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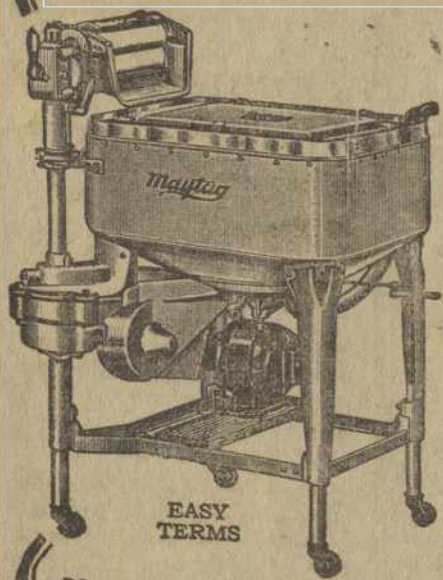
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Vacant Places of Earth Await Explorer's March

In spite of the popular superstition that the whole surface of the globe has yielded to the surveyor, enterprising explorers still continue to find parts of it with all the lure of the unknown.

Within comparatively recent times the mysterious oasis of Jabrin, in the great Arabian desert, the remoter regions of Tibet and the Ituri country of Central Africa have all been forced to yield up a few more secrets, says the Living Age.

Capt. R. E. Cheesman, an Englishman, has been able to locate definitely the oasis of Jabrin, whose exact position has long been in doubt among geographers. For six days his little expedition marched over arid desert, relying on such water supplies as they could carry in skins. Throughout the journey he verified his position by astronomical observations and was thereby able to correct such maps of the region as already exist.

He found a savage tribe of Arabs, scarcely to be regarded as Moslem, but harking back to the pagan days before Mohammed began his teaching, and possibly survivors of the earlier native population that is supposed to have preceded the Arabs in the peninsula. These people are still practically living in the Stone age.

Captain Cheesman was able to locate ruins believed to be those of Jeru, the ancient Phoenician port on the Persian gulf, as its position corresponds with that given by Ptolemy about the middle of the Second century; and he also made a collection of geological specimens, together with desert fauna and flora, many of which proved to be new to science.

Base Mutilation on Ancient Mosaic Law

Scattered over the market place of Adis Abeba (capital of Abyssinia), are the flimsy booths and open stalls of native hucksters, fringing it the slightly more pretentious shops of Greek and Indian merchants, and the dilapidated buildings which house the custom house and the post office. E. Alexander Powell tells us, in the Century Magazine.

Here murderers are frequently executed by hanging, and here also lesser malefactors, highwaymen and the like, pay the penalty for their crimes by suffering the loss of a hand or a foot, the sentence being carried out by neatness and dispatch by a local butcher, who checks the bleeding by plunging the stump into melted fat.

Barbarous? Of course. Yet, if you express your disapproval to an Abyssinian, he will politely remind you that they are only obeying the injunction of a law-giver named Moses—the Ethiopian penal code being based on the Mosaic law—who said, "If thine right hand offend thee, cut it off."

Soap Long Known and Used

Soap both as a medicinal and cleansing agent was known to the ancients. Pliny speaks of two kinds, hard and soft, as used by the Germans. He mentions it as originally a Gallic invention for giving a bright hue to the hair. It is probable that soap came to the Romans from Germany. Although soap is referred to in the Old Testament, authorities believe that ashes of plants or other such purifying agents are implied. The earliest kinds of soap appear to have been made of goat's tallow and beech ash. As early as the thirteenth century, however, a factory for making soap from olive oil was established at Marseilles. Soap making was introduced into England during the next century.

Gave Name to Trees

The sequoia trees of California were named in honor of Sequoia, who was the son of a white man and a Cherokee woman of mixed blood. Sequoia is famous as the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. He was born in Tennessee, about 1760, and grew up with the Indian tribe. He became a hunter and trader in furs, and also a craftsman in silverwork. In the last years of his life he became interested in tracing a lost band of the Cherokee tribe, that, according to tradition, had crossed the Mississippi river before the American Revolution, and he had wandered to some mountains in the West. He was still pursuing this quest in the Mexican Sierras when he met his death, August, 1843.

Casts Doubt on Legend

The summit of Mount Ararat was first reached by Professor Parrot in 1829 after two unsuccessful attempts. In 1850 another expedition carried a great cross to the summit, which was attained after unheard-of dangers and privation above the snow line. The cross was finally erected. On another occasion, after spending days and nights in the snows on precipitous cliffs, an explorer named Khodyke decided that the climbing was so difficult that the descent of the steep snow slopes "would have proved fatal to many of the animals of the ark."

Famous Swiss Valley

The Lauterbrunnen is a deep and narrow valley in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, enclosed by perpendicular walls of sandstone from 1,000 to 1,800 feet in altitude. From these heights descend cascades on every side, chief among which is the famous Staubbach ("dust-stream"). The sun is hardly seen at all there in winter, and even in July not before 7 a. m. Through the valley flows the Weisse-Lutschine, one of the tributaries of the Aar.—Kansas City Star.

Pipe-Organ Evolution of Twenty Centuries

More than 20 centuries ago a barbarian made the discovery that in moving his mirror in the pursuit of his duties air was forced through the tubes of the crude contrivance, causing a sweet musical sound. So struck was he by this peculiarity that he set about making an instrument which was the foundation of the modern organ. After several experiments he made a water-flute, in which air was forced by bellows through an inverted cone which led to flutes controlled by a keyboard the pressure being kept uniform by water. After a thousand years a rival instrument made its appearance. This was of a similar pattern, but, instead of water, weights regulated the pressure. In 951 an organ was erected at Winchester, England. It had 26 bellows and ten pipes to each key. Two men who sat at the keyboard "blew and sweated enormously." Later, a firm of organ makers in Germany succeeded in erecting the first really big instrument. The primary stops did not differ very much from those of today, although various novelties were introduced. Among the innovation were the nightingale and cuckoo stops while others represented cock-crow and goat-bleating. Though these novelties have now fallen into disuse, an organ with one of these nightingale stops is still to be seen in Rome. It was not until the Nineteenth century that the problem of the regulation of air pressures was solved by the introduction of the hydraulic blower.

Dime Novels Brought Him Fame and Fortune

Erastus F. Beadle, the originator of the dime novel, which type of publication occupies a chapter in Edmund Lester Pearson's "Books in Black or Red," published the first dime novel, according to Mr. Pearson, in 1850. It was a small pamphlet with orange pink covers. The firm of Beadle & Adams continued their business until 1897.

Beadle, a descendant of American pioneers and soldiers, was born in Otsego county, New York, in 1821, says the Detroit News. Working as a boy for a miller, he found a need one day for letters of some sort to label the bags of grain. He cut the letters from blocks of hardwood, as Gutenberg's predecessors had done. This experience interested him in printing; he learned the art, and by 1852 had a printing shop of his own. In 1853 he moved to New York to test an idea which had come to him; the publication of books to be sold at 10 cents—song books, joke books and finally novels. The first of these books were mainly historical novels of the American Revolution, or early pioneer life. About nine-tenths of the settings, then and later, were American.

Little Known About Saint

Very little is known regarding Saint Bartholomew, one of the disciples of Christ. He is supposed to be also the Nathaniel mentioned in the first chapter in the gospel of St. John. He is believed to have traveled on a mission into Armenia, and to have there suffered martyrdom by being flayed alive. Himself one of the gentlest of men, he was destined by the irony of fate to give his name to one of the most frightful massacres recorded in history, and to the London Saturnalia known as St. Bartholomew's fair. This famous festival was celebrated annually in Smithfield, where many Huguenot refugees located, on August 24, for over 750 years, and was finally abolished in 1855, by which time it had degenerated into an orgy of drunkenness and debauchery.

Mythical Snake Stories

There is a snake of the South Atlantic states, foolishly feared by the negroes, who say it will put its tail in its mouth, stiffen its body and roll along like a hoop, aiming to let go of its sting-tipped tail and dart it into the first person it meets. Similar stories are told of a closely related species, the wampum snake, common in swampy ground in the South, and both are called horn snakes. In fact, both species are perfectly harmless and spend most of their time beneath the ground, burrowing deeply into the soil. The former is blue black above, marked with three red lines, and flesh-colored below, with black spots; while the latter is uniform bluish-black above and banded with red on the abdomen.

"Tragedy" and "Comedy"

At first tragedies were brought on the stage as means of reminding men of the things which happen to them, and that it is according to nature for things to happen so, and that, if they are delighted with what is shown on the stage, they should not be troubled with that which takes place on the larger stage. After tragedy, the old comedy was introduced which had a magisterial freedom of speech, and by its very plainness of speaking was useful in reminding men to beware of insolence.—Marcus Aurelius.

Few Druses in America

Druses are people of mixed origin who inhabit a district in Syria. Their religion is fundamentally Mohammedan, but their faith mingles the teaching of the Mosaic law, the Christian Gospels and the Sufi allegories with those of the Koran. They believe in the transmigration of souls with constant advancement and purification. Their teachings enjoin abstinence from wine and tobacco, from profanity and obscenity, and polygamy is unknown among them. There are a few hundred of this sect in the United States.

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