

CITY HAS LONG BEEN DEAD

Tiahuanaco, in Bolivia, Collection of Ruins of Which Even the Incas Knew Nothing.

One of the numerous cities claiming the title "oldest city in the world," is Tiahuanaco, near Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. A thousand years ago, say the scientists, Tiahuanaco was as dead as it is today, and that is practically all that anybody knows of its history.

There would be nearly as much of the old city visible today as there was in the time of the Incas, had not the stones been so attractive to the Indians of nearby villages. As it is, beautifully carved idols have gone to decorate the door fronts of humble cottages, and polished stones to prop up chimneys and pave floors.

After several centuries of this plunder the government of Bolivia put a ban on removing stones from the ruins, but there was then little left of old Tiahuanaco. A few stone gods as huge and angular as any deities of Egypt, the sites of a fortress, a palace and many tombs, all vaguely marked by worn carved stones are scattered over a great desolate plain.

SURELY HAD GREAT FAITH

Or Else It Was First Time This Man Had Ever Gone After Forgotten Umbrella.

Oh, ye of little faith, listen, for I would a tale unfold. A man came flying down the street the other day. He looked like Atlas with the world on his shoulders. He seemed bent on going somewhere and getting there quickly.

The Marathon pedestrian said: "Yes, I am in a little hurry. I was down street shopping a couple of days ago and went into a department store, and when I got home I found I had left my umbrella. I know just where I left it, on the south side of the store, standing up against the counter. I thought I would run down and get it before another shower came up."

Just think of it. Why, if I had that man's faith I could not only turn a mole hill into a mountain and sell the gravel to the government to make concrete ships, but I could move the mountain with a broom handle.

After parting with that old rain shedder he had blind faith that he would feast his eyes on it again. Forty-eight hours of golden moments had flitted by, and he had the idea that all he had to do was to stand in front of the store and whistle, and that umbrella would come to meet him, bringing a flock of little umbrellas with it.

The Lucky Horseshoe.

It was about the middle of the seventeenth century that the superstitious use of horseshoes as emblems of good luck originated in England. They were at first deemed a protection against witches and evil spirits, and were nailed on doors of houses, with the curve uppermost. It was the belief that no witch or evil spirit could enter a house thus guarded.

Joy in Conquest.

Life's master-key does for its possessor what is impossible to those who do not have it. No future is too forbidding for men of the right mental fiber to fear. Weaklings falter and turn back. Men of talent turned to right channels delight in meeting what has brought failure to the many. It offers to them a chance to try the really hard things. They alone test the skill and prove the mettle. Such men bring wealth out of defeat, and rejoice in the struggle. It's no wonder they step forward and try what has brought failure to others.

France's War Expenditure.

In a speech before the chamber of deputies at Paris on March 12, Louis Klotz, minister of finance, gave some figures on France's war spendings. Among other items were \$2,225,000,000 for pay of the troops. The total expenditure of the ministry of war was \$23,800,000,000. The navy cost was \$1,125,000,000.

BORN OF EMPRESS' DREAM

Persian Legend Concerning the Design and Construction of the Beautiful Taj Mahal.

A beautiful story, which is not generally known, of the creation of the Taj Mahal is hidden away in the pages of the Persian manuscripts. The emperor wished to commemorate his undying devotion and esteem for his beloved consort, but nothing satisfied his ambition, until one day Arjumand told him that in a dream she had seen the noblest and most perfect of monuments, which if actualized, would be unparalleled in the whole world for its matchless beauty.

He then presented a mysterious picture to one of the architects, before whose dazed eyes the lovely monument in all its glory was revealed. The magic of the picture lasted while he drew the plan in all its detail, then he fell back exhausted. The empress, seeing the design of her vision realized, was full of joy and the emperor at once set to work to have this edifice constructed. The impossibility of laying a firm foundation next presented itself.

"Sweeter to rest together dead, Far sweeter than to live asunder." —Asia Magazine.

COURT AT LEAST CONSISTENT

Judge Remitted Fine When He Committed Indiscretion for Which He Punished Lawyer.

Our famous president, Abraham Lincoln, during his early career as a lawyer, traveled a circuit in Illinois. Judge David Davis and Lincoln were close friends, says the author of "Lincoln's Own Stories," and the judge always showed a keen appreciation of Lincoln's stories.

"I was never fined but once for contempt of court," said a man who was a clerk of court in Lincoln's day. "Davis fined me five dollars. Mr. Lincoln had just come in, and leaning over my desk, had told me a story so irresistibly funny that I broke out in a loud laugh. The judge called me to order, saying—

"This must be stopped. Mr. Lincoln, you are constantly disturbing this court with your stories."

"Then he said to me: 'You may fine yourself five dollars.' 'I apologized to the court, but told the judge that the story was worth the money. Shortly afterwards the judge called me to him.

"What was that story Lincoln told to you?" he asked. "I told him, and he laughed aloud, in spite of himself.

"Remit your fine!" he ordered."

Skeletons of Extinct Bird.

Of the ten known existing skeletons of the great auk in the world, the United States is the only country possessing two. Greater Boston has these, one being in the museum of the Boston Society of Natural History and the other in the Harvard university museum.

The Boston museum contains also an egg of this extinct bird. In view of the fact that a single egg has brought as high as \$535, this is considered a most valuable relic.

This flightless sea-bird formerly was distributed along the northern coasts and islands of North America. In its coat of sober coloring with a vest of snowy white it resembled nothing so much as a short man in evening dress. Since it was flightless, the bird was easily exterminated, the natives relishing it as a food. It probably was wholly exterminated by 1844.

Havana's High-Sounding Name.

The full name of the capital of Cuba is San Cristobal de la Habana. In 1834 a royal decree conferred upon the city the sounding title, "Llave del Nuevo Mundo y Antemural de las Indias Occidentales," which signifies "Key of the New World and Bulwark of the West Indies." In emphasis, the coat-of-arms of the municipality bears a symbolic key and representations of the fortresses of Morro, Punta and Fuerza.

In 1850 the city rose to be the commercial center of the Spanish-American possessions, and the principal rendezvous of the royal fleets that carried on the trade monopoly between Spain and America.

First Malleable Platinum.

The first veritable platinum ingot was made by a French chemist, Cabaneau, in 1783. Charles III of Spain had called him to Madrid and created a special chair of mineralogy, physics and chemistry for him. In his laboratory he found the secret of rendering the new metal malleable, and this is the way he revealed the fact to one of his patrons: "Three months later, at the home of the Count of Aranda, there appeared upon a table an ingot some 10 centimeters cube (about four inches), with a beautiful metallic luster; it was malleable platinum."—New York Herald.

SAHARA MAY BE RECLAIMED

Good Possibility of Its Being Made Into a Reasonably Productive Agricultural Country.

That the Sahara will some day "blossom like the rose," or at any rate like a reasonably productive agricultural country, is the gist of an article by J. Nicholas Brusse in La Nation of Paris. For more than a quarter of a century, Mr. Brusse declares, although people in general have thought of the Sahara as an enormous, permanently hopeless expanse of sand, those acquainted with the results of a geographical survey conducted about 1895 have known also that the Sahara is not absolutely unfit for either plant or animal life. Rain falls sometimes in the great desert and there are underground streams that could be made available for water.

PRINCE'S MEMORY WAS GOOD

Heir to British Throne Had One Quality That Is Indispensable to Politician.

On one occasion Mr. Louis Sterne, an engineer and inventor, and a friend of Charles Dickens, showed the late Edward VII, then prince of Wales, his exhibits at South Kensington and the Crystal palace.

"The next time I met the prince," said Mr. Sterne, "I was crossing Piccadilly, at the top of St. James street. In trying to escape being run down I ran directly into the arms of his royal highness. He at once recognized me and said: 'Mr. Sterne, you should give this traffic time and never cross the bows.' I expressed surprise that he should recognize me, to which he replied that he never forgot either face or name if associated with any matter of interest."

Mr. Sterne met the prince again at a picture exhibition where a portrait of the late W. H. Smith was hung. Turning to the princess, his royal highness said:

"Hallo, there's Smith!" At once a man standing near turned around and acknowledged the recognition, offering his hand, which the prince unhesitatingly accepted. When this man, whose name happened to be Smith, recognized the prince, he became embarrassed and, with the lady who accompanied him, made his exit as soon as possible.

Shells Help Oil Geologist.

The little jellylike animals which the scientist calls Foraminifera swarm so abundantly in the sea that their tiny cast-off shells in some places make up a considerable part of the sediments which are laid down on the sea bottom and which in time may become beds of rock in a land area. The small size and the compactness of these shells protect them from some of the accidents that befall the remains of larger animals, so that in many samples of well borings the Foraminifera are the only shells that have survived in recognizable form the vicissitudes of drilling. In the hands of the specialist trained to identify fossils, the Foraminifera may furnish the only available clue to the age of rock inclosing them and consequently to the existence of strata or structure favorable or unfavorable to the accumulation of oil, gas or water, according to the United States geological survey.

How Word "Booze" Originated.

In the Pennsylvania museum, Memorial hall in Fairmount park, Philadelphia, can be seen a collection of highly decorated old bottles, and the one which attracts most attention is the log cabin whisky bottle, molded in the shape of a house. On one end is the inscription "120 Walnut street, Philadelphia," together with the date, which is "1840," on the front of the roof. On the back is stamped in bold letters, "E. G. Booz's old cabin whisky."

This erstwhile vendor of spirituous liquor is said to be responsible for the use in America of the slang appellation "booze," by which all kinds of intoxicating drinks are known today. Although some etymologists give it as being derived from the Hindustani word "booz," meaning to drink, while others claim it is from the Dutch "buizen" to tittle. The term was good English in the fourteenth century.

Confectionery of Ancient Egypt.

The invention of confectionery, an English writer guesses, is due to Noah, who "first hit on the idea of boiling down the starch of the wheat and the juice of the grape. The result was a paste, said to be the original of our present day 'Turkish delight.' Among the ancient Egyptians whole fruits, particularly figs and dates, were used for flavoring purposes, the latter especially for preserves and cakes. In old tombs date sweetmeats have been found, also records of honey jellies. The making of confectionery, in fact, goes back 3,400 years, proof of which is to be found on the walls of Egyptian tombs."

PLANE FOR BUDDING AVIATOR

Well Called the Penguin, Since It Moves Fast on Ground, but Is Unable to Fly.

Do you know what a penguin is? You may have read of it, but probably never have seen one. The penguin is an aquatic bird found in the polar regions. It is remarkable for its peculiar structure. It has only stumps in place of wings and, for that reason, is unable to fly. But it is a good walker and an expert swimmer and diver. The name of "penguin" has also been given to the training apparatus employed to teach prospective aviators the control of the airplane or seaplane. The name is well chosen. The penguin used for training is as unable to fly as its arctic namesake. It consists of an airplane with wings so very small that the power of the motor is unable to lift the airplane off the ground or water. It is supplied with ailerons, elevator, rudder and wheels exceptionally strong for running on the ground. The apprentice is encouraged to run this "penguin" to his heart's content; there is no danger that it will take to the air. In a short time he graduates to a real airplane that can and does fly, and then he can give all his attention to the flying part without having to worry over the handling of the various controls. The sense of safety he enjoys while learning is a great nerve sedative to the inexperienced aviator.

REMEDIES CALL FOR FAITH

Truly Weird and Wonderful Are Some "Cures" for Various Ills of the Human Body.

Weird and wonderful are the remedies advised in different parts of the world for diseases which affect humanity.

Sufferers from rheumatism may be pleased to hear that there are people who claim to have found a sure cure for their malady by binding split mackerel around the affected part.

The town of Lee, in England, still has on record the famous cure known as the "Lee Penny." This coin was brought from the Holy Land by a Crusader. On many occasions when the health of the people has been threatened this penny has been used. "Three dips and one swirl" in a bucket of water were supposed to endow the liquid with healing properties.

In many parts of Europe it is thought that passing under an ass a child suffering from whooping cough will bring instant relief.

Almost every one has heard of the curing of warts by touching them with a wedding ring. This "cure" is perhaps not so well known: Make the sign of the cross on a wart, at the same time chanting: 'What I see, that I wish; what I wish, that disappears.'

Uncrowned English Queens.

There have been several uncrowned queens of England. The first was Margaret of France, the second wife of Edward I. Money was scarce in the government coffers at the time, and Edward could not afford the expense of a coronation. The four later wives of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn's successors—Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr—were never publicly crowned as queen consorts. Henrietta Marie, the wife of Charles I, being a strict Catholic, refused to take part in a state function which would compel her to partake of the sacrament according to the rites of the Church of England. Sophia Dorothea, the wife of George I, and mother of George II, was never recognized as queen of England and therefore can not be classed as one of Britain's uncrowned queens. Caroline of Brunswick, the wife of George IV, was not permitted to be present in Westminster hall at his coronation.

Original "Lone Tree."

There was an immense cottonwood, four feet thick and very tall, which stood in Nebraska almost in the center of the continent, half way between New York and San Francisco, which was within one mile of that center. Under its branches rested thousands of 49-ers en route to the Eldorado of the Pacific coast. It was the best-known camping ground on the old California trail. From 1849, when the gold seekers rushed across the great plains down to the completion of the Union Pacific railway, the great tree was a guidepost to the wagon trains going west.

After the railway was completed there was no further use for the old tree and it eventually rotted away and died. In 1910 a monument was erected on the spot that the tree had occupied. It represents the trunk of a giant cottonwood and bears this inscription: "On this spot stood the original Lone Tree on the old California trail."

Australian Water Holes.

A curious form of water hole is found in the deserts of western Australia, dry by day but yielding an abundant supply of water by night. The flow of water is preceded by weird hissing and sounds of rushing air. On examining one it was found that the water supply occurred in a long narrow trench, at the bottom of which was a thin plate of gneiss, separated by a cavity from the main rock mass beneath. Apparently the heat of the day causes this plate to expand in the form of a depression, in which the water retreats. When it cools and contracts at night it forces first air and then water back into the trench.

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