

DIG A WELL MILES DEEP Scientific and Mineral Discoveries of Great Importance Are Predicted MIGHT YIELD GREAT TREASURES

M. Camille Flammarion Proposes Digging Geothermic Holes Several Miles Down—Would Have Army Do Work.

On December 30 last I brought up again the idea which I had expounded a long time ago of digging a geothermic well to explore the internal constitution of the globe, writes Camille Flammarion, the great astronomer. Now that the effervescence produced by the catastrophe at Messina has calmed a little, requests have come to me from many quarters to exactly describe my plans.

The plan is to dig as deeply as possible straight down from the earth's surface to find an economic and almost inexhaustible source of heat, to verify the rate of caloric increase, to find out if the materials constituting the terrestrial globe are in a state of fusion—in a word, to do rationally and directly what has been done slightly and a little by chance up to the present time in mines.

Suppose that this work were undertaken. As the well must be very deep it must also be very wide, and I imagine that a circle of 200 metres in diameter would be sufficient. Where should the earth taken out be thrown? Into the sea. However, this well must not be dug on the seacoast, on account of the danger from marine infiltration, but on a plain at a distance of several kilometres and approximately at the level of the sea.

For this reason Belgium, Holland or the French district of Les Landes might be chosen. As for the debris, it could be taken away by rail to the place destined for dumping it.

Admitting the classic rate of heat increase—one degree Centigrade for every thirty-three metres of depth—we would find, doubtless, a temperature equal to that of boiling water at a depth of three kilometres. That would be a wonderful source of heat which could be utilized on the spot or elsewhere.

But, for different reasons, it would be interesting to descend further. At the geothermic rate of old theories is to-day a moot question. Soundings in different districts have proven that it varies according to the nature of the ground. In one place the heat increases one degree each thirty-three metres, while in another fifty, sixty, or even 120 metres are necessary to produce this increase.

In other places, especially in the neighborhood of volcanoes, the thermometer rises one degree in a descent of fifteen, or even ten metres. Thus the temperature of boiling water would be met in some places at a depth of 3,000 metres, in others at 10,000 metres, in still others at 1,000 metres. It would all depend on the kind of land where the experiment was made.

The idea of digging a well to a depth of four, five or six kilometres or deeper appears, without doubt, a little foolish. What about the money for the realization of this foolish project? This prodigious undertaking should not increase by even one cent the budget of the civilized countries which would take part in this work. Soldiers could be employed and a foreign legion of a new order could be established, whose mission it would be to explore the interior of the earth.

Soldiers are fed, clothed and housed for exercise with the rifle and cannon. This would change the kind of exercise, that is all. Squads would be organized to dig and others to shovel out the earth. Other squads would be employed in taking away the debris, others in making and placing in position the immense iron armature of hoops to support the sides of the well and others would construct the necessary workshops and labor in the foundries.

Such a work would require years and years, but what matter? Our permanent armies are always there. Gradually also we would see that the millions thrown every year by the nations into the bottomless abysses of the war budget might be utilized in a less barbarous abyss. On the other hand, the earth taken out from this immense hole might be used to make small islands, the exploitation of which would produce, in the long run, a profit not to be underestimated.

And who knows what riches, what curiosities geological and paleontological might not be revealed by this investigation into subterranean depths? Iron mines, mines of precious metals, seams of gold, platinum and silver; radium, fossils from the most ancient times, without speaking of all the unknown world which lies in those abysses. And, above all, geology would thus follow in the footsteps of her elder sister, astronomy. Is it not a little humiliating to have brought the stars into our range of vision by the power of the telescope, to have measured their distances, to have weighed and analyzed them, and yet to remain in ignorance of what lies at a few kilometres under our feet?

We may think what we please of this geothermic well; but our conclusion will be this:—Let us get to the bottom of the problem; let us work, let us seek.

SILENCED THE ROWDY.

Happy Retort of a Politician Which Won Him a Majority.

Judge Emory Speer, who presides over the United States Circuit and District Courts for the Southern District of Georgia, and whose decisions in peonage cases have recently attracted wide attention throughout the country, is the possessor of a nimble and facile wit. In earlier days, before he had attained the eminence, Judge Speer was a politician and a power on the stump.

Shortly after reconstruction he ran against Allen D. Chandler for Congress. It was his wit, his good humor, and his unflinching courage that carried him through the campaign without a serious difference, and finally brought him to victory. On one occasion when the young candidate was addressing a very democratic and hostile audience, a brawny countryman was observed fighting his way through the crowd to the speaker's rostrum. It was evident that he had spent the preceding night with John Barleycorn, for his clothes were rumpled, his hair dishevelled, and his face of a fiery red that rivalled the noonday sun in brilliancy. Shaking a belligerent fist under the nose of the orator, he exclaimed:

"Sir, you are a demagogue!" The crowd howled, but Speer was not disturbed. He waited for the noise to subside and then, with a smile and in a tone of entire good humor rejoined: "And you, sir, if you would wrap a few wisps of straw about you, you would be a demijohn."

The delighted audience roared with appreciative laughter and the discomfited patriot slunk away. It is said that in no voting precinct of the district was Speer's majority larger than that in which this happy retort was made.

She Was Sympathetic. Dora was stupid, but she had one redeeming quality; she was sympathetic. At any rate, that was what the old boarders told the woman who writes, and it was what she learned for herself on the fifth day of her sojourn in the boarding house. For four consecutive mornings Dora had seen the woman scribbling away at a furious pace. Finally even her dormant faculties were impressed by such literary activity.

"My," she said, admiringly, "but you must have brains." The woman laid down her pencil. "Dora," she said, wearily, "I haven't an ounce of brains."

Clearly Dora's disillusionment was painful, but her sympathetic nature sustained her. "No?" she said. "Well, you need not mind me. I ain't very smart myself."

Signs on the Links. An Irishman was walking along a road, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger, when he was suddenly struck between the shoulders by a golf ball. The force of the blow almost knocked him down. When he recovered he observed a golfer running toward him.

"Are you hurt?" said the player. "Why didn't you get out of the way?"

"An' why should I get out of the way?" said Pat. "I didn't know there were any assassins around here."

"But I called 'fore,'" said the player, "and when I say 'fore,' that is a sign for you to get out of the way."

Oh, it is, is it?" said Pat. "Well, then, when I say 'foive' it's a sign that you're going to get hit on the nose. 'Foive.'"

Spiritual. In making a sharp turn, the rear end of a street car struck an express wagon laden with jugs of whisky. Nearly all the jugs were precipitated to the pavement, with the natural disastrous result. The driver of the wagon alighted, and, pointing to the pile of demolished earthenware, said to a bystander, "That's hell, ain't it?"

The spectator, who happened to be a minister, replied, "Well, my friend, I don't know that I would say that, but's at least the abode of departed spirits."

Sweet Enough. Tom—"And when you proposed she gave you a sweet answer?" Dick—"She did, indeed."

Tom—"Ah! she said, 'Yes!'" Dick—"No; she said, 'Fudge.'"

On To Themselves. "Pa," asked little Willie, looking up from his book, "what's a 'mis-anthro-pist'?"

"A misanthropist," replied his pa, "is the sort of fellow who, after catching himself cheating at solitaire, decides that all men are liars and frauds."

New Definition. A priest was describing heaven to a class of boys. He ended by saying, "You may describe heaven in two words—'eternal bliss.' Now can any boy describe hell to me in two words?"

A voice: "Please, sir, eternal blister."

Saved Her. Wife (during the spat)—I don't believe you ever did a charitable act in your life.

Husband—I did one, at least, that I have lived to regret.

Wife—Indeed! What was it pray? Husband—I saved you from dying an old maid.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a writ of Levavi Facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, and to me directed, there will be sold at public sale at the Court House, in the Sheriff's Office at Bloomsburg, county and state aforesaid, on

SATURDAY, JUNE 5th, 1909, at 2 o'clock, P. M., the following described real estate:

TRACT NO. ONE.—All that piece, parcel and tract of land situate in Scott Township, Columbia County, bounded and described as follows, to wit:—

Beginning at stone corner, in the public road, leading from Espy to Light-street; thence south in said road nine degrees east fifty-six perches to a stone corner in said road; thence by land of Sarah Snyder south twenty-nine and one-fourth degrees, east, forty-nine and nine-tenths perches to a stone corner; thence south sixty and three-fourths degrees west, six perches to a stone corner; thence south twenty-nine degrees and one-fourth east, thirty-three perches to a stone corner; thence by land of C. W. Kline south seventy-seven and one-half degrees east, seventy-six and six-tenths rods to a stone, formerly pine corner; thence north seventy-six degrees east, eighty-one and five-tenths rods to a stone corner in the public road, leading from Espy to residence of Ellis Ringrose; thence by centre of said road and land of said Ellis Ringrose, north twenty-nine and three-fourths degrees west, one hundred and sixty-four and four-tenths rods to a stone corner; thence north seventy-six degrees east, forty-three and nine-tenths rods to a stone corner; thence north twelve and one-fourth degrees west, nine and nine-tenths rods to a stone corner in the public road leading from the residence of Joseph Heckman to Wm. J. Hilday's; thence in centre of said road and land of Wm. J. Hilday, south seventy-seven and one-fourth degrees west, one hundred and sixty and eight-tenths perches to a stone corner in the public road, the place of beginning, containing

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT ACRES AND TWENTY-FIVE PERCHES

of land, being a farm in good state of cultivation, upon which is erected a TWO-STORY BRICK DWELLING HOUSE,

bank barn and out buildings, fruit trees and running water. A ridge of limestone suitable for a quarry is also upon the premises.

TRACT NO. TWO.—All that piece parcel and tract of land situate in the village of Espy, county and state aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, to wit:—

Beginning at the corner of Market and Second Streets, on the westerly side of Market Street; thence westwardly along Second Street eighty-two and one-half feet to corner of lot of Ebenezer Case "No. 54," thence southwardly along line of said lot one hundred and seventy-three and one-fourth feet to an alley; thence along said alley eastwardly eighty-two and one-half feet to Market Street aforesaid, thence northwardly along said Street, one hundred and seventy-three and one-fourth feet to Second Street, the place of beginning, improved with a

TWO-STORY FRAME DWELLING HOUSE AND BARN,

out buildings and fruit trees. Seized, taken into execution at the suit of George B. Markle, Trustee, vs. C. L. Pohe, Administrator of Wm. C. Robinson, deceased, Laura Robinson, and Charles Schug, Terre-Tenant, and to be sold as the property of Wm. C. Robinson, deceased.

CHARLES B. ENT, Sheriff. J. Q. Creveling, Attorney.

IN RE APPLICATION OF THE BLOOMSBURG LITERARY INSTITUTE FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER AND CHANGE OF NAME.

Notice is hereby given that a petition was presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia County on the 12th day of May, A. D., 1909, by the Bloomsburg Literary Institute to make the following amendments to its charter, to wit:—

Amending the name, style and title of the corporation from "The Bloomsburg Literary Institute" to the "Bloomsburg Literary Institute and State Normal School of the Sixth District"; increasing the number of trustees from nine to eighteen; changing the time of the Annual Stockholders Meeting from the first Saturday to first Monday in May; designating the officers of the corporation as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; the manner and mode of election and appointment of trustees; increasing the quorum of the Board of Trustees from five to seven; fixing the capital stock at \$30,000.00, divided into 1000 shares, prohibiting dividends upon the capital stock of the corporation and enlarging the purposes and scope of the institution; whereupon the following Interlocutory Decree was entered, to-wit:—

Decree now made May 12th, 1909; the foregoing petition having been presented and read, and it appearing to the Court that due notice of this application and these proceedings were given to the Auditor General, on the 5th day of May 1909, and the court upon consideration thereof being of the opinion that the said amendments and change of name of said corporation will be lawful, beneficial, and not injurious to the community and not in conflict with the requirements of the Constitution or the laws of the Commonwealth, it is therefore ordered that said petition or writing be filed in the office of the Prothonotary of the court, and notice thereof be inserted in two newspapers printed in said county, for three weeks, setting forth that said application has been made, and that a final decree will be made on the 14th day of June, 1909, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in conformity with the prayer of the petition, unless sufficient reason be shown why the same should not be done. BLOOMSBURG LITERARY INSTITUTE, 5-13-41. per N. U. Funk, Solicitor.

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SOME PLANTS THAT HIDE

How a Favorite Mexican Grass is Saved from Extirpation.

C. G. Pringle, for many years a famous plant collector, especially in Mexico and the arid regions of the United States, speaks of a native grass of Northern Mexico, Muhlenbergia Texana, as such a favorite with all grazing animals that it is usually exterminated, or nearly so, except when growing under the protection of thorny shrubs, usually mesquite bushes. In Arizona during the winter and spring the Indians bring it long distances into the towns to sell. He adds: "How many times I have contended with the horrid mesquite bushes to gather an armful of this grass to carry joyfully to my hungry and jaded horses. In such cases the thorns, spines, not only protect the young growth and leaves of certain plants, but furnish shelter for other tender and nutritious herbage. In arid regions, especially, similar instances of protection by thorn bushes are numerous."

Again, some plants retire beneath the surface of the ground at the close of the growing season, remaining secure beneath the surface for months in the form of bulbs, tubers and root-stocks. At such times they are nearly sure to escape destruction by animals. Examples are Solomon's seal, Dutchmen's breeches, May apple, goldenrod and artichoke. Other plants are protected by water, and of these Professor Beal says: "Not only the flowers of many species of plants as they project above the surface of the water are protected from most unwelcome insects, but the whole plants as well. Mud turtle, certain fishes, water crinoids, larvae of insects eat aquatic plants, but most other animals are unable to reach them in such places. Water plantain, wild rice, pond lilies, arrowhead, pickered weed, pondweed, lizard's tail, bulrush, borreed, cattail flag, water dock and many more of their associates root at the bottom, with leaves floating on the surface or projecting above. Innumerable low forms, known as algae, are at home in lakes, ponds and streams, or on the surface of the water, while other kinds thrive in salt or in protection below the surface or by extending above it, not only from numerous animals, but they have no competition with others which can grow only on dry or moist soil."

LEECHES OF PALESTINE.

Menace to Health and Even Life—Found at Pools and Springs.

Leeches are common in the springs and wells of Palestine, and especially so in Galilee and Lebanon. In 1907 they were so numerous during the summer and autumn months that nearly all the horses and mules suffered from bleeding at the mouth. In some places they were got rid of by placing fish in the springs.

The drinking water used in the house is generally harmless, owing to the practice of filtering the water through a piece of muslin, which is done by the water carriers in filling the pitchers. On the other hand the thirsty agricultural laborer is more exposed to the danger, especially when he drinks in the evening or during the night.

The leeches generally attach themselves inside the mouth, in the larynx and oesophagus, but Mr. Masterman is convinced they are killed as soon as they reach the stomach. At any rate no special symptoms have been remarked in the case of persons who have swallowed them entirely. When the leeches are very numerous, and Mr. Masterman observes as many as three dozen on the same person, they may be found in the nostrils and are especially frequent in the larynx. The presence of the leeches is indicated by slight but persistent hemorrhages in the mouth and nose, their intensity varying naturally with the number of the parasites, and in certain cases they may bring about serious anaemia and even death.

PRIMITIVE ANIMALS RETURN.

Creatures of Which Kansans Thought They Were Rid Again Found.

Some time ago Kansas newspapers printed a line or two about the discovery of a white weasel at Oak Mills, adding that white weasels are extremely rare. Lewis and Clark, in 1804, in the journal of their famous expedition, speak of having procured from an Indian on the Missouri "a weasel which was perfectly white except the extremity of the tail, which was black." Perhaps this weasel was the progenitor of the Oak Mills animal. By the way, it seems that Kansas is coming back to its primitive condition again, especially as regards wild animals.

Many wild creatures that were thought to have long since disappeared from our soil are making their appearance again, says the Kansas City Journal. A little more than a year ago a parrot was killed on the Remsburg farm, east of Potter. Parrots swarmed in this locality in the early days.

Willing to Take a Chance.

The burly prisoner stood unabashed before the judge. It was his first time in a court and before a jury, says a writer in the Argonaut. "Prisoner at the bar," asked the clerk, "do you wish to challenge any of the jury?" The prisoner looked them over carefully and with a skilled eye. "Well," he replied, "I'm not exactly wot you calls in training, but I guess I could stand a round or two with that fat old geezer in the corner."



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Nature has just one pigment on her palette with which she produces all the marvelous tints of beauty, and that one pigment is the blood. The shell-like pink beneath the finger nails, the delicate rose of the cheek, the cherry ripeness of the lips, the iridescent brilliance of the eyes are all produced by the blood. Just as the permanence of a beautiful painting will depend upon the purity of the colors with which it is painted, so the permanence of beauty depends on the purity of the blood. Paint, powder and cosmetics won't avail to preserve beauty. Beauty begins in the blood. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a true beautifier, because it provides for nature that pure blood with which alone she can paint. The use of this medicine will cleanse the skin, heighten the complexion, brighten the eyes, and give to the face and form that radiance of health which is the greatest charm of beauty. This is not a "patent medicine" because every bottle bears upon its wrapper a full list of the ingredients. Send for free booklet to Dr. K. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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