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Little breezes cleans the air,
Little sun-beams make days fair.
Little flowers make meadows sweet,
Little smiles we love to meet,
Little gifts make glad the poor,
Little words cure spirits sore.
Little love-acts brings us joy,
Little sins will us destroy,
Little prayers procure us strength,
Little crosses bless at length.
Little "Bible reading" cheer,
Little songs our spirits cheer,
Little works for God "abide"
Little things our peace decide.

DISCOVERY OF THE NANAIMO COAL FIELDS.

[Herbert H. Bancroft's History of British Columbia.]

One morning in December 1849, while McKay, a prominent factor of the Hudson Bay Company, was engaged in the office at Fort Victoria, he was called aside by the foreman of the blacksmith shop, who informed him that an old Nanaimo chief from the vicinity of what was then called Protection Island, had made an important statement. While waiting at the shop to have his gun repaired, he noticed the men replenishing the fire with coal. Picking up some of the lumps he examined them carefully and finally remarked that there was plenty of such stone where he lived. McKay questioned the chief who thereupon repeated what he had told the blacksmith giving some additional particulars. The factor then promised the chief a bottle of rum if he would bring him some pieces of the stuff, and he should have his gun repaired for nothing besides. The chief accepted. He was poor and feeble, the gun would help to procure him food and the rum would warm his stiffened joints and dispel his misery for a moment. The ancient aboriginal went his way, and the fur-trader went his, and as nothing further was seen or heard of the chief at the port, little more was thought of the Nanaimo discovery. But the old man had not forgotten his bargain. All during the cold winter he had lain sick, very near death's door, thinking of the rum. Reviving from his illness with returning spring he went to work and surely enough one day early in April he appeared in Victoria harbor with his canoe loaded with coal.

It was immediately taken to the forge and tested by the blacksmith, who pronounced it of excellent quality whereupon McKay remembered his promise and presented a bottle of rum to the native. A prospecting party was fitted out, with McKay as leader and landed near where the town of Nanaimo stands now, on the first of May 1850. On May 8th, McKay located the Douglas vein, which is still being worked at the present time

CLEVELAND FOR 1888.

Events are shaping themselves. The American mind is settling down to one great issue for 1888. When President Cleveland was inaugurated there was a general popular wish and expectation that all the republican officials would be speedily replaced by democrats. A general disappointment and consequent chafing resulted when it was found that the president had in the main adopted the policy of letting republican officials serve out their four years terms. It was the general sentiment that, while Federal officials should be allowed ordinarily to serve their four years term yet, upon a change of the government from republican to democratic methods the whole personnel ought to be changed so as to be in sympathy with the new reform administration elected by the people. But President Cleveland concluded to take the law as it stands on the statute books and in the main to let republicans hold on until the expiration of their official terms, waiving, as a general rule, his constitutional prerogative to dismiss them at his pleasure. His whole presidential career shows that he would have preferred to have had the terms of office expire at the beginning of his term as he wanted the subordinate heads of departments in sympathy with his policy. This is clearly shown in his action on the Stone and Benton cases. But the statute did not so provide and he acquiesced. However he almost invariably puts democrats in to succeed republicans whose terms expire. Gradually he has changed the political character of the important Federal officials until now the most of the leading administrative offices are in the hands of democrats, and before his term expires they will substantially be of the same party with himself. So that every day the chafing of the democratic peoples decreases with the disappearance of republican officials from the high places of the government. Soon the chafing will have almost entirely disappeared. Now, while all the masses wished the removal of the republican officials yet they all wished that civil service reform which would respect the definite tenure of office of a Federal official so that he could not be used as a pliant slave in political machines to defeat the wishes of the people through rings and corruption. Having passed over the period of a change of these officials the sole issue now is left between the old system of spoils by the use of the official brigade in politics and the new system of divorcing Federal offices from the Boodle politics of the country. Refine upon it as we may the American mind will only now look at the two issues. The former is represented by Mr. Blaine, the latter by Mr. Cleveland. The question of "turning the rascals out" will have disappeared by the next presidential election, and the two main questions will be represented by Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Blaine. There will be no room for anybody else in the contest. It will be a fight between

SOURCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI

Most of our geographers and map-makers now assert, and publish the fact to the world, that Lake Itasca is not the source of the Mississippi, and, in proof of their belief, have assigned that distinction to another smaller body of water to the south of Itasca, and named Lake Glazier, in honor of Capt. Willard Glazier, the discoverer. This enterprising soldier and popular, writer, in July, 1881, organized and led an expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi, traversing the rough and almost impassable country of the Chippewas to the west of Leech Lake, a wild section of Minnesota, which is believed had never before been trodden by the white man. The members of the expedition were furnished with canoes and commissariat at the expense of the leader, whose ultimate object was the descent of the great river from its source to the Gulf of Mexico. This feat was finally accomplished, but we have now to do only with the important discovery made by the intrepid voyagers after their arrival at Lake Itasca. This lake, as is well-known to every school-boy, was discovered by Schoolcraft in 1832, and has always been held to be the source of the Mississippi. But Captain Glazier, from much study of the matter, had an inkling that the source lay farther to the south, and his Indian guide, Che-no-wage-sie, whose hunting-ground is in the immediate vicinity, confirmed this conjecture by emphatically assuring him that another lake did exist to the south of Itasca, and was connected therewith by a respectable stream, which was, in fact, the infant Mississippi falling into that lake. Hence it followed that Itasca could not be the source of the Mississippi. This confirmation determined Glazier to extend his explorations. He ascended the stream, and with the assistance of his guides, pushed his canoe, through the reeds and rushes and other obstructions into a beautiful and placid lake, nestling among the umbrageous pines, and never, until now, known to exist. This lake he discovered to be the final fountain head of the Father of Waters, and the name of the discoverer was at once fixed upon by his companions as its appropriate designation. Lake Glazier, now recognized as the true source of the Mississippi, is about two miles in diameter and nearly circular in shape. Its southern shore is rocky, and the water as clear as crystal. So lonely is the region around the lake that for fourteen days not even an Indian was seen, with the exception of the guides. The latitude of Lake Glazier was found by observation to be 47° 13' 25", and its height above the Atlantic Ocean, 1,582 feet. The reason why the precise locality of the fountain-head of the river has been so long enveloped in obscurity may be found in the fact that it is a remote, unfrequented, and well-nigh inaccessible region of country, and entirely out of the usual route of the fur-trader.

The party, on leaving the newly-discovered lake, descended the river, and finally, as before hinted, after a voyage of 3,184 miles—the longest canoe voyage on record—paddled out into the Gulf of Mexico, having occupied 138 days on the journey.—Boston Transcript.

One reason why so few persons built a character which shows itself at a height above the ordinary plane of common living is, that only a few are willing to give the necessary time to working on the foundation which are below the surface level.

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