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BLOWERS BROS.

DISTANCE WALKED IN AN HOUR

You Would Hardly Think It Means Traveling 85,253 Miles.

Have you ever thought of the distance you travel when you are out on an hour's stroll? Possibly you walk three miles within the hour, but that does not by any means represent the distance you travel. The earth turns on its axis every twenty-four hours. For the sake of round figures, we will call the earth's circumference 24,000 miles, and so you must have traveled during the hour's stroll 1,000 miles in the axial turn of the earth.

But this is not all. The earth makes a journey around the sun every year, and a long but rapid trip it is. The distance of our planet from the sun we will put at 92,000,000 miles. This is the radius of the earth's orbit—half the diameter of the circle, as we call it. The whole diameter is therefore 184,000,000 miles, and the circumference, being the diameter multiplied by 3.1416, is about 578,000,000.

This amazing distance the earth travels in its yearly journey, and dividing it by 365 we find the daily speed about 1,580,000. Then we get the distance you rode around the sun during your hour's walk, divide again by twenty-four, and the result is about 66,000 miles. But this is not the end of your hour's trip. The sun, with its entire brood of planets, is moving in space at the rate of 100,000,000 miles in a year. That is at the rate of a little more than 438,000 miles a day, or 18,250 miles an hour.

So, adding your three miles of leg travel to the hour's axial movement of the earth, this to the earth's orbital journey and that again to the earth's excursion with the sun, and you find you have traveled in the hour 85,253 miles.

CRUDE HOUSEKEEPING.

Domestic Methods in England in the Fourteenth Century. Carpets were unknown luxuries in England in the fourteenth century, but the fashion of strewing the apartments with rushes was being gradually abandoned. Rushes were still used in the retainers' hall, but for the better rooms sweet scented herbs and fragrant twigs were usually employed.

Windows were apertures filled with glass so as to admit light, but to exclude wind. The walls also were frequently hung with cloth or tapestry to protect the inmates of the room from the many currents of air that penetrated the strong but badly built walls. We learn from various ancient documents that it was the duty of the serving men and pages to sweep out the principal apartments, but as the use of water is rarely mentioned daisy and fragrant leaves and twigs must have aided not only in collecting the dust, but also toward refreshing the atmosphere in such constantly closed rooms, fresh air being only admitted through the doors opening on to the battlements or balconies.

From old inventories at Thurlough and elsewhere we ascertain how scantily furnished were these ancient mansions, although they seem to have been abundantly supplied with daisies and drinking cups in gold, silver and finely engraved pewter, besides an infinite number of black jacks or cups made of leather.—London Standard.

Many curious stories of the healing of blindness and diseases by gems are to be found in ancient works, and it is said that the Emperor Theodosius was cured of blindness by a stone of great brilliancy which was laid on his eyes. What this stone was history unfortunately does not say. The diamond, ruby, emerald and opal were supposed to warn the owner of danger by changing color. Pliny says of the diamond that it is not an antidote to poison, but that it has the power to free the mind from vain fears and to give bravery. Worn in the epoch of the high priest it determined innocence or guilt and was used to detect accused persons. This gem is dedicated to April, and, worn by those born in that month, is lucky.—Myerson's Magazine.

CLOSING PEKING'S GATES.

Religious Ceremony Performed Daily at the Chinese Capital.

The closing of the gates in Peking just because it goes on daily and may apparently go on daily for centuries to come is probably one of the "sights" least witnessed and talked of save by those foreigners who may have chanced to "run for it" near closing time. The daily performance is marked with a due ceremony which is quaint and full of interest to the intelligent on-looker, as the closing by no means signifies the mere bringing together of the heavy wooden doors and barring the emperor's highway against all comers.

At the appointed hour a preliminary signal is given by a large gong or iron shield being struck with a big iron bar fifty times in such quick succession as almost to defy calculation. This is followed by a signal of 100 blows repeated in precisely the same fashion three times. When the third and last cycle of gong strokes is entered on a number of old and at this season very much bewadded and muffled up old "Charlies" start a series of discordant yells to all and sundry to "hasten" or they will be shut out. This combination of signals is followed by a jostling stream of people in both directions.

Presently the rush slackens until only a solitary pedestrian or possibly a man on a donkey, full tilt, a belated rickshaw or a heavily laden cart struggle through. Then a movement is made with the gates, yelling bursts out afresh and another rush ensues, the gates being meanwhile half closed and occasionally opened a little way again until, the outgoers having meanwhile ceased, there is a final scrimmage to get into the city, and the process of closing, which has taken some half hour in all, is concluded.

The huge iron plated doors having clanged to, a monster iron pole is dragged up and placed across them on iron supports, being retained in position by a padlock of enormous proportions and of the well known Chinese type. There are in all nineteen gates, and the same ceremony is observed at each, but at such thoroughfares as the Hattum there is naturally more traffic, and the process is probably proportionately longer.—Peking Times.

CZAR PAUL'S WIG.

An Officer Twinked It and Won a Bet and Promotion. Paul, the eccentric czar of Russia assassinated in 1801, was very particular as to his dress and considered trifling matters as of supreme importance. This peculiarity was once taken advantage of by an officer of the guards, Major Vaksel, to win a bet. The major, the wildest joker in the army, wagered several hundred rubles that he would tweak the tail of the emperor's wig on parade.

The very next day the emperor happened to be present at an early parade and, as destiny ruled it, took a position for a moment immediately in front of the daring major. Breathless with excitement and terror, Vaksel's companions beheld that rash officer's right hand steal slowly from his side, rise to the level of the czar's neck and give the wig's hanging tail a most decided tweak.

In an instant the emperor's face pale with fury, was turned upon Vaksel's countenance, which, however, only reflected an expression of child-like innocence, mingled with the most deferential astonishment.

"Who dared to do that?" asked the enraged czar, his eyes giving flashing evidence that his most dangerous mood was upon him.

"I did, your majesty," said Vaksel, who, however his heart may have fluttered, managed to preserve outwardly an unruffled calm, together with an expression of innocent surprise. "It was crooked, your majesty," he added, in a confidential undertone. "I straightened it for fear the younger officers should see."

Paul's countenance cleared at once. He stared fixedly, however, at Vaksel's innocent looking face for some seconds. Vaksel admitted afterward that this was the trying moment, and he had said to himself, "If I waver I'm lost!" Then the czar spoke, and spoke so that all might hear.

THE LUNGS ARE LIFE.

An Odd Little Essay on the Subject of Breathing.

Everything on, in and under the earth breathes—animals, minerals, vegetables, etc. The tides are caused by the breathing of the earth itself. This old globe must take two long breaths a day, each inspiration requiring six hours, and each expiration the same period of time. If Mother Earth did not breathe she would in all probability "bust" and blow up. When she breathes too hard, as if in a panic, or because of some geological excitement, she cracks the ground and we have the earthquake. Her ordinary respiratory movement merely expands and contracts the water volume.

Singularly enough, air is the most important element provided by nature. A man can live forty-five days without food, several days without water and about three or four minutes without air. Take away his lungs, as by pneumonia, and death is as certain as sin. Does the heart beat make the circulation of the blood or does the circulation make the heart beat? What causes breathing? Does breathing make the heart beat? Important, vitally important, are these questions. You may remove a man's liver, kidneys, stomach, intestines; you may sever arteries and veins; you may even stab him through the heart or will break his brain, and he will still live, but take away his lungs and he is dead. The lungs are the life!—New York Press.

They Go Toward It. "There are some men," said the chronic kicker, "whom good fortune seems to follow always."

"I think you're wrong," replied the happy hunter. "You will find good fortune meets them; it doesn't follow them."—Philadelphia Press.

Force of Habit.

One time a jail reporter was sent to report a wedding. He began his report by saying: "The condemned man ate a hearty breakfast of ham and eggs."—Chicago Tribune.

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