

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

The shak of Perseus was the biggest... King Edward of England once learned the printer's trade.

Dr. W. F. Harris, United States commissioner of education, firmly believes that success comes to—or at least is desired by—those who are "early to bed and early to rise."

Albert Bruce-Joy, who is 69 years of age, is one of the most active of English sculptors.

Judge John Stewart, of Chambersburg, Pa., considers that those who steal bicycles should be classed with horse-thieves.

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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

"Jones says he doesn't owe a dollar in the world." "Eh?" showed traces of people Jones deals with.—Baltimore News.

Where the Trouble Lies.—"I hate a man who thinks he knows everything." "Oh, I wouldn't mind that if he could only be induced to refrain from trying to tell it to everybody."—Chicago Post.

"She seems to be doing everything she can possibly think of to get high-toned people." "Yes, she told me that she even thinks of having an operation for appendicitis."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Compliments.—"He told me I had a complexion like a peach." "Yes—'How mean of him!'—'Mean'—'Mean'—'You told me the fun on a peach made his blood run cold.'"—Philadelphia Press.

Judge.—"You raced your automobile at such a rate as to endanger the lives of pedestrians. I'll fine you both \$1." "Enthusiasm—"I don't care. My motor went twice as fast as his." "Judge—"In that case I'll fine you \$10."—Town Topics.

One of the Results.—"So-called systems of a thousand cardinals could do anything." "He used to be warm enough." "What is the matter with him?" "They say he has a cold million, and I suppose he wants to keep it that way."—Indianapolis News.

"Music expresses a wonderful influence," said the young woman who plays the piano. "It does," answered Mrs. Courtland. "Ever since one of our summer boarders sang 'Woodman, Spare That Tree,' years ago, my husband has refused to chop a stick of firewood."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. Sheddings.—"Suppose you got a big fee, Dr. Fism, for attending that boy with the fractured skull?" Dr. Fism.—"Yes, I was liberally paid for the operation, but then I think I deserved it." Mrs. Sheddings—"I hope you will not forget that it was my Tommy who fired the rock that did the business!"—Boston Transcript.

YILDIZ KIOSK MYSTERIES.

Some interesting information about the Sultan of Turkey and his system of secrecy.

A great deal of interest was aroused recently by a book published in Paris, under the title of "The Private Life of Abdul Hamid," in which the author, who conceals his identity under the pseudonym "George Dorya," sketches in detail the daily manner of life of the sultan from his birth to the present day.

One of the chief features of the book is an accurate description of the secrets of the Yildiz Kiosk, which crowns the hill of Beşiktaş beyond Pera, and in which the sultan spends a dreary existence as a voluntary prisoner.

The Yildiz Kiosk is a barbaric jumble of separate dwellings, a veritable chaos of buildings without a trace of any fixed ideas. On all sides one feels that he is surrounded by the work of a fanatical mind, subject to uneasy and contradictory whims.

There is a goodly number of European architects and engineers in the sultan's service, but that monarch esteems them just as little as he does the outside world generally.

He renders their work extremely difficult by prescribing for them a number of the most curious precautionary measures for securing the greatest secrecy with regard to the work.

All details of plans, projects and of the execution of work must be kept secret, as the sultan fears that if they became known the activity of fancied conspirators might be stimulated.

These precautionary measures frequently put the builders to sore straits; thus, as an example, it is forbidden to measure the distance between two buildings in any other way than by stepping it.

The site of the Yildiz kiosk is surrounded by an immense outer wall, that the sultan had renewed in part in 1898, and raised 11 feet, so that it could not be scaled from without.

Leaning against this wall is a large number of watch-houses and barracks, in which are lodged the regiments of the imperial guard.

Within the great enclosure are groups of buildings, and they are again in part surrounded by walls. These buildings form of themselves quite a little town; they comprise the abode of the sultan's sons, the harem, theater, picture galleries, museums, stables, porcelain works, menageries, quarters for the dogs, conservatories, hospitals for the sick animals, and, in fact, almost everything that can render the sultan independent of the outer world.

The earthquake of 1894, during which Abdul Hamid lived for some time in a tent, led him to resolve to build an 11-room kiosk on an artificial hill made of concrete. The walls are of cement, thus the building is supposed to be proof both against fire and movements of the earth, while in the iron lattice work the sultan sees an excellent protection against stray gunshot.

This kiosk is surrounded by a gallery in which the Albanian guards, armed to the teeth, keep watch during the night hours.

Miss Money Vaults. Before a burglary could tunnel into the money vaults of the Philadelphia mint he would have to pierce a solid rock so full of veins of water that the smallest opening is immediately flooded. The gold vaults are of steel seven inches thick, and the silver is protected by one inch of steel.—Cleveland Leader.

Australia's Duck Industry. Australia has the largest duck farm and the largest incubator in the world. The incubator has a capacity of 11,440 ducks' eggs, or 14,080 hens' eggs.—London News.

Like Phonographs. Phonographs have no brains, yet they talk fluently. The same may be said of judges.—Chicago Daily News.

FIRST MAP OF AMERICA.

It is the Property of Prince Waldenburg, of Wurtemberg, Germany, and a Valuable Relic.

The Browns university committee in charge of the John Carter Brown Library of America has recently had under consideration a proposition that the library should make an offer of \$20,000 for the first map containing the name "America."

The offer has not been made, nor is it likely to be made in the near future by the library authorities, so it is extremely improbable that this priceless relic of the early history of this country will ever find a home in Providence, says the Providence (R. I.) Journal.

The map to which this extraordinary value is attached is the property of Prince Waldenburg, of Wurtemberg, Germany. A short time ago an agent of the Browns library with the proposition that the Providence Institution should offer \$10,000 for the map, implying that the price named would secure this great geographical relic.

The agent communicated with his superiors, and the committee took the matter under consideration. After due thought and consultation the committee decided not to make the offer. It was thought that the proposition of the German agent was nothing more than an attempt to secure a definite offer on which further negotiations, by which a much higher price could be secured elsewhere. It was also thought doubtful if the German government would allow so valuable an article of historical and geographical interest to leave the country.

With apparent negotiations pending for the sale of the map and its removal to the United States, the German government would probably step in and make the purchase on its own account, placing the map in the Berlin Library. The proposition appeared like an effort to use the American offer as a cat's-paw for the purpose above mentioned, and the Browns library committee declined to be made use of in that manner.

This map is of undoubted authenticity and is considered by experts to be worth much more than the price mentioned.

In 1492 there was published at the town of St. Die, in the Vosges mountains, a small geographical treatise entitled "Cosmographie Introduction," in which it was suggested that the then lately discovered fourth part of the world should be called "America, because Americus [Vesputius] discovered it." A copy of this book is in the John Carter Brown Library. One of those associated in the preparation of the volume was Martin Waldseemüller, a prominent geographer and cartographer. The book purports to contain some principles of geometry and astronomy necessary to an understanding of the subject; also an account of the four voyages of Americus Vesputius. In the book is mention of a map and a globe on which were representations of the newly discovered country. It has long been contended that if this map and globe ever came to light the newly discovered western lands represented thereon would be found to bear the name "America" as suggested in the book. This seemed a certainty when two manuscript maps by Giareanus were discovered at Munich and Bonn, both bearing the name "America," the Bonn map being dated 1510.

For the past century there has been a diligent search for the maps of Waldseemüller, but no specimens were seen or heard of, and some historians and geographers in recent years have even gone so far as to state definitely that the globe and the map were never issued at all, and that the book was published alone. About two years ago the geographical world was startled by the announcement that Waldseemüller's long-lost map of 1507, together with another of his of 1516, had been discovered by Prof. P. Joseph Fischer, in the library of Prince Waldenburg, in Wurtemberg. The map is a wood engraving and is bound in a folio volume, with several other maps of value, and is in an excellent state of preservation.

It is probable that other copies of the map, printed at the same time, were not so well protected and have passed out of existence with the ravages of time in the four centuries that have elapsed. An interesting point in relation to the name America is that it is omitted from the Waldseemüller map of 1516, the geographer evidently having learned from the narratives of voyage accessible since the preparation of his first map in 1507 that Americus Vesputius was not, as he had hitherto thought, the first discoverer of the new world.

The sum of \$50,000 is a high price to pay for one map when an atlas full of maps may be bought anywhere for a very few dollars. Yet this price is not considered exorbitant, and experts say that the map would really bring from \$75,000 to \$100,000 if offered at auction in London. It is thought that an offer of \$100,000 might secure the map to this country, and possibly some multimillionaire or historical association will yet come forward with a price sufficient to bring the map to the country where by all the sentiment of association and tradition it properly belongs.

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BALLOONING IN THE SAHARA.

It Is Not Yet Known Whether or Not There Are Favorable Winds Blowing Across the Desert.

The French aeronauts who are experimenting with ballooning in the Sahara in the hope that they may show the practicability of crossing the desert from Algeria to the Sudan in an airship, are to be commended for not risking their lives in the early stages of the investigation. As the New York Sun has recently reported, the first balloon is to be sent aloft with only pigeons in the basket; by an ingenious device it is hoped that the birds, when the balloon comes to land, will be automatically released and will return to their homes. Other devices may show the various directions in which the balloon travels and give some information as to the country. For example, photographs of the landscape below will, if the machinery works properly, be taken every few minutes.

If the balloonists were to go on the trial trip the prospects of their returning would be about as dubious as if they should launch their airships over the ocean. The expenses of the Sahara where no man lives are very great. In large parts of the desert there is certainly little prospect that a man could escape with his life, even if he reached the surface with abundant supplies. He could not make his way shaded out of the sand wastes.

As a rule, high and often violent winds blow over the Sahara. This is one of the plagues of that vast region, for the sand storms almost daily obscure the sun even in the most fertile and prosperous oases. These storms sift great quantities of sand over the fertile depressions watered from underground sources where the oases are found; so that the inhabitants have to make constant warfare upon the drifting sands that threaten to swallow up their grain and grass fields and groves of date palms.

If these big windstorms were persistent in a given direction the problem of ballooning over the Sahara would be greatly simplified. The fact is, however, that the winds frequently change their direction, often a number of times during the day. It is not yet known whether, above the surface winds, there may be air movements persisting long in one direction and providing a more or less certain route for airships. This question remains to be solved, it is hoped, by the investigations now in progress; but from our present knowledge it would be simply foolhardy for any one to attempt to cross the desert by balloon. His chances of landing in some desolate region whence he could not possibly escape would be much greater than of reaching the fertile and populous Sudan.

A DAY, MORE OR LESS.

Twenty-Four Hours' Loss or Gain Does Not Bother One in Transcontinental Travel.

Few incidents of a trip to the Philippines islands, which so many Americans now have occasion to make, are more interesting than the crossing of the international date line, that imaginary boundary where, in going westward, a day is dropped from the calendar, and in going eastward one is added. A California congressman and his wife happened to reach it, on the outward trip, at midnight of July 3, so that they woke up to find the next morning the fifth, and that they had lost the national holiday for the first time in their lives. To have a September 23 for two days in succession on their return would on grounds of sentiment, be an insufficient compensation, says Youth's Companion.

The teachers who go out on the transports to the Philippines usually arrange elaborate entertainments to signalize the date line. One of their number is often dressed up as Neptune, and other characters follow in a procession around the deck. The festivities are made as fanciful as the resources and ingenuity of the party permit. Sailors on merchantmen as well as passengers on the fast mail steamers are accustomed to observe the day with some celebration.

One of the old governors of Massachusetts, on being asked to speak at a state normal school which he was visiting, submitted this conundrum: "Would a person who had traveled around the world 365 times in an easterly direction be a year older than the records in the family Bible showed? If not, why not?" The governor explained that such a traveler would actually have lived one day more for each trip than the calendar showed as having passed.

In practice, the length of the trip around the world is such as to discourage most people from adding to their days by this roundabout process. Travelers between New York and Chicago are constantly having days of 23 or of 25 hours, according to the direction in which they are going.

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VALUE OF IRRIGATION.

Report of the Agricultural Department Shows Its Importance to Farming.

Interesting facts are set forth in the third annual report of the irrigation investigations of the agricultural department experiment station. It is shown that during the season an average of 44-100 feet of water was turned upon every irrigated acre, but a large part of this water was lost in transit through seepage, especially in sandy soil.

One of the most interesting features of the report shows the value of the crops grown for each acre foot of water used. They vary from \$1.34 an acre foot to \$1.22 an acre foot, water bringing the least return when used on alfalfa and the largest return when used in irrigating nursery stock. It also was shown that crops which require irrigation in the last half of the irrigation season have a far greater value than those which require irrigation during the first half, the average value per acre of crops which have to be irrigated in the last half of the season being \$29.29 an acre, while crops which require irrigation only in the first half of the season have an average value of only \$17.83 an acre, a difference of \$11.46 an acre in favor of late crops.

Arid land crop conditions in central Montana heretofore unknown to the department of agriculture were discovered in a tour of inspection which Elwood Mead, in charge of the irrigation work of the department, has just completed. Mr. Mead says that he found much larger areas of arid land there with crops in successful growth than he had ever supposed were possible. In a majority of the seasons, he says, crops can grow on these tracts without any irrigation and with very little water. The area involved is along the mountain slopes south and east of Great Falls, Mont. The department of agriculture regards the discovery of these arid land conditions as important, and cooperative work will be undertaken by the government.

FATE OF BURR'S DAUGHTER.

Paris Discovered Which Show That Woman Was Forced to Walk the Plank by Pirates.

Mrs. S. E. F. Drake, of 63 Beacon street, Boston, tells a story that sheds some light on the mystery surrounding the fate of Thodis Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr. Mrs. Drake is distantly related to Burr on his mother's side, and she says a story descended to her from her grandmother to the effect that Miss Burr was forced to walk a plank by pirates who captured the pilot boat Patriot soon after its departure from Charleston, S. C. for New York on December 30, 1812.

Mrs. Drake says her grandmother was told by a Mrs. Parks, the wife of a Methodist minister, that an old sailor, an inmate of the Cass county poorhouse, Cassopolis, Mich., in 1850 had said he helped tilt the plank that allowed Mrs. Alston (Miss Burr) to drop into the ocean. The old pirate said he was a sailor on the vessel that captured the Patriot. Mrs. Drake says that she went to Elizabeth City, N. C., to identify a picture purporting to be of Mrs. Alston. The picture was in the house of Dr. W. G. Pool, and Mrs. Drake says it was actually one of Aaron Burr's daughter.

According to Dr. Pool's daughter, the picture was found in the cabin of the abandoned pilot-boat that drifted ashore at Nag's Head, near Elizabeth City, and was given to her father by a woman patient. Mrs. Drake says the picture is now owned by a Mrs. Overman, of Elizabeth City.

SEA SERPENT IN LAKE.

Several Persons Claim to Have Seen a Marine Monster in Water at Geneva, Wis.

A sea serpent has been seen in Geneva Lake, Wis. Its appearance is vouched for by a number of witnesses. About six o'clock the other evening, Mrs. Buckingham, of Sherman, who occupies a cottage with her son, John Buckingham, captain of the steamer Geneva, was sitting on her porch, her attention was attracted by a disturbance in the lake a few rods from shore. Closer observation revealed a long, slender body coiling and moving with an undulating motion through the water. It splashed the water and sent great waves in all directions.

Mrs. Buckingham called her neighbor Mrs. Darlana Reid, of Delavan, to the spot. The latter's two children also came, and another boy about 16 years old, named Carl Henders. The snake appeared to them to be as long as the steamer Aurora (34 feet long) which was moored a short distance away. The boys resolved to get a closer view of the strange creature and pulled out in a rowboat. As they drew near the reptile gave a splash and disappeared. The boys thought he must be at least 65 feet long, and his body tapers through at the thickest part.

MONEY DUG UP IN OHIO.

Package Containing \$21,000 Is Discovered Near Akron by Two Young Men.

Two young men who gave their names to a local constable at Toledo, O., as George R. Miller, of Philadelphia, and Henry Armstrong, of New York, dug up a package containing \$21,000 near Alexis, a small railway crossing town north of here. The money is believed to be a portion of large sums taken in a couple of recent bank robberies. The men declined to make a statement, only saying to inquirers that it was treasure buried by an old miser some years ago. The money looked fresh and crisp, however.

ST. LOUIS JUDGE IS SLOW.

The pronouncement of a St. Louis judge, says the Chicago Chronicle, that the hatpin is a legitimate weapon of female defense is supererogatory.

PUMPKIN PIE, ANYWAY.

There may be a slight shortage in turkeys this year, but says the Chicago Tribune, the pumpkin pie crop, thanks to a gracious providence, promises to be large and luscious.

NOT TO BE WONDERED AT.

People are freezing to death in Samoa. After having seen pictures of some of the Samoans, in full dress, says the Chicago Record-Herald, we are not surprised at their inability to stand cold weather.

SEND MONEY IN MAIL.

Roll of Bills Safely Sent by Unknown Parties in Kentucky.

Postal Officials Are of the Opinion That the United States Are the Safest in the Transmission of Money, After All.

The person who would have fun with Uncle Sam's mails is not a rare bird, but the fellow who has sufficient confidence in the national government to entrust money in the post office without a lot of safeguards is infrequent. This latter individual has been met with by the Nashville (Ky.) postal clerks twice within 48 hours. First came a one dollar bill, bare and bleak, in all its pristine glory, sans wrapper, envelope, or anything to hide its nakedness, the only thing to denote its destination being a label pasted on its back, on which was written the name of its consignee, but nothing to indicate the consignee. The man who received it in due course of mail delivery is keeping it as proof positive that postal checks, in this section at least, are inerrable.

The second observation was in the shape of a roll of greenbacks deposited in a railway post-car at Bowling Green, Ky., without envelope or wrapper of any sort. A bit of frayed twine was fastened about the "wad" (it wasn't a hefty one, containing only \$15), and to this was tied a tag bearing the address of a local firm. This, too, reached the persons for whom it was intended.

Postal officials are of the opinion that this method of transmitting money is about the safest yet devised, the fact of its being unenclosed conveying the idea that it is intended on a decoy. Still, this sort of thing is not expected to become intensely popular.