

## OLD DESERT JOURNEYS.

### MODERN CIVILIZATION, THRIFT AND ABUNDANCE IN SAGE BRUSH COUNTRY.

Where Sunshine and Fertile Soil Await the Coming of Canal-Borne Water to Laugh Abundant Harvests.

C. J. Blanchard.

EL PASO, Tex. (Special).—On the Southeast border of the Great American Desert, where our sister republic Mexico touches the commonwealth of Texas on the East and the progressive old-young territory of New Mexico on the North, stands the "largest city in the largest Congressional district of the largest State of the greatest Nation on the earth."

To the Easterner who first visits this charming city and enjoys the hospitality which its citizens know so well how to extend, the question is uppermost, what makes a city here? After journeying more than 500 miles across Western Kansas and the Panhandle of Texas, the short grass country, where it is all one vast cattle range, down into the adobe hills and sage brush wastes of eastern New Mexico, there is a reason for asking this question. You naturally want to know from whence comes all this hustle and bustle with all these evidences of progress and substantial growth. All your no-



RUINS OF OLD SPANISH CHURCH.

ions long held and regretfully let go of, are that this sunny land of the border is the land of manana, of tomorrow; that its day of awakening is not yet come. Well, wake up! Life is just as real, just as earnest and as strenuous in El Paso as in New York or Chicago, and when you rub up in business against the El Pasoan you need all your shrewdness and business acumen.

#### The Old and the New.

El Paso is old—very old, and El Paso is new, too—very new. This delightful paradox is full of surprises and charms. Right up against the old Spanish dwelling of adobe with long, low windows, heavily barred, and its patio in the center, you are likely to find a modern office building with elevators and electric lights. Something of a feeling of living in the past comes over you when you enter one of the old churches, down here—churches erected more than 300 years ago. The solemn silence of these shadowy halls has been broken by the orisons of countless thousands and softly intoned aves were echoing here long before the eyes of the Anglo-

Site for the Great Rio Grande Dam.



A New Mexican Irrigation Scene.

Saxon had looked upon Plymouth Rock. In the first half of the Sixteenth Century the Spanish Conquistadores seeking new fields of conquest for the glory of Spain, swept up the Rio Grande Valley. They found pastoral settlements of Pueblo Indians practicing agriculture through the aid of irrigation, carrying the precious waters of the Rio Grande out upon the desert and reaping harvests from fields which had been in cultivation beyond the traditions of the oldest members of the tribe. Spanish settlements followed the conquerers. With the ready adaptability of the early explorers they utilized the old irrigation systems.

#### Thresh by Trampling of Goats.

The unprogressiveness of the Spaniard is no where more strikingly revealed than in the Rio Grande Valley, where the descendants of the early Spanish explorers are to-day engaged in agriculture in just the same manner as their forefathers practiced it, and indeed with methods strangely like those in the days of Abraham. You can see them reap with the sickle and thresh by the trampling of goats.

Progressive Americans settling in the upper reaches of the Rio Grande in later years, showed small regard for the settlers in the lower valley. Soon their long lines of broad canals began to make sad inroads in the water supply which was needed for the old

canals. Mexico, Texas and New Mexico were arrayed against Colorado which robbed them of their priceless heritage and threatened to transform thousands of acres of fruitage and bloom into its original state—that of the desert. As the water grew scarce there sprang up hostilities between the citizens of the whole Rio Grande Valley. Neighbor began to be arrayed against neighbor; there were even family rows over the water. For years these conditions prevailed. Mexico made respectful protest against the use of the waters of the Rio Grande in Colorado which deprived the ancient canals of the Republic of their rights long established. The Comity of Nations was threatened.

#### To Build a Huge Dam.

It was the passage of the National irrigation act which wrought a wondrous change in the conditions and knit together in one brotherhood all the citizens of the lower valley, imbuing them with a spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm. The Reclamation Service took hold of the project and worked out a plan to store the vast Rio Grande floods which were annually a source of much loss to the valley and which were wholly unutilized. This plan the people have accepted as a salvation.

One hundred miles above El Paso the Rio Grande flows through a deep narrow canyon. A dam 255 feet high across its lower end will create the largest artificial reservoir in this country. It will make a lake 40 miles long, 1 1/2 miles wide and from 100 to 175 feet deep. It will contain water enough to cover a 2,000,000 acre flood plain. Into this vast reservoir the greatest flood the Rio Grande has ever known will quickly disappear and later when needed by 200,000 thirsty acres in the valley below will be released and led through a net work of canals and ditches through New Mexico into Texas, clear down into Old Mexico.

#### The Settlers Pay the Cost.

It will cost millions to do this work. \$7,000,000 is the figure, but what of that? The settlers will gladly pay for it. Under the magic of irrigation Mesilla, La Palomas and El Paso valleys, now only dotted here and there with green verdure, will spring into full fruitage, producing harvests unrivalled in quality and quantity. Ten thousand new homes will cover the desert plain, and El Paso, the central point for transportation and the greatest market in the valley, will wax into a city of 100,000 souls. Twenty thousand acres of irrigated land support a splendid city now. What shall it be when 200,000 acres are added to the crop producing area of El Paso territory?

#### THE INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS.

An English Naturalist Believes That It May Be Far Greater Than Imagined.

Sir John Lubbock has brought more popular attention to the subject of the mental capacity of animals than any other writer. He has conducted many careful investigations on the senses, instincts and intelligence of animals and insects. An interesting query propounded by the English scientist relates to the existence of other organs of sense than ours.

"We find," he says, "in animals complex organs of sense, richly supplied with nerves, but the function of which we are as yet powerless to explain. There may be fifty other senses as different from ours as sound is from sight, and even within the boundaries of our own senses there may be end-

## COMMERCIAL DISHONESTY.

### AN ACKNOWLEDGED TRAIT OF JAPANESE MERCHANTS.

They Have No Regard For a Contract—Striking Contrast With Chinese Traders.

With the treaty of peace, Japan has seen the accomplishment of a task that has been the ambition of the empire—to hold front rank in the family of nations. This has been brought about through such military achievements as have evoked the admiration of the civilized powers, but now it seems that Japan has still before her a problem which means harder work and a greater task than that which she had before the commencement of the Russo-Japanese war.

That task, is to redeem the commercial reputation of her traders, a reputation which is not enviable. Joseph Walton, a member of the English parliament, a man who has spent much time in travel and knows the people of the East thoroughly, says in his book on the Orient:

"Japanese traders are not specially distinguished for honesty, particularly in their business relations with foreigners. We have in this a most striking proof that the character of the people is largely formed by the nature of their surroundings. For hundreds of years the trading class in Japan has occupied a very low place in the social scale. In the last thirty years, since the feudal system has been abolished, the position of the traders has greatly changed, and now some of those who were nobles are engaged in trade; and I am told there is reason to hope that shortly business affairs in Japan will be conducted on more honest lines."

#### Peculiar Business Dishonesty.

The progress which the Japanese have made in the past fifty years shows them to be a people self-reliant and determined to keep on advancing towards the highest plane attainable, yet travelers in the East have been surprised that the traders of the Occident are so notoriously dishonest, for while the Japanese are far superior to the Chinese as regards achievement of national strength and perseverance, yet the reverse is true in the matter of commercial honesty.

It appears that the Japanese merchants have no regard for a contract. It is said that the most prosperous commercial houses of Japan are managed not by Japanese but by Chinese. The average Chinese merchant is highly esteemed the world over for his honesty; in fact a president of one of the largest corporations of the United States once said that he would not be afraid to ship a barrel of gold coin to a Chinese merchant with instructions to make use of it in trade, but at the end of the year he would receive a detailed statement of where every coin went, but if this were done to a Japanese merchant, he would consider himself lucky to get back the empty barrel.

It is believed that the hard task accomplished by the Japanese in the war just happily brought to an end will be a beginning to bring out the gentleness for which the Japanese have been noted in war to a utilization of peace and commercialism.

#### Close Co-Operation.

Now, Harold, this is your fifth birthday party. Whom do you love best, your father or me?  
Father, sure.  
But, Harold, you said yesterday that you loved me best.  
Yes; but I've slept over it, and I realize that we men must stick together.

#### THE MEERSCHAUM PIPE.

Almost Impossible to Select a Genuine One.

A story is told of a smoker who spent eight of the best years of his life trying to color a meerschaum pipe, keeping it enclosed most of the time in a case so as to prevent it getting scratched and its finish being dulled by the oil and moisture from his hands, only to find at the end of that period that he had been tenderly nursing an imitation instead of the genuine "ecume de mer." The best imitation is composed of the parings of genuine meerschaum, combined with a mineral clay. These compositions can usually be determined from the genuine meerschaum by their greater weight, but there is no absolutely certain test for distinguishing the counterfeit. One method of test is to look for slight imperfections. Composition bowls never exhibit these slight blemishes, which result from the presence of foreign bodies in the natural meerschaum; however, as the blemishes do not usually manifest themselves until after the bowl has been used for some time, the test is not of much value in buying new pipes. Meerschaum is a silicate of magnesia, and preparatory to carving it is soaked in a composition of wax and oil. The wax and oil absorbed by the meerschaum are the cause of the coloring of the pipe due to smoking, and in connection with the further absorption of nicotine. Where meerschaum has been smoked for some time without having acquired a good color, they can frequently be improved by rubbing, when warm, with beeswax.

#### Weakness of English Colonies.

The new commonwealth of Australia does not seem to be getting on very well. The population in the ten years ending with 1901 was 3,771,715, the increase being 597,402. The whole island continent has less population than the city of Greater New York. Long a dependent upon England, it has not developed internally. "Were Australian ports," says the Sydney Bulletin, "shut by hostile warships to-morrow, the commonwealth would be without guns or cartridges for its troops, without ships or the means of making them, without fabrics for clothing, without machinery for mine or railway, without even paper on which to print its journals. Australia would have to beseech the grace of some master, crawl to the hand of whatever power was for the time most strong, or lapse into savagery."

## GOSSIP OF THE DIPLOMATS.

### Foreign and Washington Notes.

The Sultan of Turkey some short time since, granted an audience to Senator Bacon, of Georgia, and was so much charmed with that genial American gentleman that he conferred upon him the grand cordon of the Chefeak, and presented Mrs. Bacon with a lot of porcelain manufactured in the Imperial potteries. It remains to be seen whether the Georgian Senator will ask permission from Congress to be permitted to accept the order of the Sultan.

Mrs. Wu Ting Fang, wife of the former Chinese Minister to this country, has defied the time honored traditions of her native land, by returning to China with her "feet enlarged" to a normal size. When she came to this country with her famous husband, Mrs. Wu had her feet tightly bound, as is the custom among women of her rank in China. While in this country she had a surgical operation performed, increasing her feet to the size nature



MADAME WU TING FANG.

intended them to be. Mrs. Wu's Washington friends, with whom she keeps up a steady correspondence, state that she is able to walk now with comfort.

By the will of the late German Field Marshal, Count von Waldersee, commander of the allied troops during the Boxer uprising in China, his insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle, set with diamonds, was sold for the benefit of the needy soldiers in his old regiment. Count von Waldersee's wife is a Miss Lee, of New York, and asserts a most powerful influence at the Berlin Court where she succeeded in securing promotion after promotion for her husband.

Dr. Wallason, the Czar's American dentist, lives in St. Petersburg in a palace in a quarter reserved for Grand Dukes and Ambassadors. It is furnished with such exquisite things that each room represents a fortune in itself. Wherever the Czar or Czarina or the Grand Dukes are, they always send for Dr. Wallason, and he is kept busy traveling from one end of the big Russian empire to the other.

In the same way, Dr. Thomas, an American dentist at Vienna, has been for many years an intimate friend of the Emperor, and has never betrayed the Emperor's confidence by a single indiscreet utterance.

The German Emperor's American dentist, not such a very long time since committed suicide.

Each Earl of Orford, at his burial is driven in his hearse three times round the church before his remains are finally laid to rest. The origin of this queer custom, according to family and local tradition, is that Horatio, second earl of Orford, destroyed the tomb of the Scalpers, former possessors of Mannington Hall, in Norfolkshire, and one of the unhappy ladies of this family, finding no rest, still haunts the churchyard, always searching for the remains of her relations. It is to mollify her spirit that this weird drive of the hearse round the churchyard takes place on the occasion of the obsequies of every Earl of Orford. The present Lord Orford, whose wife is Louise Corbin, daughter of D. C. Corbin, and niece of the great railroad magnate of that name, is at present traveling in this country.

#### The Bartholdi Fountain.

Among art work displayed in one of the public reservations in the immediate shadow of the Capitol, is the Bartholdi Fountain, which plays in the National Botanical Garden. Its



BARTHOLDI FOUNTAIN IN WINTER GARR.

designer and sculptor was the man who made the Statue of Liberty, which France presented to the United States and which stands in New York harbor. The Bartholdi Fountain performed its first service in this country at the Philadelphia exposition, at the close of which it was brought to Washington.

#### Cheerful During Trouble.

Mamma had told Dorothy that she could not go out again. The little maiden made one more plea. "Please, mamma, it isn't very wet, and I won't go on the grass."  
"No, you cannot, Dorothy," said mamma, smiling at the little one's persistence.  
"Well, anyway, mamma, it seems to me that you're very cheerful about it."

## AN ENGLISHMAN WITH HUMOR.

How He Held His First Job and Moreover Got a Raise in Wages.

Herbert Kelcey, one of the leading actors of the present time, is an Englishman, but, unlike the usual type from the Island has a deep sense of humor. In speaking of his first visit to this country, he describes his experience something like this:

"Yes, I was a bit green when I came over to this country, and I had to take over to the Island in the way of a job. I got started in a department store on 6th avenue, and the floorwalker says to me, 's'ys'?"

"Now, 'Arry, we'll give you three trials, and if you let three people get away without selling them, we'll 'ave to bounce you."  
"Well, I came down jolly early on Monday, took my place behind the counter and waited for customers. Pretty soon a lady walked up and asked me where she should take the tram for New Rochelle. I didn't know, and she went aw'y. I looked at the floorwalker and the floorwalker 'e looked at me. That made one," holding up a lean forefinger. "Then a man came along and stopped to ask me where 'e could buy a 'at. I told 'im where 'e 'at counter was, and 'e went aw'y. That made two. Jolly poor luck, wasn't it now? I looked at the floorwalker, and that floorwalker looked at me like 'ell, but what could I do? Then another lady came along as 'ad a large piece of goods to match, and she wanted another yard of the same. I took it and pulled out 'everything on the shelves, but there was no more of it left. I was in a bit of a funk then, for if I let 'er go without making a sale I would lose my job, so I sez:

"Write a bit, 'Lidy; I'll see if we 'ave any upstairs." I went up, and seeing there was no more there, either, I just cut a yard off her own goods and brought the two pieces down, rolled them up, took the money, and she went aw'y. I 'ad plenty of customers after that, but I didn't feel just comfortable, don't you know.

"The same afternoon she came back and asked for the floorwalker.

"'Ere,' sez she, 'I brought five yards of goods 'ere to match this morning and bought a yard more, but when I got home I found only four yards in my own piece. Can you explain that, please?"

"I 'emmed an' 'aved and tried to measure the goods and 'attempted to tell the 'Lidy that she must be mistaken about 'er own piece, but she only glared at me, and in a jiff she was hup to the floorwalker 'expl'ain' the matter of affairs. 'Er tone h'indicated that she was mad, and I said to myself, "'Arry, you're a dead 'un."  
"The floorwalker called me 'out, and I 'ad to tell 'im all about it, 'ow the first party wanted a tram-car, and the next 'at, and this one wanted more goods when we 'adn't any. I 'ad to sell 'er some 'ow, or lose my job, so I give 'er a bit from 'er own piece. The floorwalker looked so bloomin' mad for a bit that I thought my time was come for sure, but then 'e started to laff, and 'e laffed till I thought 'e'd bust. Then 'e sez, "'Arry, sez 'e 'I guess we'll 'ave to keep you, and raise your wages.' And 'e did."

#### Wonder Work of the Ancients.

Modern quarry machinery can handle single stones larger than any of the monoliths of ancient Egypt. The really surprising thing, however, is how did the ancients handle their monoliths with only their crude machines.

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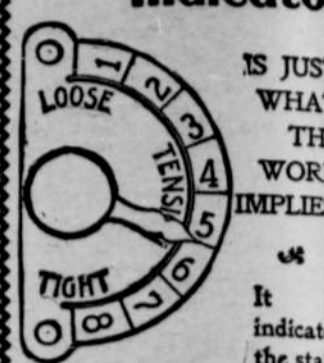
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