

PANAMA CANAL HISTORY

Will Count de Lesseps Name be Vindicated?

HE BEGAN IT IN 1880

The Shares Were Subscribed for Three Times Over—His Whole Life Was Pledged to Its Success—He Died Disappointed and Dishonored in the Eyes of His Countrymen.

When Count Ferdinand de Lesseps began the Suez Canal, in 1859, he had difficulty in raising the sum of 2,000,000 francs, which was ridiculously inadequate.

These two cases show how little either engineers or investors know about how some things are going to come out.

The money poured in for Panama because Suez had succeeded—it poured in, and it never came out.

De Lesseps probably never wanted to bribe any one, but believed that he had to do so in order to put the canal through.

But it did fail, and De Lesseps died disappointed and dishonored man.

He was right in believing that the canal could and would be dug. He believed in Suez as against Stephenson; and as he was not an engineer, he must have been a prophet.

What is now to happen, the building of a lock canal by the United States of America, will vindicate De Lesseps as a wizard, but not as an engineer.

De Lesseps could not in any event have lived to see the actual completion of the Panama Canal.

But he lived on until 1894, game to the last, in spite of paralysis. He died a ticket-of-leave man, for a French court of justice had condemned him in 1892 for breach of trust and malversation of funds, and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment.

In his old age Count de Lesseps had a young wife, a Spaniard, and a large family of blooming, ack-eyed children, who overflowed a great pony cart every day in the Bois de Boulogne like a bushel and a sieve of red apples running over the top of a bushel basket.

Mr. Steadman's Mistake. Edmund Clarence Steadman, the veteran author, while on a visit to France, stopped one day on a country road to admire the surrounding scenery.

HIGHER CRITICISM OF SNAKES. Many Popular Misconceptions Regarding Their Lives.

It is natural that from time immemorial a creature so repulsive and so incomprehensible as the snake should have given excuse for many of the weirdest and most absurd myths.

When a snake is decapitated it is dead at once. The tail will remain sensitive and will wriggle for several hours after death, but the movement is purely spasmodic and ceases in time without reference to the position of the sun.

Picture of Panama.

Panama is, historically, the oldest portion of the western hemisphere. It is but nine degrees north of the equator and is fertile beyond description.

The people in their habits resemble the Chinese. They are cleanly in their persons and bathe frequently, but their surroundings are so filthy that but for the ubiquitous buzzard existence would be intolerable.

A Huge Claim.

Prussia has been brought face to face with a claim for \$20,000,000, which is said to be supported by necessary documents, duly authenticated by the Russian Department of State archives.

New Jungle Fashion.

According to the Electrical World telegraph wire belts have recently been added to the costume of fashionable East African belles.

TRUTH ABOUT 'POOR JACK'

Why the Mates of a Merchantman Are Not Polite.

FICTION AND THE FACTS

Majority of Complaints and Tales of Abuse From Superiors Untrue—Where Sailors Are Badly Treated it is Mostly Their Own Fault—Few Use Their Own Name.

There is perhaps no human being of whom so much is written and so little truth told as the sailor.

All this makes good reading, yet the great majority of such tales are either highly colored or absolutely untrue.

A Glasgow bark that shipped a new crew here last week went to sea from the upper bay, and before the hook was reached the mates had to beat every new hand all over the decks to get them to turn to.

That same day at the British Consulate, close to the Battery, where the brimming harbor laps the seawall, a poor Jack with a rich cargo of rum safely stowed away, was pleading the cause of temperance in the behavior of mates in general.

"He was cruel, that's what." "In what way was he cruel?" inquired the faithful representative of King Edward.

"Why," explained the unfortunate mariner, "that beer-swilling ruffian said I wasn't no gentleman. I wouldn't have minded it had he said it private-like, but he ups with it afore the whole watch. I want you to—"

Bluejackets' Strange Pets.

At the review before the King of Malta, the pet donkey of the Bacchante, we are told, marched in front of the men.

She Understood It.

Sportsman (wishing for fresh fields to conquer)—I should like to try my hand at big game.

SATIRE ON AN ACTOR.

The Advance Agent Tells a Story That is Not an Advertisement.

"Satire is almost always wasted on actors," said the old advance agent, as reported by the Chicago "Tribune."

"Some years ago I was stranded on the Pacific coast. I wanted to get back to Chicago the worst way possible, and finally, through a lucky accident, I learned that Barney Ferguson, the Irish comedian, was just about to start East, was in need of an advance agent.

"At that period of his career Mr. Ferguson's chief dramatic feat was to sit in a large easy chair, with an Irish make-up on, and hold a humorous conversation with the soubrette of the company.

MEAT KILLED BY DYNAMITE.

"A new use has been found for dynamite," said a butcher, "and maybe, before long, we will be eating dynamite-killed beef.

"You see, they compare me with Sir Henry Irving and Richard Mansfield, don't you?" he said, looking as proud as a peacock.

HE WAS KEPT BUSY.

The only business man we ever met who kept busy without advertising, says an exchange, was an Arkansas grocer who was afflicted with the seven year itch and carried a Waterbury watch.

HUMPHREYS'

Specifies cure by acting directly on the sick parts without disturbing the rest of the system.

- No. 1 for Fevers. No. 2 " Worms. No. 3 " Teething. No. 4 " Diarrhea. No. 7 " Coughs. No. 8 " Neuralgia. No. 9 " Headaches. No. 10 " Dyspepsia. No. 11 " Suppressed Periods. No. 12 " Whites. No. 13 " Groun. No. 14 " The Skin. No. 15 " Rheumatism. No. 16 " Malaria. No. 19 " Catarrh. No. 20 " Whooping Cough. No. 27 " The Kidney. No. 30 " The Bladder. No. 77 " La Grippe.

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Let go or die. That's the alternative of the shipwrecked man with the money bags.

"I give me pleasure to send you this testimonial so that some other poor sufferer may be saved, as I was by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery," writes Geo. A. Thompson, of Shelton Ave., Chatham, Ont., Canada.

Given away. The People's Common Sense Medical Advisor is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure bad, foul stomach and constipation and so help to cure nearly every disease of mankind.

SUPREME COURT BIBLE.

Historic Book on Which Distinguished Men Take Oath of Allegiance.

Kept securely under lock and key in the supreme court room at Washington there is a small Oxford Bible around which cluster many notable and historic incidents.

Besides these great legal lights, every associate and chief justice, with the exception of Chief Justice Chase, who had a Bible of his own, and every lawyer, except Daniel Webster, sworn to practice before the supreme court bar, has taken his oath of allegiance on this little book.

It is a tradition of the court that when Daniel Webster came before this high tribunal in his first argument in the defense of the chartered rights of his alma mater, Dartmouth college against the legislative attacks of New Hampshire, by some strange inadvertence the oath was not administered.

It is no wonder that this little Bible is so carefully preserved, endeared as it is with the memories of America's greatest statesmen and jurists.

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RAILROAD NOTES

Special Excursions and Reduced Rates.—Of Interest to our Many Readers.

UNION COUNTY FAIR. REDUCED Rates via Pennsylvania Railroad. For the benefit of persons desiring to attend the Union County Fair, to be held at Brook Park, near Lewisburg, Pa., September 26, 27, 28 and 29, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from East Bloomsburg, and intermediate points, to Brook Park, on September 26, 27, 28 and 29, valid to return on day of issue only, at rate of single fare for the round trip (no rate less than twenty cents).

Special trains will be run on Thursday, September 28, and on Friday, September 29, as follows: Leave Millinburg 12:00 noon, Vicksburg 12:08 P. M., Biehl 12:13 P. M.; arrive Brook Park 12:18 P. M. Returning, leave Brook Park on September 28 for Coburn, on September 29 for Glen Iron and intermediate stations at 5:45 P. M. Special trains will also be run on Thursday and Friday, September 28 and 29, between Lewisburg and Brook Park every half hour from 9:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

A COMMON SENSE VIEW

In his sermon last Sunday, in a Moravian church at Bethlehem, the pastor preached most earnestly for "the abolition of senseless pranks which are permitted to degrade and desecrate the wedding day, and are an outrageous imposition upon the bridal couple."

There are certain harmless customs, such as throwing rice and old shoes as the bridal couple leaves home, provided this is not overdone, but to compel the couple to ride through town in a cab bedecked with ribbons and signs and old shoes, with an accompaniment of tin horns, is subjecting a modest and sensitive girl to a most offensive and trying ordeal from which she should be protected.

A few years ago while on our way to Philadelphia, as the train approached a certain station below Harrisburg, a large crowd was observed on the platform, and there was a din of horns, cow-bells and tin pans. A young married couple were about to start on their wedding journey, and this was an escort of their friends. Several young men followed them on the train with illuminated banners on which were inscribed, "We're just married." "She's my sweetheart, I'm her Joe." "What would lovey do if dovey should die?" and numerous other similar funny things. They took seats near their victims, and one of the young men went through the train loudly announcing that there was a bride and groom in the car ahead, and inviting everyone to go in and have a look at them. "Most everybody did. The bride was evidently a girl of refinement, and though she seemed ready to collapse from nervous prostration, this thing was kept up until Philadelphia was reached, and the last we saw of them they were going out through Broad street station, the banners and horns preceding them. The groom at one time showed fight, but the tormenters were too many for him, and he was forced to submit.

This of course was an exaggerated case, but in most instances the practice of making monkeys out of newly married couples is carried to excess, and while it may seem funny to those who do it, it is very unpleasant for the victims, unless, perchance the bride happens to be a brazen-faced woman who enjoys such publicity.

Newly married couples ought to have some rights that other people are bound to respect.

Health Precautions.

Circular letters are being sent out by State Health Commissioner Dixon to all local health and school authorities throughout Pennsylvania calling their attention to the compulsory vaccination law of 1895.

This act requires persons in charge of public, private, parochial, Sunday and other schools to refuse admission to any child to the schools under their charge or supervision, except upon a certificate signed by a physician setting forth that said child has been successfully vaccinated or that it has previously had smallpox.

Dr. Dixon warns school teachers and principals that they are responsible, not to the school directors, but to the health authorities of the state for the enforcement of the law and that no action of the school directors can supersede the requirements of the law.

Greene Consolidated Copper is hanging tenaciously at 24 and a fraction in the curbstone sales of Wall street.