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#### SWAYING SKYSCRAPERS.

Extremely High Ones Do Not Have the Greatest Vibrations.

By day or night a modern city is never wholly at rest. A hundred disturbing factors are constantly setting up curious vibrations which travel in every direction. The tracing out of these vibrations and their accurate measurements is a new problem among builders which has a peculiar interest for the layman as well. This problem of feeling the pulse of buildings is not limited to great cities, but often arises in comparatively small towns throughout the country. Let a train rush past the foundations of a high building, or even a low one, or a powerful windstorm beat against its walls, and the entire structure may vibrate like a giant tuning fork. Incidentally the problem is so well understood that accidents from excessive vibration are practically unheard of. The cradle may rock, but it never falls.

The measure of the pulslike vibrations is made much the same as that of an earthquake and almost as accurately. The marvelously delicate instruments which are depended upon for these records trace curious pulsing lines, which show at a glance just how wide an are the building swings through and how regular is the recurrence of the movement. These readings are accepted in court as absolutely conclusive, and it is not uncommon for damage suits involving immense sums of money to be decided by these delicate tracings.

Public opinion is all wrong, or nearly so, as to the amplitude of the vibrations of buildings both large and small. Every one has felt such vibrations, but one's sensations are apt to be very misleading. It is a surprise to many that the most violent vibrations are not felt in the extremely high buildings, as is commonly supposed, but in the comparatively low office buildings, and as a rule these of solid construction. A vibration of three-sixteenths of an inch is extremely violent, for a movement of one-hundredth of an inch is readily noticeable. As the records show, there is a peculiar method or rhythm in these movements, the building swaying back and forth through a given arc with the regularity of a pendulum.—Christian Herald.

#### Good Reason to Hurry.

The trials of a musical accompanist are many, if we may credit all the stories told of them. A young professional recently played accompaniments for the performers at a private entertainment for a fashionable charity lasting for nearly two hours.

"Here, you see, I have no chance to take a breath for ten bars," said the amateur flute player, indicating to the accompanist a passage in his opening solo. "There are a number of such places in my solos, and if you'll hurry the time whenever you come to them it will be a relief to my wife, for all my family are subject to apoplexy and I've already had one slight attack."

#### Valley Forge Rewritten.

The record for inaccuracy about things American would seem to belong to Tit-Bits, a London weekly of large circulation. The following startling statement appeared in an article on Christmas day battles:

The famous battle of Valley Forge was fought during the War of American Independence on Christmas day in 1778. The English were preparing to enter Savannah. They had already confiscated most of the good things in the neighboring city

of Philadelphia, and the American army, in none too good a plight, met their foes on this memorable day and sent them to the right about.—Boston Globe.

#### Hard to Tell.

"Old Rocks, the multimillionaire, is feeling awfully depressed." "What's the matter?" "Why, he made a bad investment last summer and will lose \$10,000. It breaks him all up. Says he knows he's on his way to the poorhouse. I pointed out to him that he could lose \$10,000 a year for 1,500 years without coming to the end of his pile. And what do you suppose he said?"

"Give it up." "He said, 'And what will happen to me then?'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

#### Respect at Last.

"Briefleigh is, I think, one of the greatest lawyers in this state." "Why, I heard you say once that you didn't consider him any good." "Oh, that was years ago. He used to give me pointers on legal matters without charging me anything because we happened to have offices adjoining each other. Recently he has been charging me a stiff price every time I have gone to him for advice."—Chicago Record-Herald.

#### LENGTH OF THE DAY.

It May Change Some Time, but Not For Millions of Years.

Scientists have indulged in some interesting speculations as to the possible increase in the length of our day.

It is pointed out that when once the earth has started in motion about an axis, no matter how the motion came about, it must, of course, continue forever and at the same rate, thus making the day always the same length, unless something is happening or will happen to interfere with that motion. Now there are several causes in operation that affect the period of the earth's rotation, some of which tend to make the period less and others to make it greater. The influence of each of the causes is, of course, very small. They are generally easy to understand. A very simple experiment illustrates one of them.

A stone is attached to one end of a string, the other end of which is held in the hand. The stone is then whirled around in a circle. When its speed has become nearly uniform the string is allowed to wind up on the finger. It is noticed that as the string shortens the velocity increases. In the same way, if the matter forming the earth should in any way be drawn nearer the axis of rotation, it would turn faster and the day would be shortened.

By continual loss of heat a shrinkage of the earth is probably in progress, and although the process is exceedingly slow it certainly tends to diminish the period of rotation. On the other hand, any addition of matter from the outside will tend to increase that period and make the day longer. There seems to be no question but that slight additions to the mass of the earth are constantly made by the arrest of meteoric bodies passing through the atmosphere. Their influence is opposed to and tends to neutralize that of any earth shrinkage that may be taking place.

The most important interference with the rotation of the earth of which we have knowledge is that of the tidal waves, which are due to the attraction of the sun and moon, but more largely of the latter. It is easy to see that this is a resistance

against which the earth turns, and its effect is to increase the length of the day.

Astronomical observations extending over a period of 2,000 years have failed to show any sensible changes in the day, but the influence of the tides must become evident after the lapse of a great many years. One authority has declared that the day may lengthen until it is at last fifty-five times as long as it is at present, and that would also be the period of the revolution of the moon about the earth. A day of 1,320 hours is not; however, likely to come for some millions of years.—Harper's Weekly.

#### Her Head Was Hot.

Lady Dorothy Nevill in her reminiscences tells this story of the two Misses Walpole, her cousins: "On one occasion, when both of the two were well over ninety, Miss Fanny, the younger, who had that day been rather ill, only joined her sister in the sitting room before dinner. On her arrival downstairs the latter (Miss Charlotte by name) remarked: 'Fanny, I am going to be ill too. I feel so hot about the head. It must be apoplexy.' 'Nothing of the sort!' exclaimed Miss Fanny, making a dash at her sister's head. 'Your cap's on fire, and I'm going to put it out.' And so the brave old thing did."

#### He Heard the Cough.

"Muriel," said the old gentleman sharply, "that young man you had in the parlor last night is dull of comprehension. All I had to do was to cough when the other chaps remained too late, and they would take the hint and depart. Did this one say anything when I coughed last night?"

"Yes," replied the beautiful daughter, "he said the next time he called he was going to bring you some cough drops."

#### Energy.

Aubrey de Vere, an Irish poet and gentleman, mentions in his "Recollections" that when ten years old he had a tutor who constantly inculcated in him rectitude, purpose and energy.

The tutor's praise of energy was expressed by the saying: "There are three letters of more value than all the rest in the alphabet—p-ame-ly, N R G."

#### Consolation.

"Steward, how long will it be before we get into the harbor?" "About an hour and a half, ma'am."

"Oh, dear, I shall die before then." "Very likely, ma'am. But you'll be all right again when you've been on shore ten minutes."

#### VISION OF VULTURES.

Amazing Sense of Sight of These Keen Eyed Birds of Prey.

Compared with our human eyesight, the vision of birds of prey is marvelous. The bird student is often amazed at the immense distances at which hawks, eagles and vultures can distinguish objects. It is a well authenticated fact that vultures do not find their food by the sense of smell. Many years ago Charles Darwin experimented with the carrion birds of South America and found that so long as the food was concealed from sight, no matter how putrid and ill smelling it was, the birds failed to detect it. Other observers have reached the same conclusion. A correspondent writes: I was detailed for service with some troops that were moving along the Mexican border. One evening

we camped near a small stream on the western slope of the hills east from San Diego. During the night one of the wagon mules died. We took the body a short distance from camp and partly concealed it in a clump of willows. The next morning, after the column had resumed its march, I rode to the summit of the highest hill, some three miles from our camping ground, and swept the country through a pair of powerful binoculars.

As the glasses moved along the horizon a vulture, a mere speck in the distance, came into their field. He was sailing in great circles in the blue heavens, miles away far beyond the ken of the unaided eye. Suddenly he paused in his flight, turned sharply and headed directly for our abandoned camp ground. I watched him until I was convinced that he had discovered the dead mule.

Then I recollected that years ago I had read in one of Captain Mayne Reid's books something of the habits of vultures, and I began to look for others. In a few minutes another appeared, a black speck in the sky, speeding in the wake of the first. Then another and another came, from different points of the compass. Then more and more, all hurrying toward their loathsome feast.

While I watched the gathering vultures I made a little calculation. When the first vulture discovered the carcass he was not visible to the naked eye and was but a speck through the binoculars. That is, adding the three miles I had ridden from camp to eighteen, the range of the binoculars, the bird must have been nearly twenty-one miles from the carcass. That the vulture depended upon his vision alone is evident, as enough time had not passed for any putrefactive changes to taint the air.

Another interesting thing was the promptness with which the other vultures took the hint when the first made his discovery. There was only one in sight to begin with; in ten minutes there were fifty.—Youth's Companion.

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#### Executor's Notice of Final Settlement.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Executor of the last will and testament of Nellie A. Miller, deceased, has filed his final account as said Executor of the last will and testament and estate of said decedent in the county court of Yamhill County, Oregon, and that said court has appointed, Monday, March 10th, 1913, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day as the day and hour for the hearing objections to said final account and settlement thereof.

Now, therefore all persons interested in the estate of said decedent are hereby notified and required to appear at the County Court room at the Court House at McMinnville, said county and state, at said time to then and there show cause, if any there be, why said account should not be settled, allowed and approved, and said estate forever and finally settled and said Executor discharged.

Dated February 4th, 1913.  
Ulysses S. G. Miller,  
Executor of the last Will and Testament of Nellie A. Miller, deceased.  
Clarence Butt,  
Attorney for estate.

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