

THREE DAYS IN ONE

This Queer Condition Lasts Half an Hour Every Day.

A FREAK OF CHANGING TIME.

When it is Noon on Monday in London, Tuesday Has Just Begun at Cape Deshnef, Siberia, but Sunday Has Not Yet Ended at Attu Island.

Three days can exist at the same time! It sounds impossible, but it is nevertheless a fact that when it is very late Sunday night at Attu Island it is Monday noon at London and Tuesday morning at Cape Deshnef, Siberia!

If one travels westward one loses a day in going round the world. If one travels eastward one gains a day. Could one travel at the rate of 15 degrees a day one would lose exactly one hour each day. In twenty-four days the circuit would be complete.

Inasmuch as sun and earth are constantly revolving and day merging into night, Sunday passing into Monday, etc., it is obvious that at one point on the world's surface an arbitrary line must be set, to the east of which is one day, to the west of which is the next day. This immediate "jump" of a day regulates the calendar for one circumnavigating the globe.

This "international date line," as it is called, passing north and south and dividing our world into two equal parts, is the one hundred and eightieth meridian and crosses the Pacific ocean—where, fortunately, there is very little land—taking a slight bulge outward to include Siberia, and one the other way to include Attu Island, which belongs to Alaska geographically. The map will show this. West of this line is Monday and east of it is Sunday.

When it is noon on Monday in London Tuesday has already begun at Cape Deshnef, Siberia, but Monday morning has not yet dawned at Attu Island. Nearly half an hour of Sunday still remains there. We are thus confronted with the paradox of three days coexisting at the same time.

We must remember that every day begins at midnight. If we could travel round the world at the same rate that it travels, beginning our flight at noon, it would be perpetually noon all the way round! Yet we should lose a day.

While at any particular point on the surface of the earth a day is twenty-four hours long, every day, as a matter of fact, lasts forty-eight hours—sometimes even longer. This seems another contradiction. Yet it can be explained.

Any given day, say Christmas, begins (as that day) immediately west of the 180th parallel. One hour later Christmas day begins 15 degrees west of the date line, two hours later 30 degrees west of the line and so on round the globe.

Those living just west of the date line would have enjoyed twelve hours of Christmas when it reached England, eighteen hours when it began in the United States and twenty-four hours (a whole day) when it began in Alaska. Already Christmas had existed twenty-four hours on this globe, but having just begun in western Alaska it will last there twenty-four hours longer.

We have just seen that each day lasts for forty-eight hours. As a matter of fact, a day lasts in some places more than forty-nine hours. This is because of the irregularity of the date line previously mentioned.

Let us begin an imaginary journey from Cape Deshnef, Siberia, at midnight. As midnight sweeps westward successive places see the beginning of the day. When the day begins in London it has been that same day at Cape Deshnef twelve hours and forty-five minutes.

When this same day arrives at Attu Island it has been twenty-five hours and twelve minutes since it began officially at Cape Deshnef. Since the day will then last twenty-four hours at Attu Island, before it is spent forty-nine hours and twelve minutes will have elapsed from the beginning of that day until the time it closes.

Thus three days can exist at one time, as before explained.—Hereward Carrington in New York World.

Poor Literary Pay.

Dr. Johnson is commonly reckoned as a successful author, yet he received for many of his compositions a comparatively small sum. His most profitable undertaking was the Dictionary, for which he asked £1,575 and received more. But the task occupied his time for seven years.—Pearson's Weekly.

Necessary Precaution.

"Life is just one long and rocky road."
"Of course. It is constructed that way purposely in order to keep nine-tenths of the human race from lying down and going to sleep."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Worker and Worked.

"So you worked your way through college? Your father must be proud of you."
"Not much! He's the man I worked."
—Boston Transcript.

Some Dreams.

Archie—Papa, what is meant by "the stuff dreams are made of?" Papa (absently)—Paint, powder, padding and false hair.—Judge.

Never add a burden of yesterday's trouble to that of tomorrow. The one is past; the other may never come.

THE NATION'S CAPITOL.

Main Dimensions of Our Beautiful Building in Washington.

Our national capitol at Washington is a beautiful and impressive building. It fronts east and stands on a plateau eighty-eight feet above the level of the Potomac. The entire length of the building from north to south is 751 feet 4 inches, and its greatest dimension from east to west is 350 feet. The area covered by the building is 153,112 square feet.

The dome of the original central building was constructed of wood, covered with copper. This was replaced in 1856 by the present structure of cast iron. It was completed in 1865. The entire weight of iron used is 8,909,200 pounds. The dome is crowned by a bronze statue of Freedom, which is 10 feet 6 inches high and weighs 14,985 pounds.

The height of the dome above the base line of the east front is 257 feet 5 inches. The height from the top of the balustrade of the building is 217 feet 11 inches. The greatest diameter at the base is 135 feet 5 inches. The rotunda is 97 feet 6 inches in diameter and its height from the floor to the top of the canopy is 180 feet 3 inches.

The senate chamber is 113 feet 3 inches in length by 83 feet 3 inches in width and 36 feet in height. The galleries will accommodate 1,000 persons. The representatives' hall is 139 feet in length by 83 feet in width and 36 feet in height.—Philadelphia Press.

PLANETS AND OUR WEATHER.

Despite Popular Belief There is No Connection Between Them.

That the planets and the moon have an effect upon the weather on the earth is a common belief. This belief is baseless, for all changes of weather depend upon differences in temperature.

Rainfall is due to the accumulation of water in the atmosphere. This water can accumulate only by being evaporated from the surface of the earth. And evaporation requires heat. Winds also are due to heat—greater warmth in one place than in another causing the air to rush toward where the warm air is rising.

If the moon and the planets could furnish heat they might affect the weather. But the heat they furnish is so infinitesimally small that it is not enough to change the temperature an appreciable fraction of a degree. The amount of heat they send us has actually been measured, but it needed the most delicately sensitive of instruments to perceive it.

Another proof that neither the planets nor the moon have any effect upon our weather is that careful comparisons of the weather with the positions of the planets and the moon show that there is no relation between them. If there were we should have the same weather when the planets were in the same position, which is not the case.—New York World.

Japan's Good Roads.

Japan is peculiarly well off in respect of good highways. The Tokaido, which runs from Kioto to Tokyo, is over 300 miles in length and, as the writer can testify, is admirably constructed. There is also the Nakasendo, which is even longer and passes through some of the finest scenery in the world. The reason of Japan's excellence in the matter of roads is that in the old days, not so very long ago, the daimios, or territorial nobles, had to journey to Tokyo once a year in order to pay their respects to the sovereign. They traveled by road, with great retinues, and if the highways were not in perfect condition, feudal justice was meted out to the delinquents.—London Spectator.

Good Company.

As friends and companions, as teachers and consoler, as recreators and answerers, books are always with us and always ready to respond to our wants. We can take them with us in our wanderings or gather them around us at our firesides. In the lonely wilderness and the crowded city their spirit will be with us, giving a meaning to the seemingly confused movements of humanity and peopling the desert with their own bright creations.—John Alfred Langford.

Rescued by Nature.

"Were you ever lost in the woods?"
"Almost."
"Who rescued you?"
"Nature."
"What do you mean?"
"The wind was blowing so hard that the girl didn't hear me when I proposed."—London Standard.

Smoked Ceilings.

Smoke from a lamp or gas often soils a ceiling in the one particular spot, while the rest remains beautifully white. It is useful to know that soiled ceilings caused by lamp and gas will be rendered less conspicuous if rubbed over with dry whiting.

Just What He Meant.

"Is the rain still keeping up?"
"Why, what d'ye mean? I haven't seen any rain."
"That's what I asked you, if it was still keeping up?"—Exchange.

Cheap.

"Mrs. Gabby just loves to indulge in cheap talk."
"Then let her try a little conversation on the line between New York and San Francisco."—New York Times.

Children of Today.

"If you don't give me a piece of your chocolate, Edith, I'll tell mamma that you are secretly engaged."—Filigende Blatter (Munich).

QUEEN MARY'S PANTRY.

A Dazzling Array of Gold and Silver Plate at Windsor.

Among the famous pantries of the world is that of Queen Mary at Windsor. This pantry comprises two rooms of no great dimensions, but it contains treasures in the form of plate and household articles that are valued at more than a million pounds sterling. Many of these possess historic interest. For example, there is a conspicuous exhibit in the form of a table of solid silver. This is nearly a yard in length, and its top, with an area of several square feet, bears the royal arms and exquisitely chased designs of the symbolic rose, thistle, harp, etc. Every reign since that of Elizabeth has contributed to this table a design of some sort.

The most imposing of all the dazzling array of plate is the so called gold dinner service for occasions of the highest state.

The walls of the two rooms of this royal pantry, the larger of which is 30 by 16 feet and the smaller a square of sixteen feet, are lined with cases of plate glass and mahogany, and in these and similar cases occupying the center of each room are some of the most extraordinary examples of art in gold, silver and precious stones that the world has ever seen.

There are tall, graceful epergnes, each of which would tax the strength of two men to lift; there are dishes in gold and silver any one of which would be too heavy to run away with; dainty toilet services in gold and silver, candelabra, communion services, flagons, vases, punch bowls, wine coolers, fountains and fonts, in silver, wrought in designs of great beauty by the most skillful of artists.—Washington Post.

BARBED WIRE IN WAR.

It is Used in Various Ways and is a Deadly Defense.

Barbed wire is today as necessary a part of an army's equipment as pontoons or trenching tools. In war barbed wire is used in various ways, but its main object is man stopping. It is interlaced with ground pegs in front of trenches for the purpose of tripping charging troops. It is strung across bridges and main roads to prevent the passage of cavalry, and it is used for fencing in camps to guard against rushing tactics on the part of the enemy.

Whenever possible barbed wire entanglements are hidden in long grass or in hedges, so that advancing troops will be trapped while the enemy rakes their lines with shot and shell. Barbed wire concealed in undergrowth is particularly deadly where cavalry is concerned, for the wire grips the horses' hoofs, causing them to fall on the spike strewn ground.

At times certain roads that it is desirable to have passable to townspeople have to be rendered impassable to an army. To accomplish this zigzag fences of barbed wire are built from one side of the road to the other until they form a maze. A peasant with time to spare can pass this barrier by laboriously threading his way through the narrow zigzag passage left open, but an army of several hundred men, especially if they have guns or are mounted, must halt to destroy the entanglement.

The barbed wire used for military purposes possesses long, jagged joints, which inflict most painful wounds on the body, especially when men and horses fall on to them headlong, as so often happens.—Philadelphia Press.

The Daffodil.

Originally the daffodil was known as the asphodel. From this to daffodil was the first verbal transition. The name gradually rounded itself into daffodilly—the form adopted by Milton in the beautiful line, "The daffodills fill their cups with tears." However, before Milton wrote, the flower had come to be generally known as the daffodil, and it figures under this name in John Parkinson's "Garden of All Sortes of Pleasant Flowers," published in 1629. Parkinson found more variety in the daffodil than in any other flower, nearly a hundred kinds being described in his work.—London Chronicle.

The Right Place.

"Really, Kate," said the young man, in considerable agitation, "I am very sorry I lost my head and kissed you. I didn't think what I was doing. It is a sort of temporary insanity in our family."

"Well, Roy," replied the young woman, "if you ever feel any more such attacks coming on you had better come right here where your infirmity is known, and we will take care of you."—New York Times.

The Difference.

Johnny—Father, what's the difference between cannibals and other folks? Father—Cannibals, my son, eat their enemies; other people generally go no further than to live on their friends and relatives.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Easily Seen.

"I don't believe that Jack's new automobile has been any pleasure to him."

"Why do you think that?"
"Well, he hasn't been arrested once since he's been running it."—Baltimore American.

Cause of the Effect.

The table groaned.
It was no wonder.
For the food upon it was not only heavy, but indigestible as well.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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