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SIBERIAN WILDS.

The Longest of Earthly Journeys.

The journey from the mouth of the Lena river, in Eastern Siberia, to the city of St. Petersburg, which will probably be made this winter by the survivors, or some of the survivors, of the Jeannette, is one of the longest land journeys which can be made on the globe. The distance, measured along the route which Lieutenant De Long and his men will follow, is more than five times the direct distance between New York city and New Orleans, more than three times that between Lake Superior and the southern extremity of Florida, and more than twice that between New York city and San Francisco. According to the official tariff schedules of the Russian postal department, there are 2,342 miles between Yakootsk and Irkutsk, the capital of Siberia; 1,510 miles between Irkutsk and Perm, the frontier town of European Russia, and 1,552 miles between Perm and St. Petersburg. Adding 1,000 miles as the approximate distance between the Lena river and Yakootsk, and we have a grand total of 7,404 miles, which the survivors of the Jeannette must travel in order to reach the capital of the Russian Empire.

The northern coast of Siberia, between Cape Chelyusk and Behring Strait, is probably the most barren and inhospitable part of the whole Russian Empire. For hundreds of miles back from the Arctic Ocean the country consists almost entirely of great desolate steppes, known to the Russians as tundras (pronounced *toondras*), which in summer are almost impassable wastes of brownish gray Arctic moss, saturated with water, and in winter trackless deserts of snow, drifted and packed by polar gales into long, hard, fluted waves. The Siberian tundra differs in many essential particulars from all other treeless plains. In the first place it has a foundation of permanently frozen ground. Underlying the great moss tundras, which border the Lena river north of Yakootsk, there is everywhere a thick stratum of eternal frost, beginning in winter at the surface of the earth, and in summer at a point twenty or thirty inches below the surface, and extending to a depth of many hundred feet. What scanty vegetation, therefore, the tundras afford, roots itself and finds its nourishment in a thin layer of unfrozen ground—a more veneering of arable soil—resting upon a substratum five or six hundred feet in depth, of permanent and impenetrable ice. This foundation of ice is impervious, of course, to water, and as the snow melts in the summer the water completely saturates the soil to as great a depth as it can penetrate, and with the aid of the continuous daylight of June and July, stimulates a dense luxuriant growth of Arctic moss. This moss, in course of time, covers the entire plain with a soft, yielding cushion in which a pedestrian will sink to the knee without finding any solid footing. Moss has grown out of decaying moss year after year, and century after century, until the whole tundra is a vast spongy bog. Of other vegetation, there is little or none. A clump of dwarf berry bushes, an occasional tuft of coarse swamp grass, or a patch of storm and cold-defying kerdovnik diversifies, perhaps, here and there the vast brownish gray expanse; but, generally speaking, the eye may sweep the whole circle of the horizon and see nothing but the sky and moss. Such is the vast Northern tundra, upon the edge of which the fortunes of exploration have thrown the survivors of the Jeannette.

At all seasons and under all circumstances this immense border land of moss tundras is a land of desolation. Throughout the entire winter it presents a picture of inexpressible dreariness and desolation. Even at noon, when the sea-like expanse of storm-drifted snow is flushed faintly by the red gloomy light of the low hanging sun, it depresses the spirits and chills the imagination with its suggestiveness of infinite dreariness and solitude; but at night, when it ceases to be bounded even by the horizon, because the horizon can no longer be distinguished when the pale green streamers of the aurora begin to sweep back and forth over a dark segment of a circle in the north, lighting up the whole white world with transitory flashes of ghostly radiance and adding mystery to darkness and solitude—then the Siberian tundra not only becomes inexpressibly lonely and desolate, but takes on a strange half terrible unearthliness which awes and yet fascinates the imagination.

Upon the northern edge of this great Siberian tundra, at the mouth of one of the largest rivers in Asia, are Lieutenant De Long and most of the survivors of the Jeannette.—George Newman in the New York Herald.

What Josh Billings Says.

If you will sit down and wait, young man, at least one-half of the good things of life will at sum time eddy around near you, while the more you chase them the more they will break into a run.

All of nature's works are a part of a perfect shun or a plan. She makes no mistakes, creates no vacancy, and guesses at nothing. Ideas are what wins; but if a man hasn't got but one he is very apt to run that one into the ground, and take himself along with it.

Lafter proves nothing. Wise men laff, and ideats grin all the time. Cunning is a weak imitashun of wisdom, and iz liable at any time to merge into fraud.

Happiness has no abiding place, but often is very near at hand, like the old woman's spectacle. After hunting for them hi and lo, she found them at last safe on her nose.

Gravity is bekuming to a phool at all times, but only to a wise man on state ockashuns.

Verry menny seek knowledge, not so much for the truth as for the speculashun thar iz in it.

Heroizm iz simple, and yet it iz rare. Every one who daz the best they kan iz a hero.

Buty iz a dangerous gift. The vanity it inspires and the base flattery it attacks its possessors are not to be envied.

Charity makes no mistakes that she can be charged with.

Good breeding iz the only thing that kan make a phool endurable. Servitude iz so unnatural that an honest servant iz the rarest of all things.

If a man haz got the right kind of religion he kan pick up a kreed ennywhere that will fit it.

Indolence iz a quiet malady, but it haz eat up more foundashuns and tip over more superstrukturs than wild ambishun ever haz.

Abstinence should be the exception, and temperance the rule. There is great art in knowing how to live without creating an obligashun.

Az selfish and ill-bred as the mass of mankind are, I prefer to live with them rather than go into

solitude and try to live with myself.

Gratitude is a word that you will find in the dictionary, but you will not find much of it ennywhere else.

Curious Facts on Self-Destruction.

Professor Marselli, the eminent Italian authority on suicide, gives, in a lately revised edition of his work on that subject, some curious facts. He says that suicides are increasing in frequency in all parts of Europe where statistics have been taken. The only exceptions to this rule, as applied to quinquennial periods, are Norway in 1851-55, and Denmark in 1866-80. Since 1865 more suicides have been committed in the Kingdom of Saxony, in proportion to population, than in any other country, the proportion during the decade 1866-75 being 298 per 1,000,000 inhabitants yearly. Italy and the Slavs of the south show the lowest proportion of suicides, with 35 and 20 respectively per million. In England, during the last forty years, the ratio has been ranging from 63 to 66 per million of population. He says—that what will surprise many people—that suicides are more frequent in higher latitudes, the maximum occurring at 50° north latitude. They are also more frequent in the lowlands and in the region of great rivers. June is the favorite month, and December that in which there are the fewest suicides. In France they are most frequent during the first ten days of each month. Although the Professor does not say so, that peculiar fact may possibly be attributed to unrelenting landlords who insist on their rent. Among the days of the week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday appear to be the favorite days for self-murder among men, while women prefer Sunday. The months of May, June and July show the largest number of suicides.

While Slavism, he says, tends to lower the average of suicides Germanism elevates it. Among religious denominations he gives the relative proportions as follows: In Protestant countries 190, in Catholic countries 58, and in Greek countries 40 per million respectively. In Italy the married men and the unmarried women commit suicide the least frequently, the widows and the widowers the oftenest. In all countries the proportion of suicides is three and a fraction of men to one of women. From the age of fifty to sixty-five the tendency to self-destruction is the strongest. Rope or hanging is the means most commonly resorted to, drowning next, then firearms and then stabbing.

A humorist, embittered by long and fiendish pursuit of puns, once impaled a baleful joke upon his wife at the close of a wash-day, she then preparing the frugal evening meal, whereupon she smote him over his broad brow with a stew-pan. The dying man cried out as he fell, with a gleam of immortal triumph in his eyes, "Stew-pan-dous joke," and passed away to a better land.—Hawkeye.

A savage Mexican leopard will snap at everybody coming near his cage, but when a wheelbarrow is brought, he will sneak into a corner and show every symptom of fear. He probably stumbled over one some dark night, and has every reason to be afraid.

—Mr. John Rogers of the Central Market, has made arrangements to keep at the finest fresh fish, etc., in their season.

—You need one of those masks at Adler's for the coming fall.

—Sleepless Nights, made miserable by that terrible cough. Shiloh's Cure is the remedy for you. Sold by W. E. Dement.

Furnished Rooms to Let.

At Mrs. Munson's lodging house.

Notice. Just received per steamer Columbia, a fine lot of eastern oysters, which will be served up in first class style at Roscoe's. Occident block.

Take Notice.

On after this date an additional 10 cents per cord will be charged on all orders for sawed wood not accompanied by the cash, at Gray's wood yard. July 1st, 1881.

Notice.

From this date James B. Hooker is the only person authorized to contract debts or order goods in my name for use at the Knappott Cannery. JOSEPH HUME. Astoria, Jan. 3, 1882.

Notice.

The regular annual meeting of Progressive Land and Building association will be held in Liberty hall, Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon, on the 11th day of February, 1882. Wm. McEwan, Secy. Jan. 10, 1882.

To Live Men.

THE ASTORIAN has now reached a circulation which places it at the head of the list of Oregon dailies, and insures to advertisers thereof more benefit for the amount paid than may be secured elsewhere. To those who wish to reach the largest number of readers at the smallest expense, we offer the columns of an attractive daily, the success of which from the very start has been far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

Water front offered free to any person.

Water front offered free to any person that will build a saw mill in the city of Williamsport. Lumber we must have to build our city. We have one store in running order at present. Quite a number have already located homes in this city, and yet there is room. Sold on time to suit purchasers. Located one mile south of Astoria, on the sunny side of the hill, on Young's bay. J. WILLIAMSON, SR.

Mothers! Mothers! Mothers!!!

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Infants. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle.

Peruvian Bitters.

Cinchona Bitters. The Count Cinchon was the Spanish Viceroy in Peru in 1630. The Countess, his wife, was prostrated by an intermittent fever, from which she was freed by the use of the native remedy, the Peruvian Bitters, as it was called in the language of the country, "Quinquina."

Grateful for her recovery, on her return to Europe in 1632, she introduced the remedy in Spain, where it was known as Cinchon Bitters, in honor of the lady who had brought them that which was more precious than the gold of the Incas. To this day, after a lapse of two hundred and fifty years, cinchon has given us nothing to take its place. It effectually cures a morbid appetite for stimulants, by restoring the natural tone of the stomach. It lacks excessive love of liquor as it does a fever, and destroys both alike. The powerful tonic virtue of the Cinchon is preserved in the Peruvian Bitters, which are as effective against malarial fever to-day as they were in the days of the old Spanish Viceroy. We guarantee the ingredients of these bitters to be absolutely pure, and of the best known quality. A trial will satisfy you that this is the best bitter in the world. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and we willingly abide this test. For sale by all druggists, grocers and liquor dealers. Order it.

—M. D. Kant's San Francisco mask suits will be on this steamer. There will be a great rush for them, for they are the nicest lot ever bound for Astoria. Call at once and secure yours.

—For Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint, you have a printed guarantee on every bottle of Shiloh's Balm. It never fails to cure. Sold by W. E. Dement.

—Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy—a positive cure for Catarrh, Diphtheria and Canker Mouth. Sold by W. E. Dement.

—Max Wagner's San Francisco National brewery beer can't be beat.

—Circuit Court Blanks, County Court Blanks, Justice Court Blanks, Shipping Blanks, Miscellaneous Blanks, Deeds, Mortgages, etc., for Sale at THE ASTORIA OFFICE.

—There is not now any better newspaper, nor one more consistently devoted to the building up of the country than THE ASTORIAN. At the price of Two Dollars per year it is the cheapest, as well as the best. With our aid and encouragement we shall be able to make further improvements to enhance its field of usefulness.

—Are you made miserable by Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness, Loss of Appetite, Yellow Skin? Shiloh's Vitalizer is a positive cure. For sale by W. E. Dement.

The price of subscription to THE WEEKLY ASTORIAN has been reduced to 82 per annum when paid in advance. If not paid in advance the old price of \$3 will be charged.

—Blanks. Promissory notes, bonds for deed, quit claim deeds, mortgages and warranty deeds, at this office.

Eastern Oysters.

Another fine lot of Eastern Oysters just received at Roscoe's, per steamer Oregon. Occident block.

Choice Fruit.

All of the choicest kinds of apples in the largest boxes for sale at J. H. D. Gray's.

Arrigoat Lodging House, Portland, Oregon.

New house and first class in its appointments. Third street, in R. R. Thompson's block, opposite Capt. Ainsworth. Rooms by the day, week or month. Mrs. E. ARRIGOAT.

The Weekly Astorian.

Is a mammoth sheet, nearly double the size of the Daily. It is just the paper for the fireside, containing in addition to all the current news, choice miscellany, agricultural matter, market reports, etc. It is furnished to single subscribers at 32 00 per year in advance.

Buy the Weekly.

THE WEEKLY ASTORIAN for this week is full of just such information and news of the country as your friends in the east want to see. It has very few advertisements, and is chock to the muzzle of information that no family can successfully squeeze along without. Two dollars will buy the whole week for a year, \$1.50 for six months, or ten cents per copy.

Sherman Bros. Express.

Will receive orders at the store of I. W. Case for upper Astoria or any other part of the city. Leave your orders on the slate and they will be promptly attended to.

Notice.

ASTORIA, Or., February 1, 1882. All persons indebted to the late Dr. M. D. Jennings will please settle the same with me without delay. B. B. FRANKLIN.

Masquerade Costumes for Rent.

A fine selection of San Francisco mask suits for ladies and gents will be on exhibition and for rent one week before the mask ball, at M. D. Kant's merchant tailoring establishment. Any special suit will be ordered by telegraph at the lowest rates.

By Universal Accord.

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS are the best of all purgatives for family use. They are the product of long, laborious, and successful chemical investigation, and their extensive use by physicians in their practice, and by all civilized nations, proves them the best and most effectual purgative pills that medical science can devise. In intrinsic value and curative powers no other pills can be compared with them, and every person, knowing their virtues, will employ them, when needed. They keep the system in perfect order, and maintain in healthy action the whole machinery of life. Mild, searching and effectual, they are especially adapted to the needs of the digestive apparatus, derangements of which they prevent and cure, if timely taken. They are the best and safest physic to employ for children and weakened constitutions, where a mild and effectual cathartic is required. FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS.

Get your legal blanks at THE ASTORIA OFFICE. A full line of over two hundred styles.

Let all citizens of Oregon who desire to reform their friends in the states of the condition and progress of this state, can have no more complete and comprehensive volume of facts to send them than by subscribing for this journal, and having us mail it weekly to their friends. We mail it as directed. For 500 in advance, we mail three copies of THE WEEKLY ASTORIAN one year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Highest cash price paid for Hides and Tallow.

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BLACKSMITHING,

At Capt. Rogers old stand, corner of Cass and Court Streets.

Ship and Cannery work, Horseshoeing. Wagons made and repaired. Good work guaranteed.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA, Vancouver Barracks, W. T.

Written proposals will be received by the undersigned, at Vancouver Barracks, W. T., until March 31st, 1882, for the right of exclusive sailing on the Fort Stevens (Point Adams) Military Reservation, during the next fishing season. The right to reject any or all bids, as may be deemed best, is reserved by the undersigned.

O. D. GREEN, Maj. and Asst. Genl., Brevet Brigadier General U. S. Army.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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GENUINE ENGLISH CUTLERY

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Rooms in Allen's building up stairs, corner of Cass and Chenamus streets.

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Has received a large invoice of

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