

EARTHQUAKES IN ENGLAND

Have Been of Frequent Occurrence from Ancient Times to the Present.

That earthquake which frightened people in England a short time ago was not at all unique in the history of the island. Quakes of varying severity have been felt from the times of the Romans down to the twentieth century. One of the earliest English earthquakes is said to have overthrown a Roman temple to Apollo in London. Another happened in 1180, when, in the language of an old historian, "strange it was for the strong trembling of the earth, but more strange for the doleful and hideous roaring which it yielded forth."

Plastic followed the earthquake of April 6, 1880, a day remarkable for its heat. Nothing untoward took place until nine o'clock at night, when a violent trembling of the earth made itself felt in London, lasting about the tenth of a second, and was accompanied by loud rumbling in the bowels of the earth. Close upon its heels came another shock, which set the great clock at Westminster clanging and many other churches gave out violent peals. The public took flight and rushed into the streets, while playgoers hastily left their seats, with the result that many of them were trampled to death. A writer on the subject says: "The scene was terrible—the clanging of the bells, the subterranean noises and the noise of falling houses, the shrieks and lamentations of the people, mingled with the cries of those who thought the last day had come, was enough to fill the stoutest hearts with fear."

It was also experienced in various parts of the country. The impression took shape that the earthquake had occurred because heaven had lost patience with the people—a belief which led Queen Elizabeth to institute a form of prayer for household use in order to remove the banes supposed to be hovering over Great Britain. In January and the early part of February, 1750, the heat was intense, so much so that the superstitious went about declaring that something out of the ordinary would surely soon happen. Their forecasts came true, for on February 8 London experienced slight earthquake shocks, but more severe shocks were felt exactly a month later. These latter are said to have been the most disturbances in modern times in England. The shocks were preceded by lightning, then a roaring sound was heard, houses reeled and many fell, and some little damage was done to ancient buildings. These vibrations took place in the night and many people were thrown from their beds.

JAP GUNPOWDER WIZARD.

Facts from the History of the Inventor of the Powerful Shimono Powder.

Japan is honoring Dr. Gian Shimono, the inventor of the Shimono gunpowder which the Japanese navy is using in the war with Russia. Russia herself frankly admits the power and effectiveness of the Japanese balls, says Success Magazine.

Dr. Shimono is 46 years old. He married when he was in his twenty-sixth year. He is the father of one son and one daughter. His wife is said to be remarkable for her sympathy with her husband's work. The Japanese sentimentally call him one of the great inventors of the world, not merely of Japan.

He was born poor and without any support for his education. While at home he studied English under Fumio Murata, who studied in London. In his eighteenth year he left home for Tokyo on foot. At that time Japan had no railroad, and no steamers ran regularly. From Hiroshima, his native province, to Tokyo, is some 500 miles in Japanese measurement. When he reached the capital he went through the examination, and was successfully admitted to the Imperial university. From scantiness of money he was often compelled to go without food. He borrowed text-books from a fellow student and copied them. It is said that he could not raise money even for his hair-cutting or a bath. After graduation he found work in a printing office. His first wages were small, but, like many successful Americans, he always had an ideal in mind, and toward this ideal he constantly worked. He is given great credit for the victories over Russia.

Chinese Rice Farming.

At the ordinary price of two cents (gold) a pound of rice, the Chinese farmers make money on about the same scale as would American farmers in the Mississippi valley producing wheat on a basis of 50 cents a bushel in Chicago.—N. Y. Post

Five Hours at Play.

The theaters in Madrid open at nine o'clock and, perhaps, playing four different pieces, remain open till, may be, two in the morning. An attempt to enforce their closing at 12.30 is being vigorously opposed by Spanish women playgoers.

THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE.

Outcome of Splendid Work for Neglected Children in New York City.

On April 16 an event of peculiar and significant interest occurred in New York—the farewell service of the New York Juvenile Asylum. The asylum, states Youth's Companion, was founded in 1851, and in the half-century and more of its existence 39,000 neglected children have been cared for within its walls. It is a noble record. What it has meant to the city of New York and to the whole country no human calculation can ever measure. In a message sent to it four years ago, President Roosevelt wrote: "I want to tell you that some of the highest and best men I know, in professional, commercial and public life, have come from your institution and others like it."

Yet magnificent though their work has been, the age of the great asylums is passing, and their disappearance reveals the deepened insight of modern philanthropy. Half a century ago an institution that fed and clothed neglected children, that cared for them when they were ill and equipped them in some fashion to earn their own living, was regarded as giving them all that the largest demand could require. Those great rights of childhood, freedom, opportunity for individual development, above all, the need of "mothering," few had considered, and none supposed attainable for these forlorn waifs of life.

Yet these are precisely the things which the larger charity of the day is making beautifully possible. The removal from the Juvenile Asylum of New York to the Children's Village of Dobb's Ferry is one step in the process. Instead of huge, unbecoming buildings, there are cottages, each with its own garden, its own family circle; above all—name of blessed promise—its own house-mother. So at last the little lonely ones of earth are entering their kingdom.

ORIGIN OF SOME SLANG.

According to the Statement of an Imaginative Genius Which Sounds Reasonable.

"Here's where I butt in," said the goat, making for the children, according to the New York Sun. "I'm getting it in the neck," grumbled the bull, as Ursus gave him another twist.

"Come off your perch," growled tabby, making another spring at the cage. "I'm in the soup," gasped the oyster, as he dropped to the bottom of the plate.

"You're a bird," said the fox, as he gobbled up another hen. "Don't try to string me," said the rattler to the black snake, coiling himself into a plumbline.

"It's a lead pipe cinch," said the rat, gnawing his way through another piece of pipe. "I've got the drop on you," shrieked the hawk, as he landed on another chicken.

"Things are coming my way," said the bear, dodging another bullet. "My goose is cooked," said the wild gander, dropping to the ground with a broken wing.

"Quit your kidding," exclaimed the fish, as the bait dropped into the water. "Those fellows are nutty," said the rabbit, pointing to the squirrel family eating lunch.

"Stuck again," cried the fly, alighting on the sticky paper. "I can see my finish," murmured the lamb as he entered the slaughter pen.

PREFER NIGHT TRAVEL.

Left to Their Own Inclination Hogs Make Their Journeys During the Cool of the Night.

The Arizona Republican says the hogs were corn fed and exceptionally fat. They were started for town during the day, but by the time they reached a point a little less than a mile from home many of them were unable to continue the journey, and the march was stopped. During the cool of the evening they were taken back home.

A hog is a foolish thing, and in going a few miles many frequently take unnecessary steps, thus making the distance much longer than it really is. This partly accounts for their becoming so hot such a short way from their starting point. They were allowed to spend the night at home, but the next night the trail was taken up again. This time after dark, or rather after sundown, for it was almost as light as day, from the moon. The hogs seemed to be delighted with the new order of things, and the way they capered to town was a caution. It was almost all the drivers could do to keep up with them. They gave no trouble whatever and reached the shipping yards in fine shape.

Caustic Comment. "Your old friend Barnes Torner made his debut in vaudeville last night," said the first actor. "Yes, it was a monologue, wasn't it?" asked the other. "Not exactly. He intended it to be, but the audience chimed in with a few choice remarks before it got fairly started."—Philadelphia Ledger.

When Philosophers Meet. "What's the difference between being married and 'bein' in jail?" asked the Public philosopher. "There's a heap of difference," replied the sage of Plunkville. "A man in jail kin git some time off for good behavior."—Chicago Sun.

JAP AND RUSSIAN HEROES.

Generals of Both Armies Who Have Won Distinction in the Great Battles.

Kuroki was the favorite with the foreign audience when the land fighting was in its early stages. Oyama will apparently be the most important figure of the war in history but he is not so picturesque a figure to the popular imagination, says Collier's Weekly. Nogri is perhaps best fitted to arouse sympathetic interest. He is an old man, whose hair is white. When he had lost his two sons and his only nephew, he smiled, but when he thinks he bows his head and sobs. "God took my sons," he said. "In order that I might be better able to sympathize with my countrymen who are likewise bereft, and so that I may be better answer to the souls of the many brave men whom I am sending to their graves." He took Port Arthur, doing things that military experts agreed in advance were impossible. He then hurried north to take a central part in the bloodiest fight in modern history. Next to him, among the Japanese, in the personal nature of the interest which he inspires among foreigners, comes Togo, who has the naval glory to himself. What the Japanese think—the public or the army—of their officers, we do not know. They do not talk and criticize. They go ahead and do. Their generals will probably not write books or deliver lectures. On the Russian side criticism is so public that no general's fame in this war is free of doubt. Stoessel was first in lance for a moment. His final placing is for the future. Kuropatkin's reputation has had its ups and downs, but the general opinion outside of Russia is that his accomplishments have been considerable, and that his failures have been due to obstacles that it would have taken a genius to surmount.

Throughout the western mining country aerial tramways built of wire rope are becoming popular," said E. E. Hickok, traveling representative of one of the largest independent wire-rope manufacturers in the country, reports the Milwaukee Sentinel. "To anyone acquainted with the topography of the western mining districts this mode of conveying ore will appeal forcibly. It can be operated more economically than the usual track and car equipment and at the same time is not dependent on weather conditions. At Encampment, Wyo., we have built an aerial tramway 23 miles in length over hills and dales, and it has not lost a single day in operation. A series of steel or wood derricklike towers are necessary, those at Encampment varying from 11 feet to 60 feet in height. The principle of operation is the same as that of the cable lines, except that the method under discussion is up in the air instead of on and beneath the surface. The speed of the car is regulated at the terminals. "Needless to say, only wire rope of high quality can be used in this work. Take the outfit at Encampment. Eighty-eight miles of wire are necessary on that 22-mile stretch. Every inch of those 88 miles must be equal in strength and carrying power. The slightest defect will impair the usefulness of the whole length."

ABOVE THE SNOWDRIFTS.

Height at Which the Weather Cannot Affect the Operation of Trolley Road.

The operations of Eastland's poor-tax bill, designed for the relief of the poor of all classes in England and Wales, as reported to the state department by United States Consul Swalm at Southampton, show that during the last half of 1904 there was expended "in maintenance" \$7,972,790; for "out relief," \$7,699,790; making a total of \$15,672,580, an increase of \$440,000, as compared with similar expenditures for the corresponding period of 1903. In addition to the sum named the cost for care of insane poor, in asylums, was \$5,784,549, for the same half year, or a general total of \$21,457,049 for the half year. For the year the charge easily reaches \$43,000,000.

On July 1, 1904, the number of persons in England and Wales in receipt of poor relief (excluding pauper lunatics) was 754,046, an increase of 23,804 over the number on the corresponding day in 1903. "This plan," says Consul Swalm, "of maintaining the children of the poor—or 'unions'—in cottages and homes of that character, is happily finding a very general adoption, no less than 125 unions now maintaining the children away from the pauperizing effects of poorhouse associations. The county of London paid out 72 cents per head of its population for the half year on poor account."

POLYGAMY IN CONGOLAND.

Nothing But the Spirit of Christianity, It Is Said, Will Ever Wipe Out the Evil.

It is the general opinion of competent observers that polygamy will survive for many years. Nothing but the spirit of Christianity will overcome the evil, writes Henry Wellington Waack, in "The Story of the Congo Free State." The native mind cannot be induced by ordinary argument to see any wrong in it. Why a man should not have just as many wives as he can afford to buy and keep is too much for his comprehension. He regards woman as created solely for his pleasure and profit and trades in her accordingly. He buys her from her father for one or two goats or a cow, she becomes the mother of his children, and prepares and cooks his food for him. That is her career, and she shares it with as many other wives as her husband's inclination and resources permit him to buy. When she dies she is buried—sometimes. Certain Central African tribes regard burial after death as a superstitious ceremony for women, and place their bodies, where they will be devoured by hyenas and vultures. From two or three wives is the average quantum of the ordinary Central African barbarian, and between 30 and 40 for a chief.

Fruit for the Future.

Forty-six carloads, amounting to more than 300,000 fruit trees, have been received here for planting in the orchards in this neighborhood this spring. Nearly all of the shipments were to men from eastern states who have recently moved to western Colorado for the purpose of fruit raising.—Hotchkiss (Col.) Cor. Denver Republican.

Excellent Exercise.

"Yes," said the good old professor. "The memory may be perfectly trained by proper study." "But," asked the absent-minded scholar, "what do you consider the best exercise for the memory, professor?" "Remember the poor."—Catholic Standard and Times.

THE CONTROL OF MOROCCO

A Subject Which Is Straining Diplomatic Relations Among European Powers.

For a long time past the ambitions of the French, British and Spanish have clashed in Morocco. France desires to control northwestern Africa, but Spain has interests in Morocco, and the British have long objected to the extension of the boundaries of French Algeria to the west. About a year ago says Youth's Companion, an agreement was made between Great Britain and France, under which the British virtually consented to a French protectorate over Morocco, but on what terms has not yet been disclosed.

In these negotiations the sultan of Morocco was not consulted. Indeed, the announcement that the agreements had been made surprised the cabinets of Europe.

Last March France, in pursuance of the treaty, asked the sultan to agree to a plan under which he should deal with foreign powers through French agents. Before he had replied to the demand the German emperor visited Tangier and made a speech in the course of which he said that he would always deal directly with the sultan and would not allow any other power to act as an intermediary, as he recognized the sultan as an independent sovereign. He wished to protect the commercial rights of Germany. The emperor instructed his minister to negotiate a treaty which should secure to Germany all the privileges enjoyed by the most favored nations.

It is useless to predict the outcome of this refusal of Germany to recognize the right of the French to assume a protectorate over Morocco, but it is likely that the disagreement will be settled through ordinary diplomatic channels rather than by an appeal to force.

ENGLAND'S POOR-TAX BILL.

System of Providing for the Indigent of All Classes Is Expensive.

The operations of Eastland's poor-tax bill, designed for the relief of the poor of all classes in England and Wales, as reported to the state department by United States Consul Swalm at Southampton, show that during the last half of 1904 there was expended "in maintenance" \$7,972,790; for "out relief," \$7,699,790; making a total of \$15,672,580, an increase of \$440,000, as compared with similar expenditures for the corresponding period of 1903. In addition to the sum named the cost for care of insane poor, in asylums, was \$5,784,549, for the same half year, or a general total of \$21,457,049 for the half year. For the year the charge easily reaches \$43,000,000.

On July 1, 1904, the number of persons in England and Wales in receipt of poor relief (excluding pauper lunatics) was 754,046, an increase of 23,804 over the number on the corresponding day in 1903. "This plan," says Consul Swalm, "of maintaining the children of the poor—or 'unions'—in cottages and homes of that character, is happily finding a very general adoption, no less than 125 unions now maintaining the children away from the pauperizing effects of poorhouse associations. The county of London paid out 72 cents per head of its population for the half year on poor account."

CENTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Marked in Several Countries by Sacred Stones Set Up by Natives.

When the Japs captured Mukden they found there the sacred black stone of the Manchu dynasty of Chinese. This, says the New York World, is the center of the universe, according to old Chinese superstition, and added venerability comes to Mukden from the graves of the emperors near by.

The Do-ring in Lhasa, Tibet, is another center of the universe, which, according to the Tibetan priests, is shaped exactly like the shoulder blade of a sheep. All distances are measured from it, and it is very sacred.

Another center is the Kaaba in Mecca, a dirty black stone set into the wall of the most sacred mosque and polished every year by the lips of thousands of worshippers. The Arabic word for stone, "Hajar," appears in Scriptural writings as a proper name. The Mecca pilgrimage is a "haj," and those who have taken it are known as "Hadjis."

Even so sane a people as the ancient Greeks came pretty near worshipping a stone—the "omphalos" or center of the earth at Delphi. The Romans set up a stone of great consequence in Rome, but for purposes of measurement, not worship, and so the "London stone" of to-day is used.

Easy

"How in the world could you remember that your wife wanted dark brown ink?" asked the friend.

"O, I just kept my mind on the morning I have in my mouth this morning to a banquet the night before."—Detroit Tribune.

Baseball Fever.

Manager—So your grandmother died yesterday. What were her last words? Office Boy—Don't git hurt in de crash on de bleachers.—N. Y. Times.

Obit 1908.

Jimson—Why is Smiley wearing that black band around his neck? Grimson—His mother-in-law was buried yesterday.—N. Y. Times.

ABOUT RHODE ISLAND.

Not an Island, But Takes Its Name from an Island Named by Indians.

Rhode Island is the most interesting state in the union. Her people are generally known as "Gun-fitts." She is about the size of a postage stamp, yet has two capitals, says the New York Press. Her rival in that respect, Connecticut, had two until New Haven yielded to Hartford in 1873. Rhode Island is not an island, being surrounded on three sides by dry land. There used to be an island of the name—the Indians called it "Aquidneck"—but its identity was lost when the "peaceful isle" annexed the Providence plantations. Wasn't that the original American "merger"? The name "Rhode Island" is of very obscure origin. The early settlers of "Little Rhody" had grim experiences, as we may infer from the names bestowed upon the physical features of the state. These represent the whole gamut of human suffering, human ambition, human weakness. Take the islands Providence, Patience, Hope, Despair, all under the hand of Providence. And don't overlook Hog Island. The cow-of-arms is a golden anchor, fouled on a blue shield, and the motto is "Hope."

Rhode Island in 1776 ordered that the name of the "Colony of Rhode Island" be the oath of allegiance instead of "to the King of Great Britain." Oh, she was a very proud, haughty, independent little body, and set herself up against the United States, refusing to ratify the constitution until congress threatened to treat her as a foreign power.

MANUFACTURE EXPRESSION

Photographers Can Produce Any Cast of Features Desired by Sitter.

"A remarkable fact in my profession," said a photographer, according to the Chicago Chronicle, "is that we portrait artists can give to a sitter any expression that is desired. A bland look, a noble look, a serene look—it is no trouble to us to put any one of these expressions on the most wooden face. The matter is achieved by the repetition of certain words. If you, for instance, came to me and said you wished to look distinguished I would pose you in a distinguished attitude and then I would get you to say 'brush' just before I snapped the shutter. For some inexplicable reason the pronunciation of the simple word 'brush' gives to the mouth an air of the most striking nobility and distinction.

"If you want to have in a photograph a look of serenity you must say 'bosom.'

"If you want to make your mouth look small say 'flip.' If you want to make it look larger say 'cabbage.'

"To have an expression of melancholy it is necessary to say 'herchink.'

"To have an expression of pride or hauteur it is necessary to say 'phoenix.'

EASILY AND QUICKLY DONE

Street Car Conductor Had a Neat Way of Suppressing a Public Nuisance.

There was a crowded street car on Thirty-fourth street, relates the New York Sun. A big man, very fat and very full, entered, and wedged himself into a seat. Then he unsteadily, but firmly, extracted a big cigar from his pocket, lighted it, and puffed away, despite all rules and regulations, and oblivious to the disgust of his fellow passengers.

The conductor, busy with fares, did not at first notice the smoker. As the smoke increased in volume the women became more and more angry, and some of the men had begun to screw their courage to the point of risking an affray with the man, when the conductor's duties brought him again to the firing line.

This time he said nothing, but as he passed the drunken smoker he neatly drew the cigar from between the fellow's lips and threw it into the street. Only that, and nothing more—except the explanatory remark:

"That's what we do when smokers don't obey the regulations!"

Russian Vegetarian Diet

It has been said so often lately that the Japanese owe their strength largely to a vegetable diet that it is interesting to read in a traveler's account of a visit to Moscow in 1898 that the same thing was said then of their present enemies, the Russians. He attributes their being "of a very strong constitution, very tall and bulky" to the fact that "above one-half of the year being taken up with their fasts, the common people feed upon nothing else but cabbage and cucumber." Lest the total abstainer as well as the vegetarian should rejoice at this, though, we must add that our traveler also says: "It must be allowed that they promote the digestion by the bready and leekish which, unquestioned, correct the vicious humors arising by such indigestible nourishments." So there is nothing new, even in the modern war of diets.—London Chronicle.

An Old Query Answered.

"Where, oh, where, are the Hebrew children?" According to the latest enumeration there are something more than three-quarters of a million of them on the island of Manhattan.—Life.

Meant Well.

She (indignantly)—Do you mean to say that Charlie Prettyboy is not a gyp? He—Oh, I meant an offense; I'll say more than that for him—he's a perfect lady!—Detroit Free Press.

TO COUNT DIVORCES.

CENSUS BUREAU SOON TO BEGIN UNIQUE WORK.

At Request of President Made at Last Session of Congress—Novel Undertaking on Marriage Figures Results.

Washington.—The census bureau connected with the taking of the census of the manufactures of the United States, and as soon as the returns are in it will utilize the field force at its command in gathering information relating to marriage and divorce in the several states and territories. The marriage and divorce statistics are to be gathered at the request of the president, expressed in a special message to congress during the last session. A resolution authorizing the census bureau to undertake the work was introduced by Representative Crumacker, of Indiana. The preliminary arrangements for getting the information the president wants congress to have, have been completed, and thus the bureau expects to be able to submit the results of its inquiry to the lawmakers early in December.

The general scope of the inquiry embraces these points: Provisions of the marriage laws of each state and territory, provisions of the divorce laws of each state and territory, statistics showing the number of marriages and divorces in each state and territory, and the prevailing causes on which applications for divorce are based. The agents of the bureau, of course, will have to depend almost entirely on state officials for the facts sought. With comparatively few exceptions, state bureaus of statistics have for several years past been gathering and compiling statistics on marriage and divorce, and Director North will ask these bureaus to supply him with all the material they have collected.

Officials of the census bureau know after only a cursory examination of the marriage laws of the various states, that there is an entire absence of uniformity in framing such laws. State legislatures, apparently, have been three-parts in mind—prohibited marriages, voidable marriages and criminal marriages. The information in the bureau's possession indicates that few of the states have made changes in their marriage laws since the original adoption of acts covering the subject.

The lack of uniformity in divorce laws is all the more striking. It can almost be said that no two states agree on what shall constitute grounds for divorce. It is believed that the report to congress from the census bureau will show that the south is far ahead of the north in making divorce difficult. In several southern states divorce is almost impossible. In South Carolina, for instance, the person who does succeed in securing a divorce is in danger of arrest and conviction as a bigamist if a second marriage shall take place.

It has been the contention of the men and women who have led the movement for reform in marriage and divorce laws that the conflicting statutes in the several states lead to all sorts of frauds and abuses and it seems altogether likely that the investigation which the census bureau is about to inaugurate will confirm this view.

WOMAN WRITES PRIZE POEM

Fair Exponent of the Pen Deashes Off Verse Which Captures High Honor.

Portland Ore.—John Malcolm Graham, winner of the prize of \$100 for the best ballad on the "Trail" offered by Mr. I. N. Fleischer, chairman of the exploitation and publicity committee for the Lewis and Clark exposition, turns out to be a woman, Mrs. A. A. Lindsay, who for a year past has resided in Portland. Mrs. Lindsay is the wife of a former state treasurer of Washington. She is a graduate of the Michigan university at Ann Arbor.

The winning poem was mailed to the publicity committee, signed "John Malcolm Graham General Delivery." When the judges announced their decision, no one knew who "John Malcolm Graham" was, the name not appearing in the Portland city directory.

Nearly 400 writers of verse throughout the country, some of them widely known, competed for the prize. The judges stated that if there had been a second prize it would have been awarded to Robertas Love, the Missouri poet, at present residing in Portland. His poem is entitled "The Dream of the Star (A Song of the Oregon Trail)," and it will be published shortly in an eastern magazine. Mr. Love, by the way, is the man who named the Trail; the suggestion being made in a letter from him to Secretary Reed of the exposition about two years ago. The fitness of the name for the amusement street of the exposition lies in its application to the famous old Oregon trail, and "hitting the Trail" has become the familiar slogan of the fair.

Japan's Foreign Trade.

In exports, as well as in imports, Japan's foreign trade in the war year 1904 was larger than in the peace years 1901, 1902 and 1903. The figures are: 1901, \$254,000,000; 1902, \$265,000,000; 1903, \$303,000,000, and 1904, \$345,000,000. The \$42,000,000 increase in the war year 1904 over peace year 1903 was made up of exports, \$18,000,000, and imports, \$27,000,000. The customs receipts in those years were: 1901, \$7,500,000; 1902, \$7,650,000; 1903, \$8,500,000, and 1904, \$10,600,000. There is \$2,100,000 gain in the war year, valuing the yen at 66 cents.