

Crater Brings to Mind Ancient Idea of Hell

The news that Halemauau, the hottest crater of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, is active again and has thrown up black dust clouds to a height of 7,000 feet, reminds me of my visit to the Pit of Everlasting Fire. That is what the name Halemauau means, and it corresponds to its description, writes G. L. D. Jones.

The Japanese liner in which I was making a ten-weeks' voyage from Hongkong to Valparaiso (incidentally, I believe, the longest passenger voyage in the world) not only called at Honolulu, but at Hilo, and from Hilo—a port in the making—I went with the few other white passengers on board by motor car to Kilauea and Halemauau.

Our chauffeur was a Japanese of a Japanese-Hawaiian mixture. In his capacity for driving I had little confidence at the start, and out of his hands we were all very glad to get at the finish, more especially as the motor car itself had seen better days.

It had been warm when I left Hilo (in whites and a sun-helmet). When the car stopped it was shivering with cold—on the tropic line, with an active volcano at my feet. There was a guest house for volcano visitors who wished to stop the night. All around was a black desolation of waste ground, striated by solidified tracks of lava from former eruptions. We picked our way down along a well-trodden path and suddenly we saw Halemauau.

We were at the end of the world, and below us, was a vivid representation of the ancient idea of Hell.

The pit was glowing with fire, red-hot fire. It was cut up into sections of fire. Picture to yourself pools of red-hot fire, now suddenly agitated into fountains; rivers of red-hot fire, now overflowing their banks. Ten, twenty, thirty pools and fountains and rivers all blazing at once, all working at red-hot pressure, some suddenly becoming even more excessively angry than before. That is Halemauau.

The City of David

Prof. R. A. S. Macalister, describing recently the work carried on in the eastern hills to the south of Jerusalem, said that there was undoubted evidence of the occupation of the site by men of prehistoric time. They had, however, discovered the bottom portions of the walls of the city that David had taken from the Jebusites. Although it was not wise to theorize before the work was completed, they had found indications that pointed to a spot in the northern wall being that which David breached when he took the city, subsequently screened with a wall that he built to cover the damage, and finally properly repaired by Solomon.

A strong bastion, with walls over twelve feet thick, indicated that it might be the tower from which the Jebusites mocked David, saying that only blind men and cripples would be necessary to hold the walls against him. The excavations also had brought to light other things which illustrated or amplified Biblical references to David. The work was as yet far from complete, only about an acre of ground having been taken, but sufficient had been done to show very attractive possibilities in its complete form.

As She Understood It

After the usual Saturday romp the children gathered in the drawing room for some music.

As bedtime drew near the mother said: "Now, children, choose a hymn to finish up with and then you must all say good night."

"Let's have 'Ere Again O'er Sabbath 'Eose,'" said a little girl of seven.

"Well, I think that would be more suitable for tomorrow night," replied the mother.

"Oh, but you always air our Sabbath clothes on Saturdays," said the child.

Research Work Needed

It is not safe to say that any intelligent research work is useless. With so overwhelming a proportion of the inhabitants of the earth giving their eager attention to the accumulation of wealth which perishes, we can well afford to provide the opportunity for the exceptional man here and there, to investigate any subject to which his enthusiasm directs his attention. If he succeeds in discovering truth, the investment will be of imperishable benefit to the human race.—William Wallace Campbell, President of the University of California.

Truly Wonaerul

On a hotel veranda at a seaside resort a visitor approached, in the dark, the spot where a beautiful girl with golden hair and melting baby-blue eyes was sitting with an adoring youth.

As he neared the pair the newcomer heard her say: "Aren't the stars beautiful tonight? I love to sit and look at the stars on a night like this and think about science. Science is so interesting, so wonderful; don't you think so? Now, take astronomy, Astronomers are such marvelous men! I can understand how they have been able to estimate the distance to the moon and to all the other planets and the size of the sun and how fast it travels, but how, do you suppose, they ever found out the right names for all those stars?"

ARE NOT AGREED ON ORIGIN OF HOOSIER

Some Opinions Put Forward Not Complimentary.

What the term "Hoosier" means, and the origin of it, is a question that persists through the years. More than ninety years ago it was discussed in the newspapers, and though the reasonable and probable answer was then indicated, which the Indiana Democrat of October 26, 1833, copied from the Cincinnati Republican, an improbable explanation that chanced to get a footing is nearly always given in answer. It is that the nickname rose from what was said to be the habit of Indiana pioneers of hailing a cabin with the call "Who's yer?" No authentic pioneer chronicles tell of any such expression.

A common hall was: "Hello the house!" in Indiana and elsewhere. More worthy of credence is the notion of James Whitcomb Riley, who maintained that Hoosier evolved from the characteristic scrappiness of the pioneers who in settling their differences bit off each other's features. When, after one of these pleasanties, a belated citizen arrived on the scene and saw a detached ear lying on the ground he naturally asked: "Who's ear?" Other stories than these derived the word from huzzar, huzza and husher. None of them merits serious consideration. Another story not quite so unlikely is that when the canal was being dug a contractor by the name of Hoosier employed workmen from the Indiana side of the river. These became known as Hoosier's men, and as there were a great many of them, the use of the name spread until it became associated with Indianians generally.

The discussion of 1833, referred to above as quoted from the Cincinnati Republican, had this to say: "The word Hoosier is indebted for its existence to that once numerous but now extinct class of mortals called the Ohio boatmen. In its original acceptance it was equivalent to 'Ripstaver,' 'Scrouger,' 'Screamer,' 'Bulger,' 'Ringtail roarer,' and a hundred others. . . . By some caprice the appellation became confined solely to such boatmen as had their homes upon the Indiana shore, and from them it was gradually applied to all the Indianians."

The writer of this perhaps did not know that the word was not confined to the boatmen on the river, but extended southward and was probably common then, as it certainly was later in the more primitive sections, especially in the mountain districts. Today one may find the word Hoosier there as an expression of contempt for an uncouth and unkempt person. That it made its way northward as part of the southern vocabulary along with the tide of immigration from the South hardly admits of a doubt, and that it attached to the typical early Indianian is an uncomplimentary probability. As the cultural status of the people changed the word gradually lost its earlier implications but retained its place. The first appearance of the word in print, as far as known, is in the Indiana Palladium for July 30, 1831, which, describing Noah Noble as a horse in the political race, says: "He may be called a 'Hoosher.'"—Indianapolis News.

His Reason

"I'm figgering on moving away," said Lufe Lazyberry of Boogie Holler. "I aim to load the folks into the waggin, pour a gourdful of water on the fire, call the dogs and light out for Oklahomy."

"What do you want to go to Oklahomy for special?" asked an acquaintance.

"Well, I'll just tell you: I've usee up all the credit I had yurabouts and borried till I can't borry nuth'n' more, and over there I don't know nobody and nobody don't know me, so I aim to start all over ag'in."—Kansas City Star.

Knew the Owner

There was nothing the professor disliked so much as to see the ignorant public get false information—especially on the subject of ornithology. So when he observed that an incorrect scientific name had been attached to a cage of birds at the park zoo, he summoned the attendant.

"Don't you know that these birds do not belong to the family Paraldidae?" he asked.

"Sure, I do," replied the attendant. "The zoo bought 'em last week."

Baby Elephant as Pet

Wanting to give a more substantial wedding present than furniture or cut glass, Bernard Rube of Newark, N. J., gave his daughter, Elsie, when she was married to Carl Strohm, a baby elephant. He told his daughter, as she sailed for a honeymoon trip to Europe, that the animal, besides being a pet, is a good investment, for it could always be sold for more than its cost; and as the elephant lives for several hundred years it will be in the family for some generations.

Earthquake Cooled Water

Water in the bay of Tokyo is colder this year than last, according to observers of the Marine Products Institute, the earthquake of last September being blamed for a marked drop in temperature. The lower temperature of water along the coasts near Tokyo is expected to handicap such industries as fishing for shellfish and gathering seaweeds, in which the workers are obliged to spend hours standing in water.

Land Once Held Barren Helps to Feed World

The total land area of the world is more than 52,000,000 square miles, of which less than 30,000,000 are considered fertile, and half of the fertile lands to be found in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Every new fertilizer or every new source of known fertilizer adds to the habitability of the temperate zone, and it is a fact that our mastery of fertilizing agencies is capable of great commercial development through lines of management laid down by applied chemistry, writes Isalah Bowman in the New World.

A second source of arable land is found in the swamp lands capable of being drained. Of these there are in the United States 90,000,000 acres, but two-thirds of this amount is forested and requires clearing, and much of the rest is peat bog, which requires a specialized farm practice. Qualifying conditions of a similar sort affect the swamp lands of the rest of the world.

A third source of food supply undoubtedly will come from a limited extension of both agriculture and grazing, but particularly grazing, into the vast tundras of the sub-Arctic. In the case of the tundras, both of Siberia and more especially of North America, we still are suffering from the inhibitions of the past, when we looked upon the sub-Arctic as useless.

The "frozen north" has retreated northward faster than our school books have been revised. The grassy tundras of northern Alaska, like those of the so-called "barren" grounds of Canada, are capable of supporting millions of reindeer and caribou.

In the southern hemisphere we have no habitable lands from which man has been excluded by sheer inertia of opinion. South Africa, Australia and Patagonia have been crisscrossed by the pioneer, and though their lands are capable of higher development, at least we know the lines along which development will occur and is even now proceeding; and we know also that their population increase will have a relatively low limit because of the unfavorable climatic conditions.

Layers of Gases on Sun

The atmosphere of the sun, upon the heat of which all life upon earth depends, can only be explored by wireless messages, Dr. Charles E. St. John of the Mount Wilson observatory, Pasadena, Cal., told members of the American Philosophical society, meeting in Philadelphia. The interpretation of these messages, received as light, is the task of the astronomer, he said.

Doctor St. John took his audience on an imaginary journey as far toward the real surface of the sun as the astronomers have been able to penetrate. Warning them to expect a warm climate, he said that after passing through the silvery white corona, which may extend from the sun for several hundred thousand miles, they would find themselves in an unthinkable rare atmosphere of ionized calcium, the metal which is the basis of limestone, and then successively through layers of the gases of other elements, hydrogen, helium, magnesium, titanium, sodium, calcium and iron in succession like the layers of an onion.

Finally, he said, they would reach the lowest circle so far explored, where they would find the atmosphere containing all the elements known to exist in the sun, the pressure that of a partial vacuum, and the temperature about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The wind velocities would average about 1,000 miles an hour, Professor St. John said.

Windmills Much Used

The wind is a source of power that has been utilized since the first sailing vessel put to sea. Until the recent development of the gasoline engine and of the oil supply, windmills were largely used on American farms for pumping water, and wind-driven flour mills were familiar features of the landscape in some parts of the eastern states. Gasoline has largely replaced the wind in this country but in South America where gasoline is expensive the wind still does much of the farm work, particularly in Argentina and southern Chile. In Argentina windmills are more and more used for pumping water for the vast numbers of cattle that are raised in that country.

Iceland Retroactive

Iceland has prohibited the importation of shoes. It will return to the exclusive uses of its own hairy sea skin footwear. Nearly all dry goods are barred, meaning a return to homespun. Automobiles, motorcycles, films are not to be for the Icelandier. This movement, back to the simple life in Iceland, now has something of a counterpart in Sweden, which is proposing to resist the flood of automobiles which is engulfing other parts of the world. Not rarely an American here and there wishes he might be clear of an automobile, radio, telephone transported world as altogether too much with him. Such will find Iceland, if it stands firm, a real retreat.

Time for Everything

Two small boys were talking together on the beach. "I say, what's your father?" "He's an architect." "Huh, mine's not. He's a soldier." "My father was a soldier in the war." "Huh, anybody can be a soldier when there's a war."—London Daily News.

Farm Calendar.

A Gardener's Trick.—A lettuce grower near Philadelphia has been able to secure a much earlier spring crop by plowing a field into broad ridges in the fall and in late March or early April he sets lettuce plants from frames on the ridges. The ridges are dry enough for planting some time ahead of the surrounding land. The plants are protected from severe weather immediately after planting by a light mulch of marsh hay.

The Lawn.—If grass seeding has not been done to this time, wheat or rye should be sown for turning under next spring as a green manure crop. If the soil needs both manure and lime, well rotted manure should be worked into the soil this fall and lime, preferably ground limestone, applied in the spring.

Destroy Mummied Fruit.—After the fruit crop is harvested it is a good plan in the prevention of disease spreading to destroy all dried-up and rotted fruit that still clings to the trees or is on the ground. Brown and black rot spreads rapidly in the spring even from one diseased apple, plum or peach left in the orchard.

Forecast of Potato Crop Same as 1923.

The October forecast of potato production in Pennsylvania indicates a crop of 26,328,000 bushels, practically the same as the 1923 harvest, according to reports received by the Federal State Crop reporting service.

With conditions of potatoes improved in practically all sections of the State during September, shipments up to October 4th, totalled 458 cars, nearly double the number shipped at the same time last year.

A general improvement is noticeable throughout the United States and the crop will exceed last years by 3 per cent., it was estimated.

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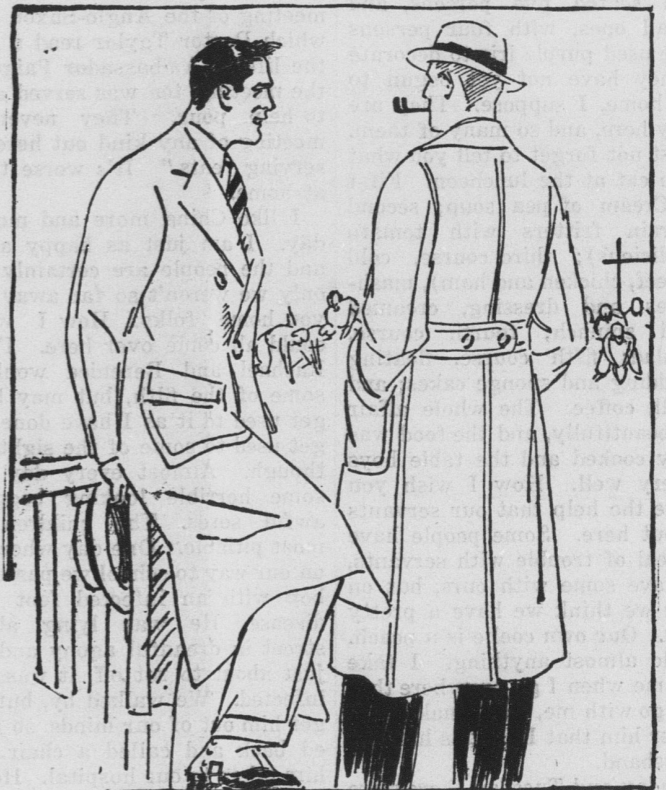
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To the majority of these share-holders the average wages paid to the 219,000 employees of the company would seem like luxurious wealth.

In spite of the splendid and efficient service given by our railroads government ownership is urged in certain quarters. Government ownership would end in confiscation. It would finally destroy the savings of millions of small shareholders. It would result in loss of efficiency and bring economical disaster. It would largely increase taxes, for the government could not tax its own property.

"The Country Gentleman," after a careful analysis showed that, in a number of States, from ten to fifteen per cent. of all taxes collected are paid by the railroads. In many counties they pay more than one-half the total tax.

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