

Sometimes It Holds Water Enough to Float the Boats.

Of some of the crude and outgrown methods used on China's Grand canal a writer in the North China Daily News remarks: "The junction of the real canal with the Wei river was not by means of a lock, but simply a high and steeply sloping mud bank, over which the grain vessels had to be dragged by the force of perhaps many hundreds of men. It should be borne in mind that in China the lock of a canal is not much more like our idea of what that name connotes than it is like a padlock. Amid constant and often serious changes of level, with an uncertain and not infrequently a scanty supply of water, and with a grain fleet which traveled in blocks of some eighty vessels under one officer, it was necessary to devise some way for keeping them together and for transferring them as a consolidated unit with this in view.

"For this reason a Chinese lock on the Grand canal is nothing but a stone gateway into which large boards may be lowered through a groove in the stones, restraining most of the water from its flow, until there is a depth sufficient to float all the craft, when the boards are pulled up and the entire fleet passes through.

"After this the boards are again lowered for another division of the grain boats. In case the water gives out—a by no means unlikely occurrence—there is nothing to do but to wait until more comes from somewhere."

THREE EMPIRES.

Governments That Practically Sprang Into Being Overnight.

Prior to Jan. 18, 1871, the German empire, as we know it today, had no existence. Instead it was a jumble of kingdoms, states, duchies, grand duchies and principalities, all joined together by a like language and common political aspirations. It is true, but otherwise quite separate and distinct.

Then came the historic ceremony in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Paris had just been captured by King William of Prussia, and it was held to be a fitting time and place to proclaim him the first German emperor. Never since the dawn of history was an empire born more dramatically.

By a strange irony of fate, too, its birth took place amid the ruins of the French empire, itself the creation of a day, or, rather, to be strictly accurate, of a night. France went to bed on the evening of Dec. 1, 1851, a republic. When it awoke next morning it was an empire. During the hours of darkness Paris had been occupied by troops, and the prince-president had become Napoleon III.

Equally sudden and almost as sensational in its way was the birth of the modern Greek empire. After the yoke of the Turks had been thrown off in the war of independence, the country became a republic. But the people soon tired of that democratic form of government and promptly proceeded to assassinate their first and only president. Then they met together, elected a king and settled themselves down to be ruled by him in a quite orderly and contented fashion.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Exploiting the Antique.

A gang of swindlers arrested by the Toulouse police had for stock in trade a beautiful antique cabinet and a considerable stock of audacity. With these they took, for a short lease, a historic chateau near Toulouse, installing a venerable old lady to play the part of owner. Then they found a collector of antiques, persuaded him to visit the chateau and sold him the really valuable cabinet at a good round price. After the bargain was concluded they invited the victim to lunch, and while he was eating the meal the real cabinet was replaced by a perfect imitation, which the victim carried off with him. The swindlers, before their arrest, succeeded in selling their cabinet thirty-three times, at prices varying from \$500 to \$3,000.

When Animals Are Ill.

Said a prominent veterinarian: "Animals when sick are the most helpless and appreciative of all creatures, and the way of administering relief and medicine in many instances is as novel as it is effective. The most savage and revengeful animals during spells of severe pain are, as a rule, as docile and tractable as a child. Relief must come from a human being, and come quietly, and they seem to know it. The most vicious horse when groaning with pain would allow a mere child to administer relief, and many of the wild animals when in sickness seem to forget their savage instincts."

The Grayhound.

Various explanations have been given of the origin of the term grayhound, some authors claiming that the prefix grey is taken from Grains, meaning Greek, others that it signifies great, while still others say that it has reference to the color of the animal. In no other breed of hounds is the blue or gray color so prevalent, and consequently the last mentioned derivation seems the most plausible.—London Notes and Queries.

Thought He Knew.

Mrs. Gewjurn—John, do you know what you said in your sleep last night?
Mr. Gewjurn—Oh, yes; I suppose I said, "Maria, for heaven's sake, let me get in a word edgewise!"—Chicago Tribune.

A REAL CLOUDBURST.

One That Descended Upon a Mountain In Scotland.

What a real cloudburst is like is described by a Scotland correspondent of Country Life: "A cloudburst of exceptional size descended on the Cairngorm mountains, and an old watcher, who has his hut almost exactly where the cloudburst, gives the following details: On July 10, 1901, the morning opened brilliantly fine and warm, with a cloudless sky and brilliant sunshine. But toward noon heavy clouds formed on the hills, and it rapidly became so dark that it was almost impossible to read. He was standing in the door of his hut, when suddenly he heard from the hill across the glen a report like a thunderclap, followed by a noise like the tearing of linen, only a thousand times louder and more majestic in sound. Then he noticed that a solid mass of water had struck the hilltop, and part of it, bounding up again with the force of the impact, had descended on the hilltop immediately behind his hut. Immediately afterward a tremendous volume of water came pouring down both hillsides, forming great rifts in the hills as it swirled, irresistible in its course, down rocks and stones. The channel the flood scooped out was in places quite twelve feet deep, and large rocks were tossed down its course as if they had been pebbles. The sand and stones brought down by the water so dammed up the river Dea that quite an extensive loch was formed. During the time of the cloudburst the weather a mile or two up the glen remained fine, but to the south the clouds were black as night."

SEEING THE ALPS.

Tourists Who Do Their Mountain Climbing by Telescope.

The tourist of today who visits the Alps and who lacks the physical endurance or whose time is too limited to make the ascent of some of the famous peaks nevertheless is able closely to survey the panorama of mountain scenery through the medium of powerful telescopes located at the terminals of the mountain railroads. By this means the rocks and glaciers and peculiar formations of these historic mountains may be carefully studied, though the spectator need not approach them within many miles.

Each of these mountain telescopes is mounted on a forked cradle and is so nicely balanced that its position may readily be fixed by the tightening of small thumb screws after the focus has been adjusted with a band wheel. The magnifying power of the instruments varies from 35 to 116 diameters, but is adapted for landscape observation only.

When weather conditions are suitable, climbers on the Titlis may be seen through the telescope at Fetzberg, near Zurich, a distance of forty miles, and the hotel on the Faulhorn, sixty miles away, may be recognized. Every step of the toilers on the slopes of the Matterhorn can be followed by means of the instrument on the Riffelalp above Zermatt. Several lives have been saved by the means of these glasses, for signals of distress on the mountains are seen by the watchers at the telescopes.—Harper's.

A Birdseye View.

The following incident occurred during a terrific thunderstorm at the home of a contractor who lives in the vicinity of Tampa, Fla. The contractor and his family were sitting on the veranda watching the storm when a bolt of lightning struck a tree not fifteen feet from where they were sitting.

The shock was terrific, but no one was injured, although they were all badly frightened. The young son, with great excitement, was telling that he jumped two feet high.

"How do you know you jumped so high?" said his father.

"Why," said Johnnie, "I looked down while I was up."—Youth's Companion.

Wagner's Swan.

What interests me about Wagner, says a writer in London Opinion, is his affection for live beasts and animals. In "Siegfried" we have a dragon, and in "Lohengrin," as you are all aware, there is a very beautiful swan. When the late Sir Augustus Harris produced this latter opera something went wrong with the bird. Just before the rise of the curtain, therefore, the audience was considerably surprised and startled to hear the indignant voice of one of the stage hands resounding from the rear of the auditorium with characteristic vigor, "What's the matter with that infernal duck?"

A Blissful Supposition.

Miss Black—Mr. Brown, does your dog know what a bird of paradise is?
Mr. Brown—Well, of course I don't know for sure, but when I gets ter nex' worl' I wouldn't be a bit surpris ter disknah dat it was a spring chicken.—Illustrated Bits.

A Hummer.

"Morning, morning!" said paterfamilias generally as he entered the breakfast room. "I've had a splendid night. Slept like a top!"

His wife agreed with him. "You did," she responded grimly—"like a humming top!"—Philippines Gossip.

A Man of Letters.

"Did your friend make a hit at the literary club?"

"I guess he did. He pronounced 'Les Miserables' in a brand new way and then alluded to it as Victor Herbert's masterpiece."—Washington Herald.

True bravery is shown by performing without witness what one might be capable of doing before all the world.—La Rochefoucauld.

The Bab.

The East Indian teacher who founded the cult known as "Babism" was "the Bab"—Mirza Ali Mohammed. He was born in Shiraz, Persia, in the year 1820. He was trained at first to commercial life, but a pilgrimage to Mecca awakened in his heart the religious zeal which made him devote his life henceforth to developing the faith which he held. Upon his return to his native city in 1844 he assumed the title of Bab, or "Gate" leading to the Mohammedans the tenets of the Bab were rank here, and he was taken to Tabriz and shot.—New York American.

The Anchor.

"Captain," remarked the nuisance on shipboard who always asks foolish questions, "what is the object in throwing the anchor overboard?"

"Young man," replied the old salt, "do you understand the theory of seismic disturbances? Well, we throw the anchor overboard to keep the ocean from slipping away in the fog. See?"

Overdoing It a Little.

"Speaking of economy," says a character in one of Life's stories, "Gillett says that he is saving up for a rainy day."

"H'm!" came the response. "His wife thinks he must be saving up for another flood."

Leading Up to It.

A young man married against the wishes of his parents and in telling a friend how to break the news to their said:

"Tell them first that I am dead, and gently work up to the climax."—London Tit-Bits.

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Travelers Guide.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF PENNA.

Condensed Time Table effective June 17, 1908.

READ DOWN		Stations	READ UP	
No. 1	No. 3		No. 6	No. 4
A. M.	P. M.	Belleville	A. M.	P. M.
7:00	9:00	Bellefonte	7:00	9:00
7:15	9:15	Clintondale	7:15	9:15
7:30	9:30	Hubertsville	7:30	9:30
7:45	9:45	Snydertown	7:45	9:45
8:00	10:00	Houston	8:00	10:00
8:15	10:15	Lamar	8:15	10:15
8:30	10:30	Clintonville	8:30	10:30
8:45	10:45	Crider's Station	8:45	10:45
9:00	11:00	Mackeyville	9:00	11:00
9:15	11:15	Cedar Spring	9:15	11:15
9:30	11:30	Salomona	9:30	11:30
9:45	11:45	Mt. H. Hall	9:45	11:45
10:00	12:00	Jersey Shore	10:00	12:00
10:15	12:15	Wm's Port	10:15	12:15
10:30	12:30	Phila. & Reading R.	10:30	12:30
10:45	12:45	Phila.	10:45	12:45
11:00	1:00	New York	11:00	1:00
		Week Days		
		Wallace H. Gepphart, General Superintendent.		

BELLEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Schedule to take effect Monday Jan. 4, 1908.

READ DOWN		Stations	READ UP	
No. 1	No. 3		No. 2	No. 4
P. M.	A. M.	Belleville	P. M.	A. M.
2:00	11:55	Bellefonte	2:00	11:55
2:15	12:10	Coleville	2:15	12:10
2:30	12:25	Brantley	2:30	12:25
2:45	12:40	Morris	2:45	12:40
3:00	12:55	Stevens	3:00	12:55
3:15	1:10	Line Centre	3:15	1:10
3:30	1:25	Hunter's Park	3:30	1:25
3:45	1:40	Wilmington	3:45	1:40
4:00	1:55	Brantley	4:00	1:55
4:15	2:10	Wadsworth	4:15	2:10
4:30	2:25	Krumpholtz	4:30	2:25
4:45	2:40	State College	4:45	2:40
5:00	2:55	Brantley	5:00	2:55
5:15	3:10	Blue rock	5:15	3:10
5:30	3:25	Phila. & Reading R.	5:30	3:25
		F. H. THOMAS Supt.		