

IS THE MOON PEOPLED?

A Wonderful Instrument to be Erected to Settle This Question. The popular impression is that the moon is a burnt-out world—a sort of cinder planet glistening in the heavens—but astronomers are by no means persuaded that such is the case, and some among them are hopeful that the question as to whether it is or is not inhabited will shortly be determined. This hope is based upon the fact that the great fifty-inch telescope which is being constructed in the Bradshar establishment in Pittsburgh, under the superintendence of Prof. Keller, of Allegheny Observatory, will shortly be ready for use. The tube of this giant instrument will be fully seventy feet in length, and for its operation will require a dome more than sixty feet in diameter. Prof. Keller has declared that he sees no reason why the question as to the inhabitation of the moon should not be finally settled when this wonderful instrument is erected. Prof. Pympton, of Cooper Institute, is equally sanguine that the decisive results so long looked for are destined to be shortly realized. Such hopes will doubtless seem extravagant to many; but when it is remembered that the Lick telescope, which has done so much for science, is but thirty inches in diameter, and that the new glass will be twenty inches larger, it is easy to see that the great expectations of the astronomers are not without a reasonable basis. In any case, it is fairly certain that the fifty-inch telescope will add vastly to our knowledge of the firmament; and the news of its completion will therefore be awaited with the widest popular interest.—Philadelphia Record.

A Fascinating Professor. They are telling a pretty fair story on "Uncle Phil" Armour, just home from his European trip. The story is in two chapters, with a period of thirty years elapsing between the two. Thirty years or more ago P. D. Armour was a young man attending an academy near Syracuse, N. Y. There was a ladies' society near by, and one beautiful moonlight night Phillip slipped away from his dormitory and took a pretty seminary girl out for a long buggy ride. It came to the ears of the dignified faculty and a sentence of expulsion was entered up against P. D. Armour. Years passed on. Young Armour came to Chicago and became the greatest merchant in the world. One day an old man with a pair of white side whiskers and a professional beatific smile was ushered into Mr. Armour's private office. "You remember the academy, Mr. Armour?" his visitor began. "I should say I did. I was expelled from that institution for taking Susie out buggy riding."

"Well, then, perhaps you remember me. I am Prof. —. I was a member of the faculty then, as I am now. And I want to say, Mr. Armour, that I always protested against your expulsion as being unjust and unwarranted by the facts. By the way, Mr. Armour, the academy is in a financial strait just now and I came to see if you would give us some assistance."

"Well," replied the millionaire, "if you protested against my expulsion all I have to say is that you have been a long time in letting me know about it." But Mr. Armour made out a good round check, just the same, and sent the old pedagogue on his way rejoicing.—Chicago Mail.

Webster's Great Disappointment. Webster's last speech in Washington was made from the portico of his mansion in response to a serenade given by some of his admirers, who were more zealous than considerate. The news of Gen. Scott's nomination of President had just been received. Webster had failed of the nomination, and the failure had broken his heart. It was a beautiful, starlit evening, and Webster, appearing before his friends, said a few words complimentary to Gen. Scott, for whom, in fact, he had great contempt; then, turning away from the subject of politics and the nomination, he said: "Gentlemen, this is a magnificent night." Then he apostrophized the stars and the planets revolving in their orbits in one of those splendid flights of oratory of which he alone was capable. Then, suddenly descending from the skies to earth, he said: "I now bid you good night. I shall retire to my couch to rest in untroubled sleep, and on the morrow the lark will not rise more jocund to greet the rising sun than I shall." It was the speech of a politician. He praised Scott, whom he despised, and he sought to convey the impression that he did not take to heart his failure to receive the nomination, when, in fact, it was the greatest disappointment of his life. Four months later he died at Marshfield.—Springfield Republican.

Robbed of Her Horns. One thing which has changed the appearance of the country greatly in the dairy region is the practice, now very prevalent, of "dehorning" cattle. The farmers of northern New England seem to have made the sudden discovery that horns on cows were a gigantic mistake of the creator, to be remedied radically and at once. They say that the cows, if horned, hook each other dreadfully when they are watering, andATTLE their horns together in the stanchions, and otherwise misconduct themselves. So they get a "dehorning machine," and fasten the poor cow's neck to it, and with one swoop deprive her of her chief ornaments and her natural protection, and leave her a wretched, shorn creature, that no artist would think of painting. The loss of her horns seems to turn the cow into a kind of sheepish and furtive being; she has not the confident and self-satisfied air that usually marks her kind. One has no idea of the difference which horns make in the expression of cattle until he sees a herd of these dehorned and deformed animals.—Boston Transcript.

New Use for Leather. Another use for leather has been discovered: the making of artificial whalebone. The leather is soaked for two or three days in sulphate of potassium, and then stretched on a frame slowly dried, and exposed to a high temperature. Afterward, being subjected to heavy pressure, it becomes hard and elastic.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

One of the latest inventions is an electrical rocking chair. Many of the best diamond cutters in the world are Americans. A ton of good coal is said to yield about 8,000 feet purified gas.

The list of Chicago's 400 has been published, and contains 30,000 names. Roman lamps were of gold, silver, iron, bronze, copper, lead and earthenware.

The Presbyterians are not a superstitious people; they have thirteen theological seminaries. Bicycles and electricity have spoiled the horse trade. Horses were never so cheap as they are now.

It is estimated that two years are required for the Gulf water to travel from Florida to the coast of Norway. Mr. Clemens has a quite remarkable popularity in England. The "Mark Twain Birthday Book," for example, has gone into its eighth edition.

California has one of the most remarkable timber belts in the world, embracing 4,125 square miles, and containing 123,000,000,000 feet of timber.

When a Chinese lady approaches a muddy place, she beckons a boy. The boy drops on his hands and knees in the mud and the lady uses him as a stepping stone, for which service she gives him a small coin.

Rats must have access to water or they die. A trapped rat may easily be tamed by allowing no water but that offered in a spoon, for the creature soon learns to recognize the hand which supplies this all-important necessity.

There is a tree in Western Australia called the jarrah tree, the wood of which is said to be almost everlasting. The natives make nearly everything of this timber—planes, work boxes, wharves, buildings, and ships. It has never been known to decay, and is poisonous to all insects. It does not burn freely, but only chars, which makes it specially valuable for building purposes.

A herd of wild cattle has been roaming the mountains between Rogue river and the South Fork of the Umpqua, in Oregon, for twenty years, and it now numbers in the neighborhood of 500 cattle. They are wild as deer and difficult to approach. The practical harm they work is that gentle cattle belonging to farmers are enticed off and join this wild band. It is proposed now to round them up and kill them.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

The barking dog didn't stop the train, but he thinks he did.

Error loves to walk arm in arm with truth, to make itself thought respectable.

Guns are only human, after all. They will kick when the load becomes too heavy.

Don't forget that a good reputation will go farther with your grocer than sanctimony.

It does not take the last drink to make a drunkard—but the first—Ram's Horn.

Never lean on the world; for if you do, the world will jump aside, and you will get a tumble.

"What do you say now when you try to pass a lady?" "By your sleeve, madam," to be sure.

Horse-racing being the sport of kings, it's no wonder that the kings are all borrowing money.

Aristotle once said to a conceited youth, "Young man, I wish I were what you think yourself to be."

A handsome woman always sees something pretty in a shop window with a mirror at the back of it.

There is no one so innocent as not to be evil spoken of; there is no one so wicked as to merit all condemnation.

The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it the more it contracts.—O. W. Holmes.

There is full compensation for failure in every true life, and the highest where the struggle and the loss have been the deepest.

When Lord Sidmouth one day said, "My brains are gone to the dogs this morning," his friend at once ejaculated, "Poor dogs!"

"Two heads may be better than one, under some circumstances," muttered the bass drum, "but they have brought me nothing but sound beatings."

Cicero, it is said, had a theory that any disease could be overcome by fasting, and often abstained from food for days at a time, drinking only water.

"My wife makes a little money go a long way these times." "So does mine, unfortunately. She's always subscribing for missions in Africa and Polynesia."

No matter how good the deacon is, he will always look wise and pleased if anybody suggests that he was a pretty lively young fellow when he was a boy, is the observation of the Somerville Journal.

TOOTS FROM THE RAM'S HORN. "Money talks," but it often fails to tell the truth.

It takes more courage to endure than it does to act.

Never did any harm, eh? Well, neither did a rotten egg.

The man who would be strong in mind must feed on facts.

It is hard to please the man who never knows what he wants.

The more polish you put on a mean man the better the devil is suited.

A great deal of stealing is being done that does not go by that name.

A moderate drinker is like a man who sleeps on the brink of a precipice.

The man who is constantly thinking evil finds a thousand ways to speak it.

When you go to war with a snake, the battle ought to be with the end where the head is.

HIS BEAUTIFUL THEORY.

He Was an Advocate of Honesty, But He Did Not Practice It. "Honesty in politics," said the man who was dining at the table next the window. "Huh, there isn't any such thing. That's a fiction that was played out long, long ago. Now-a-days it is the man with the biggest fortune who gets the offices. I tell you that this country has reached a deplorable state of morals."

"How's that?" asked the man who sat across from him. "Why, there is no honesty in business, social or political life. The elections are crooked. The vilest sort of schemes are resorted to in order to get votes. Men are openly bribed. Men who get into office steal everything they can get their hands on. It's the same way in business, too. You can never tell when to trust a man. People you have dealt with for years do not hesitate to do you up if they get a chance. They sell you poor goods at high prices. They use all sorts of dishonest means to get your trade, and when they get it they at once proceed to get even by cheating you. And in society—why, society is rotten to its core. Honesty is as scarce as purity. There is nothing that is too mean for these people who pretend to be the leaders of the social sets. I am tired of the whole business. I had a good mother who taught me to be honest and I have always tried to live up to her teachings. I can look any man in the face and say that I am an honest man. But—let's get out of here and back to the office."

His friend picked up the check and passed it over to him. As he did so he remarked: "That fool of a waiter has made a mistake of sixty cents in our bill."

"Too much?" inquired the honest man. "No; too little."

"The honest man grabbed his hat. 'Hurry up,' he said, 'and perhaps you can get out of here before he finds it out. That's just so much money saved.'—Buffalo Express.

Aluminum Violins. Prof. Alfred Springer treated the scientists at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to a lecture on aluminum violins. A musician played on the instrument, which was shaped like a wooden violin. The body is made of aluminum, but the neck and keys are wooden. "My experiments," said Prof. Springer, "incline me to believe that the real cause of the superiority of the old wooden instruments over new ones is not so much in the increased elasticity of the wood or the composition of the varnish as in the peculiar warping of the wood to a higher arch, a buckling caused by the position of the f holes and sound posts, which may be obtained by using aluminum."

The instrument produced a great volume of tone, but there was a variety of opinions as to its quality. Some musicians declared that the quality was not as good as a wooden one for solo work, but that it would prove good in orchestra work. Others took the opposite side of the question entirely, while a few predicted that in a few years aluminum violins will be substituted for the wooden instruments.—New York Commercial.

Face Massage Folly. Massage operators never rub the face dry. They use the softest linen available and absorb the water, sponge fashion. In making up the face, after the greasing, rubbing, washing and rinsing, the professional masseur dabs or sponges it dry and applies a delicate emollient made of honey-almond cream or a teaspoonful of rose water with one drop of benzoin and two drops of glycerine. This is to soften and heal the sore skin. A paint brush is dipped in liquid rouge, and the faintest tint is put in the lips, ears, chin and nostrils. Then the face and neck are dusted with a powder tinted to suit the complexion; the brows are lined in a bit, and there you are with a bill of \$1, \$2 or \$3, according to the presumption or pretension of the face washer.—New York World.

They Say. They say that pleasure's treadmill is a bicycle; that whistling half an hour after meals is the best aid to digestion; that a man is very stingy when he will not enjoy a joke at his own expense; that if fact could be sold, only such as are already possessed of it would want to buy it; that man always wants somebody to answer his question, but nobody to question his answers; that the number of languages and dialects spoken in the world is 3,064, exclusive of baby talk and the language of our railway porters; that people think it is tough when they have to pay thirty-five or forty cents a pound for steak, but it is tougher when they pay only fifteen.

New Postal Card. A unique innovation of the postal card system will soon be adopted in France. Instead of the cards being separate as they now are, they will be issued in the form of check books with stubs. A memorandum of the substance of the contents of the card can be entered on the stub, and the sender can have this stamped at the post office before the card is detached, so that a verified record of the correspondence can be kept.

Why Chinese Have No Fear. The absence of fear of death which is such a striking characteristic of the Chinese nature has a logical explanation. The Chinese are taught that only those who face death fearlessly enter into happiness in the other world. Foreigners who have witnessed executions in China bear witness that, as the executioner with his sword mows down the kneeling ranks, the convicts invariably meet death with a jest.

A Gentleman. What is it to be a gentleman? Is it to be honest, to be gentle, to be generous, to be brave, to be wise, and, possessing all these qualities, to exercise them in the most graceful outward manner? Ought a gentleman to be a loyal son, a true husband and honest father? Ought his life to be decent—his bills to be paid—his tastes to be high and elegant—his aims in life lofty and noble?—Thackeray.

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