

A CRUSH OF WORLDS.

How Our Solar System May End and a New One Be Born.

The whole of the present solar system is ultimately to fall into the sun, causing an explosion that may result in a new solar system. Such is the theory put forward by Professor Philip Fauth, a well known astronomer, whose reputation has rested principally upon his researches into the conditions on the moon.

The novel feature of Dr. Fauth's theory is that it is based upon the supposition that a great part of the known solar system, including especially the planets Jupiter, Uranus and Saturn, are not composed of mineral matter at all, but are tremendous masses of ice or balls of ice surrounding a mineral kernel. Furthermore, he declares, a part of what is now known as the Milky way is not mineral or gaseous, but "a ring of ice dust," masses of particles of ice suspended in space, the other planets receiving a constant addition to their ice mass from this source.

Professor Fauth declares that the world already at some remote periods has had a similar experience, resulting in the death of nearly all animate nature, and that all species of life as we know it have arisen since then. Eventually the planets swinging through their narrow orbits will fall into the sun, causing a new explosion and perhaps the birth of a new solar system, but for thousands of years before that time, all life, either on earth or elsewhere, will have disappeared.—Kansas City Journal.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

Influence of the "Great Circle" on the Journey to Manila.

If you wanted to go from the Panama canal to Yokohama which of these two would be the shorter route? First, across the ocean to Hawaii and from there to Yokohama, or, second, up along the coast to San Francisco and then directly across the Pacific to Asia?

Nearly everybody would answer in favor of the Hawaiian route. But the navigators tell us the journey is 200 miles shorter by way of San Francisco. The "great circle" does it. Its influence on distance sends ships from San Francisco to Manila by way of the Aleutian islands. Actually our vessels would go much farther north than they do but for the discouragement of the United States hydrographic bureau at Washington, which advises a central route, more than 200 miles longer than the great circle, in order to escape the fogs and ice of the far north.

The Hawaiian Islands are frequently described as "the crossroads of the Pacific." Their people are naturally looking forward to wonderful commercial development. They will doubtless enjoy substantial progress as a commercial center because many conditions in ocean currents and in prevailing winds and in fuel costs favor Honolulu as a way station route. But it is well to remember that these islands were planted a little too near the equator to be a crossroads of the north Pacific.—Boston Herald.

Wonderful Names.

The seventeenth century jurymen had one disadvantage to contend with from which his successor is happily free. He was frequently burdened with an intolerable name. James Broome in his "Travels Over England, Scotland and Wales," a work published in 1700, gives a copy of "a Jury Return made at Rye, Sussex, in the late Rebellious, Troublesome Times." Here are the names: "Stand fast on high Stringer of Crowhurst, Earth Adams of Warbleton, Killin Pimple of Witham, Graceful Harding of Lewes, Weep not Billing of the same, Be Faithful Joiner of Britling, Fly Debate Roberts of the same, Fight the good Fight of Faith White of Emes, Return Spelman of Watling, Meek Brewer of Oakham, More Fruit Fowler of East Hodley, Hope for Binding of the same."—London Chronicle.

He Saved the Patent Office.

When in the war of 1812 the British, who had taken Washington, trained their guns upon the patent office. Dr. Thornton, throwing himself directly before the guns, cried:

"Are you Englishmen or Goths and Vandals? This is the patent office—a depository of the ingenuity and inventions of the American nation in which the whole civilized world is interested. Would you destroy it? Then let the charge pass through my body."

And the building was spared. Twenty-four years afterward, however, it was destroyed by fire, together with everything in it.

Couldn't Forget It.

"Saturday night some miscreant lugged off a whole cord of my wood, and somehow I can't forget about it," declared Silas.

"Have you tried to forget it?" inquired his friend.

"Yes. Sunday morning I went to church, hoping I could get it off my mind, and before I had been there five minutes the choir started in singing 'The Lost Chord,' so I got out."—Judge.

Explanation.

"Willie, did you tie that tin can to the dog's tail?"

"Yes, sir," replied the small boy. "I'm trying to do a kind act every day. That dog chases every rabbit he sees. I tied the can to him so that it will make a noise and warn the rabbit."—Washington Star.

ROUSED SAILOR'S IRE

CAPTAIN RATHER RESENTED UNMÉRITED REBUKE.

Forced to Lighten Ship in a Hurry, It Was a Case of Heaving Overboard the First Cargo Reached, as He Could Prove.

Seventy or eighty years ago the only regular passenger vessels from London to New York were the American Black X liners. Capt. Josiah Joshua Champion was the oldest and best-known man on the line. He did not believe in hurricanes or cyclones, and when he heard of ships being dismantled in them, always attributed such disasters to rotten rigging or spars.

Fire was the one thing which the captain rather dreaded, and at sea, according to him, "it had one point in its favor over fire ashore, namely, that water in a general way was plenty and handy."

"But," the captain always added, "my carpenter is a smart man, and spends most of his spare time between decks among the steerage people. And no mistake about it, the yarns he spins down there about his escapes from ships afire are not calculated to make them careless about lights."

When a young man, the captain was once "popped" in running too long before a heavy gale, when something started about the stern-post, and he was forced to jettison some of the cargo in order to lighten his ship aft and get at the leak.

He was loaded with flour, cheeses, apples, and American clocks. The clocks unfortunately were the first things that could be got at. In consequence over two hundred cases of clocks went to the bottom before the cheese boxes were reached.

He lightened his ship nearly a hundred tons aft in twelve hours, some of the steerage passengers keeping the pumps going while the crew handed up clocks and cheeses.

"No, sir," said Captain Champion, "I guess I didn't have to coax them passengers any. I just told 'em they'd get to pump or drown! But when I got home again in New York, and my owners asked, 'How was it, Mr. Champion, that it did not occur to you to select something of less value than them timepieces?' I felt pretty small. I only said:

"Well, gentlemen, I rather wish you had been there yourselves, to pick and choose that night."

"Yes, sir, that riled me, specially as my wife was with me that voyage, and her own private pianny was one of the first things that went overboard."

Distress in Palestine.

Letters from Palestine report great destitution in Jerusalem and other parts of the land. There have been no imports for a year. The internal resources have been taxed to supply the army. Food is both scarce and exceedingly dear. The tourist trade, which gave employment to many, and brought much money to the country, is cut off, and with it the manufacture of fancy articles, souvenirs and trinkets which was the chief industry. Agriculture is hampered by the absence of the able-bodied men in the army. Banking has been suspended for many months. Three women missionaries of the Christian and Missionary alliance are carrying on the school and other work of that society in Jerusalem, and the Syrian staff are said to be doing their part nobly. Missionaries both at home and still on the field believe that the end of the war will bring unparalleled opportunities in Palestine.

Prehistoric Camels.

A partially restored skeleton of a small ancestral camel, *Stenomylus hitchcocki*, from the lower Miocene of Nebraska, has just been added to the exhibited collection in the geological department of the British museum. The specimen was obtained from Prof. F. B. Loomis of Amherst college, Mass., who discovered the remains of a herd of these small animals which had been suddenly destroyed and buried by some local accident. As a camel, *Stenomylus* is remarkable for its extremely slender build, which would render it as agile as a gazelle. It also has molar teeth with unusually deep crowns, so that it would be able to feed on hard and dry grasses. It was therefore more completely adapted for life on open plains and uplands than the other camels which abounded in North America in Oligocene and Miocene times.

Everything Changed.

A Cleveland party went out automobiling the other night and had an unpleasant mishap. It occurred on the Euclid road not far from Willoughby. A four-footed creature of intensified odor got in the way of the car. Nobody in the auto noticed the impact, but everybody noticed the appalling result.

The man who drove the car told a friend about it the next day. "Terrible," the friend agreed. "I suppose you all had to change your clothes?"

"Change our clothes!" snorted the chief victim. "Why, we even had to change our tires!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Easily Disposed Of.

"I understand you got several wedding gifts."

"We did. At first I thought I'd have to hire a safe deposit vault, but after going over the stuff we simply stored 'em in a barrel in the cellar."

LET HIS OPPORTUNITY GO

Now New York Lawyer is Regretting His Lack of Foresight That Cost Fortune.

"I suppose every man who has lived very long among the men who do things looks back with some degree of regret upon not exactly what he has lost, but what he might have had if his foresight had been as good as his hindsight," said a New York lawyer. "I am one of these, and it didn't happen a great while ago, either."

"An inventive friend of mine who had given me his legal business to attend to came around one day with a new thing in doing something or other to rubber and told me if I cared to go in half with him I could do so by putting up a certain amount of money. The amount was small enough, but I hadn't any to spare and less to lose, and told him I was satisfied with the legal part of my connection, and didn't care to risk any of my hard-earned savings. He wasn't broke by a whole lot, and told me he wasn't offering the chance to anybody else, and I'd better take it, but I wouldn't be persuaded. He gave me a gentle laugh of scorn and went his way."

"Not long after he went abroad with his invention and was gone three or four months, letting me hear from him occasionally, and saying all was going well. Next I had a cablegram telling me when he was sailing, and to meet him the following week Tuesday at a certain dock. I was there when the ship came in, and he was feeling so good that he fairly yelled at me as he came down the gangway. And he had reason to yell and I had reason to kick myself, for he had sold his process or invention for \$735,000 in cash and \$2,250,000 in the stock of the new corporation. You see I would have been a millionaire that very minute if my foresight had been worth anything and I had taken his offer when I had the chance. Of course it meant some luck to me, for the fees grew, and I got \$20,000 or more out of it, but \$20,000 doesn't make a millionaire, does it?"

Big Field of Sweet Peas.

The largest single field of sweet peas in the world is to be found in southern California, near Redondo, London Tit-Bits states. It comprises 350 acres, in which are grown sweet peas of nearly every known variety and color. It constitutes a truly interesting sight, and the fragrance from the flowers loads the air so heavily as to be almost unbearable. Another single field of carnations, 20 acres in area, located near by, yearly affords a similar marvelous sight.

Besides these immense fields of sweet peas and carnations there are many smaller areas in California devoted, respectively, to the growing for market of chrysanthemums, violets, daisies, asters, dahlias, all kinds of lilies, roses and so forth. They are cultivated in much the same way as vegetables, requiring on an average about the same care. Many of the flowers are sold through the flower shops of the cities, but the chief income to the growers comes from the sale of seeds. The annual shipments of flower seeds from California amount to many tons.

Novel Fruit Barrels.

A partitioned barrel has been invented by a fruit man in British Columbia, patents for which have been applied for in Canada and this country. It is similar to any ordinary barrel, according to a commerce report, but it is divided into two equal parts by partitions which are adjusted so that the barrel may be sawed in two without injuring the contents, practically making two half barrels. The advantages claimed for the new barrel are that it can be made of cheap sawed lumber, shipped in the "knock down" state and assembled easily at the packing house; also that the fruit can be shipped without wrapping because of the firmness imparted by the central partition. The fruit shipped in it is said to arrive in perfect condition.

Digs Up Ancient Homes.


Prof. Nels O. Nelson of the American Museum of Natural History, excavating the ruins of the Taos, near Santa Fe, New Mexico, this summer has cleared out 470 rooms and one kiva in six pueblos ranging in age from the time of the cliff dwellers to late Spanish dates.

In San Marcos, Pueblo, he has outlined 43 separate stone buildings with a total of 3,000 ground floor rooms. Sixteen skeletons have been taken out whole and 45 more reinterred, while Professor Nelson has recovered and classified thousands of implements, pieces of pottery, bones of various animals and perfectly preserved corn, beans, squash and pumpkins.


He also has outlined immense irrigation or water storage works built by the prehistoric dwellers in these villages.

China Awakening.

The Chinese business men of Hangchow, in the Shanghai district, have organized the United Association for Advancing the Nation to Use Native Goods. At the initial meeting six means of advancing the usefulness of the association were pointed out: Enlist the sympathies of all schools and colleges throughout the country, print short notices in the daily press, employ men to go around and give public addresses to the people, distribute handbills giving names and short descriptions of native goods, keep in touch by letter and otherwise with the chamber of commerce and dealers in foreign goods, and call upon the nation to use native goods.



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