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MELTING LIKE WAX.

ALL MOUNTAINS WILL VANISH IN THE COURSE OF TIME.

Notable Elevations That Are Slowly Crumbling and Becoming Smaller—Awful Catastrophe That Befell the Village of Elm. Process of Change.

A French professor told the recent scientific congress in Rome that "all mountains will vanish off the face of the earth in course of time." We do not doubt it, for it is divinely foretold that the earth itself will disappear at the end of time. However, the Frenchman's prophecy is already in course of realization. The Ardennes, the Pyrenees and the mountains of Provence are going to peices by degrees in our own age. The mighty Himalayas, as if weary of "rearing their forms sublime" through so many generations, nodded their heads in one place two years ago and hurled into the valleys below a mass of debris which was estimated at 800,000,000 tons. The largest locomotive on the fast trains of the Hudson River railway weighs only 62 tons. That Asiatic mountain slide, therefore, caused an avalanche equivalent to the tumble of about 13,000,000 such locomotives off a bridge 10,000 feet high. Little wonder that "the noise was terrific" and that "the natives were frightened." Masses of rock were hurled a mile away, and "many blocks of dolomitic limestone, weighing from 30 to 50 tons, were sent like cannon balls through the air."

In 1881, in the Alps, there was an immense hill fall, caused by its human undermining in order to obtain slate for school use. The mining began in 1868. In 1876 the Plattenberkoph split across its crown, and after progressive enlargements for years, which caused comment and forebodings, it fell in the year named. This catastrophe precipitated about 12,000,000 cubic yards of rock 1,475 feet downward into the valley. The debris ricochetted across the valley and rolled 325 feet up the opposite slope, where it was canted over sideways, and then poured like liquid over a horizontal plane of about 9,700,000 square feet and to a depth of from 35 to 70 feet.

One-half of the village of Elm was overwhelmed, and it was so swiftly cleft by the resistless mass that the line was sharply defined, and one house was cut in two. One hundred and fifteen people were buried. One home was left on the very verge, of which the doors were open, the fire burned, the table was set, the coffee was hot, but no living soul was left. The head of the household was saved, but his entire family, who were out looking at the mountain fall, were lost. The debris dammed up a river, for which a channel was blasted afresh. New soil was carried into the valley, and spread over the ruins where harvests now smile again, and the people go about their work as if there were no such thing as an avalanche in this humbling and crumbling world.

The process of change in earth levels in all lands is illustrated in your unpaved back yard or village street after heavy rains. Each tiny rivulet no larger than your little finger has its floods, its narrower limits where it runs in its square foot of harder soil, and is thereby pinched sideways, its sudden shallowing and widening where the soil is softer, and the panic stricken ants or bedraggled beetles are caught in their miniature world and routed as men are on a larger scale. Ten feet square of back yard may illustrate the succession of events which make seas shallower and mountains lower. The surcharged warm cloud gets a chill as it caresses the head of some dignified peak, the sudden condensation upsets the shower out of the atmosphere's myriad cell buckets, and the torrent rushes down the breasts and limbs of the mountains so swiftly that the surprised soil catches the spirit of panic and forgets to obey gravitation until it finds itself at sea and almost out of sight of shore. That transfer of earth leaves the hills thinner and deposits that which makes the river or bay or sea somewhat less deep. People live in the lowlands near their grain and fruits, and these thrive on the alluvium washed down by torrents and flood. That kind of matter makes the mountains bareheaded and puts the valley under obligation to the storms which feed the crops with plant nutriment stolen from above. Like man, the harvests lift their eyes to the hills, whence their help comes. The mountains are being carried into the sea, and man demands tribute as they pass.

The forces of nature and the elements in battle, like the gospel, are levelers. They bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. One of these days the earth must be resurveyed. The aspirations of the hills will have been reduced; the depths of the rivers, bays and oceans will be less. Men who journey by water may return to the plans and proportions that last suited those who built the ark, and they may see that Noah knew something about shipbuilding, notwithstanding our Americans, Austrians and Companies. David may have had a thought of all this when he said, "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord." Isaiah wrote, "The mountains flowed down at thy presence." Ezekiel said, "The mountain shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall." If those Alpine dwellers at Elm read their Bibles, they must have thought of those passages after they recovered from their surprise.—Northwestern Christian Advocate.

Softening the Expression.

"See here, Jones, I never thought you were a liar, but I overheard you tell Miss Hogdon last night that her face was a perfect dream. What d'ye say that for?"

"Well, say, she's a perfect nightmare, isn't she?"

"You're telling the truth now."

"Well, that's what I told her, only I softened the expression a little."—New York Recorder.

NEED OF AN ENGAGED GIRLS' CLUB.

Difficulties of Lovemaking In the Parlor of a Boarding House.

"If you want to start a real fetching philanthropy," remarked the retired bachelor maid, "just please found a club for engaged girls that live in boarding houses. The object of course would be to provide some private, perfectly nice retreat, where said engaged girls could entertain their sweethearts. You've no idea of the need of such a place. As things are now, nearly every 'bespoke' bachelor maid in New York city is obliged to receive the dearest fellow in the world in a boarding house parlor, unless of course she is flatting it, in which case the presence of the three or four other bachelor maids who are flatting it with her is anything but pleasant.

"Take my own case. At the time I decided to renounce the pomps and vanities of the girl bachelor world I was living in a boarding house. I leave you to imagine the trials and tribulations that Harry and I underwent during the period of our engagement. We had absolutely no place in which to spend our precious evenings together except the public parlor, where we were liable to interruption at any moment."

"'By Jove, I can't stand this!' cried Harry one evening after a tortured half hour of decorously sitting on opposite sides of the room and conversing about Shakespeare and the musical glasses. 'This is worse than hades. I'll hire a hall if there's no other way.'

"We finally settled it by going way up town each evening to some friends of my mother's, who kindly lent their drawing room for the purpose of our lovemaking. It was very inconvenient, however. Otherwise, though, all our courting would have had to be done after marriage. There are more cases like ours in New York city than you might suspect. It's dreadfully hard on sweethearts. Yes, if some public spirited individual wants to immortalize himself in the name of matrimony, let him or her found 'The Engaged Girls' club,' to whose house all the betrothed young people that live in boarding houses may resort. Depend upon it, it's a charity that would take. Thousands of suffering boarding house couples all over the city would rise up and call any such philanthropist most blessed indeed."—New York Sun.

ON RONCADOR ISLAND.

What Was Found by a Party In Search of Marooned Sailors.

In 1892 the gunboat Partridge was sent by the commodore to ascertain the truth or otherwise of a statement that some men were marooned on Roncador, a small coral island (300 by 200 feet) or cay in the Caribbean sea. On arriving at Roncador it was found occupied by sea birds, especially boobies, in enormous number. Some huts were also observed. On landing and entering the largest but the following picture met the gaze of the explorers: Half sitting, half reclining, on a high trestle bed, and partially supported by a makeshift crutch, was something rigid and angular within a moldy cotton shirt and canvas trousers. Two rusty pannikins were close at hand and fragments of skeleton on the floor. These consisted of a skull, vertebræ and some long bones. On the bed were the bones of a hand, and a number of land crabs scuttled about. The floor was covered with sea birds' eggs, and many more were found packed and salted in wooden boxes. Some empty cruet bottles were found near the eggs and a box containing papers which showed him to be a Dutchman. He had served in the militia.

The medical officer was able to determine from an examination of the skeleton that it belonged to a lad under 20 years of age. In another hut was found the body of an old negro. The story is clear enough. The well built hut showed that the men had come prepared to stay awhile. The empty boxes showed that food had been at one time abundant. Then provisions ran short. The men subsisted for a time on sea birds' eggs, and water was apparently plentiful. Men cannot live long on eggs and brackish water. Scurvy must occur. This is the secret of the crutch in the cabin. Disease had crippled before it killed this young man. This explanation rests entirely on circumstantial evidence, but evidence so complete and convincing, the reasoning so sound, yet apparently so simple, as to make one exclaim on reading it, Surely this is the way of Zadig!—London News.

Dr. Newman Smythe's Discovery.

Several years ago the happy thought occurred to me that a newspaper reporter was a human being, who, like other human beings, was under the necessity of making his living by diligent work, and that he was therefore not to be treated as an enemy of mankind. Since I made that discovery I have found no class of men more quick to respond or willing to pay careful regard to the courtesies and the confidence of gentlemanly intercourse. And wherever I have myself met newspaper men fairly and frankly I have never known one of them intentionally to misrepresent or to abuse such confidence. My experience leads me to conclude that if ministers generally would help newspaper men in all legitimate inquiries the public would have less reason to complain either of inaccurate or improper news.—Hartford Courant.

Robert Burns.

It is amusing to learn that Burns, when just emerging from obscurity, jocularly anticipated that his birthday would come to be noted among other remarkable events. In a letter to his early patron, Gavin Hamilton, in 1786, he says: "For my own affairs I am in a fair way of becoming as eminent as Thomas a Kempis or John Bunyan, and you may henceforth expect to see my birthday inscribed among the wonderful events in the Poor Robin and Aberdeen Almanacks along with the Black Monday and the battle of Bothwell Bridge."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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Mrs. Eulalia A. Wilson.

Mrs. Eulalia A. Wilson has been appointed a trustee of the state normal school at San Jose, Cal., by Governor Budd. She is a graduate of the state normal school and is principal of the Temescal district school in Alameda county, which position she has held for ten years through successive changes of trustees, some of which were professedly hostile to a woman principal. She disclaims being a member of any political party, but is a strong advocate of woman suffrage. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed on any state board in California.

Suffrage In Connecticut.

At Hartford Feb. 13 there was a very animated public meeting of the committee on woman suffrage in the hall of the house of representatives. Bills were considered conferring municipal and presidential suffrage on women and one repealing the law of 1893 conferring on women the right to vote at school meetings. Addresses in favor of the extension of the suffrage to women were made by Miss Yates of Maine, Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Forbes of Hartford, Miss Fenner of New London and Miss Babcock of Stonington.

A Crinoline Substitute.

A new substitute for crinoline consists of a silk petticoat lined throughout with soft canvas, and it has a deep yoke on the front and sides, with deep organ plaits in the back and a fluted flounce at the lower edge of the yoke. It is called "the Elizabethan petticoat," and anything more suggestive of crinoline proper than the title and appearance of the skirt could not possibly be furnished.

The Dundee (Scotland) Courier has sent two lady correspondents, Miss Marie Imandt and Miss Bessie Maxwell, on a tour around the world to investigate in different countries the condition of women. They expect to travel 26,000 miles in the course of their inquiry.

Parisian women are, some of them, wearing hand painted gowns. One in which a well known leader of fashion in that city appeared was of dull white silk and had over the plain flaring skirt large painted baskets loaded with flowers.

Governor Budd of California has intimated that the friends of woman suffrage will be wise not to send him a bill that they do not wish to become a law.

In the Kansas senate a petition signed by 1,500 women has been presented, asking for the passage of the bill providing for a woman's reformatory.

Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, the Vermont poet, passed her seventieth birthday on Feb. 13 at Rutland.

There are in Philadelphia 15 working women's societies.

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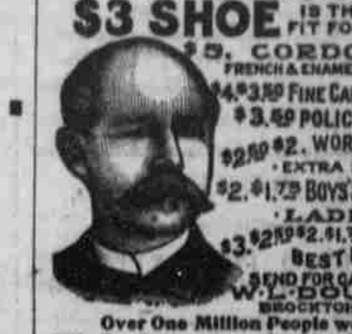

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