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THE DESERT YOSEMITE.

Fantastic Beauty of the Mukuntuweap National Monument.

For fantastic outline and brilliant and varied coloring Mukuntuweap National monument, in southeastern Utah, popularly known as the Little Zion canyon, probably equals any spot on this continent. Recent visitors have called it "the desert Yosemite," others "the mimic Grand canyon." It inevitably suggests both. "You can't see it without shouting," reports one recent explorer.

The Mormons of a former generation chose this valley for a refuge in the event of being driven from Zion, as they called Salt Lake City, and named it Little Zion. It is locally called Little Zion canyon today. The north fork of the muddy Virgin river flows through it, and in the spring streams cascade from the lofty summit walls. Many fine trees—ash, maple, oak, spruce and others—grow on the valley floor.

The canyon is a mighty cleft, as if the mountain had been violently divided to obtain a segment. The walls are inconceivably carved into domes, half domes, colonnades and temples. One gigantic cliff suggests a battleship and is locally called the steamboat.

The faces of some of the walls contain thousands of square feet of plane surface upon which the elements have sketched various figures. At one point may be seen the picture of a woman, a horse and a pig, forming a distinct group. At another an eagle perches, true to this noble bird's instinct, high upon the cliffs. At other points crypts have been formed in the walls by the shelling off of the stone surface in which may be seen other forms seemingly sculptured. Nature seems to have fashioned here a fine art gallery of stupendous proportions.

The coloring is beyond description. Glistening white is the basic color. Below this a strip of blood red sandstone has weathered into formations resembling those of the Grand canyon. There are thousands of feet of polished white sandstone vertically streaked with vermilion, like a Roman sash. There are pinks in endless shades.

The canyon is more than ten miles long and from 1,200 to 2,000 feet wide. The neighborhood is rich in striking phenomena. There are natural bridges of great size and beauty. The country was settled by Mormons many years ago and possesses much historical interest.—Government Bulletin.

The Pipe of Peace.

The North American Indian usually made his pipes out of a kind of stone known as red pipe stone, of which there were large deposits in the old Sioux country, and the Great Spirit is said to have given his indorsement to this particular material, which might have been a Sioux monopoly, in these words: "This stone is red. It is your flesh. It belongs to you all. Out of it make no more tomahawks, war hatchets nor scalping knives. Use it only to make the pipe of peace and smoke therefrom when you would propitiate me and do my will."

Lincoln and a Laugh.

One day when Lincoln's cabinet met the president asked one of the members if he had read Nasby's latest. Mr. Stanton—astute, stern, dignified—took the president to task, saying he ought to be thinking of sterner things. Mr. Lincoln replied: "Stanton, I think I have the burdens of this nation on my heart, but laughter is my safety valve. I am sure that if I couldn't laugh sometimes I'd 'bust.'"

Whistler's Idea of Hands.

Whistler, the artist, said: "I always use Irish models for hands, with their long, slender fingers and delightful articulations, the most beautiful hands in the world. I think Irish eyes are also the most beautiful. American girls' hands come next. English girls have red, coarse hands; the German girl has broad, flat hands, and the Spanish hand is full of big veins."

Chariots.

Among some nations of antiquity chariots, as elephants among other nations, may be regarded as filling the place of heavy artillery, so that the military power of a nation might be estimated by the number of its chariots. Thus Pharaoh in pursuing Israel took with him 600 chariots.

Cold Starch.

If you wish to make starch and let it get cold before starching the clothes, try this plan: After the starch is made and while still hot sprinkle cold water all over the top as though you were sprinkling clothes. You will find no scum on top and can use every speck of it.

GREAT OCEAN BILLOWS.

Atlantic Storm Waves Are Less Than Fifty Feet in Height.

Twenty feet in height, from crest to bottom, is a big sea—even for sailors. Captain Scoresby's observations on the height of waves long ago proved that in the heaviest Atlantic storms the waves very rarely exceed forty-three feet from hollow to crest, the distance between crests being 500 feet and their speed thirty-three miles an hour. More recent observations have shown that Atlantic waves may reach forty-eight feet.

At Kurrachee, in India, waves were measured on the breakwater which were about forty feet above the sea level.

In Wick bay, in Scotland, celebrated for heavy seas, some have been observed of forty feet in height, but this is uncommon. It was estimated that one of the great rollers, which came about every ten minutes, poured over the breakwater at Wick with a mass of 40,000 tons of water. Blocks of concrete weighing more than two tons were carried completely away.

Great waves have often carried away the most solidly built lighthouse, and there is, perhaps, no more triumphant work of engineering than when a lighthouse is made to stand in a particularly difficult and dangerous place against the incessant efforts of the sea roused to all its fury.

As to the depth to which wave action extends the knowledge is uncertain. Shell fish, which are known to live at depths of 50 or 60 to 150 feet, are thrown upon the shore by heavy storms, and the bottom is often much disturbed at the depth of fifty feet. But concrete and granite blocks, used in the construction of breakwaters and immensely heavy, are seldom disturbed at a depth of twenty feet.

To "have the decks swept" by a great wave is common at sea, even when the vessel is in good hands. Often this accident has proved fatal to vessel and crew, but generally results in the loss of boats, galleys and too often of some of the men.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Would Look Lazy.

A traveling man was eating in a stuffy little restaurant one very hot summer day. There were no screens at the windows or the door. The proprietress herself waited on her customers and shooed flies from the table at the same time. Her energetic but vain efforts attracted the attention and roused the sympathy of the traveling man, who said: "Would it not be better to have your windows and doors screened?" "Well, yes, I s'pose that would help some," replied the woman, after thinking a moment, "but 'twould look mighty lazy like."—Chicago Herald.

Bright Scholars.

Examination "howlers" are by no means confined to schoolboys, as an "information test" of freshmen at New York university showed. The definitions of "hypothecate" as "a druggist" and "esophagus" as "a tomb in which dead kings were placed" were worthy of lineal descendants of Mrs. Malaprop, while the statement that "Beowulf was a character in Shakespeare's 'Ivanhoe'" rivals the classic account of Aesop as "a man who wrote fables and traded the copyright for a bottle of potash."—New York Tribune.

Highly Temperamental.

"It makes me uneasy for Mrs. Dubwaite to go to town," said Mr. Dubwaite.

"Are you afraid she'll get run over by a motorcar?"

"No. She either sees so many things in department stores she can't afford to buy she comes home quite upset or she attends a theater and gets so wrought up over the trials and tribulations of a movie heroine she can't enjoy her dinner."—Birmingham Age-Herald

An Indispensable.

Some years ago, in a certain flagship, the commander had occasion to find fault with the admiral's cook, and awarded him three days' close confinement. The admiral heard of the affair and sent for the commander on the quarter deck. "What do you mean by it?" stormed the incensed admiral. "Please to understand that I can get a hundred commanders like you, but only one cook like him!"—London Globe.

Pretty Big Walrus.

The average sized Alaska walrus is as big as an ox and often weighs more than a ton. A walrus was recently killed by some whalers near Point Barrow whose head weighed eighty pounds, and skin, including flippers, 500 pounds. The animal had a girl of fourteen feet, the skin was from half an inch to three inches in thickness, and the blubber weighed 500 pounds.

THE

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