

The Daily Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1886.

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FLOATING GARDENS.

What an American Traveler saw in Mexico.

We visited the celebrated floating gardens. Regarding these renowned floating islands the reader can form a correct idea of them from the following lines written upon the subject by a distinguished English traveler:
 "When a tract of vegetation composed of reeds, water plants and bushes, interwoven and laced together, becomes so dense that it will bear a superstructure, strips of turf 20 to 30 yards long by two yards wide, are cut from some suitable firm place, floated to it down the canal and laid upon it; this is repeated several times, and thus an island is securely raised two or three feet above the level of the water; a little soil is spread over it, and it becomes a chinampa, or floating garden, on which Indian corn, vegetables and flowers are grown. The gardens vary in size from 100 to 200 feet in length, and from 20 to 100 in width, according to the nature of the vegetation which supports them."
 To secure these gardens in their proper places long willow poles are driven into the ground below, where they soon take root. The poles also throw out roots into the beds of the floating gardens, and so hold them steady.

We took a line of street cars and were landed near an old Spanish bridge, alongside of which we found a number of flat boats covered with awnings, with a seat on each side, covered with red calico. We held our noses as well as our breath. Upon leaving the city the canal is lined on both sides with beautiful trees of the species of the weeping willow, only that they are quite tall. The city gate or local custom-house is then passed. Here are to be seen many boats laden with lumber, firewood, vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc., waiting to pay toll. A large daily revenue is derived from this source by the government. The stalwart Indians swiftly pole the boat up the stream for about ten minutes more, and Santa Anita is reached. This is an old Indian village, which has undergone few or no changes for the last 300 years, if we except the public school for boys and girls and a small church. It is a favorite pleasure resort for the inhabitants of Mexico, especially during the summer months, and is rendered doubly attractive by the numerous chinampas or floating gardens found in its vicinity, on which are grown in remarkable abundance vegetables of all kinds and beautiful flowers, which are sold for a mere trifle.

The water in the canal was the color of dishwater. At Santa Anita we entered a narrow ditch just wide enough for our boat. The little boy who pulled the boat with a long pole worked manfully. We passed by a number of women washing clothes on the bank, and using a flat stone for a washboard. The gardens surprised and pleased us. Here was a small strip of land, say 20 feet wide by 100 feet deep, surrounded by water, producing the finest onions, another cabbage, and other radishes, another flowers, and so on, for at least a mile—a succession of the best cultivated gardens I ever saw. The Mexican Indians are the best gardeners in the world, aside from the Germans. Their methods are rude, but they know how to cultivate their garden patches. On our return we met boat loads of girls and boys singing and laughing as they slowly glided along. It was not a Venetian scene, but it showed that the brown-skinned, black-eyed Indian girl could dream and talk of love.—[Toledo Blade.

A Curious Electric Current
 An unusual and very interesting phenomenon occurred near Frankfort, D. T., recently, in the form of an atmospheric electric current of considerable power. As observed there, the current did not reach the ground, but varied in distance from four to six feet from it. It was first noticed by the peculiar effect it had on horses and cattle. A buzzing sound was heard from around the ears of animals—similar to that made by the swarming of bees—distinctly audible at a distance of several feet. Horses and mules threw their heads around in a very excited manner, acting as though their ears were full of flies. The snapping of electric sparks was also heard. Horses which kept their heads close to the ground were not troubled, as the current did not seem to reach down to them. Many teams became frantic and uncontrollable. One horse was so frightened that it fell, and tried to creep under its mate for protection. Oxen also behaved in a very unreasonable and spiteful manner. Farmers were frightened and hurried to the barn with all possible speed. Finally a brief thunder shower came up, and the flash of lightning afforded immediate relief. The current flowed from west to east, and was six or seven miles in width.—[Correspondence Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The other day a Newark physician, who suspected that some one was peeping through the keyhole of his office door, investigated with a syringe full of pepper sauce. He found his wife, half an hour afterward, with a bandage over her left optic. She told him that she had been cutting wood and a chip had hit her in the eye.—[Louisville Courier-Journal.

When the Angel Smiled.

A child found an Angel grieving, and being asked the cause of her woes the Angel replied:
 "The funeral bell calls me to the bedside of a youth. Vice had already found lodgment in his heart, and I weep because I cannot purify his soul before it enters the presence of its Maker."
 Again the child found the Angel sorrowing, and again she made the inquiry.
 "Death beckons me to the bedside of a man in his prime," replied the Angel, "and I fear for his soul's salvation. He had a heart of stone, and his deeds of kindness were never heard of in Heaven."
 The child walked forth once more, and again the Angel sat in tearful meditation.
 "And will you never smile?" softly asked the child as she came nearer.
 "This time I am called to the dying bed of an old man. He has lived three score years and ten, and the wickedness of the world may have often tempted him."

The child fell ill and walked forth no more. Fever-burned and pain-racked, she tossed on her bed for many days, but one evening as the summer sun was sinking away in the great blue ocean the fever went away and the pains came no more. Then the child heard the rustle of wings, and the angel stood beside her—not weeping and lamenting as before, but smiling and radiant.
 "Why are you here?" asked the child.
 "Because death will soon claim you."
 "But you wept for the youth, the man in his prime, and the old man?"
 "Aye! but a soul without sin will be carried in my arms to Heaven's gates this night, and the echoes of the rejoicing will be heard on earth."
 —[Detroit Free Press.

Mrs. Noah's Opinion.
 "And what does this Mr. Lively do for a living?" asked the old lady.
 "He's a newspaper man."
 "A what?"
 "A newspaper man. Goes around and finds out what's going on in the world, writes it down, and sends it to the newspaper."
 "Sakes alive! I should think a great, big, strong fellow like him might be in better business. A carpenter, or blacksmith, or something of that sort."
 —[Harper's Bazaar.

Indigestion Food
 In the stomach develops an acid which stings the upper part of the throat and palate, causing "heartburn." It also evolves a gas which produces "wind on the stomach," and a feeling and appearance of distention in that organ after eating. For both this acidity and swelling Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a much better remedy than alkali salts, lime hartshorn and carbonate of soda. A wine-glassful of the Bitters, after or before dinner, will be found to act as a reliable carminative or preventative. This fine specific for dyspepsia, both in its acute and chronic form, also prevents and cures malarial fever, constipation, liver complaint, kidney troubles, nervousness and debility. Persons who observe in themselves a decline of vigor should use this fine tonic without delay.

The Emperor William is 88 years of age, Bismarck is in his 70th year, Gladstone in his 78th and Queen Victoria in her 66th.

It doesn't follow that a patient will die because the doctors have "given him up," or that he will recover because they promise to "pull him through." It is never too late to try the great virtues of Parker's. Mr. Michael Guilfoyle, of Binghamton, N. Y., was cured of Rheumatism by it after ten years of unspeakable suffering. Mr. R. W. Mosher, druggist, of same city, certifies that he has sold over a thousand bottles of Parker's Tonic through its reputation for this and other cures.

The Blain organ's seem to be somewhat astonished when they reflect that Mr. Cleveland was never President before.

If a boiler is swelling, its well to use St. Jacobs Oil. The boiler will go.
 —Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy—a positive cure for Catarrh, Diphtheria and Canker Mouth. Sold by W. E. Dement.

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JOHN KOPP, - - - Proprietor.
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 Special attention given to supplying ships.

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 Atmore's Plum Pudding,
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HAVE NO EQUAL!
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 An additional trip will be made on Sunday of Each Week, leaving Portland at 9 o'clock Sunday Morning. Passengers by this route connect at Kalama for Sound ports.
 U. B. SCOTT, President.