

WONDERS OF THE SUN

Some Facts About That Colossal Fiery Globe.

AN IDEA OF ITS GREAT SIZE.

Our Earth and Moon, as Far Apart as They Now Are, Could Easily Move Around in Its Flaming Interior—Some of the Substances It Contains.

Astronomy does not always consist of night studies. There are some things to be seen after darkness is gone, both with glass and unassisted eye. The dear old moon often gives us a good daylight view of herself, looking as if haggard, sleepy and disgusted after being out overnight. The star Venus has often been seen in the afternoon. Some comets are on record as having approached so near the earth that the same could be said of them for weeks at a time.

But of course the great day attraction is the ruler of our own family of brother and sister planets, the sun.

Although "medium sized" as compared to many of the fixed stars, our sun is no lightweight, being about 1,300,000 times as large as the earth. If some great force could put us in the center of that ultra mammoth globe, and the moon also (keeping her at the same distance from us as she now is), and there was another moon nearly as far away from her, the earth, and the two moons and all the space between them could still be contained in the great, sparkling sun.

Its distance from us is 92,897,000 miles, a very tedious little journey if we could make it by customary methods. You can find plenty of accounts in books of how long it would take a railroad train to get to it, and you can ascertain it yourself by a little figuring. You will learn, for instance, that a limited express traveling 1,000 miles per day would arrive at Sun station in about 254 years, during which time there would probably be a few deaths on the train. If when the engine arrived it could give a blast of the whistle loud enough to be heard here, the people at this end of the line would have to wait fourteen years before the signal arrived if it proceeded at the usual velocity of sound.

But the eye, most wonderful of conveyances, can traverse all that distance in between eight and nine minutes. It takes that length of time for light to pass between the two worlds.

What is the material of which that great fiery globe is composed? The following substances have been detected by the spectroscope and may be considered as surely a part of it: Barium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, hydrogen, iron, magnesium, manganese, nickel, platinum, silicon, silver, sodium, titanium, vanadium. It is thought that the following substances are also there, although the proof, while strong, is not absolute: Aluminum, cadmium, carbon, lead, molybdenum, palladium, uranium and zinc. It is a singular fact that gold has not yet been discovered in this great golden orb.

The fact that "all is action, all is motion," not only in "this world of ours," but throughout our entire universe, is illustrated by the sun, for, while all the planets of our system are revolving around it, it is not itself still; it would seem to be having a waltz of its own. It turns on its axis, it has another motion about the center of gravity of the solar system, and, besides, it is on its way, with its flock of planets, toward some distant point in space at the rate of 900 miles per minute. These facts and figures sound strange and hardly believable, but they have been demonstrated mathematically over and over again by astronomers of different times and lands.

One of the most interesting things to be seen upon the sun is its spots, for this great king of planets is not entirely immaculate. Some think these are caused by cyclones, some that they are eruptions from within the sun's surface, some by cool matter from meteors falling into the hotter atmosphere, and this last idea would seem the most sensible one. Such a great flaming furnace as the sun apparently is, giving out life to a colony of planets, must have food, and possibly the great heat giving, life imparting creature may when spots appear be taking its rations.

These spots, often thousands of miles in extent, although they look so small from earth, can many of them be seen with an opera glass, but it is necessary to combine the instrument with smoked glass, which can be fastened upon it with rubber bands either at the eye or view end.—Brooklyn Eagle.

A Favor Appreciated.
"I have come to inform you," said the young man who thought the firm would have to go out of business if he went away, "that unless my salary is raised I shall have to sever my connection with this establishment."
"Thank you," replied the general manager.

"Am I to understand, then," the young man asked, "that you accede to my demand?"
"No, I thanked you because you had a knowledge of an unpleasant duty. I always hate to discharge a man who will be unable to hold a job anywhere else."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Not until we know all that God knows can we estimate to the full the power and the sacredness of some one life which may seem the humblest in the world.—John Ruskin.

THE SWORDFISH.

Overlord of the Sea and the Daintiest Feeder That Swims.

The swordfish is the overlord of the sea. Neither the whale, the shark nor any other giant of the deep can conquer him in private fight or public brawl. Nevertheless he is peaceful in the main and seeks the simple life, amusing himself often with worldwide travel and always with delicate gustatory joys. He is the daintiest feeder that swims, always kills his own game and thereby insures its freshness, wherefore his flesh is a delight to the palate of mankind and wherefore, again, men go forth to kill him for market and thereby at times fall upon adventures that make the hunting of tigers and the shooting of grizzlies pale into pastimes for the weary weakling.

For the bold swordfish is still hunted in mode as primitive as that the Eskimo uses to kill the stupid whale, and often the sting of the harpoon changes this luxurious ocean gastronome into a raging water devil, quick to perceive his advantage, charging with the speed of a bullet and the accuracy of a swordsman up against the lone fisherman in the dory who tries to bring him to gaff. Then must the fisherman measure with exactness the lunge of the monster, avoid it by a marvel of nice sidestepping in a plunging dory, or he will be spitted like a lark.—William Ingalls in Harper's Weekly.

CHANCES IN GAMBLING.

The Rule of the Unexpected at the Tables in Monte Carlo.

There are systems, some will say, that will defeat the bank at Monte Carlo. I have not found one. Two factors settle all systems. One is the bank's limit, which prevents the doubling system so often advocated; the second, the extraordinary idiosyncrasies of chance. Red or black will often run in succession on one occasion, seventeen uneven numbers in an unbroken series on another. One evening on a losing day I was playing on the first six numbers and persistently for some hours the last twelve numbers invariably turned up. Once I saw 21 come up four times in succession when mathematically it should have taken 144 coups to make it show that number of times, and still more strange that on this occasion each time it came up a gentleman had staked the limit on the number—namely, 180 francs—winning in ten minutes something over 24,000 francs. One readily sees by these instances the unexpected vary often happens—in fact, more often than not.—Arthur Hewitt in Bohemian Magazine.

The Hog.

No other animal has been more modified by civilization and none reverts more quickly to the original wild type than the hog. Three generations of running wild suffice to turn the smooth, round, short snouted razor-back or hazel splitter into a lank, leggy, lop eared, saarp snouted, an Ishmael in bristles, running like a deer, if running be possible, fighting as only a wild hog can fight when battle is imperative. The tusks, which have been half obliterated in the process of civilization, get back size and strength. At a year old they are formidable, at two murderous, at three or five more deadly than a sword. They afford a certain index of age up to six years, but are commonly broken in fights long before that time. Wild boars are very ill tempered and when worsted in fighting often revenge themselves by ripping the bark from trees as high as they can reach.

Her Exercise.

Many readers think insufficient exercise is responsible for worrying moods. "Dare I whisper it," writes one correspondent. "Though I am a married woman, with two bonnie balms, when my worries and temper prove too much for me I shut myself up in my room and dance a wild Scotch reel. I always did it when I got in a temper as a child as a sort of vent to my feelings, and I do it still and probably shall continue to do so as long as I'm sufficiently energetic."

A Bad Quarrel.
"Why don't you try to get him to straighten up?"
"He's his own worst enemy."
"Well?"
"It's pretty hard to patch up that kind of a quarrel."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Describing the Climate.
"Is your climate changeable?" asked the stranger.
"Not very," answered Farmer Corn-tassel. "It keeps shiftin' around a little till it strikes a kind of weather nobody likes; then it sticks."—Washington Star.

Just Like Her.
Hewitt—I didn't know that you lived on the first floor. I understood your wife to say that you lived on the second floor. Jewett—If you knew my wife you would know that she always stretches a story.—Exchange.

They Married.
Trotter (who has been abroad)—So Maud and Charlie finally married? Miss Homer—Yes. Trotter—I suppose they are happy. Miss Homer—Undoubtedly; they each married some one else.—Chicago News.

What do we live for if not to make life less difficult to each other?—George Eliot.

MAGIC GLASS.

A Curious Mirror That May Be Made Transparent.

One of the most curious inventions of this age is what is called platized glass. A piece of glass is coated with an exceedingly thin layer of a liquid charged with platinum and then raised to a red heat. The platinum becomes united to the glass in such a way as to form an odd kind of mirror.

The glass has not really lost its transparency, and yet if one places it against a wall and looks at it he sees his image as in an ordinary looking glass. But when light is allowed to come through the glass from the other side, as when it is placed in a window, it appears perfectly transparent, like ordinary glass.

By constructing a window of platized glass one could stand close behind the panes in an unilluminated room and behold clearly everything going on outside, while passersby looking at the window would behold only a fine mirror or set of mirrors in which their own figures would be reflected, while the person inside remained invisible.

In France various tricks have been contrived with the aid of this glass. In one a person, seeing what appears to be an ordinary mirror, approaches it to gaze upon himself. A sudden change in the mechanism sends light through the glass from the back, whereupon it instantly becomes transparent, and the startled spectator finds himself confronted by some grotesque figure that had been hidden behind the magic glass.—New York Tribune.

SPEED LAWS OF 1816.

Coches Going Nine Miles an Hour Frightened the English.

The outcry daily growing louder in England against the excessive speed of motor cars leads interest to the following passage from the Annual Register for 1816:

A new coach was started in the spring to run to Brighton, a distance of fifty-two miles, in six hours. . . . This, however, became alarming, particularly in the populous neighborhood of Newington, through which it passed, and the parish officers there caused information to be laid against the drivers for driving furiously on the public road so as to endanger the lives of his majesty's subjects.

The result of this is to be read in Mansard's "Parliamentary Reports," June 10, 1816.

The attorney general moved for leave to bring in a bill the object of which was the protection of the lives and limbs of his majesty's subjects by correcting the enormous abuses of stagecoach drivers. Within these few days it would be hardly credible what a number of applications he had received on this subject.

Some accounts were enough to freeze one with horror. A gentleman of veracity had informed him that on Tuesday, May 21, at 5:30, the Trafalgar and Regulator coaches set off from Manchester and got to Liverpool at 8:20, doing this journey in two hours fifty minutes, at the rate of twelve miles an hour.—New York Sun.

Fiji Islanders' Sugar Cane Dance.

A very curious and exceedingly clever dance may be witnessed in Fiji called by the natives "the sugar cane meke," or sugar cane dance. It represents the growth of the sugar cane. In the first figure the dancers squat low on the ground, shake their heads, shut their eyes and murmur slowly and softly an unintelligible sentence. Gradually they all stand up together, growing taller and taller, and as they "grow" they wave their arms and tremble all over from ankle to head, like the tall, tasseled cane waving in the wind, and still they keep on chanting louder and louder. The last figure represents a series of combats meant to symbolize the exactions of the chiefs, who compel the "kaiasi" willing and unwilling, to come and cut their crops.—London Standard.

Ambulance Field Examination.

Scene—Hamilton South Haugh; soldier supposed to have been wounded is brought to surgeon's tent by bearers. Bearer (reporting)—Severe scalp wound, sir, accompanied with insensibility. Surgeon—Well, what have you done? Bearer—Dressed the wound, sir, and gave him a little whisky and water. Surgeon—Whisky and water! How did you expect an insensible man to swallow that? Bearer—He axed for't, sir.—London Illustrated Bits.

Tricks of the Trade.

Buyers of patent leather should look out for skins in which holes have been neatly covered with a piece of thin paper which is varnished over, the unfinished side being put up with a mixture of glue and leather dust.—Shoe Manufacturers' Monthly.

Genius.

As diamond cuts diamond and one bone smooths a second, all parts of intellect are whetstones to each other, and genius, which is but the result of their mutual sharpening, is character too.—Alfred Tennyson.

Nor "The Long Green."

Hicks—They say that the blind can distinguish colors by the sense of touch. Wicks—That's nothing. One doesn't have to be blind to feel blue.—Boston Transcript.

A Comparison.

In a certain store there is a salesman named Green. Small Clarence learned his name and said, "Say, Mr. Green, there's a man living two doors from us who has a name the same color as yours!"



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