

BIRTH OF A VOLCANO.

Though volcanoes are often spoken of as burning mountains, they do not burn at all, nor, in the proper sense of the word, are they mountains at all.

As the melted rock jets up into the air and falls it naturally builds itself into a mountain round the hole.

When the force is not so great the lava in the pipe simply bubbles over and flows down the sides of the mountain, exactly as porridge boils over the edge of a pot.

And a volcano never burns. What looks like flame is only the glow of the white hot lava on the clouds of steam.

Sometimes a cone sends out lava and cinders alternately, so that you have a great mountain of cinders bound together by layers and walls of lava.

When Etna is really roused it is far more dangerous than Vesuvius. In 1169 it nearly destroyed the city of Catania, killing 15,000 people.

The greatest volcanic eruption ever known took place in the East Indies in 1883. The story makes almost incredible reading. The volcanic island of Krakatoa commenced proceedings by blowing half of itself into thin air.

A column of steam and lava dust rose into the air to a height six times as great as that of Mount Everest. It spread and spread till for hundreds of miles around the air was black as midnight.

Sea waves fifty feet high killed 35,000 people and were felt as far off as California. Instead of an island half a mile high there was now a hole a quarter of a mile deep.

The exact cause of the eruptions is not known for certain. A popular theory is that they are caused by water getting in to the white hot mass which is supposed to lie under the outer crust of the earth.

Some lava flows slowly, some quickly. Vesuvius in 1805 sent out a lava stream that in four minutes had reached a spot four miles off.

Lava cools very, very slowly, except on the surface, which cools at once. It is an extremely bad conductor of heat. Twenty years after a stream of lava was sent out from Jorullo, in Mexico, tourists could light their cigars through chinks in the surface, and the surface had been cold for twenty years.

The suggestion has been made that goats' meat prices should be taken away from the provisions list and quoted in the butter market.

The heart of man is never as hard as his head.—Lamartine.

What Causes It and What Would Happen Without It.

Why will two things in contact not slip over each other easily? It is because every substance known to science has teeth; microscopic, it is true, but still teeth.

It has actually been observed in a microscope that if the push is only a slight one and moves the book only a short distance, on the pressure of the hand being removed the book actually jumps back to its former position.

In some things we want as much friction as possible and in others as little. The former is illustrated in the friction between an engine wheel and the track, and sometimes being poured on the track to increase the friction.

Many peculiar things would happen if there was no friction. All screws in wood would immediately twist backward rapidly and shoot out into the air; trains could not run save on cogged rails, which would probably be necessary above as well as below, thus having four rails instead of two; buildings would tumble down, and new ones could not be built unless molded in place like Edison's or else riveted together.

People would have to wear shoes with long spikes in them and then have to be careful, for dirt grains would slip over one another easily and would act like deep sand. But one great thing would happen—machines would run at 100 per cent efficiency, would give out as much energy as was put into them.

The same manners and customs prevail in the Bokhara of today that were familiar to our night prowling friend of Bagdad. A blindfolded horse still plods round and round beneath a beam, grinding the corn between an upper and a nether millstone.

The world moves slowly in Bokhara. The city gates still close with the setting sun. After dark no one is allowed abroad, the only sound at night being the melancholy beating of the watchman's drum as he patrols the streets with a lantern in his quest, unlike Diogenes, of a dishonest man.

With its filth, fanaticism, vice, cruelty and corruption, Bokhara the Noble, as its people insist on calling it, comes nearer to being a hell on earth than any place I know, and that is the best that I can say about it.—E. Alexander Powell in Everybody's.

After a visit to England once Mark Twain said on his return to New York: "Among other honors heaped upon me by Englishmen was that of being photographed in parliament. I am not a member of parliament. But neither am I a member of congress. Has any fellow American suggested that I should be photographed in congress? No. I blush to say that they have not. And yet here is an honor that might without risk be bestowed on any great man. And yet it was not bestowed upon Washington, Jefferson or Lincoln. When I saw that photograph, with the mother of parliaments in the background, and realized my advancing years I said to myself, 'Here are two noble monuments of antiquity—two shining examples of the survival of the fittest!'"

"Too many people," said a clergyman, "regard their religion as did the little boy in the jam closet. His mother pounced on him suddenly. He stood on tiptoe, lading jam with both hands from the jam pot to his mouth."

"Oh, Jacky," his mother cried, "And only last night you prayed to be made a saint!"

"His face, an expressionless mask of jam, turned toward her. "Yes, but not till after I'm dead," he explained."

Mrs. Nocsah—Mercy! You let your girl off every afternoon? Neighbor—Yes, indeed; it is such a saving. The more she is away the fewer dishes she breaks.—Illustrated Bits.

Sloth never arrived at the attainment of a good wish.—Cervantes.

Easy Way in Which the Intent of a Law May Be Changed.

"A Joker in its simplest form consists in a word or a clause which, introduced into proposed legislation, flicks away from the public its power to establish such laws as it desires, either by emasculating an enactment or by perverting the essence and purpose of it."

"Sometimes it is in one word, as where the sale of a piece of public property to the lowest bidder was once authorized. Sometimes it may inhere in that elusive character, the comma, as in the case of the tariff clause of an old schedule providing for the free entry of fruit plants, where somebody carelessly allowed a comma to creep in between 'fruit' and 'plants,' thereby admitting millions of oranges and lemons into the country duty free and costing the treasury hundreds of thousands of dollars in loss of imports.

"Again, the entire body of the proviso may constitute the joker by purporting to carry one meaning when it in reality carries quite another. Congress still preserves the tradition of the Irish representative from Massachusetts who proposed that March 17 be made a legal holiday in celebration of the 'Boston tea party.' Several New Englanders whose zeal exceeded their erudition warmly supported the measure until some one pointed out that March 17 was much more closely associated with the supposed birth of the proposer's patron saint than with the destruction of the obnoxious tea, which latter, indeed, was a midwinter festival."

The pearl divers of Japan are the women. Along the coast of the bay of Ago and the bay of Gokasho the thirteen and fourteen year old girls, after they have finished their primary school work, go to sea and learn to dive.

They are in the water and learn to swim almost from babyhood, and they spend most of their time in the water except in the coldest season, from the end of December to the beginning of February.

Even during the most inclement of seasons they sometimes dive for pearls. They wear a special dress, white under and the hair twisted up into a hard knot. The eyes are protected by glasses to prevent the entrance of water. Tubs are suspended from the waist.

A boat in command of a man is assigned to every five to ten women divers to carry them to and from the fishing grounds. When the divers arrive on the grounds they leap into the

water at once and begin to gather oysters at the bottom. The oysters are dropped into the tubs suspended from their waists.

When these vessels are filled the divers are raised to the surface and jump into the boats. They dive to a depth of from five to thirty fathoms without any special apparatus and retain their breath while remaining under water from one to three minutes. Their ages vary from thirteen to forty years, and between twenty-five and thirty-five they are at their prime.—New York Sun.

The Court Always Tries to Settle Them by Reconciliation.

In one important respect the Swiss surpass other nations in the management of their divorce cases, says an English correspondent.

In every town there is a kind of official paper known as the Feuille d'avis, in which one may read daily the following announcement:

"M. and Mme. X., who are in instance of divorce, are requested to appear privately before the judge, alone or with their lawyers, in order to come to a reconciliation if possible."

Before the beginning of every divorce case in Switzerland this notice is published and sent out to the interested parties, leaving the couple, of course, free to attend before the judge or not, as they wish. Often the couple meet.

Although there are no statistics published on the subject, I am told by a leading lawyer in Geneva whose specialty is divorce cases that at least 90 per cent of divorce cases—"much to my loss unfortunately," the lawyer added, with a smile—are settled by the paternal advice of the judge at these meetings out of court.

In fact, Swiss lawyers will not definitely take up a divorce case until it has passed through the reconciliation process.

If one of the couple does not attend the rendezvous this means that the affair is to be fought out, but in any case Swiss divorces are not expensive.

The average cost in a contested case is \$200, often \$100, and the lowest when both parties are agreed \$10 or \$15.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Be a Real Power in the World.

It is a great thing to start out in active life with the resolution that you will not be a mere cipher in your community, but a real constructive force; that you will stand for something more than a real living getter or a dollar gatherer; that you will not be merely one more citizen, but a strong, robust, vigorous force, a power respected, a force that moves things. To be known as a progressive man who stands for everything that is for the betterment of his community, every one should be ambitious to be something as a citizen besides a specialist in his vocation.—Success Magazine.

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Johnnie told his mother that his new pants were much tighter than his skin. Why, how could that be? Well, I can sit down with the skin on and I cannot with the pants on.

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