

AN ORIENTAL SKY-SIGN



The above is one of the few survivors of the "totems," or signs of prosperous merchants, which, with their rich carving and beautiful coloring, many of them of great height, made the streets of Mukden, China, only two or three years ago, a vista of quaint barbaric ornament.

ANSWERED HIM WITH RIDICULE

Challenges to Duel Brought Witty Letter from H. M. Brackenridge.

In Clyde Fitch's large collection of autographs there is none that he values more than a letter of the eccentric and brilliant jurist, H. M. Brackenridge, on dueling.

Brackenridge, a youth at the time, replied to the challenge of a British officer with this amusing letter. He said:

"I have two objections to this duel matter—the one is, lest I should hurt you; the other is, lest you should hurt me. I don't see what good it would do to put a ball through your body. I could make no use of you dead for any culinary purpose as I would a rabbit or a turkey. I am no cannibal to feed upon the flesh of men. Why, then, shoot down a human creature, of whom I can make no use? A buffalo would be better.

"You might make a good barbecue. It is true, being of the nature of a racoon or opossum; but people are not in the habit of barbecuing anything that is human now. As to your hide—it is not worth taking off, being little better than a two-year-old coat's.

"As to myself, I do not like to stand in the way of anything that is hurtful. I am under the impression that you might hit me. This being the case, I think it advisable to stay in the distance. If you mean to try your pistol, take some object—a tree or a barn door—about my dimensions. If you hit that, send me word, and I will acknowledge that if I had been in the same place you might also have hit me."

ACTOR TELLS OF HARD PART.

Really Strenuous Work Cut Out for Sailor in "Drammer."

"My hardest part on my unfortunate summer tour," said the actor, "was in a sea drammer. The Tar and the Cingalese. I played third mate. Me and the crew swam the whole act through. The sea was a blue cloth what the supers shook in the wings and layin' it on, we swum overboard. Every time our palms hit the water you could hear it all over the house.

"That fierce swimmin' in the wild sea was terrible hard work. Now and then your backbones would come down on the ocean and get all the skin rasped off. A wave would slide down your front and rip every button off your suit. The ship keeled over on a man one night, and before he could lift her off himself his ankle bone was busted. A man in the wings made thunder and lightning with one hand and ate a cheese sandwich with the other. The brave ship rocked to and fro, and it seemed that every minute would be her last. The dust from off the waves was stranglin'.

"If you gilded too fast over the sea's surface you got splinters in you. Still we swam on. Sometimes, though, worn out, we'd swim behind the ship, stand up on the waves, stretch ourselves and rest. Then back we'd swim bravely again. When that terrible act was at last over we'd go downstairs, remove the dust and splinters that we had contracted from our long swim, pack the ship in a trunk, fold up the ocean and go back to the boardin' house for supper."

She had passed the summer abroad, and in London she said modestly, her success had been unprecedented. The earl said he could readily believe that.

DISCOVER RAREST ELEMENTS.

Uranium, Vanadium and Radium Are Found in Colorado.

Washington—Carnotite, a mineral recently found in Colorado, is a source of the rare elements uranium and vanadium, and has yielded traces of the still rarer element, radium. These deposits, which also contain other rare minerals, are situated at the foot of the Blue mountains, formerly known as Yampa plateau, and are similar to those on Coal creek, Rio Blanco county, Colorado. The ores present a beautiful display of colors. The carnotite, which constitutes a relatively small percentage of the minerals found, occurs in the form of a film or thin crust of powdery material of bright canary yellow color.

A yellow mineral which closely resembles carnotite in color and appearance, and which occurs in even greater amount, proved, on testing by experts of the geological survey, to be a vanadate of copper. Chemical tests of the ores have shown the presence in them of a copper selenite, which is believed to be the first selenite discovered in the United States.

SHAVES TWO AT A TIME.

Remarkable Feat Performed by a Barber in Delaware.

Milton, Del.—Two men were shaved at one time in one barber chair by Barber Wright. When he called "Next!" two men made for the chair and crowded into it together.

Without the least hesitation Wright slipped the lather on both faces, and while rubbing it in on one man's face started to shave the other man with his other hand.

Both men grasped the novelty of the situation, and allowed the work to continue.

Shaving each man with alternate strokes he was soon combing one man's hair with his left hand while the right hand was driving the other fellow's face. Both were satisfied.

EXCUSE TOO LONG DRAWN OUT.

Defense That Proved Case Against Bibulous Valet.

Tall Esen Morgan, the noted musical director of the great Ocean Grove religious festivals, said the other day that the "Merry Widow" waltz had been stolen from Mendelssohn's oratorio of "St. Paul."

"It is a clear case of plagiarism," said Mr. Morgan, and Lehar in his defense only incriminates himself the more.

"In fact, Lehar's defense rather reminds me of the valet who was accused of drinking his master's wine. To this valet the master said:

"Look here, you! I believe that you have been at this decanter of claret and then filled it up with water."

"Oh, no, sir," said the valet, in an aggrieved tone.

"Well, it tastes like it," said the master, and he set down his glass with a wry face.

"Oh, no, sir," said the valet, excitedly. "In the first place, sir, I never drink wine. In the second place, when I do drink it I never think of filling the bottle up with water. And in the third place, when I do put water in I always am very careful to add a little brandy so that the wine may not lose its strength."

WHALING IN AFRICAN WATERS.

Company Formed Thinks There is Money to Be Made.

A company, with head offices at Sandefjord, Norway, has been formed with the object of exploiting the whaling grounds adjacent to the South African coast.

Briefly, the plan is to use two small whaling steamers which have been acquired by the company and, making Durban the base of operations, to scour the coastwise waters and as soon as a whale is taken to tow the body into the harbor, where the work of extraction will be done. By this means it is said that a saving of time is effected and the process of reduction is facilitated.

It is claimed that these steam whalers are able to take all kinds of whales with comparative immunity from risk, as the explosive harpoon is fired directly from the steamer, and the danger of pursuing to "fish" in small boats is obviated.

There are large numbers of whales near this coast, and there seems to be a fair prospect of success for a small company run on the most economical lines. The capital of the company is \$75,000, and shares to the full amount have been taken in Natal and Norway.

Garbage and Garage.

The other day Claude wrote: "Isn't it about time we were renewing our boyhood acquaintance? Send me a photograph of your home." Nothing loath, Frank ordered the town photographer to prepare 100 postcard pictures of his home and surroundings, and of these sent a dozen different views to Claude. He did not discover until too late that three big garbage barrels were in the foreground. In a couple of weeks Claude sent a dozen views of his mansion to Frank, and in the foreground were three beautiful automobiles, with a marble garage hard by. "Only the small letter b divides us," wrote the surgeon; "you have the garage, I have the karage; I have the autos, you have the barrels." Frank, feeling rather humiliated, telegraphed: "Garbage barrels a mistake of photographer; they belong to my neighbor." Claude replied: "Same with my autos and karage; got in by mistake; belong to my neighbor."—New York Press.

Wine for Pole Seekers.

The announcement that Dr. Charcot is taking 22,000 bottles of wine on his expedition to the south pole is likely to cause not a little amazement in temperance circles. Nansen, on his "furbest north" expedition—the superlative has been beaten since by Peary—kept his crew mainly on non-intoxicants. For breakfast they began by having coffee and chocolate daily; but soon altered it to coffee two days a week, tea two and chocolate three. At supper tea only was served as a beverage. At dinner, as a rule, "stories and jokes circulated along with the buck beer." The Fram was well provisioned, for Nansen wrote, when amid the ice parks, "There is not a thing we long for."

Terms Become Obsolete.

Formerly the term "master" was a markedly respectful form of address. Now in the form of "mist'ry" it has become common property, while "master" itself has become confined to boys. However, the fall of "master" has not been so great as is that of the French "monsieur." At one time even a saint was spoken of as "Monsieur St. Jean." Under the early Valois the king was a "monsieur" in public documents; and later it became the title of the king's younger brother. Nowadays, "M." is merely on a level with "Mr."

Position for Garibaldi's Daughter.

Miss Italia Garibaldi, a granddaughter of Gen. Garibaldi, has just been appointed to take charge of the Methodist Girls' Home school in Rome. This school stands on the street named for Gen. Garibaldi and almost in the shadow of his statue.

In Bad Either Way.

Millions—Going to take a vacation abroad?

Millions—If I do they will say I am afraid to stay here, and if I don't they will say I am afraid to go away.

MARVELS OF FUTURE

MARCONI PREDICTS SUNSHINE WILL RUN SHIPS.

Inventor Says Air Travel Will Be Common—Sees Also a Better World with Fewer Children, but of Higher Quality.

New York—That steamships will be run by sunshine is the opinion of Guglielmo Marconi, who discussed a few days ago the marvels of the future.

The inventor of wireless telegraphy has come to America to increase his trans-Atlantic service from a capacity of 5,000 words a day to 20,000. After predicting a great future for wireless telegraphy he said:

"There seems to be a happy fate in the coincidence of scientific discoveries, which on first thought are quite unrelated to each other. The development of the airship as shown in the astounding performance of Orville Wright's machine in Washington, would seem to have nothing in common with the perfection of wireless communication, and yet, if one looks into the future, the great airships which are to come, sailing at incredible speed and at unforeseen and varying altitudes, could never without the wireless speak each other as ships do at sea and so remain in touch with those safely at home.

"And the airship is certain to come into general use, and that within the lifetime of our generation; not for freight, perhaps, but for people surely. In 50 years the people of New York will be freed of the vexing problem of rapid transit. There will be no need for surface cars, elevated roads, subways, tunnels and ferries.

"In fact, as I look into the years to come, I am convinced that life will be an easier problem, a more genial function in the scheme of things, than it is today.

"Aside from the economy of labor which follows the conquest of nature's forces, there will be fewer people among whom to divide the benefits. The high rate will continue to decrease, as I believe it should, at least for the present. With the growth of intelligence among the mass of people there will come a realization of the folly of rearing more children than can be properly fitted to be efficient members of society. Quality, not numbers, will come to be the standard of racial excellence, and the present anomalous condition wherein the number of children in a family is in inverse ratio to the earning capacity of the parents will have disappeared.

"The condition to-day is not one of 'race suicide,' but of social common sense. And if the present enlightenment of the average men and women continues to its righteous turning point there will come an end of congested cities, with their wretched and starving children of the tenements, their crimes, their killing competition and their discouragement of the greater aspirations of men.

"In all ways science is more and more studying to perfect the practical comfort and well-being of the world. Of course there will always be ships upon the sea. The mysterious primal voice of the ocean will continue its spell over the human imagination. But there will not always be steam ships. They will pass the way of their predecessors, and ere long we shall cross the ocean in ships run by electric power. There will be no grime of coal smoke, no sickish odor of stale steam, no blazing caverns in the hold, where human beings sweat their lives away that the pulse of the engines may not stop. The storage battery will take the place of coal and fire and water. Instead of coaling, the great ship will quietly and cleanly renew her batteries at her journey's end, and if coal is used it will be far from the linen and the noses of men.

"Furthermore, I look for the time when coal will cease to be our only source of energy. In every land men of science are patiently studying the problem of utilizing the energy of the sun—storing it, in fact—so that the generation of electric force may be cheapened by its use to a point where the storage battery on a large scale will be an economy as well as an academic possibility. The wasted energy in coal as now used may in the interval be brought to do its work and so bring about the monster storage battery sooner than we now expect. But sooner or later we shall enslave the sun's rays to our uses as we have the other products of his being.

"Ah, yes, life is going to be a better experience for our children than it is for most of us now. In many little ways it will be so. Do you know that in many laboratories they are coming close to letting us see the person who is talking to us at the other end of the telephone connection? And if they can do this, if they can transmit the light waves of images at a distance—and it looks as if science is bound to accomplish it—I am voicing no extravagance in saying that we may yet sit in our homes on a cold winter's night, turn a switch and not only hear, but see, the opera in progress in a far-off building.

"And, going back to my own hobby of wireless communication, I want to say that we shall not have to wait long for the wireless telephone. De Forest and his colleagues are doing great things in that direction."

Liabig to Have Statue.

A statue of Liabig is to be erected in Drammen, where he was born in 1803.

MAKES STUDY OF WHALES.

Attache of Museum Returns from Five Months' Trip to North.

New York—Roy C. Andrews of the department of mammals and birds at the American Museum of Natural History has returned from a five-months' trip to Vancouver Island and Alaska. Mr. Andrews left New York in April for Vancouver Island, where he remained until July, and then went to Tye, Alaska, on the south coast of Admiralty Island. His work was to get measurements, notes and photographs of the Pacific whales, to discover whether they are the same as the Atlantic whales.

Mr. Andrews saw more than 200 whales of four different species, killed with the harpoon gun. From the mast-head of a whaling vessel he studied the whales in every position through field glasses. He made measurements of the bodies and took 300 photographs of whales in the water. Speaking of his work Mr. Andrews said:

"The whales have been hunted so extensively that they will soon be extinct. The relationship of one species to another is virtually unknown. For times are being spent on fossils, and here is a race of mammals slipping away. At Newfoundland, where the whales were found formerly in great numbers, there are only a few, as they have been driven from the feeding grounds and killed. While Atlantic whales have been studied, this is the first time that data such as I have gathered have been obtained in regard to Pacific whales."

LAZIEST MAN IS FOUND.

Englishman Has Record of Seven Years of "Weariness."

London—Arthur Chilcott, 38 years old, a homeless laborer, is the laziest man in England.

When brought into the Kingston-on-Thames police court the other day, charged with refusing to perform his work in the Kingston workhouse, he wearily sat down and dropped his hat on the floor of the dock. He would not answer any questions, but dropped into a dozing condition. After his sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labor was read to him he ambled out of the dock.

The many imprisonments served by this lazy man include two of a year each. During the trial before the second, Chilcott seemed to sleep throughout the proceedings, hardly answering questions, and recognizing such questions usually by a bored look and a yawn.

Only once did he display any energy. He was taken by mistake to an adjourned court quarter session. The judge had to discharge the prisoner to rectify the error. Chilcott, however, refused to leave his cell and walk away, until much time had been spent in persuading and assisting him.

Although the law has labeled him "rogue and vagabond," a medical man declares he suffers from "argophobia," or fear of work, and this "malady" is consistent, according to this view, with physical competence.

SUGGESTION DEATH LURE.

Man Who Saves Others Writes Own Experiences After Taking Poison.

The Moines, Ia.—As a result of mental suggestion, physicians say, Brig. Gen. Scott Girard, head of the state anti-suicide bureau of the Volunteers of America, tried to kill himself by swallowing 50 strychnine pellets, which had been taken from a man discredited from suicide during the day, and turning on the gas after closing all openings.

While a letter to his wife in Chicago lay sealed before him, Girard began to write of his feeling as death crept over him, and continued the morbid study in death until he became unconscious. He was rescued only when a wedding party of friends came for him two hours afterward and was taken to a hospital.

Five sheets of manuscript were devoted to describing his emotions, and he ended with blotting the last sheet after he had written:

"I feel my wife's arms about me. My head whirrs. Her lovely face is turning to that of an old hag; the teeth grow long. The flesh shrivels from the skull; I see every bone. I know the face. It is the picture of death. I choke. I rise to inhale the gas from the open jet. Devils crowd—"

URGES MATRIMONY COLLEGE.

Professor Says Instruction Should Be Given in Secrets of Marriage.

Topeka, Kan.—A college of matrimony is the need of this country to prevent degeneracy in the race, according to Prof. W. Blackmar of Kansas university in an address before the superintendents of the Kansas charitable institutions.

"The time is coming," said Prof. Blackmar, "when a course will be offered in our public schools as preparatory to matrimony in which young men and women will be taught some important matters relative to the marriage relation."

He thinks such a course in the public schools would be exceptionally beneficial. The purpose would be to instruct in the secrets of matrimony and guard against unhappy marriages.

Prof. Blackmar advocated a strict physical and mental examination of all applicants for marriage licenses and persons afflicted with pulmonary and mental diseases or other dangerous ailments. Careful selection and mating are urged as necessary to prevent an increase in insanity, epilepsy and criminality.