

### BURIED IN JUNGLE

Tropic Growth Overwhelmed City of Angkor Thom.

Devastation Wrought, Especially by the Deadly Fig Tree, is So Complete as to Be Almost Unbelievable.

In the heart of Cambodia, one of the five provinces of French Indo-China, lie the ruins of the royal city of Angkor Thom, built somewhere between the fifth and seventh centuries, and of the marvelous temple, Angkor Wat. The architecture, which is Hindu, is being disentangled from jungle growths by French archeologists. The city and temple are thought to have been built by the Khmers, a long-vanished race which certainly has no connection with the Cambodians of the present day.

Writing in Harper's, Ellen N. La Motte describes a trip through the jungle on an elephant in order to visit one of the more remote ruins.

"In about ten minutes," she writes, "we found ourselves climbing over the fallen stones of an immense temple that lay completely buried and overgrown by the forest. So thick was the foliage that only a dim twilight prevailed. The supreme loneliness of that buried temple, the utter isolation and silence that enveloped it, were appalling, and our scrambling feet and hushed voices only intensified the awful stillness—the silence of centuries.

"The horror and vindictiveness of the jungle! Everywhere giant stones were overthrown, pushed out of place and toppled over in heaps through the sinister vitality of that deadly tree, the fig tree of the ruins. The roots of this tree begin as innocent, hairlike filaments which insinuate themselves through the crevices of the great stones and slip through tiny openings and cracks, then grow and develop with an evil vigor that nothing can withstand. They never die, never are starved out, these fine, hairlike roots. The big stones never crush or kill them. Year by year, century by century, their fierce strong life is fostered by the fierce heat and fierce rains of the tropics until they overthrow and destroy everything in their pathway.

"The question as to whether, in the event of March 4 falling on Sunday at the beginning of a term, there being an interregnum of one full day in the office, was first brought by John Quincy Adams when he was secretary of state. He applied for a dictum of the Supreme court to guide the manner of inaugurating President Monroe for his second term. The opinion of Chief Justice Marshall does not prohibit the president from taking the oath and entering his duties immediately after midnight of March 3, even if March 4 falls on Sunday.

"Only the most important and beautiful ruins are being reclaimed from the forest, those in Angkor Thom, as well as the Angkor Wat. These outlying ones are still left as originally discovered, buried and smothered by the everlasting forest. To me they are far more interesting in this sinister setting, choked and swamped by the mighty growth of the tropical jungle. They afford more thrills to me who am not an archeologist than the picked up, restored and cleared ruins that the government is reclaiming.

"Of course, one cannot see them very well, these buried temples, swamped in undergrowth, enveloped by a twilight gloom. And as I scramble over fallen images, over barbaric sculptures, my mind is largely set on serpents. And when we reach a fairly open space it turns to monkeys—the agile black gibbons that hoot and leap overhead at our coming, furious at the intrusion upon their solitude. Between snakes and monkeys there are times when I forget to admire these old temples, supposed to be among the most marvelous in the world."

#### Marshal Foch's Cane.

From the first days of the war Marshal Foch always carried a dapper stick with him. There is an interesting story connected with the cane that the head of the allied armies regarded so necessary. "It was carved for him in the early days of the war by one of his beloved poilus of the trenches," says the Home Sector, the ex-soldiers' weekly, "since which time, if reports are true, it has never left his side. It has made itself useful as well as ornamental on occasions, and there is a legend that it was used to map out the great strokes and counter-strokes of the summer and fall of 1918 by which the war was ended."

#### Saving the Wood.

"Our noble forests must be saved," exclaimed the theoretical conservationist. "They must," assented the man who goes into small details; "even if manufacturers are required to produce matches that will produce a light without using up half a box of each cigarette."

#### No Soldier Did This.

According to the new Standard dictionary it is: Craps, n. (Local, U. S.) A game of chance in which the object is to guess the numbers thrown on two dice.—Home Sector.

### ANIMAL LIFE AND CLIMATE

Abundant Proof That Extremes of Temperature Do Not Preclude Possibility of Existence.

The contention of Dr. Abbott of the Smithsonian astrophysical observatory that because of the cold climate of Mars life could not exist upon that planet is not convincing.

Polar bears rejoice in temperatures so low that little vegetation at any time of the year exists in the latitudes in which they are found. The existence of tigers in Korea, which has a New England climate, supposedly changed by sea currents when the country's fauna was tropical, shows how animals common to the hottest parts of the earth adapt themselves to climate as cold by comparison with the tropics as the climate of Mars is by comparison with the regions in which the Eskimos live. Monkeys from Africa died so fast of tuberculosis in heated houses that the mortality rate forced an experiment, as the result of which African monkeys are living out of doors all the year in one of Chicago's parks.

If life as we know it, human, animal or vegetable, could not withstand the climate of Mars, might not life adapted to the climate flourish? The fabulous salamander lived in fire. An Eskimo, newly arrived in Moscow or Bagdad, could believe that since men could live in such places reptiles easily might bask upon live coals and frolic in flames. Why might not life, adapted thereto, exist in a temperature of 300 degrees above, or below, zero if a man from the polar regions can become acclimated in the tropics, or vice versa?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### TAKE HIGH OFFICE MARCH 4

That Day Officially Set for Inauguration of the President of the United States.

President Washington was inaugurated for his second term, beginning March 4, 1793, and all the other presidents, except four, who were inaugurated March 5, because the 4th fell on Sunday.

The four exceptions were Presidents Monroe, second term, 1821; Taylor, 1849; Hayes, 1877; and President Wilson's second term, 1917. President Hayes took the oath March 3, 1877, and was formally inaugurated on the following Monday. President Wilson took the oath for his second term on Sunday, March 4. The usual inauguration parade took place the next day.

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#### Rare Biblical Collection.

An interesting collection of Bibles, some of which are rare books, others of which are valuable on account of their former possessors or donors, is installed in the Mount Holyoke college library. In one group are found the ancient versions of the Scriptures; the original Hebrew and Greek, including a miniature copy of the scroll of the law, called the Sefer Torah, the ancient Syriac, the Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate.

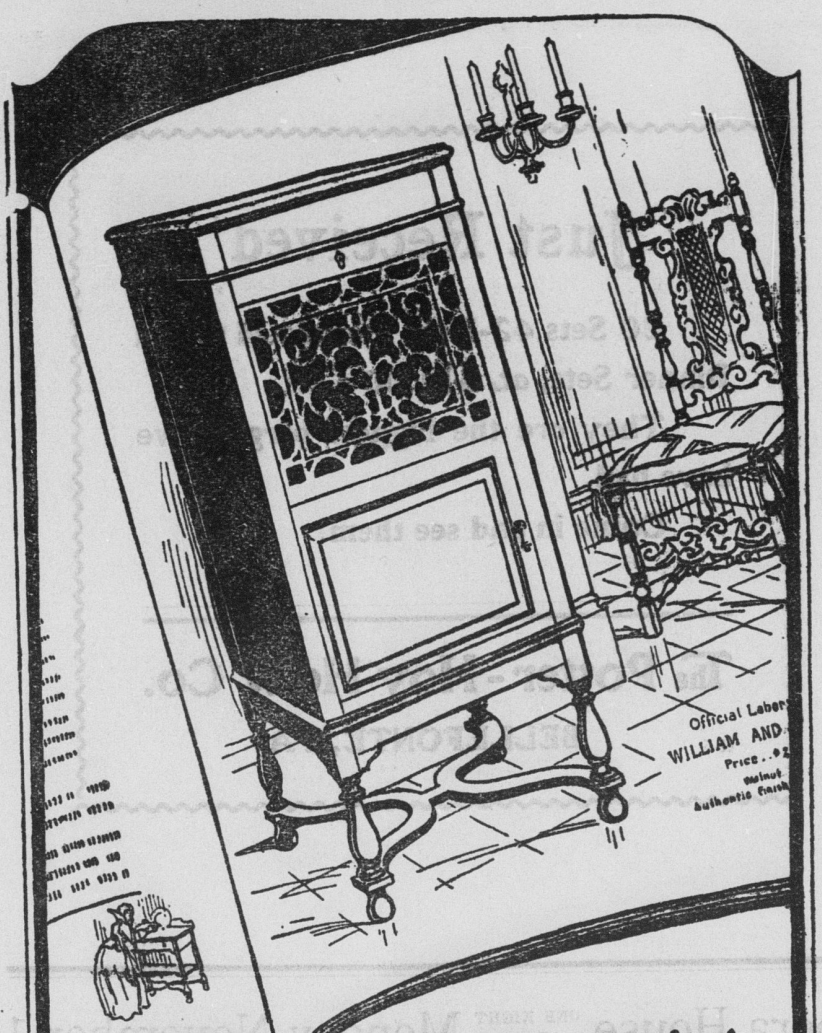
Among the four editions of the Latin Vulgate is one bearing the date 1568, with Luther's portrait stamped on the leather cover with a Latin inscription, of which the translation is, "If you wish to see the face of Luther behold the portrait; if you would know his mind, consider the book."

#### "Insult to Injury."

Little do we realize when we use this expression that we are indulging in a bit of wisdom. Unknowingly we are alluding to the classic of the classic, an old Latin fable quoted by Phaedrus from the more ancient version of Aesop. It is a fable about a baldheaded man, and as usual the baldheaded man is at a disadvantage. In this case it is a mere fly that takes advantage of him. Well, the baldheaded man was bitten on the head by a fly and when he attempted in retaliation to smite the insect he succeeded only in giving himself a vigorous slap on his bald pate. Whereupon, according to Aesop, the fly said jeeringly: "You want to kill me for a touch—what will you do to yourself now that you have added insult to injury?"

#### Our First Person Singular.

Is not English the only great language in which the pronoun of the first person singular is capitalized? How monumentally imposing is that upper case "I"! If a writer is egotistic the capitals stretch across his page like a colonnade. When he writes "we" he descends to the lower case. But this orthographic solipsism mark you, is shared by Americans, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders—all who use the English tongue. It is therefore not to be set down to insularity, but to individualism—a stark, ineradicable, valuable quality of these various folks whose thoughts and feelings have been nourished by the same language.—Henry Van Dyke in Scribner's Magazine.



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