IN NUTTING TIME.

Boys that has to go to school,
  En study hard all day,
Is mos' unlucky fellers,
  Is all I have to say;
Nuts a hangin' on the trees,
  Er layin' on the groun'
Ain't no use to no one
  Ef there ain't no boys aroun'.

Grampa says it's 'nawful shame
  Fer things to go to waste,
En specially ef they're things like nuts,
  Jes to a feller's taste.
En lots o' boys they live in town
  En don' know what they miss—
'Nless they got folks on a farm—
  In time o' year like this.

Course I don' allus live out here,
  My Pa he lives in town,
But you can't keep me goin' to school
  When nuttin' time comes roun';
En Grampa says that that's jes' right,
  It suits him to a T,
Cause nuts were jes' invented
  Fer little chaps like me.

En then at night, you bet it's fun,
  A settin' on the floor,
A eatin' till you almos' bust,
  En still a-wantin' more;
En Gramma sets there knittin',
  En Grampa smokes his pipe—
It's jolly in the country
  When hickernuts is ripe.

En sometimes we go huntin' coons—
  Say, that's the best thing yet,
Though huntin's mostly all there is,
  'Tain't many coons we get;
But then we stay out mos' all night,
  En Uncle Ben, he's beat,
When he cuts down a great big tree
  En then don' get no meat.

All the same, it's heaps o' fun
  A-chasin' roun' all day,
Gatherin' nuts out in the woods,
  En puttin' em away;
En then they las' all winter,
  That's jes' when they're fine—
I wisht every little feller
  Had a Grampa same as mine.
—Lynn C. Doyle.

SHEARS OF HEAVY WEIGHT.

Forty-Pound Implement Used in Cloth Factories Long Ago.

A Kansas City man is the proud possessor of a pair of shears weighing forty pounds. Cumbersome and rudely made as they appear, they once held a keen edge and were used in the delicate work of cutting nap from cloth. The shears are owned by Percy W. Smith, who bought them of Jenkins Palmer, a blacksmith living at Chenango Falls, N. Y. Mr. Palmer saw the cropping machine used in the 30's, and years afterward bought it as old iron. Seventy years ago practically all cloth was homespun, and after the weaving had a coarse nap, which was moistened and

NAP SHEARS SEVENTY YEARS AGO.

pressed and allowed to remain for the women's clothing, but which was trimmed off for the men. The operation of cropping, therefore, became quite a handicraft, and to use scissors weighing forty pounds and leave a uniform and well-cleaned surface required considerable dexterity. The man who was to do the cropping seated himself in a chair before a wide board and a broad strap passed around his neck assisted in holding the shears steady. The cloth was brushed with teasels (a burr about as large around and half as large as a corncob) to loosen any knots or threads, and then was sheared, a second man pulling the cloth steadily along the board. The present method is to burn the nap, which leaves an absolutely even surface.

AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT.

It Occurred to a Young Woman Who Gave a Penny to Charity.

Here's an incident that happened to a young woman in church recently and for the benefit of any impertinent reader who may suggest that she's seen the story before, it may be remarked that history repeats itself.

The young woman, then, when she looked in her pocketbook for some change just before starting out to service, found that she had therein only a $5 note and a bright new penny. Now the $5 she could not afford to put in the plate, and the penny was, of course, ridiculously inadequate.

The young woman pondered, but it was five minutes to 11, and pondering wouldn't change that bill to 25-cent pieces, so she just pocketed her pride and the penny and scurried along. All during the prayers, however, she felt distinctly ashamed of herself, says the Baltimore News. She hadn't put a lone penny in the collection plate since she was a child and she doubted her ability to deposit it now so that nobody would see it, but the warden and so that he would think it was a $5 gold piece.

Finally, when the collection time came and the plate approached, the girl got more and more nervous. She clutched the small piece of money frantically and selected with her eye the exact spot on the salver that she would tuck it, where it would be covered with an envelope.

But when she tried to put her plan into execution the coin slipped, and down it went among the kneeling cushions. Down also went the dignified and white-haired warden, disregarding the girl's excited "Don't—oh! please don't!"

Well, he found it and soberly placed it with the crisp notes on the plate, and then he went on, and the disgraced maid, with burning cheeks, crept home as soon as she could, only to find a 25-cent piece tucked snugly away in a compartment of her purse, where it had been hiding all the time.

HIS NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

How This Druggist Preached a Sermon to No Avail.

A melancholy looking young woman rushed into a drug store yesterday. Her hair was disheveled, her eyes red from weeping, she had a wet handkerchief in one hand and her fur boa hung from the other. That she was in a fine state of excitement was plainly evident, says the Baltimore News.

"I want some prussic acid," she said, breathlessly. "Give me a small quantity just as quickly as you can. Not too small, though. Oh, do hurry!"

"Have you a prescription?" asked the druggist.

"Of course, I haven't a prescription or I would have given it to you long ago," rejoined the young woman crisply.

"I can't let you have the prussic acid then," said the man behind the counter, apologetically. "You know, it's a poison, and the law——"

"Bother the law," interrupted the girl, disrespectfully. "Then give me chloroform, or—or—corrosive sublimate, or paris green, or something of that sort, for I cannot stand this any longer." And two tears trickled down her cheeks.

The face of the man behind the counter blanched. "I can't give you any of those things without a prescription," he said, firmly. "Besides, circumstances may not be as bad as you think. Cheer up—cherries are ripe. It's always darkest before the dawn and it's a wicked thing to try to shirk trouble. Just clench your teeth and"—but the young woman who had listened with amazement to these opening sentences now laughed and cried at the same time.

"Oh, I'm not going to commit suicide," she said, hysterically. "I want to kill my dog. He was run over by the cars and he's suffering dreadfully. You can hear his howls a block. If you don't believe me send one of your clerks with me to give the poison, but please hurry and do whatever you are going to do."

So a nice young man was forthwith dispatched with the young woman to administer the chloroform to the animal, while the druggist drew a long breath and wiped his face.

"Gracious, but that might have been an awful tragedy," he said.

They Cause Many Deaths.

A leading life insurance company has recently published its monthly records, covering a period of fifty years. Notwithstanding the utmost care is observed in securing only good risks, free from organic diseases, the cause of death in the insured and uninsured is probably much alike. Out of 44,963 deaths a trifle over one-eighth (5,585) were from tuberculosis. Almost the same number (5,542) came from apoplexy, softening of the brain and paralysis, which are kindred maladies, if not practically identical. To disorder of the heart are credited 4,839 deaths (one-ninth); to the digestive apparatus, 4,584 (one-tenth); pneumonia, (4,062) one-eleventh); violent causes, 3,337; Bright's diease, 2,997; typhoid fever, 1,712; nervous diseases, not specified, 2,306; ill-defined and obscure cases, 1,769; and other recognized maladies, 5,450.

When deaths from the causes just enumerated are divided into the three periods, the age of 45 and under, from 45 to 60 and above 60, some striking facts are brought out. Among the insured 50 per cent. of the deaths from violence (accidental or intentional assault), 59 per cent of those from tuberculosis and 68 per cent of the total typhoid cases, occur in the first period. On the other hand, 47 per cent of the mortality from Bright's disease, 55 per cent from apoplexy and paralysis, and 56 per cent from heart disease occur after the age of 60. Mischief from the digestive apparatus is fairly well distributed, 30 per cent of the deaths occurring in the first period, 38 per cent in the second and 32 per cent in the third.—Medical Times.

Hauptmann and His Hobby.

Gerhard Hauptmann, the famous German playwright and author, must have been born under a lucky star. In the first place, while young he inherited a large fortune; then, and still while young, he married a wealthy woman. Of late years his income has been largely increased by the profits from his plays. He has a hobby that his means allow him to gratify. That hobby is the building of villas. He began by building one in Silesia; a second he erected in the vicinity of Berlin; the next he planted in the Riesengebirge. He is at present building a fourth near Dresden. —Philadelphia Telegraph.

Sheep Ranches for South.

The discovery that sheep flourish in Patagonia and Terra del Fuego has led to the stocking of enormous and very profitable ranches.

When a man is in love with a woman he tells her so; when a woman is in love with a man, she keeps it from him so long that he becomes doubtful, and sometimes disgusted that his attentions receive so little return.

Things are seldom what they seem; imagination is the rule of the world.

GREAT DAM MADE OF SODA.

One of the Most Wonderful Natural Freaks in a Montana Canyon.

Probably few people ever heard of a soda dam, but such a freak of nature really exists in an unfrequented part of the great West. A. O. Wright of the Indian service, who travels extensively through that section of the country west of the Missouri River, in speaking of strange things he has encountered in his tours alluded to this soda dam. Asked what he meant by a soda dam, he said:

"In Box canyon, just above the hot springs of the Jemez River, Arizona, is a dam extending from one wall of the gorge to the other. This dam is nothing more or less than a massive wall of pure soda, rising to a height of 100 feet, and probably 600 feet from end to end. Nature's forces, of course, started their work of construction away back in the dim and distant past, when deposits of soda contained in the water thrown off by the springs were made at the base of what has since developed into one of the natural wonders of the West. Those deposits must have been made with remarkable rapidity.

"Just ten years ago the Jemez River rose to an unprecented height, and under the abnormal pressure of the torrent a lower section of the dam gave way, leaving a breach in the wall of soda about twenty feet high. When the water subsided the lake formed by the dam was of course destroyed, leaving the upper eighty feet of the dam high and dry.

"I passed through that section of Arizona this last summer and purposely visited the soda dam. I was most astonished to see that the twenty-foot breach had been nearly filled in. The soda from the springs had made fresh deposits and gradually patched up the hole made in 1890. At the present rate the breach will be entirely closed in another year and the lake will resume its former proportions.

"Previous to the break in the dam the lake above was fully 600 feet wide and extended up the canyon for at least three-quarters of a mile. Scientists who have examined the dam are of the opinion that it will never attain a height much above 100 feet, for the deposits in the water seem to sink in that great depth before the brink is reached. As they fall, however, they will tend to strengthen the base of the dam and will gradually decrease the depth of the lake at its lower end."—Washington Star.

QUEER STORIES

The crust of earth under Japan must be comparatively thin, judging by the number of earthquake shocks in that country. They average over five hundred a year.

Philadelphia was the largest of American cities at the time the first census was taken, 110 years ago, and New York was second, Boston was then third, Charleston fourth and Baltimore fifth.

The typhoon of the Orient is an own sister of the West India cyclone. It is generally in low altitudes, late in the summer or early in the autumn, at the western edge of the Pacific, not far from the Philippines. It begins its career by moving westward, but in time returns to the coast of China and Japan.

The Charter Oak is in Hartford, Conn., and concealed the charter of the colony for several years from 1687. Washington took command of the army under an elm tree in Cambridge. The treaty elm, under which William Penn signed the famous treaty with the Indians in 1682, was upon the banks of the Delaware. It died in 1829.

The largest hothouses in the country devoted exclusively to the cultivation of orchids are in New Jersey. Four hundred varieties may be found there from Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, the principal supply sources; also from other tropical and sub-tropical countries, including one from the Philippines, which has taken kindly to American soil.

Properties of Sulphate of Quinine.

Sulphate of quinine has some very curious properties, one of them being its power to impress an image of itself on a sheet of sensitive paper in the dark. If a design be drawn on a sheet of paper with sulphate of quinine, exposed for a few minutes to the sun, then placed on a sheet of sensitive paper, put in a book and left for a few hours, a perfect image of the drawing will be found impressed on the sheet of paper. Writing may be copied on sensitive paper in this way, but it must be reversed, or the writing will be reversed on the sensitive paper.

Remains of Ancient Man.

In some grottoes in Algeria French explorers recently discovered stone implements mingled with the remains of extinct animals belonging to quarternary times. Further explorations indicate that during the age when the grottoes were inhabited the coast of Algeria had a configuration different from that of to-day. Among the animals associated with the ancient human inhabitants of Algeria were the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus and various species of ruminants.

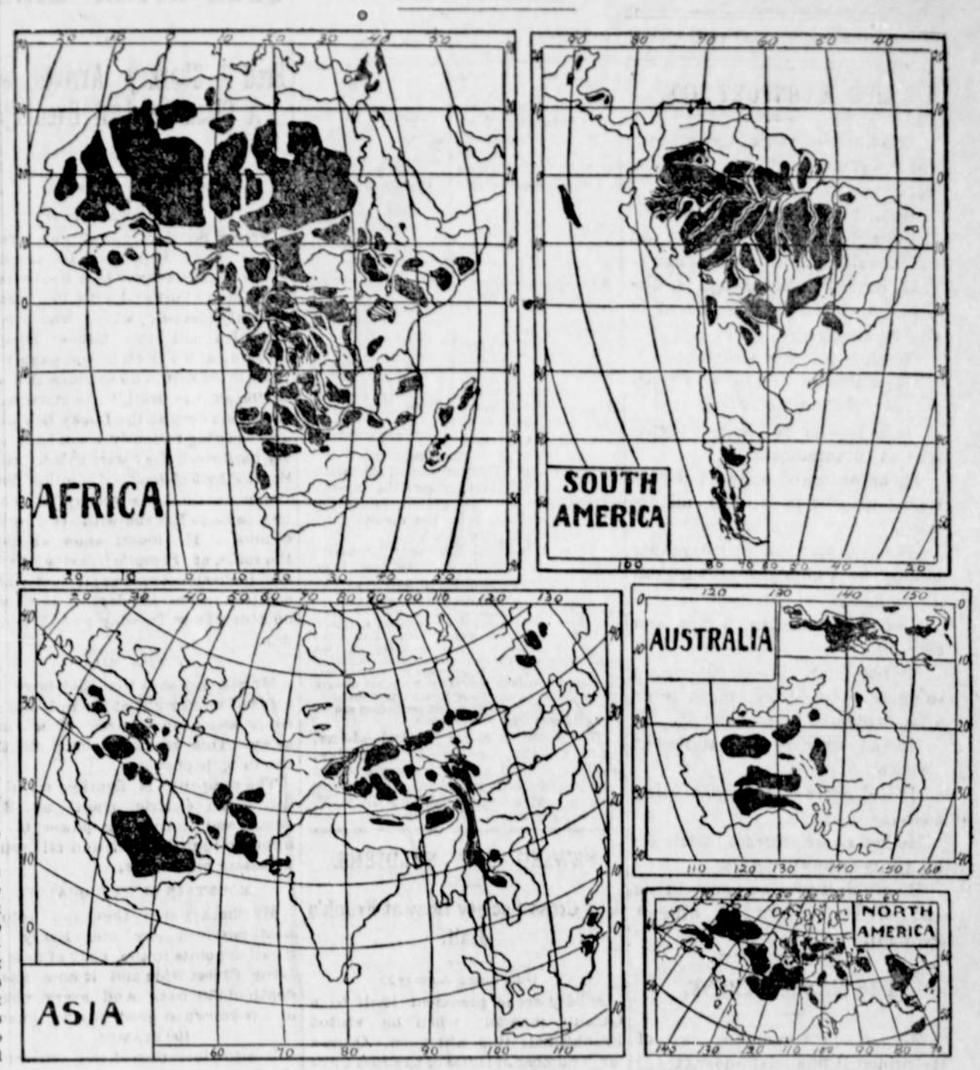
Odd Story of Remenyi.

When Remenyi, the late famous violinist, was a young man he was engaged by a parvenu to play at a dinner, the agreement being that he was to furnish music from 8 until 11 o'clock. He opened the program with an andante movement from Mozart, a composition commencing very slow and soft. The host turned to his guests, and in a petulant tone said: "That's just like those musicians. I hired him by the hour, and see how slowly he plays."

Comforting Poor Papa.

A well-known business man whose head is bare, yet who wears a luxuriant growth of whiskers, was being railed recently for being bald by some of his intimate friends in the presence of his small daughter. Little Mabel didn't understand that it was all in jest, and crawling upon her parent's lap put her arms about his neck and turned defiantly toward his tormentors: "My papa w'ud ruvver hav' his top hair on his chin, w'udn't you, papa?"

VAST REGIONS OF THE EARTH AS YET UNEXPLORED BY WHITE MEN



IN an exhaustive article in the Globus, a well-known German periodical devoted to geography, Dr. Rudolph Andree sums up the achievements of the country in regard to geography, and while he claims that the nineteenth century may well be termed the century of discoveries, he comes to the conclusion that it will still be the work of many years before the surface of the earth is known. The unknown parts of the globe are illustrated in a series of charts in which the "terra incognita" is represented in black.

Concerning the regions around the north pole about which nothing is known, the tasks of future explorations may be briefly indicated as follows: In the Asiatic-European Polar Sea, from Wrangel Land in the east to north of Spitzbegen in the west the unknown is bounded by the drifts of the Jeanette in 1881 and of the Fram in 1894-1896. In north Greenland geographical knowledge does not extend, generally speaking, beyond Lockwood's farthest point in 1882. Cape Washington, and Peary's searches in the vicinity of Independence Bay, 1892, but beside these that part of the eastern coast from Cape Bismarck (Rayer, 1870,) to Independence Bay, with the ocean in front of it, is unknown. Nearly determined is the extent of Grinnell Land toward the west, while of the extent of the Ellesmere Land south of it and about the ocean north of Parry archipelago absolutely nothing is known. Large parts of the coast of Baffin's Land also need exploration. In this respect the next few years are likely to add materially to the geographical knowledge of the north polar region, for not less than four expeditions on a large scale are nearly ready to start.

Search for South Pole.

The south polar region, where the most extensive unknown territory is located, will also be attacked next year all along the line. Most of the land in this region is fixed by supposition upon the maps. Actual knowledge of land around the south pole reaches only at six points beyond 70 degrees latitude; at 170 degrees east longitude, where James Ross in 1840 discovered Victoria Land and its volcanoes and Borchgrevink in the winter of 1899-1900 found the magnetic south pole and reached the highest southern latitude so far, 78 degrees 50 minutes; at 160 degrees west longitude, where Ross in 1842 found land which is probably a continental mass; at 110 degrees west longitude (Cook, 1774); at 90 degrees west longitude, where the Belgian expedition under De Gerlache, during the winter of 1898-1899 drifted beyond 71 degrees 30 minutes soluth latitude; at 35 degrees west longitude, where Weddell penetrated to 74 degrees 30 minutes south latitude, and finally at 15 degrees west longitude (Ross, 1843). The enormous extent of the unknown south polar region can best be illustrated if its limits are transferred to a map of the north polar region. It will then be found that the boundary would include Norway, Siberia and North America down to 65 degrees north latitude, taking in the entire northern half of Alaska.

Thibet Still a Mystery.

For the completion of the map of the Asiatic continent the researches of the nineteenth century have established new and exact bases, yet there are still smaller and larger regions which are entirely unknown. Much remains to be done in Thibet, despite the successes of Russian, English and French travelers and Indian surveyors. This is particularly the case of the land north of the route of Nain Singh (1874-1875), south of the Kwenlun and west of the route of the journey of De Rhins in 1893. North of the Kwenlun and of the routes of Prschewalski and Hedin, stretching to the Tarulo, are extensive unknown deserts. The eastern half of the Himalayas is known only in incomplete outlines. The highest peaks of the earth in this region have been measured by trigonometry from the flats of the Ganges river, but their bases nor their tops have not been reached.

Unknown in the sense of modern research is also the territory east of Bhutan across the Tsangpo, Bramaputra, and the Yang-tse-Kiang. In the southern part of Arabia is the so-called "vacant quarter," as will be seen from a glance at the map, an area more than twice the extent of the German Empire.

Activity in Africa.

In Africa the researches have been particularly active, and what is known of this continent is almost exclusively the result of work in the nineteenth century. But there is still much darkness in regard to this continent, and the classic question Quid novi ex Africa? will probably be repeated for many years. A territory little known is between the Niger in the south, the chain of oasis of the Tidikelt in the north, the route of Lenz in the west, and the routes of Barth and Duveyriers in the east. Much remains to be done in the Congo State. Here the courses of the larger rivers have been surveyed, but the vast territory between the water courses is unknown. Hard work for courageous travelers also is required to explore the region of the sources of the Congo and the adjoining part of British central Africa, Portuguese west Africa and British east Africa. The south of Madagascar is also unknown.

It may be surprising to many people that explorers have a wide range of work in North America, yet a glance at the black spots on the chart will show this to be the fact. Researches in the far Northwest and in Alaska, caused by the gold finds, only begin to show how much remains to be done here, despite the energy with which the government of the United States and of Canada push surveys year after year. Much territory in Labrador and in the regions between the great rivers and lakes of the North is also still unexplored.

Much in South America.

A glance at the chart of South America shows that this part of the western hemisphere is almost as unknown as "Darkest Africa." Of the Andes in Peru, the peaks in Bolivia, and the central mountain chains in the south of Venezuela and Guiana nothing is known. A large number of rivers have been explored within the last twenty years, but others still are waiting for the courageous traveler.

Of Australia, Arnhem Land in the north and the extensive deserts in the east of West Australia are unknown, and the north and south of South Australia have only been crossed by few routes at great distances from each other.

The face of the earth is known in great outlines, but to portray it in its detailed features is still impossible.

NEW CABLE TO PHILIPPINES,

Uncle Sam Will Soon Have Connection with the Islands.

The United States will soon have cable communication with the Philippine Islands and the people hereabouts may learn with greater facility than is now possible details of Aguinaldo's efforts to win the sprinting championship of the world. For some time the difficulty of communication between the islands has seriously hampered American operations in the Philippines and has been the subject of complaints to the government from Gen. Otis, Gen. MacArthur and other officers. It was obvious that some method of quick communication must be put into operation, as the dispatches carried by the warships were in many cases too slow of delivery to be practicable. As soon as this important undertaking of laying a cable had been decided upon the War Department set about finding a suitable vessel in the transport service. The transport Burnside was chosen on account of her large capacity and her shallow draught in proportion to her size. She is the first cableship ever owned by the United States.

The Burnside was formerly owned by Spain and named the Rita. She was captured during the war by the Yale while trying to run the blockade off Porto Rico with a cargo of arms and ammunition, towed to Charleston, S. C., and there taken charge of by Capt. Lallin, her present commander, renamed and put into commission, first as a transport carrying mules and general government stores to Cuba and afterward as a troopship. Taken to the Morse iron works in Brooklyn, the Burnside was there reconstructed and transformed into a cable steamer. The cabins and saloon were refurnished with a view to accommodating army officers and their wives en route to the Philippines. Three huge tanks made of copper were placed in her hold, each capable of holding 250 miles of cable. These tanks are twenty-five feet in diameter and fifteen feet in depth, with an iron core in the center to keep the cable in position when being paid out from the ship.

Laying the cable is going to be a difficult and delicate job. A crew of more than twenty men will have the handling of the cable and their duty will be to see that it is paid out properly and that it runs smoothly from the great tanks to the deck and thence out into the water. If the ocean bed were fairly level cable laying would be a comparatively easy operation. But in the Philippine Islands region the sea bottom is extremely rough, full of high mountains and deep chasms. Moreover, the charts are few and what there are are mainly

U. S. CABLE SHIP BURNSIDE.

unreliable. Consequently the cable layers will not know until they find out for themselves when the slender strand is stretching up the side of a submarine mountain and when it is descending into the depths. After the Burnside has done her work there will be some new information regarding the ocean bottom between the more important islands that will be valuable to navigation.

On reaching the point whence the cable is to be laid the crew proceed to land the heavy shore ends, this being done by hauling from the beach with ropes and supporting the cable with rubber air balloons until sufficient length is landed. Connection having been made with the signal station on shore, the Burnside will set out for the shore with which communication will be established, going at a rate from four to eight miles an hour. She must proceed cautiously, as the rate at which the cable is paid out depends on the depth of the water. In 2,000 fathoms of water, for instance, the length of cable from the ship to the point of contact with the ocean bed is twenty miles. A sudden shallow from very deep water, as in the case of a submarine mountain, is likely to break the cable by too sharply shortening the slack. Then the tedious work of grappling for the broken end must be undertaken.

Bibles for the Heathen.

Over 5,000,000 copies of the Bible were sold by the British and Foreign Bible Society last year. This is an increase of 1,000,000 over the sales of the year before, says a London newspaper. Sixty thousand "parts" of the testaments were printed and bound for the use of the troops in South Africa. But for this number the sale of Bibles in England has remained for two years at 2,000,000 copies. The missionaries are responsible for the additional million in the output. The heathen has more Bibles than ever before. Most of the books were printed in China and in Chinese characters. Many were printed in Hindostan. If the present rate of increase is kept up and each Bible represents a converted heathen, the world may be all Christianized about two centuries hence.

Age of Big Trees.

Referring to the age of the big trees of California, Prof. C. E. Bessy records in "Science" that he once counted with much care the rings of growth of the tree of which the stump constitutes the floor of the so-called dancing pavilion. This count was made from circumference to center, and every ring in all that distance was counted, no estimates or guesses being made. The result was that 1,147 rings were counted and accordingly it is safe to say that this tree, which was fully 24 or 25 feet in diameter, and considerably more than 300 feet in height, acquired these dimensions in eleven hundred and forty-seven years. Prof. Bessey doubts whether any of the existing trees approach the age of two thousand years.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in being able to deceive the deceiver.