

THE OCEAN CURRENTS

TREND OF THOSE IN THE ARCTIC TO BE DETERMINED.

Philadelphia Geographical Society Makes an Assault Upon the Problem of Discovering the North Pole—To Experiment with Floating Casks.

The Geographical Society of Philadelphia is fairly embarked upon its latest assault upon the problem of discovering the north pole. This is one of the most important ventures in geographical discovery initiated in recent years. It contemplates the determination of the direction or trend of the oceanic currents of the arctic region, for the purpose of ascertaining the conditions of drift which there prevail.

The latest polar exploration originated in the course of the ill-fated Jeannette expedition and the later and more successful drift of the Fram, under command of Nansen in his farthest north expedition. The present project for the determination of polar drift was conceived by Rear Admiral George W. Melville, engineer in chief of the United States navy, who was an officer of the Jeannette expedition. After the disaster that overtook the Jeannette Melville was deputed to search for the lost bodies on the shores of northern Siberia. The severe experiences of Melville during these perilous expeditions were not without results that bid fair to contribute important knowledge to the problem that has thus far baffled the researches of geographical science and cost many lives during the past 300 years. For Melville believes that through observation made then the pole will be ultimately reached.

In a paper read before the American Philosophical Society late in 1897 Rear Admiral Melville outlined his plan of search. He proposed the construction of small, strong casks, designed to meet the requirements of a long drift between arctic floes, possibly of three or four years' duration. He suggested that these casks be built of heavy oak staves, with conical ends, and encircled with steel bars, in order to resist the utmost pressure of ice.

The Geographical Society of Philadelphia undertook to carry out Rear Admiral Melville's novel proposal. For more than a year the society has been engaged upon the execution of the plan. Fifty casks have been constructed in San Francisco, under the super-

the polar floe are about the size of an ordinary beer keg, but with conical rooded ends of brass. Each cask will contain a glass tube, into which will be inserted a memorandum of the locality of the placing the casks in the drift, with blank instruction in several languages, requesting the finder, wherever the casks may be drifted, to inscribe on the memorandum the location by latitude and longitude of the find, and with the request to forward this information to the nearest consular representative of the finder's country, or direct to the Geographical Society of Philadelphia. Each glass tube is inclosed in a small wooden trough, which will be placed through the bung-hole of

BURNING OF THE WINDSOR HOTEL IN NEW YORK CITY.



serene atmosphere, but opposite to a thin vaporous cloud, if a human being stand on a high hill between them, a wonderful image is seen on the cloud-curtain, moving as the man moves, at one moment clear and the next fading away. This is a kind of natural magic lantern, where the cloud takes the place of the white screen, and a man, or men, of the slides. The highest peak of the Hartz Mountains, called the Brocken, is the place where this is oftenest seen, so the image is called the spectre of the Brocken. But mountaineers see it often on the high Alps. The changing rays of the morning sun make the giant shadows vanish and reappear, and the moving cloud-screen gives them motion.

WHEN THE CENTURY BEGINS.

It Was a Fruitful Topic of Discussion One Hundred Years Ago.

An immense amount of discussion is current as to the exact time when the present century ends, and the next one begins. Some very clever arguments have been advanced on various phases of the subject. The reader who follows up all of these will be rewarded with a vast amount of curious information. With the great deal that is speculative and purely theoretical, some most curious and bewildering propositions are brought to the front. A good deal of this is new to the person who has not reflected over the matter before. All that is being gone over, however, is old, thrashed material. As the

ing his face to the south he would say: "I am now 1,800 miles from the city hall of New York." But if he had put the stone numbered 1 at the city hall, then the stone to be placed at one mile, from the said corner would have been marked 2, and the stone marked 1,800 only 1,799 miles from New York. But placing the stone marked 1 at the said corner would surely mislead the traveler in determination of how far he was from New York, for seeing 2 marked on the stone he would conclude that he had still two miles to traverse to be at the New York city hall.

A Sure Stand.

The following story of a really smart retort is from "More Humors of Cler-

A Compliment for the Scots.
An old Scotch lady in Detroit is a little bit prouder of her nationality than of anything else to which she can lay claim, and never misses a chance to boast of what her countrymen have accomplished. She never tires of telling what they have done, dwelling particularly upon Scott, Burns, Wallace, Bruce and Ian Maclaren. "Mother," said her son, after she had been discoursing upon her favorite theme the other day, "you honestly seem to think that no good can come except out of Scotland. I fear it's becoming a sort of mania with you. You'll be claiming yet, mother, that Gladstone, Washington, Lincoln, Dewey and all the best of our greatest men in modern times, were born in Scotland." "Weel, I'm nae so sure 't that, Jamie, but there be aye thing I do ken o' the gude men ye name, laddie, a'mast a' o' thim had intellect much to be Scotchmen."—Detroit Free Press.

The Third Party.

He came lurching around a corner and staggered up against a pedestrian waiting for his car, and after getting settled down upon his feet again he said:

"Be careful of yourself, old fellow and not get run over."

"But you're the one to be careful," was the reply. "You've got a jag on, while I'm perfectly sober."

"That's something I never could understand," observed the inebriated, after a pause. "The man who is tight always thinks it is the sober man who is drunk, and vice versa. Tell you what I honestly believe."

"Well?"

"We are both sober, and that lamp-post over there has got a \$3 drunk on!" —Pittsburg Post.

An Eye to Business.—"Bigbee is a terribly melodramatic fellow, isn't he? He said he'd drain his heart's blood for the woman he loved. Do you think he meant it?" "Why, I guess so. Bigbee is agent for a drain and sewer pipe concern."

In a new jack-screw for raising heavy bodies the spiral ribs inside the frame are replaced by a series of steel balls which mesh in the grooves on the beveled shaft and decrease the friction as the shaft is turned.

"What's an empty title, pa?" "An empty title is your mother's way of calling me the lead of the house."

The man who first printed the immortal Declaration of Independence was John Dunlap, an Irishman from Strabane, County Tyrone, in which place he was born in 1747.

Under Henry V, an act of parliament ordered all the geese in England to be counted, and the sheriffs of the counties were required to furnish six arrow-feathers from each goose.

There was a young man from Lenore,
Who boldly went off to the war;
The "beef" made him sick,
He recovered quite quick
By the prompt use of old Jesse Moore.

Somehow we always expect the fellow who gets mad first to come out of the argument second best.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Naming a battleship George Washington is all right, but could a ship with that name lie at anchor?

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, M.D., 303 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

People who talk most about others' selfishness are frequently the worst.

"I DO MY OWN WORK."

So Says Mrs. Mary Rochette of Linden, New Jersey, in this Letter to Mrs. Pinkham.

"I was bothered with a flow which would be quite annoying at times, and at others would almost stop."

"I used prescriptions given me by my physician, but the same state of affairs continued."

"After a time I was taken with a flooding, that I was obliged to keep my bed. Finally, in despair, I gave up my doctor, and began taking your medicine, and have certainly been greatly benefited by its use."

"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has indeed been a friend to me. I am now able to do my own work, thanks to your wonderful medicine. I was as near death I believe as I could be, so weak that my pulse scarcely beat and my heart had almost given out. I could not have stood it one week more, I am sure. I never thought I would be so grateful to any medicine."

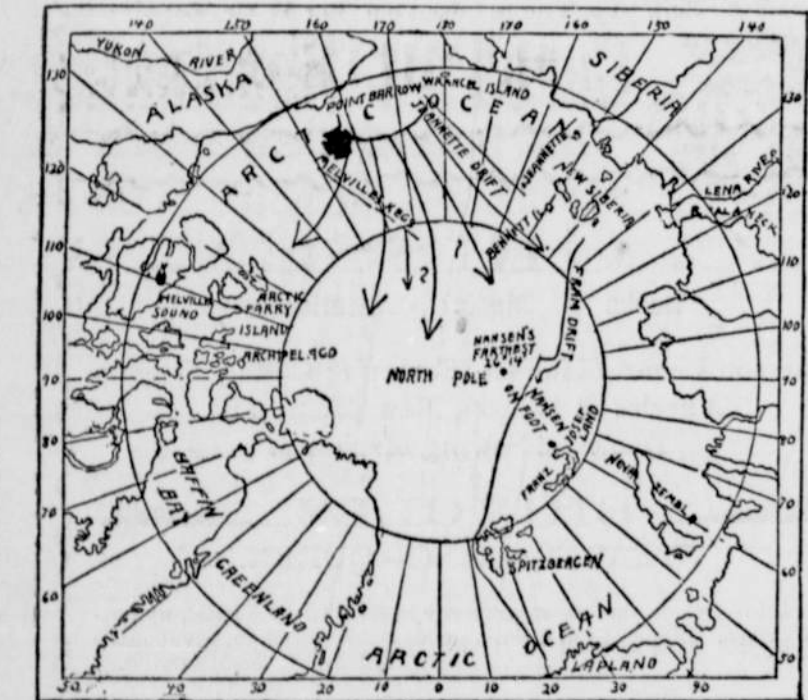
"I shall use my influence with any one suffering as I did, to have them use Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

Every woman that is puzzled about her condition should secure the sympathetic advice of a woman who understands. Write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., and tell her your ills.

Plunder's
REGON BLOOD PURIFIER
HEALTH RESTORER
USE IT!

PISO'S CURE FOR
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Patent Cough. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

CONSUMPTION



MAP OF POLAR SEA, SCENE OF MELVILLE'S LATEST EXPERIMENT.

Intendence of Past Chief Engineer George F. Kutz, U. S. N., an officer who is well acquainted with Melville's plans. Specially prepared messages, to be placed inside the casks, are now en route across the continent. In a few days these messages will be inclosed in the casks and the northern journey will begin. By means of Pacific whaling fleets, whose co-operation has been generously granted to the society, and also by the United States cutter Bear, acting for the United States hydrographic service, the casks will be shipped northward. Of the fifty, twenty-five of them will be carried by the steam whalers of the Pacific Steam Whaling Company, fifteen by the revenue cutter Bear and ten by whalers owned by George Siebers & Co. During the next year it is contemplated to send fifty additional casks.

To Determine Polar Drifts.
The plan of operation, so far as can be determined at present, is to deposit these casks on ice floes, north of both the American and the Asiatic continents, for the purpose of determining the polar drifts. These drifts are believed by many geographers to pass in opposed directions, one northward from the Siberian coast, and which is assumed to correspond with the drift of the Fram; the other northeastward from the archipelago lying north of America and issuing eastward in the sea that lies west of Greenland.

Henry G. Bryant, the present President of the Geographical Society of

the cask and the hole will be securely closed.

DWELL IN A STUMP.

Queer Living Quarters of Five Men in southern Australia.

Sometimes the rodents and the birds make homes in tree stumps, but man has usually selected different quarters.



THE STUMP HOUSE.

In the township of Wynnstay, South Gippsland, Australia, however, five men have converted a huge gumtree stump into a very habitable dwelling. This queer home is two stories high, the upper story being reached by a regular stairway. A glance at the accompanying picture of the stump house will convince you that the tree must have been a giant of its species.

Wonders of Nature.

If two pieces of looking-glass are held on the opposite sides of a lighted lamp or candle, an endless series of bright flames may be seen at one time. So, in the cold north, when the air is full of minute floating ice-floes, the sun with its halo is reflected many times, and the traveler sees two, four or more mock suns with crossing halos of startling patterns. In hilly countries, where the sun rises in a

LEWIS CARROLL.

Peculiarities of the Author of "Alice in Wonderland."

S. D. Collingwood, in the Century, describes some of the odd ways of Lewis Carroll, the author of "Alice in Wonderland."

That he was, in some respects, eccentric cannot be denied; for instance, he never wore an overcoat, and always wore a tall hat, whatever might be the climatic conditions. He would wear only cotton gloves. In these small personal matters he had a great fear of extravagance. At dinner in his rooms small pieces of cardboard took the place of table-mats; they answered the purpose perfectly well, he said, and to buy anything else would be a mere waste of money.

On the other hand, when purchasing books for himself, or giving treats to the children he loved, he never seemed to consider expense at all.

When making tea for his friends he used—in order, I suppose, to expedite the process—to walk up and down the room waving the teapot about, and telling meanwhile those delightful anecdotes of which he had an inexhaustible supply.

He had a strong objection to staring colors in dress, his favorite combination being pink and gray. One little girl who came to stay with him was absolutely forbidden to wear a red frock, of a somewhat pronounced hue, while out in his company.

At meals he was always very abstemious, while he took nothing in the middle of the day except a glass of wine and a biscuit. Under these circumstances it is not very surprising that the healthy appetites of his little friends filled him with wonder, and even with alarm.

When he took a certain one of them out with him to a friend's house to dinner he used to give the host or hostess a gentle warning, to the mixed amazement and indignation of the child: "Please be careful, because she eats a good deal too much."

Two Valid Excuses.

Last week, late in the afternoon, a case was called by Judge Sutherland in County Court.

"I would like to ask, your Honor, that this case go over until to-morrow," said one of the attorneys.

"On what ground?" said the Judge. "Too tired."

"Yes, your Honor. I have been arguing a case all day in Part II, and I am really too fatigued to go on with this trial."

"Very well, let the case go over. Call the next case."

"May it please your Honor, I would like to ask this case to go over."

"For what reason?"

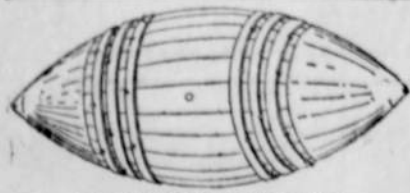
"I am too tired."

"You, too? What makes you tired?"

"I have been listening all day to my learned friend in Part II."—Rochester Herald.

When a girl of sixteen, who is pretty, and has good clothes, gets a sad look in her eyes, it means that she has heard it becoming; nothing more.

The Bible tells us God created man in His own image—and nearly every man thinks he is the one referred to.



ONE OF THE DRIFT CASKS.

Philadelphia, has generously contributed to the society the funds needed to carry this novel polar expedition into immediate execution. Mr. Bryant is a graduate of Princeton University. He is an explorer of wide experience and is at present on an extended voyage in the West Indies. The casks which will be sent through