

**TO EXPLORE OCEAN'S DEPTHS**

**British Government Contemplating an Expedition for the Gathering of Scientific Information.**

The British government is contemplating the dispatch of a deep-sea exploring expedition which is expected to gather much valuable scientific information.

Most people imagine that the depths of the ocean have been pretty thoroughly explored, but this is very far from being true. As a matter of fact, only a very small fraction of the whole area of deep sea bottom has been surveyed. Attention is particularly called to a vast subaqueous region around the Falkland Islands and up as far as Montevideo, which is almost unknown, and which, having a depth of less than 100 fathoms, may offer opportunities for the development of lucrative fisheries.

The first deep-sea exploring expedition, that of the famous Challenger, was set on foot just 50 years ago. The ship left port in 1872, and idlers on the subject were in those days so primitive that there was dispute as to whether she should use wire or hempen rope for soundings. It took a whole day to make one sounding, or a single cast of the dredge for bringing up fishes and other animals.

Since then deep-sea sounding apparatus has been much improved by cable ships, and fishing gear has been greatly modified by steam trawlers, which use dredges. Besides, a great deal that is of value has been learned by oceanographic expeditions subsequent to that of the Challenger. Hence the new exploring vessel will start out with a prospect of accomplishing a very great deal of work of real importance.

**TOO MUCH FOR SMALL MINDS**

**Childish Messengers Have Hard Time Remembering Names of Books They Are Sent For.**

"I want 'Resurrection in the Parks,'" demanded a little chap of the librarian at the West Indianapolis branch library. "My brother said for me to get it for him."

The librarian did not wish to let the little chap know she was puzzled. She knew it was something that went on in the parks that the boy wished. The "resurrection," she decided, might be "recreation," and that was what she suggested. "That's it," smiled the little chap, "I knew I had that word wrong."

Librarians often deal with little brothers and sisters who are running errands for big brothers and sisters in high school. When one of the tots asked the librarian at the West Indianapolis branch for "Europe's Fables," the librarian smiled, for that was simple to translate into "Aesop's Fables." It was different when another asked for "Out of the Twist," the librarian then had to inquire diligently before she found that the child patron meant "Oliver Twist."—Indianapolis News.

**Explanation Briefly Made.**

Harold Knutson, Republican whip of the house, tells a yarn about an old fellow up in his country who has a job carrying the mail from the depot to the postoffice, for all of which he gets \$1 a trip.

Some of the boys around the grocery store the other night got to kidding the old chap about his job and, eventually, they asked him how much he made out of it.

"I make \$1 a trip, three trips a day, \$125 a month, or \$3,000 a year," he said.

These figures not sounding just right, one of the boys sought to pin him down on his calculations.

"How do you make \$3,000 a year?" he asked.

"A-carryin' the mail," responded the carrier, and with those few words he departed.

**Saturday Change.**

Many storekeepers begin their Saturdays by shopping in the neighborhood for small change—dimes, nickels, and pennies. Seven customers out of ten at the butcher's, baker's and grocer's on Saturday pay for their purchases with \$10 and \$5 bills. Not one in twenty counts out the exact amount. One storekeeper has found that \$50 in subsidiary coins is none too little to carry him through.

Transit lines and automatic vending machines receive tons of coins in a day. Within 48 hours these coins are back in circulation.

Dimes, nickels and pennies are the most active elements of our circulating medium.

**Cat Evidently Was Offended.**

A yellow cat called Shimmy, of no particular breed, but lately a cherished mascot of the Aberdeen (Wash.) fire department, left her home there suddenly. Shimmy, according to the fire laddies, who hunted three days without success for their vanished pet, made her nest in a coil of hose which is used to wash the floor of the fire hall. On the morn of Shimmy's disappearance a careless fireman turned the water into the coil. Shimmy was catapulted toward the ceiling and shot by the stream of water into the street. The cat has not yet come back.

When in doubt as to your paper take the "Watchman."

**FABLES ACCEPTED AS TRUTHS**

**Stories That Have Long Been Implicitly Believed Really Have No Foundation in Fact.**

The famous Damascus blades that were fabled to cut iron bars in two were not superior to the Toledo blades of the present time.

Seneca was not a half-Christian philosopher, but a grasping money lender, and died leaving a fortune equivalent to three million dollars.

Charles IX did not fire upon the Huguenots with a harquebus from the window of the Louvre during the massacre of St. Bartholomew.

The Maelstrom is not a whirlpool which sucks ships down into the depths of the ocean. It is an eddy, which in fair weather can be crossed in safety by any vessel.

Horatius never defended the bridge. It was a story manufactured by the same Roman historian who put forth that other fabrication of history that Micius Scaevola put his hand in the fire.

Pitt never made the celebrated reply to Walpole beginning "The atrocious crime of being a young man." It was composed by Doctor Johnson, who was not even present when the actual reply was spoken.

Alfred the Great did not visit the Danish camp disguised as a minstrel. There is excellent authority for asserting that he could neither play the harp nor speak Danish. He did not let the cakes burn, either, as history records.

The hanging gardens of Babylon did not hang and they were not gardens. They were terraces supported by arches and overgrown trees. They were erected for the amusement of a Babylonian queen who had come from a mountainous country.

Pocahontas, the Indian princess, did not save the life of Capt. John Smith by standing between him and a club held by her father or by any other method. It is now considered but a romantic yarn spun by Captain Smith's imagination and perpetuated by the historians.

Hannibal did not send three bushels of gold rings taken from the hands of the Roman knights killed on the field of Cannae back to Carthage as evidence of his victory. The fact was as follows: The messenger who carried to the Carthaginian senate the news, on finishing his report, "opened his robe and threw out a number of gold rings gathered on the field."—Dearborn Independent.

**Callous Old Rascal.**

Apes are so human that even when they display traits that in man would be simply abominable man cannot help laughing. A correspondent in South Africa writes that certain large apes are so much in the habit of raiding the coffee plantations that they have to be guarded.

Among the coffee trees there grows a shrub, the fruit of which the apes particularly enjoy. But as wasps fasten their nests to the shrubs, the apes, fearful of being stung, usually keep away from them. One morning the people in a certain plantation heard the apes making fearful cries and, rushing out, saw a singular scene. A large baboon, the leader of a band, was throwing some young apes at the wasp nests just as a boy might have thrown stones at them. The poor victims, stung by the infuriated insects, were crying piteously, but the old baboon paid no heed to them whatever. While they were suffering from the anger of the wasps he quietly proceeded to regale himself with the fruit, which he could now pluck without danger. Occasionally he would throw a handful to some females and young a little way off.—Youth's Companion.

**Czar's Peculiar "Joke."**

Peter the Great admitted the whole world to the curious entertainments to which he added strange and sometimes gross touches of his own invention. Yakov Eurgenev, the court jester, was engaged to marry the daughter of a sexton. At Peter's command the bride and groom rode to church in the Czar's best velvet coach. Then behind them formed a procession, the members being the highest dignitaries and the most eminent patricians in all Russia. Each was mounted. Their steeds were oxen, asses, pigs and big dogs.

Some of the important men and women were dressed in their finest robes. Others were costumed in sack of glazed linen or catskin cattan, with straw boots and other strange and curious accessories of such an outlandish toilette.

**A Nine-Inch Fox.**

We find large foxes in certain parts of Asia that are of a yellowish-red color—the Chinese and Japanese species being a light red—while in India we meet with the Bengal fox, writes Dr. R. W. Shufeldt in the American Forestry Magazine of Washington. The latter feeds upon grapes, and may have been the ones responsible for the fable of the "Fox and the Grapes," though some say that it refers to those extraordinary little big-eared foxes of Africa called fennecs that also eat grapes. Fennecs are very elegant little creatures, one of them measuring only nine inches in length; their hearing is said to be most acute.

**Facts About Hudson River Tunnel.**

Ground has been broken for the vehicular tunnel under the Hudson river which will connect New York and New Jersey. The big double bore will be 1-3 miles long and will require 3 1/2 years to build. It will cost \$28,000,000. Powerful electric fans will change the air 32 times an hour. Traffic passages will be 20 feet wide.

**STRIVE TO BECOME "ARTIST"**

**Not Necessary to Paint Pictures, but to Do One's Work With Skill and Finish.**

When we say an artist, we are apt to think only of the one who is able to paint a picture. We should have a clearer conception of what the word artist really means. It is one who does his work with skill and finish. Most cooks can make passably good bread; only the artist offers that which delights, feeds and satisfies.

It is easy enough, though one be not a marksman, to hit a barn door with a shotgun. The artist hits the bull's eye with a rifle.

An elevator boy can stop his car within six inches of the floor level, and then jerk it into place. The artist finds the exact point the first and every time.

The pettifogger hangs around the streets and loafing places of the town looking for business, waiting for some one to have a falling out, or trouble somewhere. The artist goes among strangers, rents a room on the tenth floor, goes to work and the people come up to him. If he takes a vacation they wait until he gets back or go to the woods after him.

The minister who neglects his preparation through the week, on Sunday is greeted with empty pews, finds fault with the few faithful ones who do come. The artist is a student every week, gives his people a message full of thought and inspiration. His church is crowded.

What high quality of manhood does it require to fly into a fit of passion when something goes wrong, and to rage round like a madman.

The artist holds himself in leash, pitches his tones low and smiles on through the day's work.

The mother, housewife, or woman with money and time can have pretty clothes, leisure for rest, or society. It is the artist who, on limited means, can dress decently, operate the household without friction, be happy and have those about her happy. It really is as easy to be an artist in your line

as a bungler—easier, once it is learned. It is a good deal more satisfactory, and pays a lot better.—Thrift Magazine.

**Island Cities in Europe.**

There are four cities in Europe which stand wholly or in part on islands. Ghent, in Belgium, is built on 26 islands, which are connected by 80 bridges, the city having as many canals as streets. Amsterdam, in Holland, a city of ten miles in circumference, is mostly built on piles driven into the sandy subsoil, but the flowing of the tide and the debris of the Amsel river have made 90 islands, and the city has more canals than streets. The waterways are traversed by over 300 bridges, so that Amsterdam has earned the designation of the Venice of the North. Venice is built on 80 islands, great and small, which are connected by 400 bridges. There is not a carriage in the city, although footways are abundant, and it is possible to go from one end of the city to the other on foot, though sometimes long detours must necessarily be made. Petrograd is built on a peninsula and two islands connected by several large stone bridges, and in summer numerous bridges of boats, which, however, are removed at the first frost.

**New Day for Army Wife.**

The lot of the army wife is a hard one and unless it is made easier the army system cannot endure, said Brig. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards.

"These wives and daughters of soldiers," he said, "have patted their husbands and fathers on the back and sent them to war without a murmur. They have followed the flag from one place to another, patched and schemed, frozen on one side and roasted on the other from garrison stoves, put up with all sorts of hardships, and never found fault."

"But things are a little different now. They each have a vote and they can reach this system through their representatives in congress. If can't get them to vote, it is my opinion that the system cannot endure."



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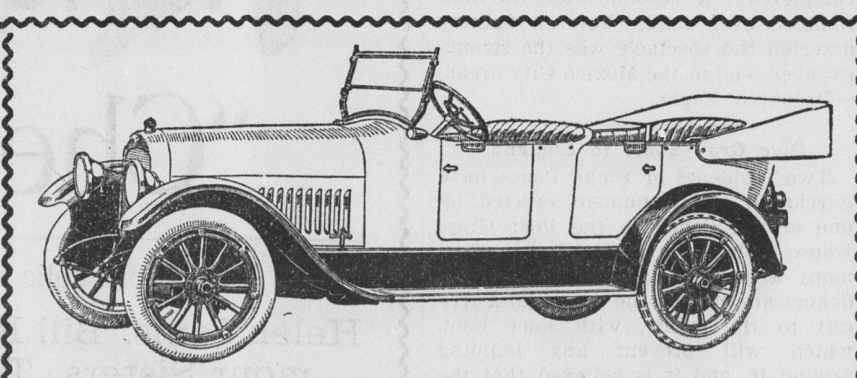
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