

THE DECAY OF STONE.

Nature Always at Work in a Perpetual Series of Alterations.

Whoever expects to find a stone that will stand from century to century, deriding alike the frigid rains and scorching solar rays without need of reparation, will indeed search for "the philosopher's stone." There is scarcely a substance which, after having been exposed to the action of the atmosphere for a considerable time, does not exhibit proofs of "weathering," it may even be observed on the most densely compacted siliceous rocks. The fullest extent of this inquiry can only be to elucidate relative duration and comparative labor of appropriation to useful or ornamental purposes.

By examining the various productions of nature we find evident proofs of her industry in all ages; changes have been going on from the remotest antiquity to the present time on every substance that comes within our observation. All the actual combinations of matter have had a former existence in some other state. Nothing exists in nature but what is likely always to retain its present appearance, for the most solid and compact bodies have not such a degree of impenetrability and so close a union of the parts which compose them as to be exempted from ultimate dissolution.

In days gone by the notorious Carrie McBride, who is now dead, was noted as the worst woman in the city. She was a raw-boned, powerful creature, with a fist on her like a battering ram, and at least once a week for 20 years it was necessary to arrest her. Policemen shivered when they saw her drinking, for they knew they were in for a fight before the day was over. She knocked them down and tore their uniforms, battered their faces, and made them objects of ridicule on their beats. Out of their meager wages they had to replace the uniforms she destroyed, and their families suffered in consequence. Of course it would not do to strike a woman, and thus place a blot on the fair name of Kentucky. Years went by, and Carrie became worse than ever with age.

Col. Haaser was keeper of the Central police station one day when she was brought in, fighting desperately. As soon as she saw him she said:

IT CURED HER.

But the Colonel Had to Thrash Her in Self-Defense.

Col. Jake Haaser, one of the most gallant as well as one of the handsomest men who ever sat in the chair of chief of police and bossed the bobbies in blue. He is a native Kentuckian, full of respect for the fair sex, gentle as a summer zephyr, and as full of sympathy as a case of oysters. Yet upon one occasion he drew back his fist and gave a woman a blow in the face that shook her from the tip of her velvet toque to the end of her gum overshoe.

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From Chicago there is a line to Nashville and thence to Memphis, from which point it will soon be extended to Little Rock and into Texas. Other lines from Chicago reach northwest to Davenport and southwest to St. Louis, and the great city on the lake will be connected soon with Des Moines, Kansas City and Omaha.

From Washington the line will be extended to Atlanta, Montgomery, New Orleans and Houston. All of these lines that are not already constructed are certain soon to be built.

The interests chiefly served by this system of instant verbal communication at long range are the great commercial houses at the larger cities on the North Atlantic coast, the lake ports, the packing and manufacturing concerns of the central Mississippi valley and the far-reaching agricultural and manufacturing interests at the parts which compose them as to be exempted from ultimate dissolution.

Even in the great globe which we inhabit nothing is more evident to geologists than a perpetual series of alterations; there can be discovered no vestige of a beginning, no prospect of an end. In some bodies these changes are not so frequent and remarkable as in others, though equally certain at a more distant period.

The venerable remains of Egyptian splendor, many of them executed in the hardest granite between 3,000 and 4,000 years since, exhibit large portions of exfoliation and gradual decay, thereby following the primitive, immutable and universal order of causes and effects, namely, that all objects possess the materials of which they are composed only for a limited time, during which some powerful agent effects their decomposition and sets the elementary particles at liberty again to form other equally perfect combinations. Thus by divine and unerring law order is restored amidst apparent confusion.—Architect.

THE SEATS OF THE MIGHTY.

Smallpox Is No Respecter of Persons— Attacks Small and Great.

The czarina is down with the smallpox, recently wrote Edgar Saltus in Collier's Weekly. Many another has been too. The Saracens found the disease in Africa and introduced it into Europe. That was 1,200 years ago. Until Jenner came it was fashionable among all classes. Said the fourteenth Louis of France: "I have the smallpox?" A courtier answered: "Sire, so has every one." It was not sympathetic merely, he was exact. It heightened Queen Elizabeth's absence of beauty. William III. gave it to one of his pages, and, that the boy might be becomingly remembered, gave him the duchy of Portland also. Maria Theresa had it. So did Queen Mary. WM epidemic in palaces. But it was not confined to palaces. When it reached this part of the world it singularly aided the civilizing influences of Spain. Out of Mexico alone it took nearly 4,000,000 people. In South America its helpfulness was relatively as great. Then, returning to Europe, it depopulated the Northland. A century ago Jenner got to work at it. Thereafter its efficiency waned. The czarina is the first modern sovereign whom it has attacked. One may regret that it should have done so. This lady is one of the prettiest women in Europe. As a young girl she was regarded as the fairest of the princesses. As empress she is unexcelled. As czarina she sits on a seat so high that she overlooks two continents. In her diadem the dominion of all the Russias gleams. In her scepter is the fate of kingdoms. Nature made her fair, destiny great. One might fancy her blessed beyond all other women. Yet neither beauty nor power served to protect her. Her husband has interested himself elsewhere. In his place smallpox has come. "Who is happy?" Mirabeau was asked. "Some miserable wretch," he answered. No plain woman need envy the czarina.

More Than Laconic.

"Henrietta," said Mr. Meekton, "you know you said almost two hours ago you were going to tell me just how much you thought the average man amounted to."

She turned upon him a look of silent inquiry.

"You have said absolutely nothing since then."

"There is nothing easier," answered Miss Cayenne. "All you need do is to say you have heard it before whenever anyone else says anything clever."—Washington Star.

The oldest freemason in New England is William Earle Cook, of Portsmouth, R. I., who has just celebrated his one hundred and first birthday.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE.

Gives People Thousands of Miles Apart a Chance to converse:

So silently have the long-distance telephone wires crept across the country and through the south that the growth of their use is hardly appreciated, even by the business men who use them.

It is but a few years since the first successful long-distance telephone was put in operation between New York and Philadelphia. This line, extending northward through Boston to Maine and southward to Washington, still forms the backbone of the system. Meanwhile a line has been completed from New York, by way of Troy, Buffalo and the lake shore, to Chicago, taking in the large cities on the way.

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Col. Haaser was keeper of the Central police station one day when she was brought in, fighting desperately. As soon as she saw him she said:

"Since when did all you boys git on the police force? Well, I'll just take a fall out of you."

Then she drew back her fist and prepared to give him a beating. Like a flash the fist of the young man shot out and Carrie dropped with a dull thud against the iron door of the station. With a dazed look on her bloated face she arose and staggered toward him. Down she went again as suddenly as before. Raising herself on one elbow, she contemplated him for a moment and said:

"Say, you're all right. I'll give up, and you'll never have any more trouble with me."

The spirit of the noted virago was broken, and ever afterwards she was as gentle as a lamb.—Louisville Courier.

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SLEEP AND DREAMS.

How Agassiz Worked Out a Scientific Problem.

The letters on sleep and dreams in the Spectator remind me of a case in the experience of Agassiz, in which he told me himself, though it is recorded in his work on the American fishes. He was studying a fossil fish in the Jardin des Plantes, but had never been able to determine the species to his satisfaction. After a time he dreamed that he caught the very fish, and without difficulty determined the question, thinking, as he woke from the dream, that he would have no difficulty. But on returning to the fossil something in the dream had escaped him, and he could no more determine the species than before. The next night he had the same dream, and again forgot the essential point. He then determined to take a pencil and paper with him to bed, and make his note as soon as he woke. The dream came the third time, but to his surprise on fully awakening he found the drawing made and lying on the table beside him, with three copies displayed in it which were not visible in the fossil, and which solved the problem. On returning to the Jardin des Plantes he was studying a fossil fish, which he has perhaps hitherto only known as the Croton bug, an insect which suddenly made its appearance in the Croton water furnished for drinking and domestic purposes.

Among the grasshoppers also are the crickets and katydids, and here again one learns with surprise that the beautiful green, long-winged creatures which are generally credited with causing each other in the dusk of the evening of having done something or other are not guilty. The culprit is in the collection, however, and it is also green, but not of that delicate shade which is possessed by the one so long accused. It is, moreover, a sullen-looking creature, with rounded head and brownish legs, just the sort of an insect that one would imagine would take delight in indulging in recriminations.—Philadelphian Ledger.

Victoria's Passion for Violeta.

The members of the British royal family confess to a great love for flowers of all kinds. The queen has a special weakness for lilies of the valley, and violets, and cares to have them about her rooms. Her intimate friends, knowing her favorite blossoms, send her these in profusion upon her birthday, at Christmas and the New Year. Violets, the pet flowers of the late Emperor Frederick of Germany, have become quite sacred in the eyes of his widow, and she often goes to see them in the garden.

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A Recipe.

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The saloon keepers in Slater, Mo., refuse to sell liquor to any person who is already overloaded.

Brooks—What is good for a boil?

Rivers—Give it plenty of time.

That's the only thing that ever cured one for me.—Chicago Tribune.

ANNONCES JUDICIAIRES.

VENTES PAR LE SHERIF

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente d'une Propriété de Valeur et améliorée, dans le

Premier District.

Formant l'enclosure des rues St.

Charles et Julie et Josie et Church

(anciennement Ste-Marie)

dans l'îlot borné par

les rues St. Charles et

la rue Girod.

Mrs. W. T. Clovers vs. David Lemley

COEUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT pour la

paroisse d'Orléans—No. 56.924—En vente

un droit de vente et vente à moi adressé

à l'ordre de l'École Civile de District pour la

paroisse d'Orléans, dans l'affaire ci-dessous intitulée, je procéderai à la vente à l'enchère publique à la Bourse des Encantereurs, No. 629 et 631 rue Commune, entre les rues Camp et St. Charles, dans le Premier District de cette ville le JUDI, le 1er septembre 1898, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite à savoir:

Un certain lot de terre ensemble avec toutes les maisons et améliorations qui s'y trouvent, et tous les droits voies, priviléges, servitudes et dépendances qui y appartiennent ou y étaient, ou peuvent être établies, dans le

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