OVER LAND AND SEA.

A STRIKING DISPLAY OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

Wonderful Features of the Transportation Building at the Columbian Exposition — Ancient and Modern Methods of Travel Contrasted.

Apollo's fiery horses snuffed the liquid gold of morning when he drove his golden chariot. Venus had teams of sparrows, swans, peacocks, dolphins and doves. Pegasus was but a winged horse and had he gone as near the sun as Icarus did, perhaps his wings would have melted off. Thus only in imagination did the ancients see distance obliterated. They never dared to dream of the marvels the Transportation Building contains. Apollo's horses would be tame affairs compared with the puffing steel-breasted monster, No. 999, of the New York Central, whose record is a mile in 32 seconds—a speed equivalent to 112½ miles in an hour. Think of Neptune's chariot beside one of the modern Atlantic greyhounds. The Transportation Building is not remarkable for its architectural beauty. Designed on a basis of utility, classic mould was not given a consideration in its shape. Ornamentation came to the rescue and saved the building from the reproach of being a mere shed. In truth, the ornamentation seems to have been an afterthought. The golden door is certainly magnificent—five concentric and receding arches ornamented with bas reliefs of modified acanthus leaves in gold and silver. The story of the development of the means of transportation is told in bas reliefs on the base of these arches. These reliefs are certainly very beautiful. Beginning at the left with old age carried in a rude palanquin of the long, long ago, the story finishes with the interior of a modern dining car. At frequent intervals along the front of the Transportation Building allegorical groups of statuary stand on pedestals about 6 feet high. Each group is duplicated, one being north of the Golden Door, the other south. The building is painted in a terra cotta tint and between the windows there is a fresco. In each instance this fresco is a white and gold angel in a style suggestive of Egyptian Art. He holds a straight ribbon in his hands, the arms hanging full length at his side. This ribbon bears the name of some noted man who has secured fame in the world of travel. At the north and south ends of the building are statues of those whose inventions have marked a period in transportation. The glory of the display within is certainly undeniable. It appears to me, however, that one point has been omitted. The efforts made to secure aerial navigation have no representation. Yet since the days of Joseph Michael Montgolfier many an ambitious inventor has turned his mind to securing some means by which he could speed through the air. But transportation by land and by sea, however, are laid before the visitor in chronological order. Everything from the crudest palanquin to a modern palace car, from a Mexican burro to a Columbia cycle, from an aboriginal bark canoe to models of the stateliest ocean steamers; baby carriages, magnificent coaches, beautiful sleighs, Chinese craft, by-darka of the Aleutian Islands, Spanish Volante and thousands of other queer vehicles and vessels, with names just as queer, used in every land and on every water known to man. But let us study the progress in road-making. A magnificent display which takes up the entire division of the annex is made by the Museum of Osnabruck. There are 67 separate parts to this exhibit. The first part is a relic of the early Christian era. It is a part of the original plank-way laid by Somitius as a Roman military road over the fen of Devenmoor, near Osnabruck. The road was ten and a half miles long. The planks are about 12 feet by 9 inches, and overlap each other in the same fashion as the clapboards on an ordinary cottage are fixed to-day. A hole about two inches square is chiseled at about six inches from each end of each plank. Through each hole a dog-headed stake is driven. The stake is about three feet long. Thus each board was strongly fixed in position. For ages that old road was there. Kindly Nature packed it away in some six feet of moss from whence it was excavated in 1892. From Exhibit No. 1 to Exhibit No. 2 there is a lapse of 16 centuries. A wooden tramway and car in which not the smallest piece of iron has been used constitutes No. 2. The rails of the road are about 18 inches apart, are fastened to the grounds by means of pegs and seem to be the bodies of small trees or branches of large trees. The wheels of the car are large spools with concave surface so that they hold to the rail. The car itself is a rather small affair shaped like a bin and about the size of a barrel. This kind of vehicle and road is still to be seen in parts of Hungary. No. 3 is the first approach to a modern iron road. It was constructed in 1776 by B. J. Curr. Each rail is but three feet long, the sleepers are rough stones about a foot square and iron nails are used at the joints. The rails are angle shaped. A wagon of heavy iron wheels was drawn along this road by means of animal power. The first locomotive experiment was made over this road in 1804 by Richard Trevithick at Merthyr Tydvil, now Aberdeen Junction. From this there is a steady and rapid improvement in every connected with railroad building. These points are four: the rail, the sleeper, the fastener and the joint. In the 67 displays no two of the roads are exactly alike in all of the points.

History had been searched and wherever an idea of steam locomotion on land found expression in words that idea has been given material shape. Thus there are about fifty engines or models of engines displayed. The first of these bears as much resemblance to the locomotive turned out of the shops to-day as the chrysalis does to the butterfly. Hero, a Greek mathematician, who flourished in the 3d century before Christ, had an idea of using steam as a motive power. This idea was based on the principle of action and reaction. These revolving lawn sprinklers, so common in our cities, are examples of Hero's idea with water instead of steam as the motive. The principle of the reaction of steam when escaping through a small orifice led Sir Isaac Newton to give expression to the possibilities of using it in locomotion. The first model shown in the Baltimore & Ohio exhibit is a carriage to be moved by steam power applied in this manner. A large, ungainly copper vessel, resembling one of those low, squatty tea pots our grandmothers used, is set between four high and broad-tired carriage wheels. From the rear of this ungainly affair projects a trumpet-looking nozzle. Steam was to have been generated in the copper vessel and through the nozzle it was to have escaped. Reacting on the boiler, it was expected to have driven it forward. Of course the concern was never built. In all probability the model in the Transportation Building is the first and only one wherein Sir Isaac's idea was ever given material shape. Newton lived, be it remembered, from 1642 to 1727, yet it was not until 1769 that the first self-moving land carriage was made. From that time the development of the locomotive was rapid. At the beginning it was thought necessary to have a cog-wheel and rack in order to get the engine to move along the iron track made for it. Richard Trevithick, in 1803, succeeded in building an engine that made the marvellous speed of nine miles in four hours and five minutes! Last year the New York Central's steel winged bird, No. 999, made the same distance in four minutes and forty-eight seconds.

The first train of cars consisted of nothing more or less than rather large four-wheel coaches. To look at the first train as it is shown in the exhibit of the New York Central is a lesson that is certainly worth a day's admission to the Fair. Even to see the mode of travel on the European railroads as displayed at the Fair, and contrast it with our own, will make an American feel proud of the social standing his right of citizenship gives him. There are some very interesting relics to be found in the building. Among these I should mention the tools used by that stanch old Catholic, Charles Carrol, of Carrolton, on July 4th, 1828, when laying the corner stone of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. It was the first railroad company organized in the United States, the date of organization being April 24th, 1827. A carriage, once the property of Daniel Webster, is to be seen in the north end of the Transportation Building. Beside it stands President Polk's carriage. In its time it was undoubtedly a beautiful vehicle, not differing so very much from the lighter structures of to-day. But alas, the rude hand of time has smitten its beauty like a fell disease and it looks pretty much like the "wonderful one-horse shay" must have appeared just before it went to pieces. Its lining is tattered, torn and faded. The glass is gone from the sides. It stands like a monument to wither with its silent reproach the fleeting pomp and show and glory that the world can give. Near this is to be seen a wagon. The oddity of its shape is attractive. A little card attached bears its legend. It formerly belonged to a descendant of Miles Standish. This was a certain Nancy Standish-Welles. It is known to be 125 years old and if Mrs. Welles were about to say whence she obtained it, it might possibly reach back to the days of Miles himself. The state coach in which Dom Pedro rode is shown in the Brazilian exhibit. It is a very gaudy affair. Near it is to be seen an elephant saddle from Siam. I have no idea of the value of this beautiful piece of work. It is of ivory most delicately carved, is about four feet high, and about as long.—[New York Tablet.

HANGED HIS OWN FATHER.

Remarkable Scene on a Gallows in Washington.

It was a strange meeting of father and son on the occasion of the hanging of old Bill Stebbins for the murder of his second wife at Spokane. The murder was atrocious, the people said, and there were few glances of sympathy for the doomed man among the morbidly curious stares of the little crowd that filled the jail yard.

The Sheriff's deputies had attended to the details. The trap was set ready to be sprung and in an instant send a man into the great beyond. The noose had been made carefully of the best hemp rope, greased with tallow for that occasion. The procession had moved up the steps to the platform.

With business-like dignity the Sheriff, who had been notified, stepped from his office, crossed the courtyard and mounted the scaffold with the death warrant in his hand. He read the document in a calm voice, as one would a notice of a sheriff's sale.

"And now, sir," he said, turning to the condemned man, "you are at liberty to speak if there is anything on your mind."

Throughout his trial, in the dark hours after his sentence, through the last night of life, and while viewing seriously from his cell the rays of the last sunrise he would ever see on earth, the victim of the law had been stoically sullen. Emotion had never shown itself in his face. He had taken his fate philosopically from the first, making no defence, saying nothing when the stern Judge had given him an opportunity before passing sentence. Few noticed it, but it seemed as if a tear glistened in his eye then. Addressing himself to the Sheriff, he said, in a suppressed tone.

"Won't you shake hands, my boy, before I go?"

The Sheriff did not hear him, or if he did no one could have told it. He was still the business-like executive officer of the county in which he lived; nothing more.

"I know I didn't treat you right," the condemned man continued, showing a trace of excitement, "nor did your mother either, but a word of comfort to a man that's going to die isn't much. Won't you say something?"

Twenty years of battling with the world on his own hook had hardened the Sheriff's heart. Silently he motioned the assistant to buckle the straps, adjust the cap and fix the noose.

Then with steady hand and unwaving countenance he pressed the button and sent his father into eternity.—[Spokane (Wash.) Review.

To clean bottles cut a raw potato into small pieces, which put into the bottle with a tablespoonful of water. Shake well together until every mark is removed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE typical plant of the new world is maize, or Indian corn, declares the Chicago Herald. The early adventurers and settlers both in North and South America found in it a delicious food, easily cultivated, apparently indifferent to soil or climate, yielding in abundance twice that of any other grain, with much less labor, and susceptible of preparation for the table in many forms. The white settlers found it the food of the Indians and made it their own, and for four centuries it has been the best known, as it is the cheapest and most nutritious, of the food supplies in the western hemisphere. And yet, after these centuries of knowledge, it has not obtained great favor in Europe. The potato, another plant indigenous to America, early became a popular European food, common to the tables of the rich and poor, and the chief support of the poor in Ireland, but corn, a much more nutritious food, and quite as easily cultivated, has never been widely adopted. Our most persistent missionary efforts have accomplished but little more than convincing Europeans that our corn is good food for animals, though Colonel Murphy hopes for good results from his efforts of the past few years. We who are familiar from childhood with roasting ears, mush and milk, corn bread, johnny cake, and all the various forms of toothsome dishes that can be made out of Indian corn, wonder at the supineness, or rather obstinacy, with which people abroad meet our recommendations of it. The poorer people stick by their heavy and unpalatable black bread, while the wealthier classes look with disdain upon a grain they think only fit for horses and hogs. The American aborigines regarded it as the best gift of the Great Spirit, and their folk lore abounds in stories and legends concerning it. In "Hiawatha" Longfellow repeats one of the legends of this "new gift of the Great Spirit." One of the great results of the World's Fair will undoubtedly be to make this golden grain more familiar to the world and prove its value as one of the best of foods.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY in England is about to institute an examination in agricultural science. The subjects of examination will be botany, chemistry, physiology and hygiene, entomology, geology, mechanics and engineering, bookkeeping and agriculture. The London Daily News, in commenting upon this decision, remarks: "This is one more sign that our system of so-called practical teaching has completely broken down in all the arts. Our rivals in industry, the Germans, train for everything, and with marked success. The French are not very far behind them. Their school of commerce is probably one of the best in the world; their school of forestry is admittedly the best. For a long time, if not actually at the present moment, our civil service students who were working for appointments in Indian forestry had to complete their education in France. It would be difficult to name any single branch of a great industry which can now be cultivated with success without a knowledge of its principles. Through the want of such a knowledge British farming is where it is to-day."

IT is interesting to observe the progress of American education upon the Pacific coast. There are schools and seminaries in California which boast of pupils gathered from half the world. A list of the graduates of one of these institutions, published in a San Francisco paper, contains names not only from that state and adjacent territories, but also from Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador, Chili, Tahiti, Honolulu, Japan and Australia. The influence which such a collection of students must exert among their own people on their return to their homes must be wholly American in sentiment, democratic in politics and liberal in religion. The teachings thus received must enlighten and revolutionize the dead old world of the Pacific.

THE inconvenience created in Italy by the scarcity of silver coins, will be alleviated by a measure just taken by Signor Grimaldi, the Finance Minister. He has decided upon the coining of nickel "pieces" or coins of 20 centimes, or 4 cents, similar to those in use in Belgium and Switzerland. Meanwhile the clause relative to the internationalization or exchange of small divisionary coins between the countries belonging to the Latin Monetary League has been abrogated. Thanks to this, the exportation of such coin will become impossible; and it is expected that the scarcity of silver money, which has caused lately great loss to Italian commerce, will promptly cease.

A PHYSICIAN has written an article to show that dyspepsia is due to a disorder of the head, and not to the stomach. He says: "The numbers of so-called dyspepsia that are cured by the disappearance of business, domestic or social annoyance are nearly unlimited. An overdue note in the possession of a beetle-nosed and beetle-eyed creditor is more productive of dyspepsia than a meal of second-hand carpet tacks. In fact, it may be a safe thing to assume that in dyspepsia we had better look in the garret, closet or cellar of the dyspeptic's house or among his business or social relations, rather than to his stomach, for the solution of the difficulty."

THE election of Miss Ella M. Grubb to be Superintendent of Schools for Adams County, Ill., has aroused great interest there, for next to Cook county, the head city of which is Chicago, Adams is the most populous county in the State, and this is the first time in its history that a woman has been elected to office. Miss Grubb is only twenty-eight years old. As an instance of her pluck and high character it may be said that she has already paid back from her earnings as a teacher the money she was compelled to borrow to secure a college education.

CARP fry were liberally distributed to the waters of the lower Delaware and its branches several years ago, and the results of the distribution are now seen from time to time. A 17-pound German carp was killed the other day when workmen were blowing out the piles of an old bridge across the Appoquinimink, a tidewater tributary of the Delaware emptying into the river twenty miles below Wilmington. A Hungarian lad hauled up with the aid of other boys at hand a 42-pound carp from the waters of Armstrong's creek, a small stream emptying into the Delaware near New Castle.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for holding an exposition at Lyons, France, next year. The fair is to be opened on April 26, 1894. The principal building is to be polygonal in shape, with a lofty central dome which will rise to a height upon the interior of 180 feet. It rises in a graceful curve, the structure being strengthened by means of airy lateral supports. The building will be 760 feet in diameter, and will cover a space of nearly 500,000 square feet. The total weight of the entire structure will be only about 2,480 tons.

ACCORDING to the Government statistics, Canada imported from the British Isles no less than 886,000 immigrants during the ten years ending in 1891, but the recent Canadian census shows that only 36,159 are left in that country. The United States census gives much information as to what has become of them.

LI-HUNG-CHANG has intimated, according to a Daily News Shanghai correspondent, that a new treaty between China and the United States will be necessary in view of the present condition of the Chinese immigration question, and that the new Minister will probably be charged with the task of arranging one.

MME. TEL SENO, a Japanese lawyer, is said to be the only feminine member of the bar in the land of the Mikado. She was educated in this country. She takes a great interest in the welfare of her sex, and has founded a training school for women.

JOURNALISM.

The First Printed Newspaper—The Oldest Newspaper in the United States.

The first printed newspaper, according to Thorne, authority for the following statistics, was The Gazette, published in Nuremberg, in 1457, and the oldest paper extant is The Neue Zeitung aus Hispanien und Italien, printed in the same city in 1534. Other countries followed Germany in issuing printed newspapers in the following order: England, in 1622; France, in 1631; Sweden, in 1644; Holland, in 1656; Russia, in 1703; Turkey, in 1827. The first American paper consisted of three pages of two columns each and a blank page, and was published in Boston Sept. 25, 1690, under the name of Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestic, but it was immediately suppressed. In 1704 the Boston News Letter appeared, printed on one sheet of foolscap paper. It flourished for 72 years. The oldest newspaper in the United States is the Weekly Massachusetts Spy, published at Worcester, Mass. This paper was established at Boston March 3, 1771, by Isaiah Thomas, the historian of American printing. It was removed to Worcester in 1775, where it has been issued continuously ever since.

The total number of newspapers published in the world at present is estimated at about 43,000 distributed as follows: United States, 17,000; Germany, 5,500; Great Britain, 6,000; France, 4,092; Japan, 2,000; Italy, 1,400; Austria-Hungary, 1,200; Asia, exclusive of Japan, 1,000; Spain, 850; Russia, 800; Australia, 700; Greece, 600; Switzerland, 450; Holland, 300; Belgium, 300; all others, 1,000. Of these about half are printed in English. The whole number of periodicals published in the United States in 1887 was 16,310. The whole number of copies printed during the year was 2,497,354,000. The first printing office in the United States was established in 1639, the first political newspaper was in 1733, the first daily paper in 1784, the first penny paper in 1833 and the first illustrated paper in 1853.

The First Real Beau.

The first beau appears along about when we are touching fourteen or sixteen. There have been, of course, many little boy admirers, but according to a writer the genuine gallant does not materialize until we put on long dresses and commence making ourselves up for young ladies, a comprehensive phrase that all girls will understand.

He is usually the brother of some special chum of ours, and in this way we are enabled to see him more often than if we had no reason for going to his house.

He is exceedingly bashful before people, but can talk a blue streak when we are alone. He squanders his allowances on ice cream, soda and caramels, and on rare occasions invites us to a church sociable or concert.

He is always one of the group of youths who wait outside the church or Sunday school door, and he is the one always to escort us to our homes on such occasions.

We are teased unmercifully about him and really enjoy it, though pretending to be fearfully indignant and provoked about it.

This sort of thing goes on until something happens, as some things have a way of doing, and either he goes to college or we leave for boarding school, or perhaps a quarrel or change of residence occurs.

At any rate, years perhaps will roll away before we see a bearded man who can bear the slightest resemblance to the young, rosy-cheeked boy.—[Elmira Telegram.

RELIABLE RECIPES.

BOUILLON.—Six pounds of beef and bone. Cut up the meat and break the bones; add two quarts of cold water; let it simmer slowly for five hours. Strain it through a fine sieve, removing every particle of fat. Season only with salt and pepper.

ASPARAGUS. — Asparagus is often served as a separate course, cold, as a salad, with a French dressing, or it may equally be so served hot, with the ordidary cream sauce or the following, which is better: Melt two ounces of butter in saucepan and sift into it a level tablespoonful of flour, stirring all the time; add a gill of cold milk, salt and pepper; when the sauce is smooth and thick pour in a gill of cream and a teaspoonful of Tarragon vinegar or lemon juice; mix well and add one-half ounce of grated Parmesan cheese. Serve hot at once.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORTERS.

Quick Work of Stenographers and Typewriters During Congress.

Among many things left out, which are paid for out of the contingent funds, is the item of salaries for the official reporters. These are the men who write out the reports of proceedings and debates which make up the daily publications called the Congressional Record. There are five of them on the floor of the House, who sit at a table in front of the Speaker's desk. It is their duty to report every word that is said from the opening to the adjournment. Being all of them rapid stenographers, they manage by taking turns. As quickly as No. 1 has got 1,000 words put down, he holds up his thumb and No. 2 takes up the thread, very likely in the middle of a speech, while No. 1 goes down to a room on the floor below, where he dictates the 1,000 words which he has taken to two shorthand-writers—500 words to one and 500 to the other.

While the two shorthand writers are copying off their notes quickly in typescript, Reporter No. 1 goes back to his seat in front of the Speaker's desk. Meanwhile No. 2 has finished his 1,000 words and held up his thumb to No. 3, who in turn takes up the thread, while No. 2 goes down stairs and dictates—and so on, until No. 5 holds up his thumb to No. 1, and the business goes on as before. This arrangement renders it possible to have the complete typewritten report of the House proceedings ready for the printer a few minutes after that body adjourns. It is the same way in the Senate. Thus each Congressman finds on his breakfast table next morning a copy of the Record, comprising a complete report of everything that was said and done in the National Legislature on the day before. These skilled stenographers get $5,000 a year each.

There are ten of them, and so it costs $50,000 a year for the writing of the Congressional *Record*, the stenographers paying their own assistants. The printing of this interesting daily publication is done at an expense of nearly $150,000 annually. During the last fiscal year it used up 325,000 pounds of paper and 1,053 pounds of ink. For the titles and ornamentation on bound copies 150 packs of gold leaf were required, valued at $1,009. Five barrels of flour were consumed in the shape of paste for binding. During the first session of the last Congress the outlay on the printing of bills and joint resolutions for both House and Senate was $71,880. During the two sessions 10,837 such documents were presented to the House and 4,056 to the Senate. Bills have to be printed and reprinted at all stages of their progress, so that a single one may have to be put into type a score of times before it becomes a law.—[Washington correspondent Boston Transcript.

A Telescope Worth Having.

James M. Neal, one of the most enterprising and prosperous farmers in Washington County, Georgia, while in Sandersville was informed by the express agent that the telescope that he had been expecting had come, with the privilege of examination and immediate trial. As soon as convenient Mr. Neal went to the express office and received the telescope, and in company with his friend, Colonel Fleming, climbed to the top of the city hall, the highest building in the city, to try the power of the lenses on the surrounding country. They viewed the landscape o'er and took a bird's-eye view of Tennille, Davisboro and Warthen, and all the points of interest within the range of the instrument.

When Mr. Neal drew a focus on his plantation, which is five miles north of Sandersville, he remarked to his friend, Colonel Fleming, that he was satisfied with the telescope. He then shifted it to his pasture, where there were fine Jersey cows, improved breed of hogs and varieties of live stock in abundance. He observed a great commotion among his cows and upon adjusting the focus to a nicety he noticed that a tremendous rattlesnake was the cause of the commotion. He quickly handed the telescope to Colonel Fleming, descended the iron steps, mounted his horse and in a short while reached his place, where he found two of his cows lying dead from the effects of the serpent's bite.

He searched diligently for the serpent and found him coiled under a mullein plant. Mr. Neal rushed to his house, got his gun, returned to where the rattler was and emptied both barrels into his body.

Mr. Neal came to town that afternoon, bringing with him the rattles, which numbered fourteen and one button. He says "there is not enough money in the United States to buy his telescope."—[Atlanta Constitution.

Three Kinds of Lightning.

The Etruscans of old believed in three kinds of lightning—one incapable of doing any injury, another more mischievous in its character and consequently only to be issued with the consent of a quorum of twelve gods, and a third, carrying mischief in its train and for which a regular decree was required from the highest divinities in the eastern skies. Curiously enough, modern scientists, following the lead taken by Arago, have also decreed that the varieties of lightning are threefold. The first comprehends that in which the discharge appears like a long, luminous line, bent into angles and zigzags and varying in complexion from white to blue, purple or red. This kind is known as forked lightning, because it sometimes divides into two or more branches before reaching the earth. The second differs from the first in the range of surface over which the flash is diffused. From this circumstance the charge is designated sheet lightning. The third class differs so widely from the more ordinary manifestations that many meteorologists have denied their right to be treated as legitimate lightnings. They neither assume the form of long lines on the one hand nor sheets of flame on the other, but exhibit themselves as balls or globular lumps of fire.—[Chicago Herald.

THIRTY-TWO years ago John Bahler of Battle Creek, Mich., became blind, and his eyeballs were removed. Now, it is said, that new eyeballs are growing in the sockets, and he is already able to distinguish colors.

BORED BY BOULDERS.

Curiosities of the West Virginia Allegheny Mountains.

On the crest of Panther Knob, the greatest elevation of the Allegheny range in West Virginia, there are great blocks of silicious sandstone scattered here and there, sometimes with intervals of miles between them. Some of these masses of stone are larger than a small two-story house. These immense blocks are not an integral part of the mountains themselves, but the mystery of their presence is especially interesting in the case of two of the most tremendous cubes. On the top of each stone, near the centre, is a hollow of several feet in the form of a basin. In the centre of each of the basins is a hole, which has the appearance of having been drilled or bored out by a drill 12 or 13 inches in diameter.

The hole penetrates the stone perpendicularly for several feet, and then begins to take the shape of the inner part of a cistern. The sides of the hollows are worn as smooth as could have been done by the most expert marble or stone worker, and with symmetrical lines. The hollows are many feet in depth, and they contain, with one exception, nothing except a small amount of dust or debris, drifted in, doubtless, by the wind.

The exception is in the shape of a hard perfect sphere of stone, which appears to be a variety of granite. This stone is about a foot in diameter. Col. Fife, an ex-officer of the Confederate army, now dead, who had often visited the scenes through curiosity and a taste for the study of geology, told the New York Sun correspondent once that but two tenable theories could be entertained on the subject of those masses. One theory is that during a flood the great blocks of stone had been cast upon the mountains by the currents, and that in the swirl and rush of the currents of water the boulders of granite had been deposited on their top, and that the obstruction of the great masses of rock had caused a whirlpool which set the boulders in motion, causing them to grind their way into the heart of the stone. As the boulders descended, the friction finding less opposition in the softer rock below, gradually widened their rotary motion, until they reached a place where the centrifugal forces of the waters ceased.

The second theory is that the blocks of stone were deposited during the glacial period, and that the boulders were forced into the heart of the blocks in the same manner as described above. That the peculiar hollows were made by the action of water and the friction of the round boulders can scarcely be questioned, and in proof of that theory the Valley River, a mountain stream passing through Barbour county, and which is filled with masses of stone, some of which are as large as good-sized houses, has in its bed several round holes, some of unknown depth. These holes were doubtless made by the action of the currents upon boulders of great gravity, forcing them downward through the softer silicious formation of the bed of the river.

The Flavoring of Bread.

Every baker now and then has the unpleasant experience of flour being virtually spoiled by absorption of some disagreeble odor. Thus flour placed near lime or oil or tar contracts a fatal flavor and is practically ruined. Why should not the baker, however, endeavor to turn this extraordinary property to good account and impart to his flour flavors which would make the resultant bread quite a rival to articles on well-to-do tables where at present the loaf is really out of the dietetic running? The miller at present does the blending for the bakers, and too often from a miller's point of pecuniary view, but if the baker could once master the art of imparting attractive flavor to flour, and so producing bread that would be distinctly nice and yet wholly free from aught that is mawkish or cloying, it is evident that very much would be gained. At present, as we are well aware, this is a thing quite in its infancy; it is still in the experimental stage, but it is really open to any baker to apply the principle himself, and by testing his art on a small scale he might easily discover the way to greatly raise the value of bread made from flour that under ordinary conditions yields only a dry loaf attractive to the eye, but by no means tempting to any one who does not happen to be hungry.—[British Baker and Confectioner.

Growth of Willow Trees.

Garden and Forest has received a photograph of a willow tree standing in Waterbury Center, Vt., the trunk of which measures twenty-four and a half feet in circumference, and whose symmetrical top shades an eighth of an acre of ground. A person who knows the early history of the willow testifies that in 1840 it was a tree about six inches in diameter, which had grown from a walking-stick driven into the ground a few years before by some children. In that year it was cut down deep into the ground in the hope of killing it, but it started a new growth, and has reached its present dimensions in fifty years. The rapid growth of the willow in favorable localities is well known, and Doctor Hoskins (from whom the photograph was received) writes of another near his home, which sprang from a cane carried by a returning soldier in 1866, and thrust into the soil in his dooryard. It is now more than four feet in diameter with an immense top, and bids fair, at an equal age, to reach the dimensions of the one spoken of.

The Original Use of Butter.

Butter, which is almost indispensable to the meal nowadays, was formerly used solely as an ointment. Herodotus, a Greek historian, is the first writer who mentions butter, B. C. 500. The Spartans treated it very much the same as we do cold cream or vaseline, and Plutarch tells how a hostess was sickened at the sight of one of her visitors, a Spartan, who was saturated in butter. The Scythians introduced the article to the Greeks, and the Germans showed the Romans how to make it. But the latter did not use it for food. They, like the Spartans, anointed their bodies with it.