

**COMET IS HARMLESS**

When It Hits Will Make Pretty Show, But Do No Damage.

Peculiar Electrical Conditions May Be Looked For About the Middle of May—19th of May Date of Passage.

Washington.—Astronomers have fixed the 19th of May as the day of the passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet, at which time the celestial visitor will be at its most brilliant period on its perihelion passage through the solar system.

Comets come and go, and while in the solar system assume various shapes of circles, knots, twists and streaky tails and then leave those on the earth forever in doubt as whence they come and whither they go—a conclusion of the physicist and astronomer.

But this spring when the comet comes it will afford the rare chance, as the earth passes through its tail, of learning much in regard to comets and their accompanying phenomena. This will include distinctive markings as bright patches, streaks, straight and twisted, many and various shapes of tails and any other phenomena as may present itself to the observer.

In the passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet there will be a polarization of its light, light fluctuations, earth currents, which mean a marked change in the electrical condition of the atmosphere—auroral displays may be expected for several days at the intersection of the earth with the material of the comet.

The color of the sun will be temporarily modified in the earth's passage through the tail. Twilight panorama, luminous clouds, dust particles in the air and the apparent brilliancy of zodiacal light may be greater during the passage through even so rare a substance as the tail of a comet. The auroral line will perhaps show up to be the most interesting and the most spectacular phenomena in the passage of the earth through the comet's tail.

Dr. Humphreys of the Mount Weather observatory, speaking of this phenomena, says: "Evidently the source of this line is not definitely known, but conceivably it may be rendered more brilliant by the passage of the earth through the tail of a comet, and therefore it would be well for some favorably situated observer carefully to measure its brilliancy on several consecutive nights, so selected as systematically to overlap the calculated date of our supposed passage through the tail of Halley's comet."

The late Prof. S. P. Langley said: "The encounter of the earth with a comet's tail would be like the encounter with a shadow, and the chances of a collision with the nucleus is remote indeed."

Some time about the middle of May the earth will pass through the tail of Halley's comet.

The real gist of the stunt will be known only by the mathematical astronomer, and if there should be a hitch in the performance they would hardly have the opportunity to explain the slip-up in the laws of gravitation.

Far away in the depths of space, so remote from our planetary system, lies the future comet. Across the abyss which intervenes between the comet and the sun the law of gravitation extends its sway. After the lapse of centuries, or thousands of years, the comet is seen to be rapidly approaching—it whirls around the sun, and then recedes further and further, perhaps never again to return to our system.

**OLD INDIAN WANTS AID NOW**

Victor of Many Battles Says "Money no Good After; Heap Good Now."

Walker, Minn.—Old John Smith, an Indian brave, victor in many battles and possessor of several personally collected scalps, was here from his "Mud lake allotment" in upper Cass county and was on his way to interview Agent John Frater regarding his pine holdings. The redman is nearly 100 years of age.

"He die soon," said the old buck; "happy hunting grounds in little while; want money; no good after; dead; heap good now," continued the wisened warrior as he loaded a ponderous pipe with kinnikinnick and thrust the long stem between his toothless gums.

The Indian is known as being one of the oldest Indians of his tribe. Notwithstanding his age, he is able to get around with those of much younger years, and while his face is wrinkled with the passing of many suns there is still the clear eye and certain litheness of limb which the well preserved members of the tribe maintain until the Great Father calls them.

John boasts of killing six Sioux Indians in the early days, the fight occurring at Portage lake, seven miles from here.

Hard Relationship Puzzle. Minneapolis, Minn.—John Ericson, Sr., widower, and John Ericson, Jr., his son, a year ago married Mathilda Swanson, a widow, and Hulda Swanson, her daughter.

The son married the mother and the father the daughter. Now a son has been born to each.

They live on the North side of Minneapolis and the entire district is going crazy trying to figure out the relationship.

**UNIQUE SCHOOL FOR BRIDES**

College of Housecraft, Latest Educational Enterprise, Established in London.

London.—A school for brides is the latest English educational enterprise and as the brides are taught domestic economy and housewifery, there ought to be rejecting in this country of unskilful cooks and incompetent housekeepers.

The new school calls itself the College of Housecraft, and though it is founded in the hope that newly-married young women or girls about to enter matrimony will patronize it, it is open to other women. At present besides prospective brides there are ordinary middle class girls who have been well educated and are trained in sports and accomplishments, but are lacking in rudimentary knowledge of home-making. In many cases they are planning to go to the colonies to take some position in domestic service after they have gained a knowledge of housewifery.

The college is arranged like a regular house and run without any servants. The pupils do all the work. Six months is the full course, but shorter terms are arranged as in the case of the society women, while some students are allowed to come as day workers or can attend special classes. The students wear a plain uniform of brown linen with mob cap and linen apron in the morning and of brown cashmere with muslin cap and apron in the afternoon. They sleep in little curtained cubicles, but those who wish it can have separate bedrooms at a weekly additional charge of \$1.25.

**BEAR AN EFFECTIVE CURFEW**

Timid Remain at Home at Night While Armed Expedition Search for Animal.

Clayton, N. J.—Reports of the presence of a large black bear in Jericho swamp, near here, have acted like a curfew on the timid, who will keep under shelter after dark until Bruin is captured, which will be soon, say the hunters, who, 50 strong, will explore the vast swamp in hope of apprehending his bearship.

The bear was discovered the other night by Louis G. Fisher, who, with Thomas A. Downs, Thomas Stalford, David Moore, Corbett Flesler and Ashley Ashbridge, was on a fox hunt. It was after midnight before the hounds took a trail, and Flesler rushed ahead of his comrades into the swamp, holding a lantern aloft to show the way. A big black object, which the hunters declare was a bear, with a powerful paw knocked the lantern from Flesler's hand and extinguished the light just as 18 hounds arrived and pandemonium reigned.

The hunters rescued Flesler and dragged him to a place of safety, while the bear and the hounds rushed into the deep swamp. The chase was kept up until daybreak, when the tired hunters returned to town with several dogs missing.

**FIGHTING OVER HIDDEN GOLD**

Treasure Found in Celler in West Virginia Now in the Courts—Several Claimants.

Wheeling, W. Va.—The finding of \$25,000 in gold by William McClain, an Ohio contractor, who, after discovering the money, conveyed it out of this state, has precipitated litigation.

The money, in six earthen jars, was found while McClain was excavating in the cellar of Dr. Gunther Schuchardt, who was murdered 20 years ago.

It was known that the old man had considerable money. Attorney Henry M. Russell of this city, administrator of the dead doctor, filed suit in the common pleas court at St. Clairsville, O., demanding that Contractor McClain turn over the money to him.

The Wheeling Stamping Company, owner of the property at the present time, and the workmen who made the find, all have filed claims.

**TO BREED THE TAILLESS CAT**

Peculiar Experiments Being Conducted to Determine Darkness Upon Animal Life.

New York.—To determine the effects of darkness upon various forms of animal life, experiments are being conducted with insects and fishes at the Carnegie branch for experimental evolution at Cold Springs Harbor, L. I. The experiments are in charge of Dr. A. M. Banta. A concrete cave has been built, 42x10 feet, and eight feet in height. It is five feet underground. It is equipped with tanks in which live fishes of various kinds have been placed, while crickets and other insects have been placed in compartments that are dry, but without a ray of light.

Other odd experiments have been in progress for some time, one of them being the effort to breed a tailless cat.

Farmers' Whittle Club. Owensville, Ind.—A whittle club has been organized among the farmers living in the Twineham school neighborhood.

Guy Lofton is the president of this novel club; Perry Hays, vice-president; Earl Lofton, secretary, Ford Gillison, keeper of whittling material; Edgar Woods, knife sharpener.

One of the rules of the club is that any member who brings the subject of tariff reform, Panama canal and other national questions for discussion while the club is in session will be fined not less than one cent nor more than one box of cigars.

**GAME IN CALIFORNIA**

Lions Disappear, But Deer Are Still Found in Plenty.

This Condition of Affairs Gives the Smaller Animals a Chance to Thrive—Exciting Experience with Wild Cat.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Three thousand mountain lions slain in California in two years explains the plentifulness of deer this season, according to County Game Warden Morgan, just back from a vacation on his ranch at Rosamond, Kern county. There Morgan bearded the lion in its den, but failed to get it, though the animals abound in that wild vicinity.

Venison has been more abundant in Los Angeles this season than in 20 years, the veriest tyros among hunters coming back to the city with one or two bucks after short trips into the mountains. Persons who never before tasted deer meat have had it on the table and they have wondered why they never could get it before.

Morgan has the solution, and he has figures to prove his case. "While humans may hunt deer for only a few months in the year, the mountain lion is obliged to respect no closed season. It hunts every month and it slays does as well as bucks. Sportsmen estimate that an active mountain lion kills and devours an average of 25 deer in 12 months.

"Thus, by the killing of 3,000 of 'varmits,' the lives of at least 75,000 deer have been preserved in the last two years for the men with the guns and ability to use them. This does not take into account the natural increase in the lion family, which would have amounted to possibly 3,000 more.

Little interest was taken in the killing of the lions until the state fish and game commission, realizing the need for greater protection of deer and other game, offered a bounty of \$20 for each mountain lion killed. This is not a state law—simply an action on the part of the commission, which had at its disposal the money collected on hunting licenses and obtained from other sources.

At \$20 each the dead lions have cost the commission \$60,000, though it is said that the bounty has not been claimed in every case. The skins of quite a number of the animals have been brought to Los Angeles, where the bounty was claimed.

Some of these animals are of great size, measuring 12 feet from tip of nose to end of tail, while eight-footers are common back in the sparsely settled mountain districts.

Though Morgan failed to get a mountain lion, he and his party slew five wild cats, 11 coyotes, 25 jack-rabbits and other pests, not to mention deer, ducks, quails and miscellaneous game.

Morgan and several friends had an exciting wildcat hunt one day at a spot where, two years ago, C. E. Patterson, then supervisor, and James J. Jeffries slaughtered six of the beasts. The game warden and his party got five, but they missed one, and thereby hangs a tale, but not a tail.

When the cats were encountered in a group by a hunter in advance of Morgan and Fred Johnson, the man in advance blazed away and killed three—bang! bang! bang!—just like that, Morgan says. The warden, who was scrambling up a hill, plugged two others, but the biggest one of the lot tore down the mountainside within 20 feet of Morgan, making one leap of 30 feet into a dry wash, along which Johnson was making his way.

Johnson was out for bear, or almost anything but wildcats. In a holster he carried a revolver, in his belt was an immense hunting knife and over his shoulder was a big shotgun.

The big mountain pussy, tearing toward him like a projectile from a battery, seemed to turn Johnson's superheated hunting blood into ice water.

Turning like a man who had left his car care at home, he raced for the camp, only a short distance, where women of the party breathlessly watched the animal as it swiftly gained on the fleeing form. Off flew Johnson's hat, his revolver popped out of his pocket and his gleaming hunting knife fell in his wake, but the wildcat kept on gaining.

Breathless and white, Johnson finally reached the camp, having turned his head not once in the flight. There he found the women convulsed, and as soon as he could sputter out an interrogation he found why.

About halfway from where he began the race the cat turned suddenly to the side and dashed into the brush, where it was lost to sight. The woman saw this, knew Johnson was safe, and their fun came in viewing the scared hunter in his flight from a danger that was only imaginary.

Cuts Third Set of Teeth. Colton, Cal.—Joseph Dustin, a pioneer of the San Bernardino valley, 83 years old, has cut his third set of teeth.

Both upper and lower jaws are now fully equipped, following a painful period during which the man suffered all discomforts of teething.

The new teeth have the appearance of a baby's but Mr. Dustin says they are as useful as any he has had.

Has Two Extra Ribs. Los Angeles, Cal.—Investigating to learn the cause of constant fever, doctors found that Thornton Green, aged 21, had two extra ribs, which will have to be removed.

**SLAUGHTER OF THE ROBINS**

Thousands of Little Songsters Killed in Tennessee and Sold at Ten Cents Dozen.

Louisville, Ky.—Robins are numerous at Lofton, Tenn., and are "selling readily on the local market at ten cents a dozen," according to a Murfreesboro special. It should be explained that the robins are not so numerous as they used to be, for the fact that they sell for ten cents a dozen has induced many men and boys to engage in the wholesale slaughter of the birds.

Thousands of robins, the special says, gather in the cedars to roost, and hunting parties go in the night and capture and kill them in large numbers. One party caught 2,600 birds in one night. It is estimated that 150,000 have been killed within the last three weeks. It is great sport—and the robins sell for ten cents a dozen. That is the way in which wild bird life is being protected in some parts of this great country.

The robin is a beautiful and harmless bird. He is an indefatigable destroyer of insect pests. Any one who has ever watched him on a lawn can testify to his industry in searching out bugs and worms and his capacity for putting them where they can do no harm. If there is a cherry tree handy he will visit it occasionally, but he much prefers to forage after living things. He is a cheerful, happy bird and rather likes to make himself handy around the premises, rearing a family the while in the boughs of the old apple tree. He is not much of a singer so far as the quality of his music goes, but he is always willing to give you a sample of the best he can do in that line, and the effect is not unpleasant to the human ear. In fact, the robin is an all round good fellow and is always ready to be friendly and serviceable if given half a chance.

It is to be regretted that our neighbors in Tennessee are not giving the robin even half a chance, but are murdering him in cold blood. There really seems to be no reason for it except that robins are worth ten cents a dozen. That also would seem to be about the proper market quotation for men who engage in such slaughter, either for pleasure or profit.

**SURE CURE FOR THE "BLUES"**

Motto Craze Gains Much Ground in England as Its Tendency is Toward Optimism.

London.—The motto craze has gained ground and flourished lately. Everything from the calendar on the wall to the handkerchief in the pocket, is ornamented with a cheerful adage.

The tendency of the moment is optimism, and the latest cure for the "blues" is to go through a thorough course of motto treatment.

Cheery sentences meet our eye in the morning, as we survey our calendar over the bed. Cheerful calendars are hung over the bath, and a large motto, such as "Hitch your wagon to a star," or "Patience—and shuffle the cards," is hung in the hall.

"The motto craze is extraordinary," the manager of an Oxford street fancy firm said. "At first it attacked our tea services and our milk jugs, and told us to 'Take a drop o' milk and be thankful,' while encouraging sentiments were inscribed round the teapot.

"Jewelry with mottoes is the latest. It has taken the place of the old-fashioned type of 'Dearest' or 'Good luck.'

"A pretty fashion is to have a bracelet formed of two slender gold chains between which are depended gold or jeweled letters.

"Short mottoes must be chosen for these, such as 'Sun's Shining' or 'Sunny Hours.'

"Dainty little mottoes are embroidered on pocket handkerchiefs; in fact, it is becoming quite the rage to choose your own motto, and have it inscribed on everything you value, such as silver brushes, boxes or on the name plate of a book.

"It certainly is a good tendency, and a cheerful bit of advice suddenly brought to light on a brooch or bracelet might save one-half an hour of miserable 'blues.'

**DEPLORES HABIT OF TREATING**

Professor of University of Berlin Asserts Code of Honor in America is Low.

Chicago.—The code of honor among American students is lower than in Germany, according to Prof. Eduard Meyer, of the University of Berlin. The professor deplored this situation recently in an informal talk at a reception given him by members of local chapters of fraternities in Evanston.

"I believe much of this can be traced to the practice of treating among American students gathered in bodies for various purposes," Prof. Meyer said. "The German student does not know what the word 'treat' means. If he wishes anything he purchases it and pays for it. I believe the American student is the loser by not following the same plan."

English Authors Get Poor Pay. London.—Sir Alfred Bateman, at a meeting of the Royal Literary fund stated that remuneration for literature among the rank and file was worse than ever before in England, while more persons were engaged in writing than hitherto. He said the fund barely paid its way, as the claims upon it were so heavy.

**CAN MAKE PLANTS TO ORDER**

Prof. Gager of Missouri College of Agriculture Making Interesting Experiments.

Columbia, Mo.—Will plants eventually be made to order? This question is suggested by the work in radioactivity which is being done by Prof. C. Stuart Gager of the Missouri College of Agriculture.

"Both radioactivity and living organisms are undergoing a destructive process, atomic disintegration in one, molecular transformation in the other," says Prof. Gager. In Prof. Gager's work the radium itself does not come in contact with the plant tissue or the seed. The results he noted were due to the action of the rays alone. Seeds of Lincoln oats were planted in flower pots. In these were placed sealed glass tubes containing radium bromide of varying activities. Corresponding varying results in the plant were obtained. The time of exposure to the rays was varied in other cases and a direct proportional result on the young plant was obtained. In both cases the germination was retarded by the exposure to the rays. Continued experiments proved the retarding effect on the germination of seeds.

The effects of radium were also tried on growing plants, corn and oats. In each case the rays would stimulate the growth of the plant to a greater or less degree as the operator chose to manipulate the radium.

Prof. Gager has succeeded in originating a new species of plant which has held true to the original production through three consecutive years. The morning primrose was taken for the experiment, it being the only available pedigreed plant. Radioactivity changed the shape of its leaves from a broad, medium short to a long, narrow leaf. Prof. Gager hopes to announce soon other accomplishments made by the use of radium.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM IS DEFICIENT**

Minneapolis Educator Brands Methods as Lacking—Urges Vocational Training.

Indianapolis.—Branding as wholly deficient an educational system which compels boys whose muscles and nerves are crying out in rebellion to sit prisoners behind a book or a white sheet of paper, W. F. Webster, principal of the East side high school, to-day made a plea for the extension of manual training in American schools. Mr. Webster proposed that the manual training in the public schools be systematized so that boys could be prepared for a practical vocation. Mr. Webster made his plea for industrial education in an address to the department of superintendence of the National Educational association.

Mr. Webster urged industrial and vocational education not only for the boys in the secondary schools, but for the girls as well. He advocated trade school training for pupils of both sexes over 14 years of age. Under that age, he said, it was not practicable to place tools into the hands of children. "Not only the common schools, but the colleges as well, have shown themselves deficient in their duty of preparing the young for the battle of life," said Mr. Webster. "The first decade of the twentieth century has proven how inefficient was the educational plan of the nineteenth. The problem which now faces Americans is how to fit the children so that they can make a living—by turning our enormous stores of raw material into usable things."

The convention of educators closed with conferences on numerous pedagogical interests. A number of the educators will remain in the city to attend meetings of societies devoted to public school hygiene.

**BROWN ROT INJURES CROP**

Damage to Peach Trees in Georgia Alone Causes \$1,000,000 Loss Every Year.

Washington.—The extensive damage to the peach growth of the country done by the peach brown rot amounting to a loss of \$1,000,000 a year in Georgia alone, has caused the department of agriculture to conduct exhaustive experiments with a view of finding a satisfactory remedy for this pest. The results of these experiments, as set forth in a bulletin are as follows:

"Much work has been done with a view to discovering a satisfactory remedy for this trouble. Spraying with diluted bordeaux mixture has been most commonly recommended, but its injury to the foliage has made it unsatisfactory, since the remedy must be applied during the growing season.

"The peach scab (often called black spot) is another disease which seriously affects the peach crop in all sections east of the Rocky mountains although not causing such serious losses as brown rot.

"As the result of experimental work by the United States department of agriculture a cheap and simple remedy for this disease has been found in the self-bolled lime-sulphur wash."

"Jugged Wallaby" New Dish. London.—"Jugged wallaby" is the latest English dinner dish. It is a species of small kangaroo, being nearly twice as large as the hare. Although the Australians long have regarded it as a pleasant and economical dish, its introduction into England has been delayed until now, when it has become instantaneously popular in club and hotel menus.

**HAIR NET INDUSTRY**

Gives Employment to Large Numbers in Parts of Europe.

Important Business in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia—Work Done Mainly by Women and Girls for Small Wages.

Washington.—Consul Joseph I. Brittain of Prague forwards the following account of the trade in and manipulation of human hair in the north of Austria:

In Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia the marketing of human hair and the making of human hair nets is an important business. The chief centers for the industries are found in the southeastern part of Bohemia, centering in the towns of Trbow-Kamenitz, Chotebar, Chrast and Raubowitz. The business is both a factory and a home industry, one class of human hair coming from China and the other class being a home product.

Large quantities of what are known as combings are imported from China, via Trieste or Hamburg, packed in cases wrapped in straw and weighing from 123 to 130 pounds per bale. This Chinese hair is all chemically bleached in a solution of hydrogen peroxide and assorted according to lengths, then dyed colors and shades desired by purchasers. The lengths vary from six to 35 inches.

The work of assorting and classifying the hair according to various lengths is done by girls and women, beginners being paid from 12 to 14 cents and experts from 40 to 50 cents per day. The dyeing and bleaching are done by men, who receive \$14 to \$18 per month.

The human hair nets are made from Chinese hair, as the native hair is too fine and soft. This business is largely a home industry, the work being done by women and girls. An experienced worker earns from 24 to 32 cents per day, but each net maker is obliged to have an assistant to tie together the single hairs in order to save the time of the net maker.

Each week the net makers are given a quantity of hair, which they take to their homes and when the nets are finished and delivered by the workers they are allowed 20 per cent. for waste of material.

The human hair nets are exported to the United States, England, France and Germany, very few being worn in Austria. The value of human hair and nets exported to the United States in 1908 was \$244,922.

All of the hair cut here for export is taken from the heads of the peasants in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The first quality comes from Moravia and Bohemia and the less valuable from Silesia, while a considerable quantity of inferior hair also is cut in Hungary.

The quality of the human hair depends upon the prosperity of the people and the care taken of it before cutting. The hair is collected by peddlers, or hair merchants, who must be of good reputation in order to obtain their license. These men, usually accompanied by their wives, make trips through the country leading usually from four to six weeks, going from house to house in their efforts to induce women and girls to part with a portion of their hair. The maximum amount of hair generally purchased by a shrewd dealer on one of these trips is from 11 to 14 pounds, while many return with less than five pounds. The price paid depends on the length of the hair and its color, chiefly the latter.

**CORK IN NATIONAL FORESTS**

Seems Quite Probable That Seedlings Experimented With in California Will Be Successful.

Washington.—Cork oak is being given a thorough trial on the national forests. The Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture has assigned 2,000 one-year seedlings of cork oak, now at nursery at Chico, Cal., to be used by the forest service for experimental planting.

Fifteen hundred of these seedlings will be tried on the Santa Barbara National Forest, and 500 on the Monterey national forest in southern California. Arrangements have already been made with the district forester for carrying out the work, and the planting will be done as soon as possible. One hundred seedlings will also be sent to Prof. Goveall of the Forest school at Point Loma, Cal., for experimental use by him there.

In addition to these experiments in California, it is expected that 100 pounds of cork oak acorns will be secured from Catalonia, Spain, to be used for experimental purposes in district six next fall. Cork oaks of considerable size have already been raised in California, and it seems entirely probable that they can be planted quite extensively in that state as well as to some extent in Florida.

**Cat Turns in Alarm.**

New York.—Satan, a big black cat owned by Mrs. Hetty Green, gave an alarm of fire the other day to which 140 families in a block of Hoboken apartments owed their escape from danger.

Satan, who had been placed in the care of the janitor, clawed at the janitor's door till he was aroused from sleep. He found the hallway filled with smoke and routed out the tenants.