,' with a feeling of pride and exultation impossible to describe. Lieut. Lockwood and I seized each other's hands and hugged the Esquiman, Thorlip, who, gaping at us, wondered what it all meant.

"The physical hardship from many days' travel through heavy gales and blinding snow, over jagged rubble ice and across dangerous tidal cracks was all behind us. Our visit left behind it a record. It stands—a mighty cairn of rocks commensurate in size to its importance—built on a narrow shelf, directly under the frowning face of the overhanging cape and looking out over the eternal silence of the Polar ocean."

### Took the Wrong Patient.

At the city of Utrecht, Holland, the servant maid of a family was taken with vomiting and other symptoms of cholera. Everybody ran for some medical man except the lady of the house herself, who, being in a nervous and debilitated condition, fell into a swoon. When the first doctor arrived without finding anybody at home, and saw the old lady lying as dead, he believed her to be the cholera patient, and, having brought an ambulance with him, sent the patient to the cholera hospital. Next the owner of the house returned with a doctor and was met at the door by the maid servant who had entirely recovered and was hale and hearty. One after the other the members of the family came home except the mother who was retained at the hospital until, after hours of anxious search, she was found in the cholera ward happily without having taken the infection.

## DEVELOPMENT OF GAS.

The Centenary of Its Discovery in Cornwall Being Celebrated This Year.

Among the many anniversaries which are being celebrated this year is the centenary of the invention of gas as an illuminant. It was in 1792 that William Murdock first lighted up his humble home at Redruth, in duchy of Cornwall, by means of coal gas made in an iron kettle, into which he inserted a rough iron tube. It was not until six years later that the invention was developed on a large scale, when Murdock was employed to establish a gas lighting apparatus at the great Soho foundry at Birmingham. In 1803 the Lyceum theater in London was first lighted by gas, and in 1816 the gas lamps which had been used to illuminate Piccadilly since 1807 became common throughout London. It was at this time, too, that David Melville, of Newport, R. I., first adapted gas, for the manufacture of which he had secured a patent in 1806, to the Beaver Tail lighthouse, and it has since become one of the principal illuminants used in those watch towers which, in imitation of the ancient Pharos, are now scattered all over the globe for the guidance and protection of ships and mariners.

It is doubtful, in the opinion of the New York Tribune, whether a hundred years hence, on the occasion of the bicentenary of the invention of gas, the latter will still retain the commanding position which it now occupies as an illuminant. On every side signs increase which presage that the age of electricity is at hand—that age which is far more likely to revolutionize the civilization of the world than any of its predecessors. Gas will probably be gradually forced into a back seat, and its use confined to stoves and fireplaces, which find such favor among the small households of crowded cities. It will be entitled, however, to the grateful remembrance of man as a powerful factor in the development of his civilization and progress during the past hundred years.

### DR. NANSEN'S POLAR SHIP.

A Marvel of Solidity Being Constructed for the Use of the Explorer.

Dr. Nansen's polar ship has progressed so far in construction that one can now form some idea of its general outline, says the Folkeblad, of Christiania. The slanting sides strike the eye at once. Under the supposition that the vessel will be "screwed" by the ice, care has been taken that no projecting points or flat surfaces exist. The peculiar design is based on the anticipation that all ice, when meeting the vessel, will be forced down under it, allowing it to be raised so much out of the water. For the same reason the bottom of the vessel is covered with hard and smooth wood—greenheart, three to six inches thick. Inside, the vessel is provided with horizontal, vertical and diagonal cross beams, fastened by hundreds of iron and wooden joints, giving the impress of great solidity. The frame is mostly old oak. Besides the outermost covering of greenheart, there are two oak skins. The vessel is provided with a steam engine of 162 horse power. It is rigged as a three-master schooner and will mainly rely on its sails when in the ice. Its dimensions are: Keel, 31 meters; greatest length of deck, 39 meters; greatest width of deck, 11 meters; height from keel to deck, 5.25 meters; when loaded, 4.75 meters; displacement, 800 tons.

The hull will be extremely heavy on account of the heavy material used in its construction, yet it is estimated that she will be able to carry 400 tons of coal and provisions, etc. Besides the smaller boats necessary for reconnoitering, etc., two large boats are being built able to hold the whole crew of twelve men and provisions for three months. If the polar currents are running as Nansen supposes, it becomes reasonable to expect that his expedition will meet with success. His vessel is certainly a marvel of solidity.

### NOT THE COMMITTEE.

He Gave Up When He Found Out That They Were Honest.

It was a hideous night. The manner in which the wind souged through the trees settled that matter. Now and then a drop of rain fell upon the dry leaves like a tear from the feverish eye

of distressed nature, say Tribune.

It was a corker.

The solitary horseman military cloak started fourteen shadowy figures the underbrush and with yawning shotguns.

"Your money!" they hoarse, lawless tones.

The horseman drew full height.

"Not a red cent," he strode forward.

"Yield or die!" he hissed.

"What do you propose money?" suddenly demure horseman.

"Buy bread."

There was a convulsive beneath the military cloak.

"Then"—

The horseman's voice soft.

"—you are not the cattee soliciting funds?"

"No."

"Take what I have and

After some further civilities the rider put spurs and with a pleasant peared.

### Ravages of Squats

The general impression live altogether on gran nuts is not altogether rels will suck eggs chickens and small birds ferocity as a weasel. ties are not often noticed, because the animal enough to venture on dations in the daytime wives who find eggshells instead of eggs or discover young chickens with the off should not always be the door of the weasels.

### How's That?

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PRESBYTERIAN CH school, 10 o'clock a. o'clock a. m. and 7 p. the Lord's supper of March, June, Septemb Everybody is welcome Pastor requests Christ selves known.

A. G. M.

A. E.

L. F.

### METHODIST EPISC

service. Preach every 2nd and 4th Prayer meeting, Thurs Florence: Preaching meeting, Friday, 7 p. Preaching 1st and 2d Seaton, same, 3 p. m.