A BOILING LAKE.

A WONDERFUL NATURAL CURIOSITY IN THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. William Gifford Palgrave, the Arabian traveller, British Consul, and English novelist, always finds something interesting to write about, in whatever part of the world he may be. His narrative of the journey into Central Arabia, which made him famous, is, perhaps, the very best of modern books of travel. He has not only the spirit of an explorer, a geographer, and a man of science, but also the romantic imagination which could give us such a story as *Herman Agha*, where the glow and fervor of life in the East are so wonderfully mingled with its tragic realties. His observations, while Consul at Trebizonde, on the classic Southern shore of the Black Sea, gave him the material for his valuable essays on the Eastern question. More recently, he has held the British Consulate at St. Thomas, in the West Indies, and he is now on his way thence, half around the world, to the Phillippine Islands, where he is to represent the Queen's Government as Consul at Manilla. While in the West Indies he did not cease to travel and to learn all he could, consistently with his official duties; and among the places which he enanced to visit, was one of the most singular and remarkable lakes on the surface of the earth.

In the summer of 1875, the scientific world was surprised and interested to hear that a lake of constantly boiling water had been discovered upon or near the summit of the mountainous West Indian island of Dominica. But where was Dominica? It is not to be wondered at that this question was asked both in England and America. The fact that the negro nation which occupies the eastern portion of the great Island of San Domingo or Hayti calls itself the Dominican Republic naturally led to the supposition that this might be the island meant. It was in reality however, another and very different one, the loftiest of the Lesser Antilles, a British colony lying between the French Islands of Guadaloupe and Martinique, and which, instead of being as large as Ireland, contains only about three hundred square miles. Here we we were told, lay a boiling lake high among the mountains, and hitherto unknown to man. It was not a mere collection of geysers or hot springs, but an expanse of water large enough to deserve the name of a lake, and its presence explained the cloud of white vapor so often seen floating over the higher parts of the island.

Last summer this lake was visited by Mr. Palgrave, and he has now contributed to *Macmillan's Magazine* the first detailed description of it given to the general public. It seems certain that the lake was never seen by any European prior to the month of January, 1875, and probably it had never been seen by any native. Traditions pointed to its existence, but these appear to have been based upon the fact that a stream of warm and milky water known as the Sulpher river, rushes headlong from the highlands down to the sea, and a boiling souce seems necessary to account for the heat of its waves.—This, however, might have had its origin in one of the so-called soufrieres, so abundant in the volcanic islands of the West Indies, consisting of the floor of some dying crater where tepid, hot, or boiling springs give forth steam, gasses, and occasionally lofty jets of water. Indeed, it turned out that the boiling lake was situated in a soufriere the most active and extensive in the entire Archipelago. Two expeditions to this region had preceded that of Mr. Palgrave, who was fortunate in having for a companion and guide Dr. Nicholls, a young medical officer of the colony, and one of the original party of discovery.

The startling place is Roseau, the principal town of Dominica, on the south coast. Hence you ride up the valley on ponies to a hamlet 1,500 feet above the sea. Beyond this the work is all on foot, first through the magnificent scenery of the West Indian tropical forest, next amid thorny and prickley underbush, and then up and down the sides of gullies. Where the climbing is slippery and risky, and involves fantastic capers, calling forth, says Mr. Palgrave, an occasional English ejaculation, the same that Byron declares to have no like for emphasis in any other language. While moving through a labrynth of small trees the travelers suddenly came upon a sheer precipice with so little warning that they just escaped tumbling several hundred feet down into the Grande Soufriere which lay below. This is a half extinct crater, paved with soft ashes, and bubbling with innumerable mineral springs of white, black, and red waters, which mingle and rush out of one side in a scalding hot torrent. There is but little vegetation to cheer "the demonical grandeur of this semi-internal hollow;" most plants wither in the fumes of the vapor. The Black Country of England, says Mr. Palgrave is a weird place, and suggests weird ideas enough, whether traversed by night or by day; but it is "mild-domestic" compared to nature's White Country the sulphur region of Dominica.

The boiling lake lies Northeast of the first crater, about an hour's climb, being seperated from it by a second crater with steep edges, nearly burned out and comparatively quiet. "We took the intervening barrier at a run," says the narrator, "and checked ourselves short at the top. A few steps more would have sent us head foremost into the boiling lake. A strange sight to see and not less awful than strange. Fenced in by steep, mostly, indeed, perpendicular banks, varying from 60 to 100 feet high, cut out in ashes and pumice, the lake rages and roars like a wild beast in its cage; the surface to which such measurements as we could make assigned about 200 yards in length by more than half the same amount in breadth, is that of a giant seething cauldron, covered with vapid steam, through which, when the veil is for a moment blown apart by the mountain breeze, appears a confused mass of tossing waves crossing and lashing in every direction—a chaos of boiling waters."

In addition to their observations of the dimensions of the lake—about 600 by 300 feet—and its general appearance, the travelers ascertained that it was fifty or sixty feet deep within six feet from the shore; that it is a little over 2,400 feet above the level of the sea; that it is almost wholly supplied with water from below; and that the temperature of its waters was 185° F. where the waves beat against the shore and nearly 200° F. a little further out. At that elevation, and an atmospheric temperature of 64°, the boiling point of water is about 207° F. The centre of ebullition is near the middle of the lake, to which, of course, it was impossible for the party to convey their thermometers. Except at one place, the surrounding cliffs are absolutely perpendicular, and permit no approach to the water. The outlet is a scalding stream, which in the lowland becomes known as the Sulpher river already spoken of.

The journey to the boiling lake of Dominica requires an absence of three days and two nights from Roseau. It is difficult, but offers no formidable obstacles to a fair pedestrian. There is no path save that which is made through the tropical vines by the great cutlasses which the blacks carry for the purpose; but, on the other hand, there is no danger from wild beasts or poisonous snakes, which last are unknown on the island, and the climate of the elevated districts is delightful. Mr. Palgrave predicts that many others will visit this wonderful region, and it seems to us that not only Dominica, with its boiling lake, but many other West Indian islands, present attractions which American travelers would hardly neglect, if cognizant of them. Manilla is regarded as a sort of paradise for Consuls, and Mr. Palgrave says the Philippines are, by all accounts, pleasant places, isles of Eden, lotos lands; but that they can scarcely be pleasanter, or more lotos-bearing, or more Eden-like, than are the West Indies, taken as a whole, from Jamaica to Trinidad.

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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of ROBERT SISK, dec'd.

Having been granted letters testamentary on the estate of Robert Sisk, late of Allegheny township, Cambria county, deceased, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate that payment of their respective accounts must be made without delay, and those having claims or demands against the same will present them to me properly authenticated for settlement.

JOHN SISK, Executor.

March 30, 1877. 6t.*

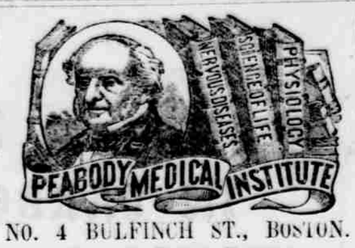
ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of PATRICK DUNEGAN, dec'd.

Letters of administration on the estate of Patrick Dunegan late of Clearfield township, Cambria county, have been granted to the undersigned to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having demands or claims against the same will produce them without delay.

L. & R. E. DURBIN, Administrator.

Ghost Spring, March 30, 1877. 6t.



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[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

The following day was a rainy one; and at night, when Mr. Potman's cows came in from the pasture, he fancied that his new purchase had changed color most marvelously. She was dabbled all over, as though soused in a vat of cold coffee, and the dark liquid was dripping from her hair. Her bag was as lank as a dish cloth, with hardly milk enough in it to pay for milking. With an oath, and a vigorous assault Potman managed to get just view enough into the cow's mouth to show him that the fronth teeth were all gone! He examined the horns, and found they had been *fixed!*

"——————————!" IT'S THE OLD COW!" I dare not write the opening remarks of John Potman on that occasion. They were awfully, terribly, frightfully profane.

A few days afterwards Potman met Amos Bean on the street.

"Bean," said he trying to smile as he spoke, "you're a coon—you did it well! But tell me one thing. I know how you made the old cow's horns shine, and how you changed her color; but I don't know how you managed to get that enormous bag of milk on to her that night. Will you tell me?"

"Certainly," replied Amos. "It was all very simple. She'd been fed on barely pudding and oat meal gruel, and hadn't been milked for five days!"

On his way home John Potman rubbed his ear as though something had bitten it.

A BEAUTIFUL PASSAGE.—The following is from the reveries of a bachelor, by Ike Marvel:

"A poor man without some sort of religion is at best but a poor reprobate, the foot-ball of destiny, with no tie linking him to infinity and the wondrous eternity that is even worse—a flame without a heat, a rainbow without a color, a flower without perfume. A man may, in some sort, tie his hope and his honor to this shifting ground tackle, to his business of the world, but a woman without that anchor called faith is a drift and a wreck! A man may in some sort of moral responsibility out of relation to mankind, but a woman in her comparatively isolated sphere where affection and no purpose is the controling motive can find no basis in any other system or right action but that of faith. A man may craze his thoughts to trustfulness in such poor harborage as fame and reputation may stretch before him, but a woman, where can she put her hopes in storms if not in Heaven? And that sweet truthfulness, that abiding love, that enduring hope mellow every page and scene in life, lighting them with radiance when the world's storms break like an army with cannon. Who can bestow its all but holy soul, tied to what is stronger than an army with cannon? Who has enjoyed the love of a Christian mother but will echo the thought with energy and hallow it with tears?"

A STRANGE STORY.—Some time ago a lady—Mrs. D'Orbeney—acquired in Egypt a papyrus, which ultimately found its way to the British museum. Ouit was written: "May the god Toth guard all the words contained in this scroll from destruction!" How Toth (god of literature) answered this prayer is as follows: The papyrus is a novel in two parts. One part is the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, under other names. The other part is the story of Cinderella, except that the Prince traces out the girl with a lock of shining hair, which matches hers alone, instead of with the shinning slipper which fits her foot. One volume, possibly taken away by Moses along with Joseph's bones, found its way into the Bible; the other, which perhaps was thought too secular, floating around the world, developed into the most popular of our fairy tales. One may be heard euphumistically told from the pulpit; the other in the theatre; but both have passed through the fire and flood of more than a thousand generations, transmitted mainly from tongue to tongue by two different races. Who would have anticipated that pious Joseph, drawn up from the pit to be made ruler of Egypt, and Cinderella, emerging from ashes to become a queen, parted B. C. 1400, when Moses was a boy, would finally meet their original parent here in London, and fall into each other's arms as long-lost sister and brother?—*M. D. Conway, in Cincinnati Commercial.*

—Dr. Potter, of Griffin, Ga., has a new motor which promises to lay Keely's entirely in the shade. With it, it is said, he can generate electricity in quantities heretofore unparalleled, and with this he proposes to decompose water into a vapor or gas many times more powerful than steam, which is to be used in propelling machinery. By the same motor he proposes to generate a burning gas, which is to be used in propelling machinery. By the same motor he proposes to generate a burning gas, which will make the illumination of streets and houses nearly as cheap as moonshine.

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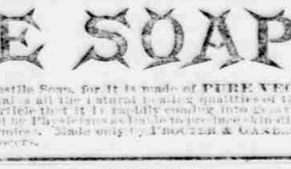

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GEO. M. READE, *Attorney-at-Law,* Ebensburg, Pa. Office on Centre street, three doors from High street. [8-27, 1y.]

THE DEAD SEA OF AMERICA.—There are no fishes in the Great Salt Lake. The only living thing in its waters is a worm, about an inch long. This worm, when viewed beautifully under the lens of a microscope. When a storm arises, worms are driven ashore by the sands, and devoured by the gulls. We found a pure stream flowing into the lake. It was filled with clubs and shiners. The fish were frightened and were driven down the brook into the briny lake. The instant they touched its waters they came to the surface, belly up, and died without a gasp. The water is remarkably buoyant. Irish potatoes float on it like corks. Hoon and myself stripped and went in swimming. I dived into the lake from a long pier, which had been built for the use of a small steamboat formerly plied upon the waters. The sensation was novel. The water was so salty that my eyes and nose began to smart, but so buoyant that there was no difficulty in floating even when my air was exhausted in my lungs. I struck out for the beach I felt as light as a feather. In spite of all that I could do my head would go under the water. The lightness of the water and surging of the waves kept my feet from under me. A person who could swim might be easily drowned in five feet of water. He could not go down like a lump of lead, but his feet would fly up like a pair of ducks. The water is as clear in Mormon Lake—so clear that one bottom can be seen at a depth of thirty feet. When we reached the shore we crawled out upon it in the light of the sun, our bodies were thickly encrusted with salt. We were compelled to go to the small stream from which we had driven the clubs and shiners to wash off in fresh water before we could put on our clothes. The water was filled with grains of salt that could not be washed out. The Mormons occasionally visit the lake in their wagons for the purpose of laying in a supply. They say their health is much benefited by bathing in the salt upon their bodies, and by dressing without wiping themselves.

SHRINKING OF FLANNELS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes: I had worn two flannel shirts long enough to have been thoroughly washed that all warranted to shrink six inches, and found, to my sorrow, that they had shrunk six inches in length and about as much in breadth. I am a woman, and have been in the habit of doing so are delicious. I reasoned myself to the inevitable, and resolved to take as a matter of course the gradual tightening and lengthening of my under clothes. Washing day after day then, has been my last self inflicted task. My clothes worn out, and yet soft as when first I put on. When aware of this fact, I inquired of my father-in-law, a tailor, the cause of the woman, and he told me what I cannot keep to myself, but must ask you to make better use of.

To keep flannels from shrinking, use Warfield's cold water soap. Wet the clothes in good cold water, rub on the soap, let them stand an hour or more; rub out the soiled parts and rinse well in cold water, without moving the clothes about, and then hang them up to dry without any wringing, hang up full length, and let them drip and dry. The white soap is excellent in washing with a sponge, as it will thoroughly cleanse without the necessity of much water and much rubbing. A flannel shirt is made from large sheets of the best carded wool by machinery, and is then put in boiling water and dipped out with a stick, the folded material. Even a small amount of this mode of treatment will cause it to make the softest flannel that is known.

THE COMING OF THE BIRDS.—Mr. Rochester *Union* says that Mr. Ezra Lamberton, of that city, has kept a record of the arrival of birds for many years past. In 1872 the first robins were observed there March 29, and snipe were found April 28. That was a backward year. In 1873 robins came March 18, pigeons March 28, blue birds 18, pigeons March 29, and woodcock were found at Oak Orchard March 28. In 1874 blue birds arrived March 18, and snipe were also found on that day. In 1875 the first robins were seen March 11, and snipe were found March 7. It was found by actual observation that the male song birds arrive in Rochester about a week before the females, when not disturbed in their migrations. They will return to the same place to build their nests. Evergreen swamps are the favorite resorts in which the birds are generally found, as they are near the northern breeding regions, and there are usually large numbers of robins remaining all winter in that latitude in dense swamps of cedars. Woodcock and bobolinks are the last birds to arrive, and do not greet us with their spring song until about May 8.

LIQUID GRAFTING WAX.—A correspondent of the *Practical Farmer* gives the following directions for making a liquid grafting wax, which, it is said, will be readily applied with a brush, and for out-door grafting, without the necessity of heating. It is also excellent to cover cuts made in pruning:

Melt together 1 lb rosin, 4 oz. beeswax, 4 oz. good beef tallow. Remove from the fire and let cool until a scum covers the surface of it, then add 1 teaspoonful of linseed oil and 1 teaspoonful of turpentine; replace on stove and when thoroughly mixed pour into cold water. 7 oz. of a mixture of two parts of rosin and one part of alcohol and 1 part water, will answer. Stir briskly, and taking care that the water is not hot enough to melt the alcohol does not inflame, as it will do if the water is too hot. Stir until the mixture is too hot. Stir until the mixture is cold. The liquid is lost in the mixture when it is cold. The mixture should be of the consistency of thick cream when applied. Keep in a close bottle and apply with a brush. If after a month or two the mixture becomes hard, remelt, add a little more of the turpentine, and when cold more of the alcohol and water. After the mixture is applied it becomes hard, but after it is applied it becomes soft again. The mixture will remain unchanged except that it grows harder, for an indefinite time.