

The Hermiston Herald

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Idol Found in Burma

Splendid Work of Art
The bronze Buddha of Yokohama is commonly thought to be the largest statue of that god in the world, but there is one in Burma that exceeds it in at least one dimension and gives an impression of greater size.

When the English were building the railway from Rangoon to Mandalay they searched the vicinity of Pegu for stone with which to make the embankment through the great swamps. In the whole area there was only one elevation of any importance. The engineers thought that this hill might provide the necessary material, so they dug into its base and were surprised to find some artistic brickwork, the Washington Star says.

On clearing away the earth further they found an enormous stone statue that represented Buddha in a reclining position. The statue is about 190 feet long and, including the brick base, it is more than 40 feet high. The Yokohama Buddha is 55 feet high and 110 feet in circumference.

Although the Burmese statue is not so artistic as the Japanese, it is a wonderful piece of work. Not the least remarkable thing about it is the way in which so huge a monument had disappeared absolutely from Burmese history and legend.

World's Wettest Spot Found in Assam Hills

We often complain about rainy weather, but really we do not know what rain means! One has to go to the Khasi hills, in Assam, to see rain at its heaviest, for there it comes down in Niagara. This spot, for it is not of large extent, rejoices in the name of Cherrimpung, and it deserves all the other bad names one can give it. Its annual rainfall averages 458 inches, or just eighteen times the rainfall of London.

In 1861 Cherrimpung nearly doubled its average, for in that year 905 inches fell, of which 395 were recorded in the month of July! On the 14th day of that month 40 inches of rain fell in twenty-four hours, and in the five days, June 12 to 16, the total reached upwards of 114 inches, or more than four times the average annual rainfall of London.

The heaviest recorded rainfall in Great Britain occurred at Bruton, in Somerset, on June 29, 1917, when 9 1/2 inches fell.—Tit-Bits.

English Commonwealth

The name "Commonwealth of England" is given in history to the interregnum between the death of Charles I on January 30, 1649, and the restoration of Charles II, May 8, 1660. During this period of 11 years, the government of England was nominally a republic, although in reality a military despotism, ruled by Oliver Cromwell, assisted by a council. On December 16, 1653, Cromwell was made lord protector, and held this office for about five years, until his death, September 3, 1658, when he was succeeded by his son, Richard Cromwell, who proved to be a weak and inefficient ruler, and soon retired into private life. Monarchy was restored in England May 8, 1660, and Charles II returned to London May 29 of the same year.—Kansas City Star.

How Flattering!

She always felt somewhat timid in the bank. It was such a large bank, and so many very rich persons had accounts there.

She always passed her small checks through to the cashier in a furtive, nervous manner.

One day she had cashed one of these checks, and while walking out of the bank she stuffed the notes into her handbag.

One of the bank's detectives spotted her, and he walked swiftly to her side. "Be careful, madam," he whispered, "you're being watched with all that money in your hand, you know."

Monument Unfinished

Edinburgh likes, or once liked, to be called "the Modern Athens," and there is certainly a suggestion of the old Greek capital about the 12 tall columns which stand out against the skyline on Calton hill. These have been called "Scottish pride and Scottish poverty." A public subscription was opened in 1824 to erect a memorial to the Scottish soldiers of the Peninsula war. This was to take the form of a building after the style of the Parthenon. But the plan failed for lack of funds, and the 12 solitary pillars, erected at a cost of \$5,000 each, alone remain to tell the story.

Controversy Over Song

"Which shall it be? Which shall it be? 'My' or 'the' 'my' or 'the'?"

Jay's that silly? I agree with you, and yet it was the basis of a discussion that was carried on by several historical societies. The question was, did Stephen G. Foster write, in 1828, for the first time of his famous song, "The sun shines bright, on my old Kentucky home," or was it: "The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home?"

Odd Species of Fish That Possess Lungs

We are so accustomed to think of fish breathing by means of gills that it is difficult to imagine a species which have lungs and can breathe air like the higher land animals. These are the Dipnoi (meaning double-breathers). At one time numerous, they are now almost extinct. There are three species of them. These are found in different parts of the world—one group in Queensland, another in Africa, and the third in South America.

They inhabit the tropical rivers, which, though full in the wet season, are parched up when the heat comes. During the dry season they bury themselves in the mud of the river bed and start to breathe air, which they are able to do by means of a swim-bladder, similar in structure to our own lungs, though naturally not so highly developed.

Their internal structure is certainly illuminating. As well as in their lung or swim-bladder, they show resemblances to amphibians and land vertebrates in the skull, heart, and blood vessels. In spite of these resemblances, however, it is not certain that they are really a "missing link" between fish and amphibians. It is thought that the latter have been evolved through a different line, even the lungs of land vertebrates being of supposedly different origin to the lung of the Dipnoi.

Grave Purpose Behind Writing of Fiction

Universal nature, too strong for the petty fiber of the bard, sits on his neck and writes through his hand; so that when he seems to vent a mere caprice and wild romance the issue is an exact allegory. Hence Plato said that "poets utter great and wise things which they do not themselves understand." All the fictions of the Middle ages explain themselves as a masked or frolic expression of that which in grave earnest the mind of that period toiled to achieve. Magic, and all that is ascribed to it, is a deep presentment of the powers of science. The shoes of swiftness, the sword of sharpness, the power of subduing the elements, of using the secret virtues of minerals, of understanding the voices of birds, are the obscure gropings of the mind in a right direction. The preternatural prowess of the hero, the gift of perpetual youth and the like are but the endeavor of the human spirit "to bend the shows of things to the desires of the mind."—Ralph Waldo Emerson in "Essay on History."

Arkansas Diamonds

The Arkansas diamond mine, in Pike county, has produced several thousand diamonds equal in color to the best produced in other parts of the world and 1 per cent harder than the hardest from other parts of the world. In the Arkansas diamond mines the gems have been found "in place," as the geologists put it, and nowhere else on this hemisphere have they been so found. The Arkansas mines are being worked only enough to pay overhead, as the management has decided that the per cent recovery of diamonds is not sufficient to justify the operation of the mines at this time.

Christianity in China

It cannot be definitely stated who was the first Christian missionary to China, since a tablet found in 781 A. D. indicated that Nestorian missionaries operated in China as early as 635 A. D. There are, however, no definite records. The first definite record is that of Friar John of Monte Corvino, a Franciscan friar who went alone to China in 1295 shortly after the return of the Polo family to Europe, and he remained in China for many years, when his effort was reinforced by the pope of Rome and he was consecrated archbishop of Camballin (Peking).

Lighting for Pictures

Every picture has a right to the best light that can be found for it. It is often true that a wall space on which there is not the right light for one picture is quite the proper place for a picture with different colors or details.

While vivid flower pieces and garden scenes, sunlit landscapes and bright interiors do much to enliven a somber corner of a room. There is no picture which may not be seen to better advantage if well lighted. (This does not mean glaringly lighted.)

Amber in United States

Amber is found in Colorado, Boulder county, and in adjoining counties, particularly in the Boulder coal fields. Amber is a fossil resin of vegetable origin. It is usually of a pale-yellow color, sometimes reddish or brownish; it is sometimes transparent, sometimes almost opaque. It occurs in round, irregular lumps, grains or drops; has a perfectly conchoidal fracture, is slightly brittle, emits an agreeable odor when rubbed, melts at 350 degrees Fahrenheit, and burns with a bright flame and pleasant smell.

"In Durance Vile"

This conversation is said to have taken place in an exclusive underworld circle:

"Here's a paper," said Languid Lewis, "which tells about a horse runnin' away with a woman, an' she was laid up for six weeks."

"That's nothin'," rejoined Bonstiff Benjamin. "A friend o' mine ran away with a horse, an' he was laid up for six years."

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JOHN SCHIMKE

Roach, Pantry Pest, Is Native of India

Sir Francis Drake, buccaneer of three hundred years ago, once took as a prize a Spanish ship loaded with spices from India. It is recorded that on that ship was a strange "black bugge" which the Spanish called cucarache, which strictly speaking, meant "wood louse." This cucarache became the modern cockroach.

It was a native of India, never until that time seen in Europe. These cockroaches, however, were sturdy fellows, given to living in dark and narrow places, and therefore happy in the holds of ships that plied the seas. Thus these argosies of commerce have served as a means of broadcasting the cockroach, and it is found in abundance wherever man dwells. His bones have provided suitable breeding and dwelling places for these children of the warm countries.

New species, one in America and one in Australia, were found and distributed. So have world-girdling multitudes of them appeared where before there were none at all or but local tribes. This increase in the range and numbers of the cockroach is typical of the man influence in the insect world.

Purr-rr-rr

Unlike Dickens, Thackeray did not delight in placing among the men and women of his novels forgettable little portraits of their dogs and cats, parrots or canaries. Nor do we think of Thackeray as having that personal fondness for domestic creatures which was characteristic of Dickens, whose own dogs no less than his favorite raven, Grip, figure largely in his letters. But Thackeray's daughter, Lady Ritchie, gives in her recently published letters several delightful little glimpses of her own and her friends' pets; and in one brief and charming note she even ventures to interpret a few words from Feline into English. She writes to her friend, Mrs. Gerald Ritchie:

"Solomon (the cat) has been purring messages, tell Peggy. He proposes to write, but says it is superfluous to say how much he misses her, and that he is purrfectly lost without her to stroke his back. He has tried my lap, but he doesn't much like it; he finds it too purrpendicular, and he sends his love purr me."—Youth's Companion.

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"Messers" and "Moppers"

The world is divided into the people who make the messes and the people who mop them up. Ninety per cent make the messes and 10 per cent are served out with mops. I was reading a novel called "Keddy" the other day. I'm told it's the best picture of modern Oxford that has ever been done. And from cover to cover there isn't a single mention of such things as lectures, reading, examinations, tutors, or anything of that sort. It's really masterly in the way everything trivial like that has been eliminated.—From "Blackmarston," by Mrs. Hicks Beach.

Aluminum Rivals Steel

Aluminum was merely a laboratory curiosity a generation ago, but today it is a real rival to copper and steel and the center of one of the largest individual industries. Besides being used in hundreds of household articles it is finely ground for making paints. It is necessary in airplane and dirigible construction and is used as cables for high tension transmission. The output of the industry in 20 years has grown from nothing to hundreds of millions a year.

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