

WONDROUS MARVELS OF NATURE

Sequoia Trees in Calaveras Grove, California, With Trip Across Country to Sea.

One of the most interesting sights in California for the nature lover is Calaveras grove, famous for the grandeur and age of its trees. The grove is privately owned and is in a small valley near the head waters of the San Antonio, at an elevation of 4,702 feet. In the grove are ten trees, each 30 feet in diameter and more than seventy trees between 15 and 30 feet in diameter. One of the trees, now down, "the mother of the forest," must have been 100 feet high and 40 feet in diameter, according to a New York Times writer. In 1853 one of the largest trees, 92 feet in circumference and over 300 feet high, was cut down. Five men worked 25 days felling it, using large axes. The stump of this tree has been smoothed off and now accommodates 32 dancers. In 1858 a newspaper, the Big Tree Bulletin, was printed near the stump. A section of the tree 25 feet in diameter and 20 feet long, beyond lies the immense trunk which fell, measuring 302 feet from the base to the extremity. Upon this was placed a barroom and tenpin alley, reaching along its upper surface for a distance of 81 feet, affording ample space for two alley beds side by side.

TEXAS ONCE SISTER NATION

Interesting to Recall Time When the Great State Was an Independent Republic.

When Washington, capital of the United States, was little more than a village of mud streets between 1836 and 1846, says a bulletin of the National Geographical society, Austin was a similar world capital, the seat of government of the independent republic of Texas, which for ten years, immediately after independence had been won from Mexico, existed as the sister-nation of the United States. Ministers and special envoys were accredited to the republic by the United States, and half a dozen or more of the leading nations of Europe, and the arms and amenities of world diplomacy were carried out punctiliously to the little capital. Austin preserves a memory of the republic to enter the United States in the name of its principal street, Congress avenue. Along this thoroughfare were situated the congressional halls of the nation. At the end of this avenue, on the crest of a commanding hill, is the present state capitol. Its architecture, like that of any other state capitols, is largely borrowed from the capitol at Washington, and it is almost as extensive, being the largest of the forty-eight statehouses.

What Poetry Is Not.

Attitudes towards poetry are as various as its kinds. And the reader need not have thought over these attitudes when he considered the problem of creating an audience or becoming part of one, says Jeanette Marks of the North American Review. Some excellent people, not ill-educated either, look upon poetry as one of the elements of life, with a little superstition. Others think poetry is sugar-water. It is, sometimes. So are some people, and there are no federal laws for putting them out of the way. These men and women regard poetry as sentimental nonsense. In that it might be said certain types of poetry are like any cross-section of human nature to be found anywhere. The most damaging of all attitudes is that which holds that poetry is inimical to the facts of life and of science. Poetry is. The greatest poetry, speaking the common speech of common human experience and love for nature, never is.

Sulphur Rains.

Strange stories are sometimes told of the wonderful things that have taken place in rainstorms. Occasionally it rains, again it is splashes of blood, or some mineral such as sulphur. Frequently there is a foundation for these stories, and investigation furnishes an explanation of the phenomena. At Bordeaux for many years, in April and May, so-called "rains of sulphur" have been noticed, when the earth becomes spotted with what seem to be patches of sulphur brought down by the rain. This phenomenon was not long ago the subject of a scientific investigation, and it was shown that the supposed sulphur was really the yellow pollen of a species of pine, large quantities of which exist south and southwest of Bordeaux. The rains referred to occur at the time of the flowering of the pines, the pollen of which is carried to a great height in the air.

Odd Displays of Politeness.

The forms of courtesy and civility in the Eastern countries have always been of the most extravagant nature. Abraham bowed himself to the ground to show his respect to strangers. So much time was taken up with polite salutation it is no wonder that when Elshah sent his servant in great haste on an errand he warned him, "If thou meet any man salute him not, and if any man salute thee answer him not again," there being no time to waste in ceremony. The Arab of today begins to bow as soon as he perceives a friend in the distance, inquires over and over again regarding the health of the family, kisses his own hand, kisses his friend's hand and gives thanks to Allah that they are once more permitted to meet.

FEARED BAD LUCK PERIODS

Aztecs Believed That Evil Fates Ruled World During the Last Five Days of Year.

The Aztec calendar consisted of a year of 18 months of 20 days each, and a closing period of five days, into which it was believed all the bad luck of the year was crowded. No one started upon a journey during these five days, for fear some misfortune would befall him; no woodcutter ventured into the forest to hew wood during this period, lest wild beasts should devour him; the houses were left unwept; the housewives made no pottery vessels; children so unfortunate as to be born on one of these five days were by that very fact predestined to misfortune for the rest of their lives. The next, and among the Aztecs the only time period higher than the year, was the xihuitmolpia, or cycle of 52 years. It was held that at the close of one of these periods would some day come the destruction of the world. On the last night of the xihuitmolpia fires were extinguished on the hearths, and the inhabitants of Tenochtitlan (City of Mexico) moved out of the city and took up positions on the surrounding hills, waiting feverishly either for the destruction of the world or, in the event of sunrise, the dawn of another xihuitmolpia. Once the sun had arisen, however, great were the rejoicings. Fires were rekindled and the crisis was over for another 52 years.

NONE CAN EXPLAIN "AURORA"

Northern Lights Said to Be Due to Passage of Electricity Through the Air.

The aurora borealis (or northern lights) is occasionally seen in the north temperate zone and frequently in the polar regions. It is said to be due to the passage of electricity through the rarefied air of the arctic zone. The name "aurora borealis" was first used by Cassendi, who, in 1621, observed one in France, and wrote a description of it. The "aurora" is periodic in its manifestations, the finest displays being at intervals of 60 years, and less marked ones at intervals of 10 or 11 years. It is also asserted that these greater and lesser displays correspond with the increase and decrease of spots on the sun. The phenomenon is generally manifested in the following way: A dim light appears on the horizon shortly after twilight, and gradually assumes the shape of an arch, having a pale yellow color, with its concave side turned earthward. From this arch streams of light shoot forth, passing from yellow to green and then to brilliant violet. The name aurora australis (or southern lights) is applied to a similar phenomenon visible in the vicinity of the South pole.

When Joking Is Dangerous.

Husbands should be careful how they spring jokes at the table. And wives should be alert on guard against the consequences of a surprise that amounts to a shock in certain cases—such as that at New York recently, for instance. Men who toss off jokes at the table and cause their wives to laugh so suddenly that they pull a piece of meat into the trachea and choke to death have a grave responsibility. Of course, the habitual joker who gets a fresh stock every week runs no such risks. His wife is immune to laughter at his "funny cracks," and stands in no danger. But fellows who are pleasant only once in a long time, and who "pull a joke" perhaps twice in a lifetime, should time their efforts so that their wives have not a mouthful of meat handy to pull into their windpipes. For that is not what windpipes are for, and they resent intrusion of solids.—Exchange.

Joke on Famous Composer.

A certain newly rich person with more money than culture called on M. Massenet and said that he had seen his photograph in a paper and had read that he was "a clever pianist." Would M. Massenet play a few pieces at a little party? He would be well paid of course! The world-famous musician was greatly amused. "Certainly!" he replied. "What night?" "Thursday." "Thursday? What a pity! I am engaged on Thursday. But I can give the address of a friend—an excellent pianist, who can play all the modern dances beautifully." So saying, Massenet gave the unfortunate newly rich the address of—Saint-Saens! Obviously the victim of Massenet's joke had never heard of Saint-Saens, for he called on the distinguished composer and was promptly kicked out. Saint-Saens brooded over the insult for some hours before he saw the joke.

Belong in High Places.

As with the evergreens so it is with all trees that dare the heights. Some, like the hemlocks, remain far below. The little gray birches stop in the pastures of the foothills. The high, clear air of the range is not for them. The yellow birches fare on to the lower slopes of the high hills. There they quit; but the canoe birches go on. The great trees of the lower reaches of the bowlder path are these, their paper-white bark showing through all dark woods of the north. Then climb valiantly. It is as if the trees were thrilled with that eager desire to reach the summit which possesses all mountaineers.

STORE FUTURE FOOD SUPPLY

Woodpeckers Are Wise Birds and Never Take the Chance of Finding Larder Bare.

California woodpeckers often pass much of their idle time in the light occupation of filling holes in tree trunks with pebbles. When they are really industrious, however, they manufacture these symmetrical holes and fill them snugly with acorns. Often they allow these acorns to remain in cold storage for several months, and then, when they need extra rations, they know where a supply can readily be found. When oaks and pines grow side by side, the birds usually favor the pines as storage trees. This is probably because it is only on such trees that the outer bark presents a suitable surface for drilling the holes. No living oak trees are used, but dead oaks, from which the bark has fallen, are chosen. The vast number of such holes that a single tree trunk can contain may be inferred from the fact that in 50 feet of a fallen pine tree in the San Jacinto mountains of California it was estimated that there were 31,900 holes. Almost without exception, the acorns are inserted into the holes. The birds take great pains to hammer them in securely. They like not only the acorns, but the grubs that are often contained in them. As for the pebbles, they must make a specialty of them when acorns are not in the market—just to keep themselves in training for handling (or should one say "billng") the new crop.—St. Nicholas.

BOOKS READ BY TRAVELERS

Much Difference in Choice Displayed by First and Second-Class Ocean Voyagers.

The writer of the daily literary causerie in the New York Evening Post has had the curiosity to explore the collections of books provided by a steamship for the use of her passengers. He has always had the theory, he says, that in these large and luxurious vessels the second-class library would be likely to be more in line with his own tastes than the first-class library, and his visit to the boat has confirmed this supposition. In the second class, for instance, there were more Stevensons—including "Treasure Island," which was not in the first-class collection. He noticed also in the second-class, but not in the first, some Charlotte Bronte, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Oliver Wendell Holmes. In reply to the question what kind of books the readers asked for most, the library steward in the first class answered without hesitation: "Ninety per cent want detective stories." The library steward in the second class, on the other hand, said that, among the passengers he had to do with, love stories were most in demand.

The Wicked Judas.

During a visit he paid to Oberammergau several years ago the late Mr. Andrew D. White, the American diplomat, made the acquaintance of the Judas, whom he described as by far the best actor in the whole performance. Mr. White remarked to him that he ought to have a double salary, as the Judas had in the miracle plays of the Middle Ages, when this was thought due to him as compensation for the injury done to his character by his taking that part. At this the Oberammergau Judas smiled pleasantly, and replied: "No; I am content to share equally with the others. But the same feeling toward the Judas still exists." He then told Mr. White the following story. A few weeks before, while he was working at his carving bench, the door of his workshop opened and a peasant woman from the mountains came in, stood still, and gazed at him intently. On his asking her what she wanted she said: "I saw you in the play yesterday. I wished to look at you again. You look so like my husband. He is dead. He, too, was a very bad man!"—Manchester Guardian.

One Better.

The South Side Political, Social and Athletic club had split into two factions regarding its choice for its next president and the meeting hall was jammed when election night came round. As the chairman started to call the gathering to order, the door-keeper stopped a member who was entering, perspiring under the weight of a canvas sack slung over his shoulder. "Cassidy," he demanded, "what have ye there?" "Bricks," replied Cassidy with some belligerence. "Cassidy, there'll be no brick throwing in the night. Words and ballots will be all." "D'ye think so?" said Cassidy with skepticism. "Anyways, the bricks come in, so if they start anythin' we can go them wan better. 'Tis me own ears that heard a guy say, 'There'll be a lot of mud slingin' the night.'"—The American Legion Weekly.

"Little Corporal"

"Little Corporal" was the title familiarly bestowed upon Napoleon Bonaparte by his admiring soldiers after the Battle of Lodi (1796), in allusion to his small stature, youthful appearance and surpassing bravery. Islands of the Madeira. There are fifty-two islands in the Madeira river between the falls of Santo Antonio and its junction with the Amazon. Many of them are nine or ten miles in length. The most important one is Araras, which is populated and covered with rubber trees.

MANY ARE LIKE OLD SIWASH

In Fact, the Majority of Mankind Would Find Loafing to Be an "Awful Grind."

"I've farmed for 37 years," said Siwash Siltenborn, "and spent my time at grooming steers and coaxing tarty corn. I'm cullused now on hoof and hand and lame in back and mind; I'm weary of my square of land and this eternal grind. It's harrow, harness, haul and hitch, it's hammer, hoe and hay; it's plow, and pull, and pack and pitch, it's pall, and plod, and pray! I've earned my time on Easy street, my day on beds of down, so soon I'll turn my weary feet toward softer times in town!" So Siwash sold his ancient land, its stable, stock and sod, and banked in cash. I understand, a fair and tempting wad. He settled in a cozy shack with not a tap to do, except to sally forth and back, and smoke a pipe or two. He gets his meal at ten o'clock, at one, and three, and five, and drones about the price of stock, of honey in the hive. He stops in at the blacksmith shop, the lumber yard and store, to tell the village clerk, or cop, about the days of yore! "That was the life!" he tells them all. "Twas busy, full and free; 'twas pep and go both spring and fall—it was the life for me! There's nothing like the farm, I swear, the pumpkins and the pens, the kicking colts and brindle mares, the meadows and the hens! Search this old globe from head to heel no better job you'll find—but this old aimless loafing deal is sure an awful grind!"—J. E. Tuft, in Farm Life.

PREPARING TEA IN JAPAN

Process is Long and Complicated, and Involves the Employment of Much Labor.

As soon as possible after being picked, the tea leaves are placed on a round tray, with a brass wire bottom, over boiling water. This process of steaming, which is completed in half a minute, brings the natural oil to the surface. The next and principal operation is firing, which is done on a wooden frame, with thick Japanese paper stretched across it, charcoal well covered with ashes being the fuel employed. This first firing is done at a temperature of about 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Meanwhile the leaf is manipulated for hours by men who roll it into balls with the palms of their hands. The final result is obtained when each leaf becomes separately twisted, and changes color to a dark olive green. Two more firings at a lower temperature follow, after which the leaf is allowed to dry until it becomes quite brittle. When the process is complete the tea is kept strictly dry, as moisture destroys its aroma. Tea so made is the genuine Japan tea, or what is commonly known in America as "green tea."—East and West.

Quakerism in Maryland.

The spread of Quakerism in Maryland was characteristic of the quiet zeal with which the promotion of the faith was made. Maryland's missionary minister of the sect was a woman, Elizabeth Harris, who visited Virginia in 1656 and returned to London in the following year after touring the Chesapeake shore. One of her converts, Robert Clarkson, distributed a shipment of books concerning the doctrines of the Friends among his neighbors, and by 1672 there were numerous residents of the Chesapeake shore who knew the principles of the Friends. George Fox, visiting Maryland that year, noted that at a meeting on the Eastern Shore there were so many boats passing upon the river "that it was almost like the Thames."

Ornamental Headgear.

The subarctic people from the frozen tundra wear a snugly fitting bonnet with earlaps, designed to exclude the cold as well as to conserve the heat. Although the utilitarian side is the essential feature, and each of the twenty or more little pieces used in the construction of the bonnet are necessary to make the shape, the people who wear this headgear have adapted ornamentation to its limitations. Fur is the basic material, but there are effective inserts of different colored strips of leather, some of which are woven with leather of a contrasting shade. In introducing bright colors they depend almost entirely on quill work, although occasionally bits of trade cloth are used.

Odd and Interesting.

Geophagists, or dirt-eaters are called, have been known from the earliest times. Some soils in Russia, India and other countries have always been sought by the natives for their health-giving qualities, and in a certain district in India there is a black earth that is used as a sweetmeat mixed with small quantities of grass and leaves. The difference between the old straight and the newer crinkly hair-pin made a fortune for the man who noticed that his wife shed her hairpins as she walked about the house.

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OREGON BREVITIES

The Mountain States Power company is rushing the construction of its new high-power line between Marshfield and Powers and hopes to have it completed within 40 days. Approximately 3500 tons of pears will be handled by Salem packers this year, according to announcement. This year's pack probably will exceed last season's receipts by more than 500 tons. Hop growers of Harrisburg have discovered evidences of the red spider in their hop fields. The bugs increase rapidly and work their damages by sapping the vine. They are so small that it is difficult to see them with the naked eye. The St. Louis, Bellingham and St. Nicholas, purse seine boats, were found fishing within the three-mile limit at the mouth of the Columbia and were later taken into custody by two deputies aboard the patrol boat Phoenix of the Oregon game commission. Expenditures for road construction and maintenance take the bulk of the Umatilla county tax money, according to figures released from the office of the Umatilla county clerk. The expenditures for the first six months of 1922 were \$275,988.54, of which the road money totalled \$204,216.87. A. N. Farmer, representing the national board of directors of the Yeoman lodge, inspected a number of proposed sites near Salem for the children's home to be established by the order. The proposed home will cost \$5,000,000 and will be located somewhere on the Pacific coast. A recount of votes will be made to determine finally who has obtained the republican nomination for state senator from the joint district of Multnomah, Clackamas and Columbia counties. The nomination of W. J. H. Clark, announced winner on official returns is being contested by W. W. Banks. The first kiln of brick to be made in Prineville for more than 20 years was fired Monday morning by W. F. Hardin, recently of Goldendale, Wash., who returned a month ago to help in the rebuilding of the town for which he burned brick more than a score of years ago. The present kiln has a total of 75,000 brick. Three dozen huge bullfrogs have been released in the Long Tom river, west of Eugene, by local sportsmen, at the request of Captain A. E. Burghdoff, state game warden, in hopes that they will multiply and that in future years they may be caught for food. The game commission is attempting to propagate these frogs in different parts of the state. There were three fatalities due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending July 20, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victims were: Terry J. Willard, logger, Klamath Falls; James Fenton, contractor, John Day, and J. H. McCarty, laborer, Vancouver, Wash. A total of 513 accidents were reported. Governor Olcott won the first round in the election contest proceedings filed on behalf of Charles Hall when Judges G. G. Bingham and Percy Kelly, sitting en banc in the Marion county circuit court, allowed a motion prepared by Governor Olcott's attorneys to strike from Mr. Hall's complaint the allegation that voters who had previously registered have no legal right to change their party affiliations through re-registration at the polls on primary election day.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned executors of the estate of August Quasdorf, deceased, have filed their final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County, and that Monday the 21st day of August, 1922, at the hour of 10 A. M. thereof, at the court room of the said County Court in the city of Dallas, Oregon, has been appointed by said court as the time and place for the hearing of objections to the said final account and the settlement thereof. LETTICIA QUASDORF H. HIRSCHBERG Executors of the estate of August Quasdorf, deceased. B. F. Swope, attorney.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned, by order of the County Court of Polk County, Oregon has been appointed Administrator of the Estate of Louisa J. Bezanson, deceased, and has qualified. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present them with proper vouchers within six months from the date of this notice to the said Administrator at Independence, Oregon, in said County of Polk. Dated and first published June 30th 1922. W. B. CUTHBERT Administrator of the estate of Louisa J. Bezanson, Deceased. D. E. Fletcher, Attorney for the estate

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