

DEATH VALLEY.

The Burning, Blasting Winds That Sweep This Arid Waste. The prevailing winds in Death valley are from the west. Though originating in the Pacific ocean and saturated with humidity in traveling the intermediate distance, they are intercepted by the lofty peaks of four ranges of mountains, which absorb all of their moisture, so that by the time they reach the valley all humidity has disappeared. The blasts are as if heated in a fiery furnace, and so living things can survive the intense heat. Even birds indigenous to the region die.

It is in the months of greatest heat that the sandstorms of Death valley are most deadly. They rage with intense fury, obliterating the landscape and dimming the light of the sun, withering the scanty vegetation and covering the trails deep in powdered dust. At all times the aspect of the valley is superlatively desolate. No spot on earth surpasses it in aridity or Tophet-like heat.

During the heated term an hour without water means death. Meat becomes putrid in an hour. Eggs are cooked in the blistering sand. Water is only palatable by means of large, porous, earthenware jars, common to all hot countries, suspended in drafts and reduced in temperature by means of the rapid evaporation of the moisture from the outside.

Wedding Ring Mottos.

The custom of inscribing within the hoop of the betrothal or wedding ring a motto or "posy," as it was called, was formerly very prevalent. Hamlet asks, "Is this a prologue or the posy of a ring?" Some posies were very tender and beautiful. Among the more appropriate posies may be mentioned "Deux corps, un coeur." "My heart and I until I die" and "I am yours" from sixteenth century rings. "Love ever." "Love true, 'tis joy." and "Time lesseneth not my love" from the seventeenth century. "Love me." "My soul will keep thine company to heaven" and "En ma fidelite je finira ma vie" from the eighteenth. In the ring which "Florizel" (afterward George IV.) gave to the hapless Perdita were the words "Je change qu'en mourant—Unalterable to my Perdita through life."

A Finland Festival.

Paul Walpeman's "A Summer Tour in Finland" contains this pretty bit of folklore: "Midsummer is the great annual festival of Finland. From every height a bonfire leaps to the sky in honor of the mating of night and day, who are then united. The Finns possess a poetical legend relating to this annual custom. Kolt and Amarrik, the sunset and sunrise, beseeched the lord of the sky to give them permission to be eternally a bride and bridegroom and once a year to clasp each other in their glowing arms."

Mohammedan Serenity.

A Mohammedan people enjoy one great advantage over all others—they never suffer from the anticipation of that which is to come, and, as a natural result, they can always enjoy the present, although only a few hours may separate them from disaster or even from death. Their implicit belief in an ordained future imparts a dignified repose and outward calm to all their actions. Thus, in spite of the trials and troubles which threatened the state during my stay at Fez, a smooth surface of unchangeable serenity veiled the inner thoughts of every individual, from the sultan to the negro at his gates.—Blackwood Magazine

London Street Noises.

A hundred years or so ago no punishment could have been worse than that of subjecting the victim to the inferno of modern London noises if they had then existed. Dropping water on the forehead, torturing with tweezers, setting food before the starving culprit—out of reach—all of these were exquisite and refined forms of horror, but they all pale before a night and a day in a modern London street.—Town and Country.

His Defense.

Cobbie—You certainly have a good cook. By the way, where do you get your servants? Stone—From our neighbors. When we hear of a good one among them we offer her more money to come with us. Cobbie—But, my dear fellow, is that honorable? Stone—Why not? Can you develop a sense of honor with a poor digestion?—Life.

Quite a Difference.

First Comedian—What's the difference between a beautiful young girl and a codfish? Second Comedian—Give it up. First Comedian—One has a chance to become a fall bride and the other to become a half fried.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Supersubundance.

"Did that manager discover any humor in your play?" "Yes," answered the gloomy author. "He said the whole thing was a joke."—Exchange.

The Best Lullabies.

The motherly woman who has raised half a dozen children can beat all the divas that ever "dove" at slugging lullabies that really lull.—Galveston News.

Ben Franklin was the oldest signer of the Declaration of Independence.

AGED LIONS.

The Big Brutes Get Lazy and Spiritless as They Grow Old.

As he grows old a lion gets lazy and spiritless, says Everybody's. The haughty beast that stares at the crowd outside his cage usually is as fierce of spirit as a fat night watchman who blinks out upon the dark world through the circle of light cast by the lamp at his feet.

With plenty to eat, nothing to annoy him and a keeper to look after his cage, the king of beasts becomes as peaceful, portly and self satisfied as some of our latter day human monarchs, whose ministers of army, navy, state and other things take proper care of the regal edge and see to it that the usual three square meals per day await the royal gullet at the proper hours.

The story book impression that lions are always on the hunt in their native jungle is quite at variance with the truth. Indeed, the older lions will frequently go hungry or seek the leavings of another beast's kill rather than summon the energy to hunt prey for themselves.

In a group of ten or twelve trained lions two or three young, nervous animals usually supply the act with all its dash and spirit. The others are somnambulists.

Tigers, too, frequently grow lethargic with advancing years, but never to such a degree as the aging lion. There is always a pinch of ginger in the big striped cat. For that reason he makes a more spectacular performer than the lion and usually a tougher proposition for the trainer.

THE PARANOIC.

Queer Delusions That Come With This Curious Mental Disease.

"That curious form of mental disease known as paranoia is seldom or ever cured," said a noted Chicago alienist.

"A paranoiac may be able to transact business with a fair degree of efficiency, but, as a rule, few of this class can be made to stick to work, as the nature of the manly prevents concentration of mind. One so possessed is afflicted with strange delusions, especially with the notion that he is being persecuted. Many an individual who is denominated a crank has paranoia. In general these unfortunate are misanthropic, have no social intercourse with their fellows and are brooding and introspective. Very often their mania leads them to the notion that they have been born to lead mankind in a religious way, and they proclaim themselves prophets of God. Quite often, too, they are discoverers of some wonderful invention that will astonish the world.

"It was a paranoiac who followed the great actress Mary Anderson from place to place, declaring himself her favored suitor and threatening to kill any man who sought her company. These threats were what led to the locking up of the demented creature, and I believe he finally shot one of the asylum attendants. Paranoiacs very frequently develop homicidal tendencies, and it is prudent to watch them at all times."—Baltimore American.

The Birds' Nests That Men Eat.

The swifts arrive in the Andaman Islands toward the end of November, but they take their time in building the nests, which are formed from a gelatinous secretion from the salivary glands of these beautiful members of the swallow tribe. If there has been a wet December, the first crop of nests is generally a poor one, being soiled by the damp and drippings from the roofs of the caves. Collectors, however, begin in January to go around the island to the different caves in an open boat. The best quality resemble pure Isinglass and are worth their weight in silver. Afterward there are two other collections. The caves in which the nests are found are scattered about the islands. Some are far inland, others in rocks concealed in mangrove swamps.—London News.

Bogus Antiques.

Old statuary is made in great quantities in Italy, Bohemia and Belgium furnish glass of the middle ages, and every European capital has its makers of antiques. Berlin and Vienna makers are kept busy with the home trade, but Paris, London, Brussels, Rome, Florence, Smyrna and Munich are commercial centers for this class of merchandise. The business has grown to such proportions that Nuremberg, Vienna and Livorno have museums where counterfeit works are exhibited and where their style of manufacture may be studied.—Berlin Post.

Chinese Flat Noses.

"The Chinese mother," the ethnologist explained, "carries her babe in a sack on her back. The babe's nose is pressed against her. Day in and day out, all through its babyhood, the little thing's soft and malleable nose is pressed against its mother's back. Hence it is no wonder, is it, that the Chinese are a flat nosed race?"

Too Much.

"Of course," said the lady with the steel bound glasses, "I expected to be called 'strong minded' after making a speech three hours long in favor of our sex, but to have it misprinted into 'strong winded' was too, too much."

He Traveled Light.

"That hall room boarder moved today." "I didn't see any trunk go out." "There was none. I guess he placed his effects in an envelope and mailed 'em to the new address."—Kansas City Journal.

Old and New Fairy Tales Compared.

Few men of our generation have contributed more clean fun and laughter for children and grown-ups than W. W. Denslow, the artist-author. Since "Father Goose" appeared some ten years ago, with Denslow's imitable pictures, a long line of his picture books and story books have been published and widely read. Mr. L. Frank Baum's "Wizard of Oz," which first appeared as a book with more than a hundred Denslow pictures, has been on the stage continuously for many years. Recently Mr. Denslow has become a contributor to St. Nicholas, and his latest work, a series of pictures and verse, "When I Grow Up," which set forth day dreams of an American youngster, are to appear throughout the year. Aside from his success as a producer of laughter and wholesome fun, he has performed an important and recognized service for juvenile literature of the day in pointing out the defects of old fairy tales and in keeping his picture books and his work free of such harmful elements. His many imitators repeat the truth of his ideas. In discussing his views Mr. Denslow said:

"My aim in children's pictures and verse is to furnish good, clean wholesome fun for children, eliminating the deceit, murder and theft that is so rife in the older fairy tales. These elements are so harmful to a child reading of downright treachery and cruelty does not recognize the wrong of it, but deems it proper and worthy of imitation. Anyhow, keep this spirit out of the stories, verse and pictures that children read and you never contribute injurious ideas.

"Action, children demand, and you can give them plenty of wholesome action, fun and entertainment without ever employing the easier trick of crowding force into your humor by impressions of brutality, cunning, deceit or the shock of horror and gore. You can even invent tales and pictures of pirates abounding in adventure and daring, without even hinting at the blacker side of the once respectable profession practiced under the black flag.

The Modern Fairy Tale.

The fairy tales of the modern day are gradually following the new standards and the effect on the youngsters who read this better class of juvenile writing, is even now appreciable. They are growing up into wholesome, sane maturity, free from the boghoses, the horrors and fear inspired by the older type of writing that exulted in piled up impressions of barbarity.

"In teaching a boy arithmetic you drill him continuously day by day and he learns to think and reason properly. Even in his games he must practice continuously to excel. It follows logically, that continued and regular reading of a magazine that interests and absorbs him will instill into him the type of ideas and impressions it conveys. An author who writes for young people and has any serious appreciation for the formative results of juvenile reading, welcomes the opportunity afforded him by the magazine of recognized literary quality."

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Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Lists train routes and times between Bellefonte and other stations.

BELLEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD

Schedule to take effect Monday Jan. 6, 1909.

Table with columns: WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Stations, Times. Lists train routes and times between Bellefonte and other stations.

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J. C. MEYER—Attorney-at-Law, Rooms 20 & 21, Crider's Exchange, Bellefonte, Pa. 49-44

N. B. SPANGLER—Attorney-at-Law, Practices in all the Courts. Consultation in English and German. Office in Crider's Exchange, Bellefonte, Pa. 40-23

H. S. TAYLOR—Attorney and Counselor at Law, Office, Garman House Block, Bellefonte, Pa. All kinds of legal business attended to promptly. 49-49

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