

INCENTIVE TO CLIMB.

Mysterious Oregon Heights Never Scaled by White Men.

Exploring Party to Undertake the Ascent of Beacon Rock, One-Time Watch Tower of Indians of That Vicinity.

For untold centuries Beacon Rock, or, as it is more familiarly called, Castle Rock, situated about 30 miles from Portland as the bird flies, has loomed aloft its rugged contour, defying all but the bravest to scale its rugged and precipitous sides.

Beacon Rock, which is situated about 35 miles from Portland by the water route, is probably 1,000 feet in height, but as no measurement of the height has ever been taken, it is impossible to give an accurate figure.

On account of the unwillingness of the Indians residing in the vicinity to impart any information concerning the use of the rock in past centuries as a burial mound, it has been impossible to get definite information concerning that rite, which is held so sacred among the red men.

From the base of Beacon Rock to the foot of the ruined abutment of the Bridge of the Gods the surrounding country is strewn with Indian relics and the bleaching bones of the aborigines. This whole country is rich in romantic legend, and one can scarcely set foot at any point hereabouts that has not been drenched with the blood of the early settler or his savage foe.

After the party has made the ascent of Beacon Rock it is proposed to extend the trip to take in the ruins of the Bridge of the Gods. From the top of the ruined abutment the view is magnificent, the Columbia being visible for miles both east and west and the Willamette as far south as Eugene. The party will be made up of men interested in scientific research, and will be accompanied by photographers.

That a trip of such an unusual nature is to be undertaken, coupled with the fact that Portland lies almost in the shadow of this historical section, will lend an added interest to the outing, and when it is understood that the entire trip will not occupy more than four days it is not to be wondered at that many eager inquiries are being made concerning it.

It is a peculiarly interesting fact that a few miles north of the abutments on the Washington side of the Columbia is a mountain known as Star Mountain. Near its summit are the remains of three distinct lines of fortifications, dating back to some prehistoric age, and probably erected by a race well advanced in civilization.

Mr. Scroggs is a large gentleman possessing great dignity, partly natural and partly gained through much experience as a presiding officer in countless financial and charitable organizations. One sweltering summer day, as he dropped into his seat in the afternoon train which was to carry him down to his country place, he noticed with much displeasure that immediately behind him was the inevitable tired mother with the usual very small children.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

"What is the excitement on the plaza, Cholly?" "Feilish just arrived without any golf clubs."—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

"Colors are so changeable on the beach." "Eh?" "One is either blue from cold or red from sunburn."—Indianapolis News.

A Stage Paradox—"Funny about critics, isn't it?" "What is?" "Why, it's when they treat us coldly that we consider ourselves roasted."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

A Private Filtration.—Capt. Lovelace—"But you certainly were flirting with one of the men in the ranks." Miss Coquette—"Ah, yes. But that was a private affair."—Town and Country.

"Money is like blood," said the spendthrift nephew; "it isn't any good unless it keeps in circulation." "Yes," answered the wise uncle, "but you shouldn't let either of them get away from you."—Baltimore American.

Her Father—"Young man, do you intend to marry my daughter?" Young Man—"Funny! That was the question your daughter asked me the first evening I came here. What a curious lot your family is! Will let you know when I make up my mind."—Boston Transcript.

Rosalie—"Have you chosen any of your bridesmaids yet?" May—"Yes, Fanny Lyon." Rosalie—"Why, I thought you hated her." May—"No, not exactly; but the bridesmaids are to wear yellow, and you can't imagine how they will go with Fanny's complexion."—Fun.

All's Well That Ends Well.—Stepmother (entering village school with whip)—"My boy tells me you broke your cane across his back yesterday." Schoolmaster (turning pale)—"Well, I-I may have struck him harder than I intended, but—" Stepmother—"I thought I'd make you a present of this whip. You'll find it'll last longer and do him more good."—Punch.

BRITISH GULANA'S MINES.

It is Believed That the Country is Rich in Both Gold and Diamonds.

An official report on the gold, diamond and forest industries of British Guiana for the year ending June 30, 1901, has just been received in this country, and shows that great efforts are being made by the authorities of the colony to stimulate the production of both gold and diamonds.

The report declares that with the requisite capital and labor, the fields are capable of indefinite expansion, says the New York Sun.

While the work of inducing additional investments has been going on, those men who are now engaged in the gold-mining business have not been idle. A dredger has been erected on the Barima river and concessions have been obtained from the government on the Conowrook, Purini, Cuyuni, Groete creek and Barima rivers. The men holding these concessions are waiting for returns from the Barima and if these are as favorable as they are expected to be, work on the other streams will begin at once.

From June 30, 1900, to June 30, 1901, the production of gold in the colony was 109,207 ounces. The report is even more sanguine of the future of the diamond fields. It says: "One of the most encouraging events of the year has been the attention that has been given to the diamond deposits of the Mazarini. Since July 7, 1900, no less than 8,353 diamonds have been declared at the department of mines as well as 2,151 sapphires. With the exception of 163 diamonds coming from Potaro, all of these stones are from the Mazarini diamond fields."

It has recently been discovered that the area in which the diamonds lie is much more extensive than was supposed. The mode of their occurrence is similar to that of the Brazilian diamonds in western Minas-geras and at Sao Joao de Chapoda. On account of this fact, the report says:

"As the present production of the Brazilian washings is estimated at 27,000 carats per annum, the council are of the opinion that the utmost importance attaches to these indications and furthermore think it to the interest of the colony that the government geologist be instructed to report fully on the diamond fields. It would seem advisable that the government should send up an expedition thoroughly to report on the present condition of the fields, particularly as there are many men on the ground and disputes will very likely arise as to the locations."

The customs returns show that last year 906 carats of diamonds were exported. The total number of laborers employed in the gold mines at present is 15,363.

Has a Phenological Quarrel. "McGinnity, would you be after telling me what all this means? I'm after readin' in the papers 'bout tellin' a man's character by the bumps on his head," said Mr. Morrissey. "It's a new ting ter me."

FOOD DEGRADATION.

Deterioration Has Been Going On Steadily for Many Years.

Why Homemade Articles of Diet Are Preferred to Those from the Store—Effect of Poor Food Upon the Eater.

There can be no doubt that during the last decade food has undergone a steady degradation, and this cannot be without a demoralizing influence upon the human race. It will be noticed that by far the majority of cases of tampering with food relate to the substitution of a cheaper article rather than to the addition of an injurious substance.

It is urged, for instance, that jam or marmalade cannot be made without the addition of glucose, which prevents the preserve from crystallizing. Now long before glucose was a household word jams and marmalades were made—and good they were, too, consisting entirely of sugar and fruit. In the same way we are told that beer must be brewed from sugar and that brewing exclusively from malt presents untold difficulties.

Yet, again, we are told that the public demand a perfectly white loaf of bread, the truth in reality being that machinery has produced a roller flour which is an inferior thing to the now, we suppose, extinct stone-milled flour. Instances of this sort could be multiplied.

We could wish that all those keeping house would make up their minds seriously to return to the excellent custom of preparing many articles of food for themselves at home. Who does not admit the charm of homemade bread, or homemade jam, and simply because they are known to be made from an honest formula which has stood the test of time and from good materials which yield a palatable product? Even in the country good, old-fashioned wheaten bread, with that fascinating brown color of rich wheat flour, containing the entire nutritious portions of the berry and possessing that delightful characteristic flavor now seldom, if ever, characteristic of bread, is difficult to obtain.

It has recently been stated that the degradation of the teeth so noticeable among largely supplanted stone-milling. We should not be surprised. The degradation of food is a serious matter and is bound to lead sooner or later to the degradation of the eater. No movement could confer greater blessing upon the people than that which aimed at bringing about a return to the older and more rational methods of preparing food. Let us see more of the homemade article than we now see; let us return to more palatable food and to food that will do more good than the machine-made stuffs and the endless series of substitutes. In all the schools throughout the land we would have the children taught the advantages of homemade food, and how that bread, fruit, jam, or even beer and cider can be made at home. It would encourage a spirit of industry, it would give us palatable and nourishing articles to eat or drink, and might have a wholesome effect upon those who seem deliberately to attenuate food as much as possible or who pay no regard to its naturally endowed palatability.

Remarkable Memory. There died a few days ago an inmate of a Saratoga county institution, a resident of Waterford, who was possessed of a remarkable memory. He did not attend school while in his youth, but was possessed of intelligence which was deep and far reaching. One of his peculiarities was the exactness with which he could tell the time of day. He never carried a watch, could not tell the figures on the dial of the town clock, yet if one asked: "Ed, what time is it?" the reply would be as correct as the time denoted on the most costly and correct chronometer. He was also exact in his geographical computations, and could bound every state in the union and every county in New York state and give the population thereof. He was a strict grammarian, yet he could not read, and as an arithmetician and lightning calculator he was not to be equaled in his native birthplace. He had an aversion to cruelty of any kind, and had prevented many Waterford boys from injury.—Troy Press.

American Horses for Japan. Japan as well as England has been a large patron of the American horse breeder, but the purchases made here by the Japanese government have been chiefly in the way of fine trotting stock to improve the native breed of horses. The first experiment made some years ago was so successful that agents of Japan are again in this country buying finely bred animals.—Chicago Chronicle.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The United States Produced as much Borax as the Rest of the World Combined.

Switzerland exported last year 3,086,777 silver watches, 2,366,429 nickel and 800,258 gold watches.

Utah has more than doubled its manufacturing plants since 1890, the number increasing from 530 to 1,400. Oil has been struck at Constantine in the house of a Jew. An English company is going to develop the wells.

Among retail dealers it is said that the demand for merrichium pipes and holders has greatly decreased in the last few years. French briar has supplanted it in popularity.

M. Flammarion, the French astronomer, declares that the study of astronomy is conducive to longevity, since it calms the human passions. He points out that the French Astronomical society, composed of about 2,500 members, possess one member who is 105 years old, a dozen who are over 90 and a very large percentage of octogenarians.

E. A. Martel, the French explorer of caverns, whose discoveries underground have attracted much attention, reports that he has found in the department of Hautes Alpes a cavity in the form of a "natural well" whose depth exceeds that of any other known. He has sounded it to the depth of about 1,027 feet, but the actual bottom has not been reached.

Washington is the principal lumber state in the union. It has an estimated two hundred billion feet of merchantable timber, an amount that would allow of cutting at the present rate for 100 years before its exhaustion. But the same wasteful methods prevail there which have denuded some of the older states of their timber, and there is the same lack of provision for the future.

DISCONTENT IN ICELAND.

Icelanders Want Larger Measure of Self-Government Than They Possess.

Even Denmark is having trouble with her dependencies. The latest murmur of discontent comes from Iceland, where the inhabitants are asking a greater measure of home rule, says a recent dispatch. The only compromise Denmark offers is that a committee be granted the Icelanders, who shall have a seat in the Danish parliament or rigsdag. This is supposed to be what the Danish government means by "a moderate extension of home rule." But this is just what the Icelanders do not want, as they think that it would mean a gradual lessening of the power of their own althing.

According to the constitution granted Iceland during the visit of the king of Denmark to the island in 1874 it is stipulated that Iceland shall be "an inalienable part of the Danish kingdom." This has been interpreted by successive governments and parliaments to mean that Iceland is a mere department or office and not a separate state, entirely independent of the Danish parliament, though under the same king as Denmark. Since the adoption of the constitution, the Danish interpretation of which does not satisfy the claims of Iceland to autonomy, no efforts of the Icelanders to obtain increased administrative powers have been conceded.

A committee of the althing is now in Copenhagen for the purpose of getting the king to intercede in their behalf and free the althing from its dependence on the Danish ministry and parliament, and have Iceland only to do with the king himself or his representative in Reykjavik. In Copenhagen it is said that the spirit of independence of the Icelanders is enhanced at this moment from the fact that its people wish to be freed from the Danish tariff which prevails there and under which various Danish monopolies are flourishing, and that should this be done English commodities would completely drive the Danish from the island and the English would soon obtain control of all Icelandic industries.

Making Laws During the Night.

There is a very marked difference in the working methods of the United States congress and the British parliament which strike the visitor from one country to the other. Some of the things that seem peculiar to the American is the absence of sittings in the British assembly and the practice of members in wearing hats during the session. Some recent proposals that the hour of convening the British parliament be changed call attention to the striking difference between the working methods of that body and our own congress. Parliamentary sessions begin late and last far into the night. The parliamentary hours, indeed, have undergone a good many changes and it is only 12 years since a radical change was made in them—the house meeting at three instead of four, and adjourning, nominally, at 12 instead of at some hour in the morning.—Chicago Chronicle.

Slightly Negative.

Uncle Ephraim's rusty hat droops humbly over his black and wrinkled forehead; his coat pockets are sagging away from his coat; one knee is covered with a blue patch, the other one with a white one sewed on with black thread; his shoes are full of holes, and it would puzzle anyone to declare the original color of any article of his apparel. He pulls off the drooping hat as he looks over my garden fence, and gives me a smile that makes me feel better for an hour. "Miss Alice," he asks, cheerfully, "you don't know nobody that wasterter hire nobody to do nothin' fer 'em dis mawnin', does you?"—Harper's Magazine.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

Gen. Miles was asked the other day what it was that, in his opinion, most made for popularity in an army officer. His reply was: "Never to omit to return a salute."

The people of Amesbury, Mass., have started a movement for the erection of a monument to the memory of the poet Whittier, who lived in their town for 50 years and did much of his best work there.

Fifteen hundred and fifty pounds (about \$7,750 of our money) was paid in London for one of the five perfect copies of "The Royal Book; or, Book for a King," printed about 1487 by William Caxton. This is one of the rarest and most valuable of the Caxton publications.

D. R. Beatty, one of the new Texas oil kings, was a reporter when the news of the great oil "strike" came in. He got together ten dollars, and by putting up that as a security he "bluffed" the discoverers and got valuable lands, which proved so fruitful that he was able to pay the balance due on them in a few weeks.

The poet and divine, John Donne, who became dean of St. Paul's in 1621, married a daughter of Sir George Moore without the consent of her parents. He was told by his father-in-law that he was not to expect any money from him. The bridegroom went home and wrote the witty note, "John Donne, Anne Donne, undone," which he sent to the angry father, and this had the effect of restoring them to favor.

Senator Thomas C. Platt, of New York, and Whitelaw Reid, of the New York Tribune, who have been bitter political opponents for some years, have shaken hands and "made up." They are now working in complete harmony and Mr. Platt will no longer seek to antagonize any political ambition that Mr. Reid may entertain. Senator Depey is said to be jubilant over this result, which he is said to have brought about.

The Wadsworth-Longfellow house in Portland, Me., has been opened to visitors by the Maine Historical society, a small fee being charged, the money to be added to the Longfellow memorial fund. The restoration of the house, which will be undertaken by the Longfellow family, will be under the direction of Miss Alice Longfellow, daughter of the poet, and the superintendent of A. W. Longfellow, Jr., architect, of Boston.

USES OF ORRIS ROOT.

Beads Made from the Root Are Used in Medical Practice to Keep Wounds Open.

The British vice consul at Leghorn, in his report on his district for the past year, mentions a curious industry in which orris root plays the chief part. This is the production of beads made from the root, with a fine hole through the center. The beads are of many sizes, the smallest being about that of a marble. Not many years ago, says the London Times, about 20,000,000 of these were exported each year, but now the export has fallen to 4,000,000. It appears that there was once a medical theory that the best means of curing venereal and certain diseases of the blood was to keep an open wound in the body of the sufferer, and these orris root beads were inserted into the wound for this purpose. It is still possible to buy at Italian medical instrument makers the special wire-grated bandage prepared for the arm in this process. Orris was probably used in this way because of its tendency to dilate in any liquid substance. The practice undoubtedly still prevails, though medical science has long condemned it.

A factory for making these beads has recently been established in Paris, and the greater part of the Leghorn export goes on to France, while part goes to Frankfurt. The use of the beads is dying out in Italy, but it is not uncommon to meet with people who have been treated in this way.

Another article made from orris root is the dentarok, or finger, which is designed to take the place of the old-fashioned infants' coral and assist in teething. The juice, of which a small amount is absorbed in sucking, is said to be an excellent digestive. This is a modern and a growing industry, and apparently reached Italy from Germany. Now half a million of these fingers are sent from Leghorn to Germany and Austria every year. Orris root grains, colored in blue, red, yellow, green and other colors, are exported to the same countries, where they are used to throw on fires to give an agreeable odor to saloons and entrance halls, while in the form of tiny chips the root is chewed, mostly by men servants, to remove the smell of tobacco, garlic and the like. It may be mentioned that samples of these various articles made from orris root have been sent home by the vice consul, and have been transferred by the foreign office to the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

In Doubt.

"I judge from your conversation," said the carping person, "that you assume to be an optimist." "O, yes. It is just as well to look on the bright side." "You undertake to demonstrate that whatever is, is right, and all that sort of thing." "That would be the tendency of my arguments."

"And you believe that everything is all for the best?" "Yes." "Well, I'm glad to meet you. I want to talk with some one who has studied the subject, and who can possibly tell me why it is that the man who rocks the boat always manages to swim ashore and let the other people drown. It may be all for the best, but I'd like to have it explained."—Washington Star.

THE MELODRAMATIC WEST.

There Has Been a Big Improvement in the Manners of the Hold-Up Men.

The west may always be rough-and-ready, generous, strenuous and accustomed to doing things upon a large scale, but there have been fears that the pressure of the practical affairs of humdrum business life might deprive that section of some of its melodramatic characteristics. The days of the James brothers and other gentlemanly road agents of their type, which seemed a modified survival of the gentlemanly highwayman of the Dick Turpin age, seemed to have passed, but now comes a story from the Indian territory of a train robbery which, except for the use of dynamite in wrecking the express car, demonstrates that there are yet among those who hold up trains some who are not entirely unobservant of the proprieties of their profession, says the Baltimore Herald.

In this case two masked men climbed over the tender of the engine, and, presenting the muzzles of their revolvers for the inspection of the engineer and fireman, demanded that the train be stopped at the next water tank. The men behind the pistons may have appeared a little rough, but it was the regulator way. The train was stopped at the water tank, its arrival being greeted by a volley from the pistols of three confederates of the unwelcome passengers on the engine. Could anything have been more melodramatic than this?

The men went through the train and called upon the passengers to give up all their jewelry and money. There was no evidence of ill-breeding on the part of the robbers; they alighted no one, and it is easy to imagine that, after relieving the gentlemen passengers of their rolls and watches, they discussed with them the best methods of reorganizing the democratic party or the result of the coming international yacht race. It is not hard to believe that men who were too high-minded to carry their collection in a sack as they proceeded through the train, but forced the postal clerk to do this for them, were sufficiently gallant to raise or lower window shades for the ladies and allow them to keep their jeweled powder cases.

Certain it is that after they had blown open the safe in the express car they sat down and chatted pleasantly with the engineer and fireman for an hour or so, and upon leaving presented the engineer with a diamond ring and a diamond stud as a slight token of their admiration of his ability to stop a train at a desired spot with precision and promptness.

Beside the deeds of these train robbers the groveling accomplishments of the smaller thief on the Pacific coast sink into insignificance, if manners and not merely mercenary ideals are considered.

SIGHTS IN OLD PANAMA.

The Ancient City Was Once as Beautiful as Any Depicted in Storyed Romance.

Following the English style, dinner is a full-dress and ceremonious affair. After dinner comes the promenade along the Esplanade—a charming walk around the old battery overlooking the prison, says the Catholic World. Our way borders the sea; behind us lies the city, with its Moorish towers, its red-tiled roofs; back of it rises Mount Ancon; to our left is the little Indian hamlet of La Boca, at the mouth of the Rio Grande; and the green hills of the Andes in the distance; along the horizon oceanward stretches the bay. What words can describe it? a study in color as the rays of the setting sun turn to crimson, green and gold its ever-changing waters, and throw into deeper relief the emerald green of its islands; the stately palmetto trees that fringe its banks; the white beach, and far away the ancient towers of San Anastasio, sole landmark of the once beautiful city of Old Panama.

The story of this beautiful city, Old Panama, reads like one of the romances from the Arabian Nights that so delighted our childhood. Its houses of aromatic wood, hung with costly tapestries, adorned with painting and sculptures that a king might envy; its 800 magnificent churches, with their services of silver and gold, their frescoes of pearls and precious stones; its pleasure gardens; its broad drive-ways, chief of which was the king's highway, over which the royal horses bore the treasures of the mines to Puerto Bello, and the ships ready to sail with them to Spain. Into the midst of this Asiatic splendor came Morgan and his buccaneers, and this struggle, one of the most memorable on our continent, the first of white against white, led to the destruction of the tower of Spanish chivalry and the capture of the world!

Ancient Armor.

The knights of the days of chivalry were so well protected by their armor that they were practically invincible to all ordinary weapons. Even when dismounted they could not be injured, save by the misericorde, a thin dagger, which penetrated the chain of the armor. In more than one battle knights fallen from their horses could not be killed until their armor had been broken up with axes and hammers.—Philadelphia Press.

Turnips in Ireland.

Potatoes have ceased to be the principal root crop of Ireland, if they are to be compared with turnips by weight or yield—last year, for example, only about 1,542,000 tons, against 4,426,900 tons of turnips.—Albany Argus.