

A WORLD WATER BELT.

Great Advantage to Be Derived from a Water Route Around the Globe.

The easy western water route to the India, sought by Columbus, is just to be laid open. Balboa, as he stood on the mountain heights overlooking the Pacific, thought that he was on the brink of the discovery. Hendrik Hudson, a century later, sailed up the river that bears his name, and believed that the secret was his. But the time-lock for the opening of the Pacific treasure-house was not set for the fifteenth century, nor even for the nineteenth century. May it not be set for the new century? asks the Chautauquan.

Three routes in general have been proposed for canals from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The first is across the Isthmus of Darien at its narrowest point—the famous Panama route. Another takes advantage of the mighty inland lake of Nicaragua and the tributary rivers. The third is through Mexican territory, across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The Tehuantepec route is not at present a live issue. Twenty years ago it was revived by the daring proposition of James B. Eads, the famous American engineer, whose jetties on the Mississippi yet stand as a monument to his genius. Mr. Eads' proposition was to build a railroad across the isthmus from ocean to ocean over which the largest vessels could be bodily transported. This plan is not wholly a dream, for just such ship railroads, on a smaller scale, are already in operation.

MARKS ON PACKAGES.

Ambitious Young Expressman Discovers One That Is New and Novel.

The new young man in the express office had already seen a great variety of the cautionary inscriptions that shippers put on boxes and packages to insure care on the part of handlers. Of these, for example, was "Handle with Care." With that one he came, in fact, to be so familiar that sometimes he almost forgot to obey the injunction therein conveyed, says the New York Sun.

"Keep dry" was another one that before he'd been an expressman three months he came to know by heart.

"Fragile" was another that soon seemed like an old friend and "Glass" became so familiar to him that there were times when actually in a more or less hazy sort of way he imagined himself a veteran expressman.

But one day there came under his eye a mark that was brand new to him. This was on a big, flat package, less than a foot thick, but as big in length and breadth as the door of a house, and enclosed all around the edges with a wooden frame. The big, thin package was done up in paper and across the package was marked on either side in big, bold lettering: "Don't Punch!"

This was a new one to the young expressman, and it came just in time to bring him back to his senses, to make him realize that he didn't know it all, that he had something yet to learn.

But when he came to inquire about the mark he learned that "Don't Punch," while not a new one is certainly among the rarer marks. And looking at things from this point of view, and restraining at the same time a wild impulse to put his fist plumb through the package, the young expressman found himself feeling somewhat easier. He might not, indeed, have learned all the cautionary marks that people put on express packages, but he certainly was now taking them in the higher finishing branches.

Lesson is Diet.

It is very questionable whether from the strictly nutritive point of view champagne and oysters are after all in health an advance upon ginger-beer and cockpit, whether turtle is preferable to calf's head or caviare to soft herring roe, or plovers' eggs superior to the ordinary eggs of the barnyard bird. The price of an article of food by no means acts upon its food value. —London Lancet.

Encourage Those About You.

How many languish in obscurity who would become great if emulation and encouragement incited them to exertion!—Frazer.

THE OLDEST OF BOOKS.

Archaic Writings That Shed Light on Early Standards of Religion Thought in Egypt.

A new translation of various archaic Egyptian writings, including those contained in the celebrated "Papyrus Papyrus"—called the most ancient book in the world—has lately been made by an American scholar, Mr. Isaac Myer, author of "The Tablets" and "Scarabs." This new anthology, says the Literary Digest, throws much light on the early standards of religious thought in Egypt, as well as upon the ethical and social characteristics of the old Egyptians. Mr. Myer is a believer in the theory advanced many times before, that a large part of the Christian system of ethics and symbolism was derived from the Egyptian religion, and that Jesus, in the interval between his twelfth and thirteenth years, of which little is known, spent some time in Egypt. His theory thus differs from that of Rev. Robert Taylor, author of those extraordinary books, "The Devil's Pulpit" and "The Diagnosis," who held that the Old and New Testament writings were based wholly upon a combination of early Egyptian religion and later theophy, and were written by Alexandrian Gnostics, of the fourth century after Christ, to embody under a pseudo-historical form, certain astrological myths relating to the Sun (God (Christ), the 12 signs of the zodiac (the 12 apostles) and the four seasons (the four evangelists)).

Mr. Myer, however, accepts the historic basis of the New Testament, but regards its ethics as based upon those of books contained in the "Papyrus Papyrus." Of these books he says:

"They inculcate the study of wisdom, the duty to parents and superiors, respect for property, the advantages of charity, peaceableness and content; of liberality, humility, chastity and sobriety; of truthfulness and justice; and they show the wickedness and folly of disobedience, strife, arrogance, unchastity and other vices. A reading of such teachings seems to go far to show that a fine ethical, if not a Christian, morality might be based upon its teachings, even in the infancy of the following from the Book of Kagnrona, a treatise on good manners, 3995-3999 B.C.:

"As a man without good breeding, to whom all that one can say is without any effect, makes a surly face to the advances of him of a graceful heart, he is an affliction to his mother and his relatives."

"In the book of the Ptah-Hotep will be found the following:

"Be not haughty because of thy knowledge; converse thou with the ignorant as with the scholar, for the barriers of art are never closed; no art is ever possessing that perfection to which he should aspire.

"If thou hast to do with a disputant when he is hot, act as one who cannot be moved. Thou hast the advantage over him, if only in keeping silent when he is using evil speech.

"If thou humblest thyself in obeying a superior, thy conduct is wholly good before God. Knowing who ought to obey and who ought to command, lift not thy heart against the latter."

"If thou art a wise man, train up a son who will be pleasing to God. If he adjusts his discipline to thy way, and occupies himself with thy affairs as he should, do him all the good that thou art able.

"If thou hast the position of a leader, making plans go forth at thy will, do perfect things which posterity will remember, not letting prevail words which multiply flatterers, raise pride and produce vanity.

"If thou desirest thy conduct to be good and preserved from evil, keep thyself from attacks of bad temper. Be not of an irritable temper as to what is happening around thee; scold only as to thine own affairs; * * * of better value is a compliment for what displeases thee than rudeness. It is wrong to fly into a passion with one's neighbor to the point of not knowing how to manage one's words."

"If thou art at having polished manners, do not question him whom thou dost accost. Converse with him in private in such a way as not to embarrass him. Do not argue with him, except after letting him have time to impregnate his mind with the subject of the conversation. If he shows his ignorance, and if he giveth thee an opportunity of making him ashamed, * * * treat him with respect. * * * do not reply in a crushing manner."

"The Psychoastasia, or Judgment of the Soul of the Dead," is a section of "The Books of the Dead," and is of especial interest to us because of the light it throws upon early Egyptian eschatology. Mr. Myer says of it: "It shows the existence with them of a belief in a judgment after death, of the soul or conscience, for man's actions while in life upon this earth; that his good and evil deeds were thought to originate and reside in his heart; that man had while on earth free will in his actions; that his heart, emblem of his conscience, was after death mystically weighed by Thoth, symbol of the intellectual part of his spiritual nature; * * * that the principal desire of the ancient Egyptian was for his spiritual resurrection from the dead and an eternal future happy spiritual life in the Egyptian Heaven."

Caractereque.

Jim Jackson—Ole man Johnson said he'd give me his daughter if I would promise to maintain her afterwards.

Mose Mosbunker—Huh! Anybody'd think he wuz giving away a free public library!—Puck.

RAN OUR CUBAN BLOCKADE.

Spanish Captain of a Transatlantic Steamer Breaks Through on Two Occasions.

Manuel Deschamps, who, as captain of the Monserrat, twice ran the blockade of the island of Cuba by the American fleet during the Hispano-American war, speaks of his achievements modestly and with the simplicity of a brave seaman, says the Mexican Herald. Talking to a reporter, he said:

"The general manager of the Spanish Transatlantic company chose me to command the Monserrat in order to convey to Cuba 400 soldiers, a quantity of ammunition and \$3,000,000 for the needs of the forces operating in the island.

"I accepted with pleasure, being not only anxious to fulfill my duty toward the company, but also to do something for my country in her hour of need. I took on my cargo at Cadix. When I sailed the war had not yet broken out, and so in order to find out just what the situation was I put in at Martinique. They would hardly let me approach for fear of breaking the neutrality laws. But I found out that war had been declared and that the island of Cuba was blockaded by a powerful squadron."

"Prepared if needs be to die for Spain, and knowing that it would be impossible to enter the harbor of Havana, as most of the American squadron was concentrated at that port, I made up my mind to run for Cienfuegos and succeeded in entering that port in spite of the vigilance of the American warships.

"After staying there six days I returned to Cadix and took on another war cargo of 5,000 tons. I reached Cuba again on July 28, 1898, when the war was at its height. I decided not to enter Cienfuegos again, but to make my attempt this time at Matanzas. I waited until night fell, and about 11 o'clock, putting out all my lights, I started under full steam for the shore. In spite of my precautions I was observed by the Nashville, which started in hot pursuit and fired three shots after us, thinking we were going to surrender, but instead I cheered my crew, and with the words 'Dios y Patria' kept steadily on my course. Several other shots were fired, some of which fell within a few yards of the vessel. But when I got nearer land I was aided by the forts, where the roar of the Nashville's guns had been heard, and I made the port in safety and unloaded my cargo."

For his services Capt. Deschamps was decorated by the Spanish government and the Transatlantic company promoted him to the command of the Alfonso XIII.

The captain recently visited some of the ports of South America, where his compatriots showered honors on him.

POINTS ABOUT GENIUSES.

They Are as a Rule Long-Lived But Fail to Perpetuate Their Kind.

Geniuses are proverbially long-lived, and it is believed, little likely to produce their kind. It is as though by some law of sacrifice, the vital force and the intellectual qualities of a whole line were treasured up for a single person, to be by him freely and completely expended. Into these matters the well-known anthropologist, Havelock Ellis, inquires in the Popular Science Monthly.

The principle of the sterility of genius seems to be fully established. Of the 810 British men of genius studied, more than 28 per cent. never married, while the normal ratio of bachelors to the entire male population is but ten per cent. The smaller number of British women of genius rendered difficult the drawing of general conclusions. Marriages of women of this class fell for the most part either earlier or later than the period most favorable to childbearing. If earlier, the relationship was very often, for one cause or another, quickly dissolved. The tendency to late marriage among women of genius was strongly pronounced. Fannie Burney, for example, married at 41, Mrs. Browning at 40, Charlotte Bronte at 38, George Eliot at 36. The marriages of British men of genius were unfruitful in about 20 per cent. of the total cases—a ratio which compares not unfavorably with the 13 per cent. of infertile marriage in the upper and middle classes of England and the United States.

It is, however, with the theory of the superior longevity of geniuses that Mr. Ellis deals most cavalierly. Of course they show a high average of age, he says, because genius rarely has a chance to pronounce itself before the average term of life is passed. If there are short cuts for poets and players and musicians, the genius of scientific research, of statesmanship, or of professional eminence requires years for its full development. In other words, many who are accounted among the geniuses are so accounted chiefly by virtue of the experience that comes only with age, and to say that genius has a chance for long life is only a bolder way of saying that without long life there would be little chance for genius.

A Church Lottery.

A citizen of Wilkensburg, Pa., owns an old lottery ticket which reads as follows: "No. 237. Presbyterian church lottery. Authorized by law. This ticket will entitle the possessor to such prize as shall be drawn to his number, if demanded within 13 months after the drawing; subject to 20 per cent. deduction." M. Wilkins, president of the board of managers, Pittsburg, June 3, 1907. —N. Y. Sun.

NOT ANNOYED BY SMOKE.

The Furnaces of Cleveland Are Smokeless and the City Is Remarkably Clean.

It is not necessary to demonstrate to-day that smoke can be prevented to a large extent. Scores of large business blocks and manufacturing establishments in Cleveland show this to the eye "that he who runs may read." It does become necessary, however, to prove that a man can be a good citizen, reduce the smoke from his chimney and at the same time benefit his own pocket-book, says Cassell's Magazine.

In Cleveland even the business portion of the city, with its tall office buildings, dry goods shops and others of various kinds, is comparatively free from smoke. Out of 40 modern business blocks within a radius of a quarter of a mile from the business center three-fourths are already provided with furnaces which are practically smokeless. And it is safe to say that no company erects a modern office building in that city without seriously considering the smoke problem and adopting what is considered the best means of solving it. As the older buildings are gradually torn down to make room for modern structures the conditions will steadily improve and probably ten years from now this part of the city will be practically free from the nuisance.

The last reports show nearly 600 smokeless furnaces of various descriptions, each of which, in its particular locality, is reducing the smoke average from perhaps 50 per cent. down to less per cent. What this difference really means only one who has studied both sets of conditions can realize. Even in the heart of the manufacturing district there are chimneys showing scarcely a trace of soot, standing over boilers just as large and furnaces just as hot as those under their smoky neighbors. They are not only shining examples of what should be, but what might be at the same time, but are a source of profit to their owners.

The method of making observations which has been adopted in Cleveland and which, so far, has been found reliable and satisfactory, is to first select some point of view which shall give a command of 25 or 30 chimneys easily visible, this point usually being the top of some comparatively high building. Then, beginning, we will say, at eight o'clock in the morning, in turn, is noted on a scale of four, four meaning dense black smoke, and zero practical freedom from smoke. These observations are repeated every five minutes, the judgment of the observer being depended upon to determine the relative amount in each case. A little practice will enable one to do this with considerable accuracy. This is done at five-minute intervals for two hours, giving in all 25 observations of each stack.

These notes being entered upon a sheet especially ruled for the purpose, a simple adding of 25 observations gives the average on a scale of 100, as, for instance, if all the readings had been four, the sum would have been 100; if two, the reading would have been 50, and so on. The next time that observations are made some different time of day is chosen, these two-hour sets being repeated four or five times and the average made. The net result thus covers a period of eight or ten hours, or the ordinary working day. Although this method of grading may give slightly different totals from different observers the difference is not found to be serious, and the relative standings are not thereby affected.

Reports of these averages are sent to every owner, showing him his own standing and that of his neighbors, and in the case of more serious offenders this is followed up by a personal visit. In some cases the appeal is made to the civic pride of the proprietor and this may be productive of good results, but in the majority of instances the economic argument is the only one which prevails—reference to the experience of others and claims of economy backed up by figures.

Case of Mental Deficiency.

After investigating 10,000 children, F. A. Mac-Nicholl (Philadelphia Medical Journal, June 8, 1901) is firmly impressed with the belief that heredity plays an extremely important part in determining the mental capacity of our school children. Of this number 855 showed more or less mental deficiency; 471 were born of drinking parents; 221 were classed as due to heredity and 153 could give no satisfactory information. He was able to trace the family histories of 463 children through three generations, and of these 313 had drinking fathers and 51 drinking mothers. Of these children 76 per cent. suffered from some neurosis or organic disease. In 51 families having 231 children with total abstinence antecedents only three per cent. of children were dull and only 18 per cent. suffering from neurosis. —Medical News.

The Humane Car.

The czar of Russia inherits from his mother the Danish characteristic of repugnance to any form of sport entailing suffering to animals, and has said that a boy who robbed a bird's nest or tortured a cat or dog should be punished in Russia by the law as he would be in Denmark. —N. Y. Sun.

A Cruel Test.

McCorkle—Dobbins stutters dreadfully, doesn't he?

McCrankle—Yes; it would break your heart to hear him try to say "Sing Sing." —Harlem Life.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

A picture by Sir Henry Raeburn, representing a young boy in a white shirt holding a basket of cherries, was sold in the Quiliffe Brooks sale for \$10,250; in 1877 the painting brought \$1,225, and in 1883, \$1,532.

It is stated that representatives of the German government are scouring Arizona for horses for the German army, and that several hundred of a rough and hardy variety have already been selected.

Mexico is the largest of the Latin-American countries, except Brazil, and it is a much more prosperous country than Brazil. Mexico's population is in the neighborhood of 14,000,000, while Brazil's is about 13,000,000.

Marriageable women in Servia have a queer way of announcing their age in the matrimonial market. A dressed doll, hanging in the principal window of a house, indicates that there is living there a woman who is anxious to become a bride.

Typewriters have been barred out of the Cosmo-anthropic custom house and those already in use have been sent back. The Turkish officials have discovered that it will be impossible to trace the authors of seditious articles by their handwriting if the machines are used.

A newly wed pair named Hardy went from England to Switzerland, and as a part of their wedding tour climbed the Jungfrau. The young bride did not complete the journey, for a heavy snowstorm overtook the party, and she, accompanied by one of the guides, retraced her steps. The groom persevered until he reached the top.

The historical frescoes of the house of commons have recently been cleaned, and it seems curious that a very obvious error in one, the sailing of the Mayflower, has never apparently been noted. This ship is flying the present union jack, which only dates from 1801, and differs from the one sanctioned as the neutral flag by James I. in 1606, two years before the Mayflower sailed.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE FLY.

Why the Insect Perseveres in Returning to a Spot from Which It Has Been Driven.

"The pertinacity of flies has caused me to wonder much of late on the habits of these pests," remarked a gentleman recently, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and the recent discussion of the fly as a disseminator of typhoid has tended to increase my interest in the matter. Did you ever notice the persistence shown by a fly in sticking to a certain spot when you attempt to shoo him away? Invariably he will describe a circle and alight again on exactly the same spot. He will repeat this as often as you strike at him unless he feels that persistence will jeopardize his life.

"To-day I conducted a little experiment with one of these pests, and I made a rather interesting discovery. The fly converted the tip of my nose into a resting place. I brushed him away. He circled and relit on the same spot. He repeated this seven times. I concluded, just from watching the antics of the typhoid fiend, that I would allow him to remain as long as he pleased, in spite of the tickling and the annoyance of his stay. Finding that it made no difference to me, and that I had resigned to an unhappy fate, the insect spread its wings and sailed to another portion of the room. From my observation of flies they do not care so much about alighting on the human body unless they can find some morsel upon which to feed, or unless a violent effort is made to beat them away.

"But the most interesting observation I have made in this connection has taught me that it is comparatively easy to rid oneself of the pest. There is one essential: Do not get mad. Good humor is the thing when it comes to dealing with flies. If we get angry we strike violently at the insect, and either on account of sheer wickedness or because he believes he is being chased away from a good thing he will come back to the same spot until he feels that his life is endangered by further efforts to maintain his ground. Try the gentle, good-natured stroke. In nine cases out of ten the insect will leave not to return."

More Afraid of Women Than Men.

The driver was beating his horse unmercifully. One or two men remonstrated against such cruelty, but he paid no attention to their appeals for mercy. Presently a woman came in sight, and he laid down his whip and assumed an air of innocence. "That's always the way," said a bystander. "It is queer how much more afraid those fellows are of a woman than they are of a man. They treat our threats with contempt, and seem not to hold us in the slightest dread, but just let a woman happen along, and they quiet down and become meek as pussy. I suppose it is because the women really mean business, for it is a fact that two-thirds of the complaints turned into the office of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are furnished by them. This, of course, is in accord with the reputation of the sex for gentleness, but I really don't think it speaks well for us men." —N. Y. Sun.

Supreme Court Gown.

When it comes to wearing the silk-on-gown of a supreme court justice, considerable practice is required in order that the long skirts may not get in the way and interfere with the progress of its wearer. —Indianapolis News.

BRAND NEW DISEASE.

California Discoverer It and the Microbe That Produces It.

French Academy of Medicine Pays Dr. Koenig a Great Compliment by Asking Him to Communicate with It Regarding the Matter.

The French Academie de Medecine has just paid an American doctor the greatest compliment in its power. Dr. C. J. Koenig, formerly of San Francisco, who has become widely known as a specialist in throat and nose diseases in Paris, has been asked to communicate to the academy the details of his double discovery of a new kind of sore throat and of the microbe that produces it.

Dr. Koenig, who will respond to the honor conferred on him by giving the academy the whole fruit of his labors, says of his discovery:

"The patient who was the indirect cause of my discovery was a man 25 years of age and in perfect health, with the exception of being subject to chronic rheumatism. The trouble began two months ago with a form of superficial ulceration, covered with a grayish false membrane in the upper part of the right tonsil. The only symptom was a slight pain in swallowing. There was no fever, no headache and no gastro-intestinal ailment."

"In spite of all treatment the affection spread to the mouth in the form of superficial erosion, covered again with false membrane, which invaded the palate, the cheeks and even the tongue."

"After many weeks of close study and investigation I discovered a bacillus to which I have given the name 'bacillus polymorphus' on account of the remarkable variations in its size and shape."

"It is immobile, differing from all other bacilli in cultural properties and susceptibility to colorations by aniline dyes. It is nonpathogenic, since guinea pigs do not die when hypodermically injected with the culture."

The new disease has been given the name "Erosio Membranacea Angina." The medical profession of Paris is manifesting the greatest interest in the exposition of the subject.

NEW MOVE IN THE NAVY.

Officers and Men to Be Trained So That Torpedo Boats Can Serve as Auxiliaries of Squadrons.

Lieut. Lloyd H. Chandler has received orders to proceed to Newport and assume command of the torpedo boat Bailey, says a Washington dispatch to the New York Herald. These orders carry with them the duty of training officers and men in handling torpedo boats and in fitting them to go on board the vessels under their command that they can serve as fitting auxiliaries of squadrons of armor-plated.

This ability is of especial importance in view of the increased range of torpedo boat work consequent upon the reports from France of the highly successful operations of the submarine boat Gustav Zeebe. Lieut. Chandler has devoted himself especially to matters affecting torpedo boat construction and maneuvers, and is particularly qualified to instruct officers and men in this branch of their duty.

Fleets of torpedo boats will be organized and stationed on the Atlantic coast at Narragansett Bay, Norfolk and Charleston, S. C. Those points have been selected by the board, of which Capt. G. C. Converse is president.

Two repair stations for the boats at Narragansett bay are recommended by the board, one at the New York navy yard and the other at the Boston navy yard.

Sunlight at Different Localities.

Instrumental observations that automatically register the periods during which the sun is unobscured by clouds during the daylight hours, and tables are printed giving the actual number of daylight hours with the number of hours during which the sun is above the horizon at each place a percentage number is obtained, as in the following table:

In Sweden a person may go into the smallest post office, and if he wants to subscribe for any publication in any of the countries of the postal union, or at least that part of it which has united in this business, all he has to do is to fill out a blank and pay the price. A quarterly government publication, much like a telephone book in appearance, gives the sum to be charged for each newspaper and magazine for the various periods— one year, six months, three months, etc. The postmaster remits the receipts from this source with his other business returns, and his general board covers the transactions.

Perils Before Swine.

They are finding pearls as large as chocolate drops in Iowa, says the Chicago Record-Herald, is one of the greatest hog producing states in the union.

Comparative Cost of Education.

London, with 4,500,000 people, spends about \$12,000,000 a year on popular education. New York, with 3,500,000, spends about \$15,000,000.

Japanese Vessels for American Lines.

In Japanese shipyards eight vessels are being built for San Francisco and Seattle lines.

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