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(1)

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A CUBIC MILE

Professor Bernstein, an eminent naturalist in Berlin, Germany, gives the following graphic description of one German geographical cubic mile (one mile equals 10,126 yards) to illustrate the size of our earth, which contains only 2,662 such: "Imagine a box one mile each way—long, wide and deep—and let us try to fill it up. Berlin is handy, we take the city as if it were a toy and throw it into our box. We go to Potsdam, pick up all the villages on the way also, and put all in. The bottom is not covered yet. We take Paris, with all her columns, towers and churches, which helps little, so we must take London, also. Vienna must go in too, and St. Petersburg must follow next. All this stuff lies at the bottom. We begin now to take up all the cities, towns, villages, forts, farms, everything that human hands have built in Europe, and all the ships floating on the sea. It helps nothing! We must go to old and new worlds, throw in the pyramids of Egypt, and the railroads and factories of America, and everything else made by man in Asia, Africa, Australia and America—lo! our box is not half full yet! We will shake up the things a little to make them even, and as we are bound to fill the box, let us see if we cannot fill it with the people and lay them in like herrings. One row will require 12,000 and 5,300 rows make one layer of 60,000,000—just enough for North Americans. To make us feel more comfortable, we will put between each layer a bed of straw and leaves say thirty feet thick, which will take up all the straw and leaves in the world. Upon the Americans we will lay 3,000,000 of Australians and 450,000,000 of Asiatics, another layer. There are about 800,000,000 more Asiatics; thus we proceed until all the rest of mankind are in—1,400,000,000 in about thirty layers. The box is now about half full, and it would require about fifteen times that number of people to fill it. What shall we do? Animals, of course, are still left. Take the whole animal creation, yet it is not full; and all this is only one geographic cubic mile, of which the earth contains 2,662."

The Farmer's Burden.

The burdens resting upon the farmer were very forcibly and graphically described by Mr. Turner, of Kentucky, in a speech in the house of representatives. March 7, 1882, which were published by request. He said: Here is a statement showing a few of the burdens of the farmer: Under the tariff he rises in the morning, puts on his common flannel shirt taxed 95 per cent.; his coat taxed 57 per cent., shoes taxed 35 per cent., and hat taxed 92 per cent.; takes the water from a bucket taxed 35 per cent., and washes his face and hands in a tin bowl taxed 32 per cent., dries them on a cheap cotton towel taxed 45 per cent. He sits down to his humble meal, and eats from a plate taxed 50 per cent., with a knife and fork taxed 35 per cent., drinks his coffee with sugar taxed 68 per cent., seasons his food with salt taxed 59 per cent., pepper taxed 61 per cent. He looks around upon his wife and children, all taxed in the same way; takes a chew of tobacco taxed 199 per cent., or lights a cigar taxed 118 per cent. And, sir, even the sunlight from heaven that pours into his humble dwelling must come through window-glass taxed 59 per cent. And yet he thinks he lives in the freest government under heaven. Then he starts to

work, puts a bridle taxed 35 per cent. on his horse, and takes his horse—that has been shod, the nails used in shoeing being taxed 59 per cent., driven by a hammer taxed 20 per cent.—and hitches him to plow a taxed 45 per cent., with chains taxed 58 per cent.; and after the day's labor is closed and his family all gathered around, he reads a chapter from his Bible taxed 22 per cent. and kneels to God on a humble carpet taxed 51 per cent., and then he rests his wearied limbs on a sheet taxed 45 per cent. and covers himself with a blanket that has paid 104 per cent. Nor do these grasping manufacturers stop here, but even the broom with which his good wife sweeps the floor is taxed 36 per cent., and the cooking vessels used in preparing her husband's frugal meal are taxed 42 per cent., and the soda used to lighten his bread taxed 50 per cent. She sits down to her sewing with a needle taxed 25 per cent. and a spool of thread taxed 74 per cent. to make a calico dress taxed 58 per cent., or if she wishes to knit warm socks to protect her husband or children from the bitter cold, she uses yarn taxed 120 per cent. And thus daily and hourly must the hard earnings of the laborer go to satisfy the manufacturer, and add to his ill-gotten wealth.

Mexican Ideas of Trade.

An official of a Mexican railway illustrates the difficulty of transacting business with the natives by the following anecdote: He had occasion to advertise for a supply of railroad ties, and among those who responded was an enterprising Mexican. "How many can you furnish?" asked the official. "Excelencia can have as many as he will," replied the Mexican, with an expressive shrug. "Well, if we should want 500 ties, what would they cost us?" After some complicating figuring and much pantomime the Mexican announced that he could supply that number at the rate of fifty cents apiece. "And suppose we should want 5,000?" inquired the official. "Mio Madre! that is a large order," answered the native; "I must charge at least seventy-five cents apiece." He was then laughingly asked for what price he would deliver 500,000. After more pantomimic calculations he solemnly announced that on such a tremendous order as that he would have to charge at least \$2 50 apiece.

It may not be generally known that the governors of several states, in appointing the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving, were prevailed upon by a woman to select the same day. The lady who edited Godey's Lady's Book more than thirty years, Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, urged upon the governors of the several states to fix upon one day. Not satisfied with recommending year after year, concerted action through the columns of the magazine she edited, she addressed the governors of the states individually, and at the end of many years enjoyed the satisfaction that attends well directed and successful effort.

He was a pretty close man, without doubt. At breakfast he cut an egg in two and gave the new hired man one-half of it. The help ate it, and held out his plate for more. "What!" gasped the host; "want a half egg." "Of course I do," said the man. The boss stared blankly at him a moment, and then, pushing the half egg across the table, snappishly said: "Take it, eat it, and kill yourself!" The man ate it and is still alive.

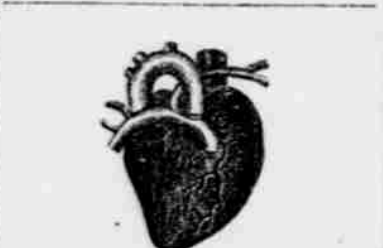


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