

THE LAND OF SLEEP.

Scampering Effects of Northern New York Hop Fields.

Wayfarers and Natives Scamper to the Drowsy Influence—Tall Stories Told About This Phenomenon.

In the mellow, misty days of autumn wayfaring strangers in either Otsego or Schoharie county are certain to be overcome by a surprising drowsiness which commonly makes them think that they have been drugged in some unaccountable fashion.

The same thing prevails in that part of the D. & H. railroad which cuts through Schoharie and Otsego counties.

One might think that these slumbering passengers would be "soft marks" for a train robber, but ex-Assemblyman O. F. Lane, of Otsego, tells a story which proves exactly the reverse.

With all the trouble Conductor Thomas has prodding slumbering way passengers into partial wakefulness, his friends wonder that every hair in his head hasn't turned white.

It cures, but the cure is even worse than the disease. At least that is what W. H. Bunn, appraiser of the port of Oswego, thinks.

Every one, scientific or otherwise, who has investigated the matter agrees that the drowsiness which becomes epidemic in this region every fall is caused by the intoxicating aroma from the hop fields.

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IN THE MOUNTAINS OF BORICIA.

Subsequent Account of a Mountain Day in a Diligence.

Charles H. Adams describes "A Jaunt into Corsica" in the September Century, and says of a diligence ride:

"How can I describe that never-to-be-forgotten romantic ride across the mountains of Corsica? The conductor blew his horn, the driver lashed his horses with his mercurial, long-lashed whip, and the boy driving the lead horse pounded his weak-looking steed, and our heavy-laden diligence moved off, leaving the gaping crowd looking after us.

A LION ON THE LOCOMOTIVE.

He Was Only a Mountain Lion, But Nobody Disturbed Him.

Last winter when the snowstorms were so fearful throughout the mountains in Utah and the earth was covered with snow to the depth of five to ten feet and remained hidden so long the wild animals were forced to desperation.

The hungry animals after awhile discovered that food was to be had along the railroad track, where passengers threw bones and scraps of victuals from passing trains.

After completing the repairs the men were mounting the engine again, only to see a huge mountain lion devouring the tallow and holding full possession of the engine cab.

When death finally occurs, the relatives and friends come with their offerings of fine mats. Singly, or in small groups, they present the tokens of their sorrow to some old woman, deputed to receive them.

SAMOAN FUNERALS.

The Primitive Customs Observed When Death Occurs.

In Samoa it is impossible for a chief to die in peace and quiet. As soon as he is known to be near death, the people for miles around hasten to pay him a farewell visit.

When death finally occurs, the relatives and friends come with their offerings of fine mats. Singly, or in small groups, they present the tokens of their sorrow to some old woman, deputed to receive them.

Every mat has a name and history, and though the outsider could not easily distinguish one from another, yet the elderly people recognize them at first sight, and relate bits of history about each, as it is exposed to view.

After the funeral is over, within a day or two, there is a grand meeting for a division of the mats. Every one who brought a mat expects to take away one—a better one.

One of England's Oldest Trees.

One of the oldest trees standing in England is the "Tortworth" chestnut, which, as far back as the reign of Stephen, in 1135, was so remarkable for its size and antiquity that it was recognized as the terminal boundary of the manor of Tortworth in Gloucestershire.

Wonders of Prehistoric Art.

In one of the oldest ruins of the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, a number of very rare and interesting images, found in metal, have been uncovered.

MUSIC ON THE BENCH.

A Fiji Judge Who Twanged a Jew-Harp While Hearing Cases.

The natives of Fiji are amenable to a criminal code known as the native regulations. These are administered by two courts, the district court, which sits monthly and is presided over by a native magistrate.

The courthouse, a native building carpeted with mats, is now packed with natives, sitting cross-legged, only a small place being reserved in front of the table for the accused and the witnesses.

The first case is called, Samuels and Timothe, two meek-faced youths of sixteen and nineteen, sitting tailor-fashion before the table, are charged with fowl stealing.

Quite unmoved by this tragic tale, Vesteraba seems to listen only to the melancholy notes of his Jew's-harp; but the witness is a chief and a man of influence withal, and a period of awkward silence follows his accusation, broken only by a subdued swanging from the bench.

But the prosecutor starts up with a protest. One of the accused is his nephew, he explains, and he only wished a light sentence to be imposed. Three months for one fowl is so severe; besides, if the boy has three months, he must go to the central jail and not work out his sentence in his own district.

Again there is silence, and the voice of the Jew's-harp has changed from triumph to thoughtful melancholy. At length it ceases, and the orator speaks again: "Bogi tolu" (Three days).

NEARLY A MILE IN DEPTH.

The Deapest Mining Shaft in the World Is Said to Be in Michigan.

A few weeks ago the deepest mining shaft in the world reached the copper lode in the Tamarack mine. Shaft No. 2, which is now a trifle over 4,300 feet in depth, was begun three years ago, and reached the vein on August 4 at the depth of 4,126 feet.

A trip down three-quarters of a mile into the bowels of the earth is a decided novelty. Entering the cage, says the Chicago Record, which is an iron elevator, fitted with all modern safety appliances and hoisted and lowered by an inch and a half wire cable passing over a great drum in the engine house near the shaft, the signal is given to lower.

At last the bottom is reached. A dozen miners, covered with grime and dust, are busily at work. Power drills, fed by compressed air coming almost a mile through iron pipes, are tapping the rock petulantly. Men are shoveling the rock blasted from the hole into the cars, which are trundled into the cages and hoisted to the surface.

A few minutes show all that is to be seen. For No. 2 shaft has just reached the lode and the extensive system of drifts, crosscuts, and winzes existing in other shafts of the mine has been but begun down here.

Rice Paper.

Most people have an idea that rice paper, out of which cigarettes are made, is made of rice—ninety-nine out of every one hundred smokers share this opinion.

To The Public.

Those that never have tried a good house or a cheap house, can learn where to buy a good article cheap. The celebrated W. I. Douglass shoe, and the Barton Bros' boots and shoes are known by our Eastern friends to be the very best.

A Clubbing Offer.

A great many of our readers from county like to take the weekly Oregonian. We have made arrangements whereby we can furnish it at a reduction from the regular price to those who want both the Express and the Oregonian.

The Big Engines.

Two of the new engines to be used by the S. P. lines in Oregon between Ashland and Portland have come out of the shops at Sacramento, one of them went north Monday and the second "1779" came up Tuesday and pulled out last evening's northbound passenger train from here and will likely be in Engineer McCarthy's charge permanently, as his old engine "1755", along with another one of the old ones, has been ordered to the shops to be rebuilt.

Wood Wanted.

All who have taken subscriptions on wood or farm produce are requested to haul it in as soon as possible, for the roads will soon be in bad condition if the rains continue.

Ladies' Coats and Jackets.

I am now receiving my fall and winter stock of ladies' muffs and children's garments. These goods were bought for cash and include novelties and staples of the latest patterns.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that contain Mercury.

Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them.

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