

A FLOATING ISLAND.

The existence of a floating island, Waqale, in Vanna, Leva, is known to very few, probably, besides those natives who reside in or near the district of Nango, to the northeast of the province of Macuata. No visit previous to ours, so far as we are informed, has been paid to the place by any European. A short account, therefore, of what we saw may not be without some interest. We had slept on the island of Kaveva, and in the morning sailed to the mainland opposite, and entered the river Malaga, near the town of Naba. The river is of considerable size, and might be navigable for five or six miles in a tanton cutter. The banks are low, and are not visible for some distance, owing to the dense forest on both sides. So far as we could see, the country is very poor, yielding a coarse fern only, and a few noko-noko trees, and the hills, which are not distant, appeared to be quite barren. At a distance of six miles or so from the sea the branches of the trees became troublesome to our boats and rigging; we landed and walked about three miles further, through very poor land, to the small town of Nakoiloko, where we had arranged to meet the proprietor (tauke) of this island. He did not arrive, however, until late that night, and our visit was delayed until next morning. Our party, which consisted originally of fourteen persons, two of whom were chiefs of some local distinction, was now increased to about fifty or more, many of whom were young girls brought by the chief to honor our visit with a "maka." A walk of about two miles from the town of Nakoiloko brought us to the object of our journey. About half way we came to a noko-noko tree, with which there is connected a playful superstition similar to what is found at Muniola in a balaw tree. The chief explained the custom, and instructed us in the form of words to be used. Then each one, "how to himself," named the fair one he wished for his own, and there a stone at the tree from a distance of thirty yards or thereabout. The majority missed, and there were shouts of "na eka," but those who hit were congratulated upon the certainty of winning the woman for their wife.

On our arrival at the lake, whether the most of the natives had preceded us, we were met by a man who presented himself as the son of the chief, and most delectable. Very friendly, because as far as the eye could see, there lay a barren waste, we stood in the center of a vast moorland and the lake had dwindled during a five months' drought to a swamp. There was no sign of life but what we ourselves had brought. We were lively enough, however, as you may imagine. The "tauke" had climbed up a tree on the island (or a tall bush called nahala), and was adjusting the island god to move. The girls were on the opposite side of the mere, in the full flow of a moka, about half a dozen natives were pulling about a small island in the highest glee, and a number, both of men and women, were on the large island with the "tauke," who seemed to be the genius loci, helping him (with stout poles) to move the mass. Every one was in the highest spirits. One chief told us that the Waqale had drifted across the mere that morning, which we had great pleasure in believing was the wind was from that quarter, it was lying east by the side now, and was blowing without progressing. A light spring of three or four inches gushed us on the island, which with a dash, and moved a fathoms when we were on it. Had we not, I feel sure that we would have been ferried over the water publican State. It is fifty paces in majority ranging in breadth and is thousands. The firm turf, in some last our gained anything, likely covered reason that the Republic besides several of its candidates for Governor high. Since 1850, Hoping 'n all. Three sense of the people's wantance of that them the people's. Ode has three baly, of clearing appears to have accustomed to defeat, lashed from the that process at its successful is smaller. Democracy of the State with in length, diet with the same grace (most of particular done, and hope for the future. The land, however, was a very Republic. The ball, in head shame of our party, who, being now situated that there was nothing in the "Credulity" was giving his mind over to the scientific side of the question. The aggregate weight of the ten people must have been about 1,500 pounds and the island sank several inches, and caused ominously until relieved of part of its burden. The men, one by one, and all, plunged into the water and about, regardless of the warning of the old man up the tree that they would be seized by the waves and carried away. We were not men to follow the example of the nation, and jumped in also. The banks were covered with rushes and we level of the water. They do not shove at all but go down sheer. Where we reached there was no bottom or at least only of three fathoms at the very margin of 60 fms. In many places the water had sapped the loose soil under the turf to a considerable distance. At the time of our visit the size of the mere was about 250 yards by 150, but probably after much rain it is three times that size. We had no means of judging the depth other than swimming, and we can only say we found it to be more than two fathoms in the middle, but how much more we cannot say, and where the island had drifted it was two fathoms. The water is stagnant, but not impure; it is not pleasant to the taste, but there is hardly a suspicion of a buggy flavor. The sun was extremely hot, and after our shadeless walk we arrived in a shimmering condition, and the water felt cool and refreshing. We swam the entire length and back again without finding any snags, or any leaves or sticks.—Eye Argus.

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USEFUL INFORMATION.

GROUND TEA.—A French chemist asserts that if tea be ground like coffee, immediately before not water is poured upon it, it will yield nearly double the amount of its exhilarating qualities. TO REMOVE PUTTY from glass dip a small brush in nitric or muriatic acid, and with it paint over the dry putty that adheres to the broken glass and frames of the windows. After an hour's interval the putty will have become so soft as to be easily removable. RAT EXTERMINATOR.—The German method of exterminating rats is to feed them with cakes made of two parts squills and three parts chopped bacon, and meal enough to make a stiff mass. The rats go away, as any animal of taste naturally would if provided with such a meal. A CURE FOR CANCER.—A man who was cured of cancer says: Having heard that several persons had been cured by drinking wild tea and poulticing with the tea grounds, I began using wild tea in earnest. I drank nothing else at my meals, and in four weeks my hand was as well as ever. It is said by a farmer who has tried the experiment so often as to be sure of his ground, that butter milk poured over the back of a scurvy pig will entirely and speedily remove the scurf. The remedy is simple. Almost every farmer can boast of one or more scurvy pigs, and if buttermilk will cure it, it should not be spared. SALT FOR BEDBUGS.—To get rid of bedbugs wash the room and the furniture of the room they frequent with salt water, filling the cracks with salt, and you may look in vain for them. Salt seems inimical to bedbugs, and they will not trail through it. Some think it preferable to all ointments, and the buyer requires no certificate as to its genuineness. TO REMOVE WARTS.—Hall's Journal of Health says that to dip a stick the size of a knitting needle into muriatic acid and touch the top of the wart night and morning with what adheres to the stick will effect a painless cure. Buy a small quantity in a glass stoppered bottle, keep out of the way of the children, of your cloths and skin, and you are safe in using it. HOW TO CURE A SORE THROAT.—One who has tried it communicates the following about curing sore throats: Let each one of our readers buy at any drug store one ounce of camphorated oil and five cents' worth of chlorate of potash. Whenever any soreness appears in the throat, put the potash in half a tumbler of water, and with it gargle the throat thoroughly, then rub the neck thoroughly with the camphorated oil at night before going to bed, and also pin around the throat a small strip of woolen flannel. This is a simple, cheap and sure remedy.

HALF SWEET AND HALF SOUR APPLES.—We must give it up. We have never before been quite ready to believe the stories about apples half sweet and half sour growing on the same tree, but when we receive, as we did a few days since, a basket of apples from Mr. Munroe Morse, Franklin, Mass., which carry the evidence in such an unmistakable manner, we must give it up. We have heard of many such trees and such apples, and have examined such trees and fruit, but only to find that the half sweet and half sour specimens were all gone, or the apples were wholly sweet or wholly sour on the same branches that year. The apples sent in by Mr. Morse appear to be Rhode Island Greenings. Part of them are decidedly acid, like our sweetest baking apples, while still others carry the acid and sweet in the same specimens, one side being sprightly sour and the other unmistakably sweet. Queer fruit to cook, says Mrs. Morse, who like other intelligent housekeepers, knows that sweet apples don't make good pies, and that sour apples cook in half the time needed for sweet ones. Every apple needs tasting in order to know into which pan to put it for cooking. What first sent this fruit off on such a queer freak is a mystery not yet solved. We have picked Baldwins and Russets from the same twigs; have seen apples half red and half yellow, with the lines as marked as though made with a paint brush; have grown Porters shaped exactly like Bartlett pears; have seen apples without seeds or cores, but never before saw a perfect marriage of sweet and sour in the same apple, each flavor holding its own distinct individuality. We must give it up.—N. E. Farmer.

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A WONDERFUL INVENTION.

The Brooklyn Argus of recent date says: The furnaces at the Navy Yard were kept in full blast Saturday without the use of coal. They were heated with a substance made from residuum of petroleum and coal tar by a method invented by Mr. S. C. Salisbury, who has been experimenting with the material over twenty years. It is claimed that the new process will revolutionize iron and steel manufacture, and make French plate glass as cheap as common window glass. The boiler room of the machine shop was filled with officers of the Naval Bureau of construction and many gentlemen interested in iron and glass manufacture. All expressed themselves in enthusiastic terms at the success of the trial. The inventor, who is an active little gentleman with grey hair and a ruddy complexion, dressed around and seemed almost bright from petroleum and coal tar, which is mixed to about the consistency of molasses. It is conducted from the barrel to the furnace by means of a small glass pipe. At the end of this pipe, it extends into the door of the furnace, is a funnel shaped apparatus. As the fuel enters this furnace it comes in contact with a current of superheated steam, which atomizes the liquid, so that as it leaves the machine it is atomized on all ocean steamship lines. A saving of \$5,000 will be effected in freight alone on each trip across the Atlantic, as all that space is now taken up by the 800 tons of coal which are used. The risk will not be increased by the use of the fuel, as all the inflammable properties of the petroleum are, by the invention, eliminated.

SOME INTERESTING DATES.—Dates are generally dry reading; but there is sometimes a significance in the mere grouping of dates, and the reader will find such significance in an attentive consideration of the following events, all occurring in the same century: Postoffices were first established in 1464; printed medals were first used in 1474; waddies were first constructed in 1478; America was discovered in 1492; the first printing press was set up at Copenhagen in 1493; Copernicus announced his discovery of the true system of the universe in 1543; Luther was summoned before the Diet of Worms in 1521; Zavier, the first great missionary of modern Christianity, planted the cross in India in 1526; Albrecht Durer gave the world a prophecy of the future, wood engraving in 1527; Johannes set the spinning-wheel in motion in 1530—the germ of all the best wheels and looms of ten thousand future factories. Henry VIII of England finally and forever broke with the Pope in 1532; Ignatius Loyola founded the order of the Jesuits in 1566; Calvin founded the university of Geneva in 1637; modern spectacles first came into use in 1545; the first knives were used in England and the first wheeled carriages in France in 1559; Torquato Tasso wrote in 1560: religious liberty was granted to the Huguenots in France in 1562, and was followed by the massacre of St. Bartholomew in 1572; Corneus wrote Don Quixote in 1573; the first newspaper was published in England in 1605; telescopes were invented in 1608; Shakespeare, Bacon, Kepler, Tycho Brahe were contemporaries in 1590—these are some of the more important headlands of European history within a single century.—Zee. Lyman Abbott in Sunday Afternoon.

A DRILL WHICH BORES SQUARE HOLES.—One of the novelties of the Paris Exposition is a drill which bores square holes, the invention of Mr. Julius Hall of London. The work is done too, says a correspondent of the Scientific News, in a way so simple and so easy that any one may prove the fact for himself. The invention has excited genuine astonishment among the mechanics gathered at the Exposition. There is a constant crowd surrounding the inventor, watching him bore hole after hole square, and puzzling over the provokingly simple solution of the problem. All that is required is an ordinary hand drill stock. A stationary one, with a chuck below for holding the work, is used by the inventor, but he says, "anything, in fact, that will properly hold the drill." The tool itself is the usual form of three square drill—so that no special apparatus is required. Clump or chuck this drill in its holder so that "it will wobble"; that is the whole secret. Instead of making the hole round, as it will if tightly grasped, when loosely held it produces a square one; and, according to the inventor, it is immaterial whether the drill wobbles in the work or the work under the drill.