

UNDER ETERNAL SEAL

St. Pierre Entombed for All Time Under Mount Pelée's Ashes

Estimated Amount of the City's Destruction by a Plague Which Was an Era-Stricken in the Avenue of the Martyrs.

Rev. Father Louis Leininger, a member of the Order of the Holy Ghost who for eight years was a teacher in the College of St. Mary, St. Pierre, and an eyewitness of the catastrophe in Martinique, has arrived in the United States, as per to St. Mary's college, Detroit, Mich., reports the National Tribune.

The ashes of Mount Pelée have placed the eternal seal upon the tomb of St. Pierre, declared Father Leininger. "After the fields of ashes that have ceased the fields of ashes that were buried from its gaping crater will stretch away to the sea a solitary desert—a silent memorial to the 40,000 souls that were disembodied in that awful moment of old Pelée's anger. Man and beast dread alike this ash-covered burial plot. Where once was a gay metropolitan ship club as if it were a part of the city, the ashes of St. Pierre's dead work. The solemn shroud of the mountain and the sterile ash of the city alone testify to the silence that will reign there forever."

Early in April it was apparent that the volcano had been aroused, from the long slumber. Detonations were heard as tremors in the air and the ground. A number of persons visited the mountain on April 15 and narrowly escaped being asphyxiated by the sulphurous smoke which was emitted from the pit of boiling lava.

On May 3 began a rain of ashes which increased to such extent on the following day that the students in the school were dismissed. At this time the sky was overcast by dark clouds like those we see striking a heavy fall of snow, and an object 30 yards distant was scarcely visible. The bluish pall in the heavens was rent by darting lightning and the roll of thunder shook the earth.

On May 7 conditions became worse. About this time of the disaster we would hear a sound like that of the boiling of an immense cauldron, the bubbling of the molten lava pot being distinctly heard. That night I was summoned from the city to assist at the services on the following Sunday. Mount Pelée is situated in a position where its lofty, black, ash-covered cone is visible from the city.

At midnight the populace was alarmed by the renewed activity of the volcano. Shortly before dawn, however, all was calm and the people sought their beds.

At 5:30 o'clock the detonations were heard again and smoke and ashes were seen to enshroud the mountain top. I held mass in the church as usual and went to the parish home for breakfast.

"It was a few minutes before eight o'clock and I had just taken my seat at the table. Suddenly came an awful shock. A roar like 10,000 Niagara filled my ears. I staggered to a window. It appeared that half the mountain had been lifted from its base. I saw a sheet of red flame, acres of boiling mud, rocks and ashes spread out fan-like and sink with a crash into the valley. This whole scene of horror was enacted in a few brief seconds. Mount Pelée had escaped, but St. Pierre—of its 27,000 people only one was left to tell the story of its fate.

"A few days later I left Mount Pelée. It seemed as if Providence again spared me, for in the eruption on May 20 Mount Pelée, too, was almost deserted and the priest whom I had gone to assist and 40 men in the convent were perished among the victims.

"The second volley from Pelée's crater, however, must be regarded as providential. It killed the ghouls, who had been robbing the dead, and buried forever the decomposed bodies, breeding a pestilence on the island that would have been little less terrible than the power of death that lurked in the volcano.

"Mr. Prud'homme, the American consul at St. Pierre, was a close friend of mine, and his eldest daughter, a beautiful and accomplished girl, was one of the belles of the English-American colony on the island. I met her at a concert but a short time before she shared the fate of her family when the city was destroyed.

"When I left Martinique the volcano still showed signs of activity, but no more how long it slumbered again, I never expected to see the city inhabited and St. Pierre will forever be shared with Herulesmann and Pompeii."

See THE Lung Reiter.

Very quietly, so quietly, indeed, that not one of the Roman newspapers had advertised it, the holy father made another record in the annals of long pontificates recently. On September 8, Leo XIII. completed 34 years, six months and 14 days in the supreme pontificate, thus reaching the limit of the reign of Pius VI., and taking the second place after St. Peter. The "Years of Peter" are clear in sight now for Leo XIII. According to the generally received account, St. Peter was bishop of Rome for 25 years, two months and seven days, and on April 9 sent Leo XIII. will, Leo volente, topped off the same period. There is every reason to believe that the short seven months will be safely passed by the holy father.—Tablet.

FOUND IN THE FORUM.

Proboscis Tumor May Have Been Observed at Rome Near the Temple of Antonius.

The excavations in the Roman forum are once more attracting general attention, says a Rome correspondent of the Boston Post. Sig. Bond, the gifted digger, has again proved his deduction to be true that the prehistoric remains of the Forum of Trajan, as he called it, for many months he has been talking of the Forum of Trajan, as though its existence were an accepted fact. His critics have not failed to laugh at his way of "jumping to conclusions," and even when, to their surprise, he discovered the first prehistoric tomb near the Temple of Antonius and Pomponia they remarked that he might possibly have found this tomb by chance, but that it was no proof of the existence of other.

Sig. Bond is a man who has discovered the first tomb, so that it is now known that the forum was occupied by a necropolis about four yards square by six yards deep, reaching from the original level of the Sacred Way. In so doing he has discovered two large tombs under a heap of rough blocks of red and gray tufa, which seem to have been built into a sort of triangular mound to mark the site. One of the tombs resembles the structure that was found that it is probably a simple funeral urn with other inside a large terra-cotta vase placed in a well-shaped cavity.

These tombs are known as well tombs (tombs a pons), and are usually associated with the rite of cremation. It will not be possible to examine the contents of this new tomb until it has been thoroughly cleaned, which will require a modern sewer which runs over the site before the necessary excavations can be completed.

Meanwhile Sig. Bond has found between the two wall tombs a so-called ditch tomb (tomba a fossa), resembling in shape an ordinary grave. In this tomb lay the remains of a full-grown man, who had evidently been buried without cremation. The skull is in perfect preservation, the teeth are all present and in position, the bones are intact and on the breast is a brown object, apparently an amulet, which has not yet been closely examined. Beside the skull were two drinking cups of terra-cotta. The question arises if the skeleton is that of a man buried at the same time as the cremated bodies contained in the other tombs. Perhaps exact measurement of the skull may give some indication of the race to which the person belonged. All that can be said at present is that the greatest interest attaches to these remains, which are the earliest yet discovered in Rome, as they date from the eighth or ninth century B. C. The work of examination is being carried on with the greatest care. Everything is being photographed before the removal and every scrap of mud and earth is being passed through a sieve and minutely examined.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC EMPLOY.

Proportion of the Sex in the Service of the Government is Gradually Increasing.

It is observed by officials in the government service that the proportion of women in public employ is gradually increasing, from an insubstantial, but permanent cause, writes the Philadelphia Public Ledger's Washington correspondent. It appears that there are usually more women than men who are able to pass the civil service examinations; but the ratio of appointments is about the same. The reason why the aggregate number of women is increasing in the department service is that they do not leave their places to go into private occupations as men do.

A prominent official who is opposed to women clerks, speaking of the matter, said: "There are only two reasons that cause a woman to leave the government service—death and marriage. Their death rate is about the same as that of men. The men do not resign when they get married, so that in favor of a greater reduction in the women employ. But men are leaving the government service constantly to engage in private business. Practically no women ever leave the government service to take employment elsewhere.

"So far as ever having a reduction in the total number of women employ in the department is concerned, I see no way in which that is apt to be done. The civil service rules provide that dismissals shall be made only for just cause, and the dismissed one shall be furnished copies of the charges and given an opportunity to reply to them. It does not require much imagination to foresee how that rule would operate if women were dismissed from the public service simply because as women they were not regarded as desirable for government work, and that men were preferred because they were men. They could be removed. There is no doubt about that. President Roosevelt's declaration concerning the meaning of this rule in regard to dismissals settles that matter. He declared that 'just cause' meant any cause other than one that was political or religious which would promote the efficiency of the service.

"But there are a great many things that could be done that no man endowed with a fair bump of caution would consider doing. The condition that now prevails in regard to women employ by the government is apt to continue for some time to come."

CURED BY SURGERY.

Paris Surgeon Operates Successfully in Typhoid Case.

Reported To be a Last Remedy in Similar Case, the Achievement is Regarded as Most Remarkable.

Typhoid fever has been cured by an operation. A Paris surgeon has just brought a patient out of a seemingly hopeless case of the disease, and the method by which he did it constitutes a distinct achievement in curative science, states the Chicago Tribune.

Dr. J. S. Dauriac, an eminent practitioner of Paris, resorted to surgery as a last remedy in a case which had been given up. The patient, a young man of 27 years, is now in full possession of his health.

While the physician was convinced that the intestine could be cleaned antiseptically and the inflammation thus reduced, he would not have undertaken the dangerous operation if the father of the young man had not urged it and if it had not been that the patient was doomed, and if it had not been apparent that he could live but a few days.

The fever had followed its course for 20 days and the case was seen to be hopeless. The father, seeing the hopelessness of his son's condition, urged the physician to perform the operation as a last measure, and it was decided to undertake it.

An incision about the length of the index finger was made in the left side, about two and a quarter inches inside the forward and upper third of the spine, into the peritoneum. This incision was just sufficient to allow the physician to take hold of the small intestine and draw it out. A little shield was attached in the peritoneum and in the deeper points of the incision, with the center side towards the smaller intestine, and this shield was fastened by suture. The intestinal tumor was then opened and cleaned out and the edges tied to the skin. The wound was then closed up minutely and protected all around the mouth of the intestine by sterilized cotton, covered by a thick layer of iodoform colloid.

Afterwards a Nelaton tube in flexible rubber was introduced and the drainage of infected matter from the intestine facilitated by the employment of boiled water slightly cooled and salted. At the end of the second day the water thus used seemed to be free from infected matter. From the first day there was a noticeable improvement in the patient's condition. His temperature steadily decreased, and three days after the operation it was lower than it had been at any time since the beginning of the illness.

The physician then did not hesitate to give his patient more or less solid food, beginning with thick vermicelli soup, then noodles and fine macaroni cooked in water. Seven days afterward the invalid ate an egg, followed by a lamb chop. From that time on the recuperation was extremely rapid, and the young man to-day is enjoying perfect health.

In describing the details of the operation Dr. Dauriac said that probably many American physicians had realized the possibility of resorting to surgery in the treatment of typhoid cases and a relation of this operation might prove interesting to them.

"I was careful to select a point of the intestine sufficiently removed from the Depecaer valve to avoid the center of the ulceration," said the physician, "and not too much above the junction to interfere with nutrition. I was guided in the operation by the echymose aspect presented in spots by the exterior surface of the small intestine the nearer I approached the largest of the intestines."

The achievement of the Paris physician is greeted by men of his profession in that city as one of the memorable surgical achievements of the year.

Superior Female Scarcecrow.

"Crows," said a farmer, "fear women much more than they do men. That is why you see, all over the country, female scarecrows preponderating over male ones. Did you ever hear tell of the proof of this? Well, the proof is obtained by putting crows to work at counting. You send men, one at a time, into a woodshed near a flock of crows and the birds will count the men up to 11. That is to say, 11 men enter the shed under the crows' eye; the crows keep at a safe distance until the full 11 have departed again, and then they fly up to the shed door fearlessly. As long as one man is left they know it, and they keep away. Beyond 11 they become confused. But with women they can only count to three. Therefore I suppose it may be said that crows are nearly four times as much afraid of women as of men. I know for a fact that one female scarecrow is as good as four male ones."

Have You Myosophobia?

Myosophobia is the latest scientific name for a complaint the symptoms of which are familiar to every one, says the Chicago Daily News. "Morbid fastidiousness" would be a roundabout way of expressing the same thing. "A person suffering from myosophobia," says a medical journal, "talking his seat at table begins by scrutinizing closely every article placed there for his use. He holds his tumbler up to the light to see if it is free from fingermarks he scans his napkin to make sure that it is immaculate, and one by one each object is critically passed in review. In advanced cases the sufferer mechanically wipes the various articles, using the napkin for the purpose." But there is compensation in everything, and what may be an annoying idiosyncrasy in a guest becomes an undeniable virtue in a domestic servant.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Europe Builds Nearly 7,000 New Locomotives Yearly.

The great engine firms are putting up large packing houses in Texas. Bohemian miners last year produced an average of 487 tons of soft coal each.

A scheme for the manufacture of paper buttons is being put forward in San Francisco. These buttons, say the promoters of the scheme, will be cheaper than the bone and metal ones, quite as serviceable and as good an appearance.

A considerable trade in live quails takes place yearly from Mexico to the United Kingdom. The birds are caught in the neighborhood of Mexcala. They are kept from three to four days in cages before being shipped, and are fed on hemp seed and ground corn and are watered freely every day. It is estimated that from 60,000 to 100,000 are caught annually.

A service metal hose is made at Phorbheim, Germany, by rolling up a metal band like a screw thread, the joints being made tight by a cord of rubber on asbestos. The material is galvanized steel or phosphor bronze. The hose is very flexible. Its tendency to untwist when roughly handled is overcome by making it double, with opposite windings. It is intended for mining purposes, is eight inches in diameter and will stand a pressure of 300 atmospheres.

Nature seems to have made Jamaica the home of the banana, but it remained for American enterprise to turn the fruit to gold. It is estimated that 8,000,000 bunches of bananas were shipped from this island last year. At an average of 25 cents a bunch, this would yield \$2,000,000. It is also stated that about \$1,500,000 is paid out annually in wages by fruit companies. This would bring a total of \$3,500,000 to the island in one year as a direct result of the fruit trade.

After working for 25 years William G. Hughes, a New York machanic, perfected a smoke-consuming device for locomotive and other engine boilers. Hughes had capital to back his invention, but succeeded in having it brought to the notice of Cornelius Vanderbilt. The millionaire mechanic had the device tested on an elevated train locomotive under his personal inspection, making the trip from the Battery to Harlem. Mr. Vanderbilt has decided to aid Hughes in the matter.

CANADA'S WOODCHUCKS.

The Dominion Authorities Are Preparing to Make War Upon the Annoying Pest.

The United States government has declared a war of extermination on mosquitoes and the common horse fly. The Canadian government has departed on a similar errand against the common woodchuck, reports a New York exchange.

"Ground bug" is the more familiar name by which the woodchuck is known and his misdeeds are many.

In many parts of Canada a great deal of damage is done by the ground hog. Not only do they consume large quantities of grain and fodder, but much more, over their burrows is trampled upon and destroyed, while the burrows themselves are responsible for many ugly accidents to horses employed in harvesting.

Many ways of destroying these animals have been devised, but ordinary methods frequently fail to keep them in check.

Probably the simplest and most satisfactory method is that of the use of bisulphide of carbon, an indammable liquid which on exposure to air volatilizes into a vapor that is very destructive to animal life.

One special advantage of carbon bisulphide is that its vapor is more than twice as heavy as air, so that in a woodchuck burrow it will follow along the hole until it reaches the bottom, crowding the air above it to the top.

As the animal is likely to be in the lower part of the burrow, it is almost certain to inhale the poisonous vapor and be killed.

The equipment necessary for this sort of woodchuck bait consists of a bottle of carbon bisulphide, a handle of old cotton or other cloth, a pail and a spade.

The pail is filled with dirt and set near the hole ready to turn in; and then a piece of cloth is held between thumb and finger saturated with about an ounce of the liquid, and immediately thrown as far into the burrow as possible.

The pail of dirt is quickly thrown into the hole, and the entrance carefully closed. If there is more than one entrance all but one should be filled in before the treatment.

This method not only kills the old woodchuck, but destroys in a humane manner the young in the burrow.

It has, too, the additional advantage that the animal is not only killed, but is buried and the hole is filled so that considerable time is thus saved.

It should be distinctly understood by everyone who uses carbon bisulphide for any purpose that it is highly volatile, inflammable and poisonous, and it is also highly explosive.

South Africa Wants Frontiers.

Great Britain announces that no persons not a resident of South Africa is to be permitted to go to that country unless possessed of at least \$300 in money, and with a definite intention as to the business or calling he will pursue. The ravages of the war have left the native population destitute and with an influx of strangers a condition bordering upon idleness might possibly result from so many with such limited opportunities opened to them.—Chicago Chronicle.

WET YEARS RETURN.

"Rain-belters" Are Going Back to the Semi-Arid Regions.

Venturesome and Foolhardy Class of Settlers Who Disregard Experience of Pioneer of the Twenty-Nineties.

Just now there is a fever of speculation in farm lands in the northwest and the tide of immigration has set in strongly toward a region heretofore considered valuable only for grazing. There is again an influx of the "rain-belters," a venturesome and foolhardy class of settlers, who, disregarding or without knowledge of the experience of the pioneers of the early '90's, are crossing the meridian beyond which the rainfall is scanty and uncertain, says C. J. Blanehard, chief of irrigation section, census office, Washington, in a recent report. It is impossible to fix the exact boundaries of the region known as "semi-arid America," but it is generally considered to include that territory between the ninety-seventh and the one hundred and first meridians. The difficulty is definitely bounding this region is due to the fact that for a succession of years the high plains of which it is largely composed receive more than the average rainfall.

A peculiarly noted particularly in the semi-arid country is that it is subject to climatic oscillations, producing cycles of wet and dry years. During the prevalence of the former, the soil of the plains, which is of wonderful fertility, produces abundantly. The cycle of wet years is now on, and large areas of the semi-arid lands are being taken up and agriculture is being extended far beyond the danger line.

Newcomers with small capital, tempted by the luxuriant vegetation of the plains during the moist seasons, and driven onward by the high prices of farm lands in the humid regions, have begun the work of home building far from previous settlements. This wave of immigration is over the Dakotas, and the movement extends clear to the western part of these states.

The question arises, is the country destined to again witness the deplorable condition which followed the great overflow into the semi-arid country in 1892-93. Then as now the "rain-belters" made their homes far out on the plains in advance of the railroads or towns, counting upon a continuation of sufficient rainfall and following the theory that turning the soil increased the precipitation. What followed is not yet forgotten, and the deserted cabins and abandoned farms dotting nearly every county of western Nebraska and Kansas tell a sad though wordless story. The records of 30 years show that this region is subject to cycles of irregular periods known as wet and dry. The alternation of these cycles or the climatic oscillation from wet to dry has marked the progress and the exodus of the "rain-belters." A cycle of wet years sees the plains rapidly settled up; the return of the dry years sees their depopulation.

Promoting the development of a country wherein the annual rainfall ranges from 10 to 20 inches, with seasons of far less precipitation, should only be undertaken after a careful study of all conditions has been made. To those familiar with the results of many previous attempts to extend agriculture into the semi-arid regions without the aid of irrigation, the present movement cannot be viewed without forebodings of future disaster and failure. Unfortunately for those located upon the high plains, irrigation can never be practiced as an insurance against drought throughout the semi-arid district. The rivers offer no available water and the underground water lies at such depths that it cannot be economically utilized.

Gallantry of the King.

How the pleasant eccentricities of one generation will persist in breaking out in another, defying time and ridicule and the change of manners, says the Pall Mall Gazette. It was the playful way of Frederick the Great when he came across a buxom wench to marry her forthwith to the tallest of his grenadiers, and it stands to the credit of his institution that these marriages rarely proved a failure. Now, either in emulation of his great predecessor or else because he cannot help it, the Kaiser has just had a similar attack of gallantry—gallantry, mark you, on a truly imperial scale. He was visiting Crefeld lately, that busy town of silks and velvets on the lower Rhine, and learned from the pretty girl inhabitants that all they wanted in the world was a headful of lieutenant to dance with them. He pretent of the autocratic mandate has gone forth that Crefeld is to have the garrison in the shape of a crack Hussar regiment, and the burgomaster is busy preparing its accommodation. That regiment is lucky if it is not christened in future Fraunhuasere, or worst of all, Tanswehr.

Farm on a Pier.

The queerest "farm" in Greater New York is located on the ends of the long pier in the Harlem river on which the big draw bridge of the Madison avenue bridge swings. The bridge tender has covered up the broken stone filling of the pier with fine loam from the fields on either shore, and has growing there as fine a crop of corn, beans, peas, potatoes and tomatoes as any farm in the state can show. He works on his farm day and night, at every possible opportunity and has promised his friends on the many vessels which sail by daily and on the trolleys that whiz above his head that, when all is ripe, he will invite them all to a grand dinner.—N. Y. Sun.

MONEY GREW ON BUSHES.

Railway Section Gang in Nebraska Comes Upon a Magnolia Plant by the Roadside.

The fairy tale of money growing on bushes was lately realized along the right of way of the Burlington railroad between Hyannis and Alliance, says a Lincoln (Nebr.) report. A gang of wretched men were at work, when one of them noticed something that looked like a bill waving from the tangled top of a sunflower growing by the roadside. He investigated. It was a treasury note for \$10.

He walked a few steps farther and there, nodding from a branch of a bit of dog fence, was another bill of similar denomination.

He called to his companions, and the entire gang threw down their tools and started on a money hunt. For three hours they searched up and down the right of way and far afield. At almost every yard their trouble was rewarded by finding either a five or a ten-dollar bill. Some bills were tangled in the tops of weeds, others half hidden in bushes along the fence, and still others in the stable of the field.

The entire day's clean-up of the right was \$2,125. When the find was reported, word came from headquarters that a money pouch containing \$2,000 had been lost from an express shipment the day before.

The supposition is that the bag fell out of the open car door and was ground to pieces under the wheels, and the contents were scattered to the winds. This hypothesis is supported by the later discovery of portions of the damaged pouch.

RELIGION OF THE BLANKET.

The Navajo Sewer Prays as the Weaver Weaves the Threads of Her Beautiful Production.

It is a religion to make a Navajo blanket. Through the kinky, bristling twine of the warp are woven the hopes and aspirations of an immortal soul. In the warm colors are expressed the ardors of passionate hearts, the sandstorms they have faced, the cloud-bursts under which their backs have bent, the smiling sunshine that has dried their wool, all the adverse and good fortunes that have befallen are wrought into the intricate designs. The squaw prays as she pushes the wool cart, and she prays as she twirls the distaff in her hands or rolls it on her thigh; she prays as she arranges the beads; she prays as she lustily pounds down the woofstrands with her scrub oak batten, says the Southern Workman.

A blanket is all a prayer, a human document, a biography bright with the joy times of emerald yellow, dark with the olive green of pain. One is drawn to it because one's heart is moved by its ineffable, intangible humanness. One is strangely moved to both laughter and tears by its exquisitely variant colors; each expressing an emotion by its warmth of blended fibers, each throbbing to a note of triumph or of woe.

THE FRUIT PLETHORA.

Fine Apples Fed to the Pigs Because of the Superabundant Product of the Orchards.

Rarely, if ever, has there been such a superabundance of fruit as now abounds in the New England orchards. The limbs of the apple and pear trees hang heavy under the weight of their enormous yield, and the ground beneath the trees is covered with the decaying droppings. In some localities the apples may be had for the picking, and an offer of half a dollar a barrel for the fruit on the tree is eagerly accepted in the rural districts. Thousands of bushels are being fed to the cattle and pigs and the cider mills are glutted with raw material for the presses. It seems a pity to see such a large quantity of fine fruit going to waste. It is almost superfluous to offer suggestions in the line of thoughtful philanthropy to Dr. Hale, but the glutted condition of the orchards suggests that it might be a good idea to renew his farmers' fruit offering scheme, which furnished such a liberal supply of free fruit to the poor people of Boston when it was originally undertaken. Undoubtedly a great many bushels of apples can now be had for the asking.

Official Cravat Adjusters.

The leading haberdashery shops employ only clerks who are expert in arranging cravat shapes. Make-up neckwear is adopted for provincial trade, as a rule. Among the duties of such assistants is to attend weddings and other home functions. The bridegroom nowadays presents his "best man" and ushers with cravats and gloves for the ceremony. The haberdasher's clerk reports at the proper place in due time and adjusts these cravats uniformly, placing the scarfpins in correct position, etc. He also fits the gloves in each case. His employer collects a handsome fee for this professional service.

Huddists in America.

It is stated that San Diego, in Southern California, is fast becoming the Buddhist center of America. In one house there has been erected a shrine to Buddha, and the owner, a woman of means, has brought a Buddha priest from India, who gathers a large congregation together every week.

Increased Receipts Explained.

The largest increase in postal receipts in the history of the service was shown in the reports of 50 leading post offices for September. That was the month, says the Chicago Record-Herald, in which the people who were away on vacations wrote home for money to get back with.