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FROM FAR-OFF COSTA RICA.

A Comprehensive Letter from a McMinnville Young Man.

Published by Permission.

ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA, C. A., April 14, 1895.

DEAR FOLKS AT HOME: Your letters of March 21st just received, and they are the first I have had since the 17th of December last.

The only real day of rest this country has arrived last Friday—Good Friday., Everything then stands still for a day, except the churches and the "Machos." One is not even allowed (?) to ride on horseback on that day; but the Americans always break into these church and other such customs, and consequently Costa Ricans seem to profit by the freedom of their foreign residents. As for ourselves, we took a trip to the active volcano "Poas," and, though it was a very hard trip, it will always be a "red letter day" on my calendar. We left here Thursday evening at 7, and, with a guide, rode all night, arriving at the crater at 5:30 a. m., and proceeded to fire up as we were about frozen. The elevation is about 10,000 feet, but there is no snow. The mountain for two or three miles from the crater is covered with ashes. I wish you all could view the sight that is to be seen from the edge of the crater. The crater at the top is about 3 or 4 miles in circumference, and the "lake" in the bottom, about 2000 or 2500 feet below the edge, is about a mile in circumference. One can go to the bottom in thirty minutes, but it took some of the crowd three hours to get back. When the vapor from the lake happens to drift around one it is necessary to cover one's face with a hat, or something answering the purpose, as the smell of sulphur is suffocating. There are two places in the lake where the water, ashes, rocks, sulphur, etc., are continually being thrown up, sometimes to the height of several thousand feet, but about 500 feet was the highest altitude while we were there, but don't think for a minute that that was not high enough for one whose curiosity tempts him to view the sight at so short a range. As for myself, I concluded that I had gone down far enough when I got to the edge of the lake and stuck my fingers into the water to see if it was warm, and of course got them burnt, and at the same time received a gentle reminder that my boot was filling up with the same hot material. Soft mud, quicksand, rolling rocks, ashes, hot water and fumes of sulphur are continually reminding one that there is a land that is fairer than this. Considerable of the edge is worn off the enjoyment of the trip when one begins to retrace his steps, especially if he commences the ascent in the wrong place, which is often the case, and finds it necessary to return to the bottom for another start. There is a lake of 60 acres one-half mile from the edge of the crater and on slightly higher ground. The water is very pure and transparent. The lake is a beautiful thing in itself to say nothing of its location. I will try and get some photographs of the volcano to send with this letter.

All of the information in regard to affairs outside of Costa Rica comes from newspapers from abroad. Newspapers here have nothing but local news, and the only way to hear from the revolution in Columbia; dispute between Mexico and Guatemala; or even the affairs of Salvador or Nicaragua, is to hunt up the papers from the United States. The New York *Herald* is recognized authority for news from these countries.

Where war is to be looked for most is between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and if it does come the U. S. will have another country to treat with in regard to the construction of the canal.

The people here are very easy-going and not excitable. The poorer classes nearly all own a little land, or an ox team, or something to keep them occupied, and consequently revolutions cannot be easily worked up among them. The present president is a fine little fellow, he doesn't look to be over thirty. He is very capable and commands the respect of all classes, especially the Americans, although there have been two attempts on his life in the last six months. He speaks good English.

Taking it as a whole Americans are well liked, respected and welcomed here—more so than any other class of foreigners. I heard a native say the other day that the best liked man in Costa Rica was H. R. Williams, the consul for the United States, who departed for home recently; but Mr. W. was the only consul to Costa Rica whom the Americans themselves had any respect for. Respect for the United States government is away below par in the average Costa Rican mind; but still they seem to have the Monroe doctrine framed and hung in one corner of their heads. A remark that I heard of a leading citizen making, one who is closely allied to the government, and who was educated in New York, was to the effect that Costa Rica was a stronger nation than the United States, and that the United States could not capture Costa Rica under any conditions. So you see their conceit and ignorance rank above their judgement and education occasionally. It is quite safe to say that the Americans here owe nothing to their home government for the respect they have acquired from this government and its people in general. For a peaceable nation, and for respect shown foreigners, I have never heard it denied that Costa Rica heads the list of all South and Central American countries.

In speaking of Costa Rica one has to take two kinds of country into consideration—the banana country along the coast, and the coffee country which is situated on the highlands. In speaking of the people there are also two classes. Some would describe them as the class that work and the class that doesn't, but there is somewhat of an educational distinction. About the only difference one could make between Americans and the better class of Costa Ricans, so far as appearance goes, is that the Costa Ricans are darker, and the women do not wear hats and are often very free in the use of facepowder. The poorer classes are quite industrious, but uneducated. The fruits include all tropical fruits; blackberries, huckleberries and salalberries grow in the mountains, but are not so good as those in Oregon. The natives have nothing to do with these classes of berries. Strawberries are grown in some places, but I have not seen any of them.

Monkeys and birds are not very numerous.

The soil is about all that could be asked for. It is considered much better than that in the countries north of here. The customs are much like the Spanish, but are steadily changing to those of the Americans. The stature is about the same as that of the American, but owing to the mode of living and diet the Costa Rican will not compare with the American when there are hardships and exposures to contend with.

Snakes are few, scorpions plentiful, and centipedes seem to be unknown in this locality. The extreme hot weather regulates this supply.

There are no manufactories to speak of. Not because it is not a good place for them, but because fuel is too dear, and good money sells at one hundred and fifty per cent. premium. Here is a good place to improve one's views on financial questions, because the subject is so closely allied to one's own pocket; consequently there is more thinking and less talking done on the subject. They have a condition, not a theory, to deal with. From the base of a sound money government one can view one road to a future quite easily.

A. S. COOPER.

B. H. Bowman, Pub. Enquirer, of Bremen, Ind., writes: Last week our little girl baby, the only one we have, was taken sick with croup. After two doctors failed to give relief and life was hanging on a mere thread, we tried One Minute Cough Cure and its life was saved. Rogers Bros.

Mailing Letters at Sea.

Apropos of the news that the Cunard Company will undertake to make an improvement in the speed of the delivery of transatlantic mail, an experiment to be tried first with the steamship Lucania, a much more interesting topic comes to mind. Why can not some practical scheme be devised for the exchange of mails en route on the high seas? As things are now, a passenger bound to or from Europe receives no communication from his family or friends, and no news from the wide world, until he reaches the other shore; or as best until, as he approaches the shore, the steamer takes a pilot. Yet it is common occurrence for steamers going in opposite directions to pass each other so closely that people standing on deck can speak as they pass by. It seems that it should not be difficult to invent methods by which packages of mail matter could be thrown with safety, and reach their destination, from one ship to another without the slightest diminution of sailing speed. This matter is entitled to more attention than it has received. Every person who has crossed the ocean will at once admit the interest and importance of the topic. As passenger travel to and fro increases with marvelous rapidity the demand for such a thing will surely become so urgent that its supply can not be indefinitely delayed.—*Boston Advertiser.*

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

GREAT RAILROADS BUILDING.

The greatest two public works now in progress in the world, are the trans-Siberian railroad, uniting western Russia and all of Europe by rail with the Pacific ocean, and the trans-Andean railroad, running from the western side of South America, from Columbia, through Ecuador and Peru to the capital of Chili, or even further south, says the New York *Sun.*

The Russian government has pushed work upon the trans-Siberian railroad more energetically than ever since the outbreak of the war between Japan and China. A large number of laborers have, within the past few months, been added to the force previously employed upon it; the means for its prosecution have been provided more freely than ever before; the Russian official press have taken much pains to point out the advantages that must accrue from it, and the exceeding importance to Russia of its speedy completion has been brought home to Russian statesmen more especially since Japan has made such an astonishing display of her power and has shown that it is her purpose to gain a foothold on the Asiatic mainland, a foothold that has caused Russia to think of the immediate necessity of guarding her own interests in that part of the world, at the eastern border of the empire. The trans-Siberian railroad is for military as well as commercial uses. Without it, excepting at a prodigious loss of treasure, time and force, and excepting under difficulties of the most serious kind, Russia cannot defend her eastern sea frontiers. No wonder that, since the Japanese victories of Ping Yang and Yalu, Russia has felt the need of a means of speedily reaching the utmost east of her dominions.

The trans-Andean railroad in South America is a work of vastly greater difficulty than the trans-Siberian railroad. The line for it must run along and through the mountainous regions and ranges of the Andes, extending from the Caribbean sea to the southern extremity of the continent. The successive surveys of the route have revealed obstacles such as the best engineering genius can hardly be expected to overcome in many years, and but a small portion of the means required for the great work has thus far been provided. The last survey, however, gave satisfactory evidence that there is a practicable railroad route from the eastern waters of the Amazon to Valparaiso, though the construction of the line will involve a very heavy expenditure. A beginning of the work has been made at a number of points, and several of the lines already existing in Peru and Chili will be serviceable for the main purpose; but nothing more can be said. On account of the disturbed condition of Peru for years past the government of that country has been unable to offer the inducements required by contractors. Bolivia is anxious for the road, which would be of signal advantage to her; but her treasury is low and her capitalists are unwilling to invest. Chili alone has taken a serious interest in the great project. She has not only made provision for a portion of the long line within her own territory, but has also provided the means for the building of the all-important section of the road between the Pacific and the Atlantic. At the recent session of the Chilian congress an act was passed guaranteeing the capital of the Trans-Andean Railroad company for twenty years at 4½ per cent. and the credit of Chili is good. All but about 50 miles of this part of the road are already completed, and the guarantee insures the completion of the whole of it between the two oceans, from Valparaiso across Argentine to Buenos Ayres. It may be supposed that this act of the Chilian congress will serve as a stimulus to the governments north of Chili, more especially to Peru, whose wastefulness in civil and other wars has so grievously retarded her commercial progress.

The trans-Andean enterprise has a disadvantage which does not exist in the case of the trans-Siberian enterprise. The route of the Andean road runs through several countries, while the route of the Siberian road is wholly within Russian territory. In the Andean case there are a number of unstable governments concerned, whereas, in the Siberian case, there is one government concerned. Upon the South American side there are half a dozen bellicose presidents; upon the Russian side there is one czar, an autocrat.

The Siberian line will be, as it has been, pushed forward with all the energies and resources of a mighty empire; the Andean line must await events which no man on earth can foresee.

DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cures scalds, burns, indolent sores and never fails to cure piles. Rogers Bros.

WANTED—A FRIEND.

The following notice is going the rounds of the newspapers, and attracting a great deal of false sympathy on its way:

"Wanted —A friend: one who will recognize me when I am compelled to wear patched pants; who will take my hand as I am sliding down hill instead of giving me a kick to hasten my descent; who will lend me a dollar without two dollars security; who'll come to me when I am sick, who will take off his coat and fight when odds are at two to one; who will talk of me behind my back as he talks to my face. Such a friend is wanted by thousands of human beings through the whole world."

The man who thus formulates his desires evidently has a very well-defined notion of what he would like to have for himself, but it does not seem to have occurred to him that the only possible way to get such a friend is to be such a friend. And if he is, heartily and genuinely, such a friend to all with whom he comes in contact, he will never have occasion to sit down and whine for some one to come and coddle him.

It is the selfish, look-out-for-number-one-man who complains that others speak evil of him behind his back. It is the thoughtless prodigal who squanders money on unworthy objects who finds that his friends, so-called, take wing with his riches. It is the shiftless ne'er-do-weel who cannot borrow a dollar without giving two dollars security. It is the lazy or incompetent idler who groans that no one will do anything for him.

The generous, whole-souled, self-forgetful man, who is always ready to "take trouble" to help his neighbors, who is wise in his charities and liberal in his good deeds, who is everywhere and at all times "a good man to tie to," may, indeed, be imposed upon occasionally, but he will never lack friends in time of need. —*Will Carlton's Everywhere.*

W. T. Sanford, station agent of Leeper, Clarion Co., Pa., writes: I can recommend One Minute Cough Cure as the best I ever used. It gave instant relief and a quick cure. Rogers Bros.

WHAT MAKES A BOY POPULAR.

All boys wish to be popular and wield as large an influence over their fellows as possible.

What makes a boy popular? Manliness. During the war how schools and colleges followed popular boys! These young leaders were the manly boys whose hearts could be trusted. The boy who respects his mother has leadership in him. The boy who is careful of his sister is knight. The boy who will never violate his word, and who will pledge his honor to his own hurt and change not, will have the confidence of his fellows. The boy who defends the weak will one day become a hero among the strong. The boy who will never hurt the feelings of any one will one day find himself in the atmosphere of universal sympathy.

Shall we tell you how to become a popular boy? We will. Be too manly and generous and unselfish to seek to be popular; be the soul of honor, and love others better than yourself, and people will give you their hearts and delight to make you happy. That is what makes a boy popular.—*Ram's Horn.*

The Diseases of California.

The "influence of climate on health and disease" is about to undergo a systematic investigation by the department of agriculture with a view to ascertain to what degree local climatic peculiarities may favor or resist the development of specific diseases, and to discover in what parts of the country invalids and health-seekers may find climatic surroundings best adapted to the alleviation or cure of their particular cases. The work is to be conducted through the medium of the weather bureau, and the co-operation of the various boards of health, public sanitary authorities, associations and societies, and of the medical profession generally is earnestly solicited. That the scheme will eventually lead to the establishment of a national health bureau is obvious.

Men die in California of three diseases chiefly—consumption, cancer and zymotic disease; and living, they languish from one, namely, rheumatism. Of these four plagues, one—cancer—is incurable in the present stage of medical science; zymotic or filth diseases may be prevented to a large extent by sanitary precautions; rheumatism, which is merely a non-technical term for a number of diseases not now understood, is the domain of the quack, and can not be treated scientifically until a number of things now unknown are made plain; consumption, or pulmonary tuberculosis, appears to be susceptible of mitigation or cure in southern California. It goes without saying that a record extending over a period of several years, and comparing deaths from consumption with the temperature, the wind, the percentage of moisture in the atmosphere and the hourly alterations of heat and cold, might lead to improvements in the manner of treating the disease; and that a similar record paralleling the severity of rheumatism with the same meteorological conditions might enable doctors to form a shrewd guess at the real cause of that abominable malady. Medical inquiry is now directed to the bacillary origin of disease; excellent results have already been attained, and still better may be expected in the future. But the investigation of the microbe need not preclude an equally promising field of inquiry, namely, the influence of the air in which we live on the human organs.—*San Francisco Argonaut.*

FOR THE BLOOD

SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR
The Best Spring Medicine

Just now everybody is thinking about taking something for the blood. A Spring medicine as we speak of it. And it's a good thing to do, but you want to get the proper medicine. If you consult your physician he will tell you to

Take a GOOD LIVER MEDICINE

and that, because the liver has everything to do with the blood. If the liver is sluggish the system is clogged, the blood becomes impure, and the whole body suffers. Every medicine recommended for the blood is supposed to work on the liver. Then get at once the "KING OF LIVER MEDICINES,"

SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR

It does its work well, and tones up the whole system. It is "Better than Pills," and can be had in liquid or powder.

J. A. Richardson, of Jefferson City, Mo., chief enrolling force 38th general assembly of Missouri, writes: I wish to testify to the merits of One Minute Cough Cure. When other so-called cures failed, I obtained almost instant relief and a speedy cure by the use of One Minute Cough Cure. Rogers Bros.

At the time that Livingstone was making his famous trips to the interior of Africa, it will be remembered that the subject most talked of was the source of the Nile. Now that source, it is said, has been found. The Philadelphia *Record* says that the "most interesting, if not the most important, discovery made by Lieutenant Count Von Goetzen, the German explorer who has only recently achieved the thirteenth trip across Africa, has probably been the finding in Ruanda of the fire mountain, Kirunga. This is the only active volcano ever found on the Dark Continent and the sole survivor of the long line of flaming and smoking craters which once lay with their fiery caldrons on both sides of Victoria Nyanza far to the north. Kirunga rises above the plain to a height of nearly 11,120 feet. The crater is almost a mile in diameter and its walls are nearly circular. At the foot of this great volcano, Von Goetzen discovered extensive Lake Kiru, of which Stanley heard vague reports on his journey. It proves to be half way between Lakes Tanganyika and Albert Edward, and it sends its waters, nearly as large as Lake Albert, through the Rusisi river to Tanganyiki. Thus the last link in the chain of sources of the Nile, first sought by Livington, has been found."

The company authorized in New York to move tows by electricity on the Erie Canal, after examining many methods, have decided on what is called the cable way system. This consists of two strong parallel cables strung along the banks. The upper cable carries the current, and the lower one is connected with it by a shaft and motor. From the latter a towline runs to the canal boats, and draws them along smoothly and steadily. The idea of using propellers or waddle-wheels was abandoned on account of the waves they cause, with resulting injury to the banks. A double section of eleven miles near Buffalo will be in operation this season.

A new Baptist church is to be built at Salem this year.

The St. Helens *Mist* publishes what purports to be a complete list of the owners of all the property in Columbia county through which the Astoria railroad would pass. It shows that of 57 owners, 27 have so far conceded right of way.