

Away back to the 42d Olympiad, when Kings ran foot-races with "news-boys," almost 600 years before the Christian era—there dwelt at Miletus, Thales, one of the Seven Wise Men of Greece. He was a Greek philosopher.

Whether he ever had a sheepskin diploma or not, don't matter. History gives him the credit of introducing to the world the familiar theory of the weight of the Zodiac, and the length of the first one to calculate eclipses. This information was given to the world shortly after his return from Egypt, that famous old seat of learning in those days.

Two hundred years later, Socrates, by way of reproof to Alcibiades for his pride, told him to look on the map for his "wisdom," which is good testimony that the first inventor of maps was Thales.

Later along down the highways of human invention and progress we find the Phoenicians making use of maps as a guide to their commercial pursuits. The trade of India—the inexhaustible source of supply, Sesostris, King of Egypt, also caused his dominions to be mapped; and Ptolemy Claudius of Alexandria, issued a map of the world, which was the first of the modern series.

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NEW SERIES—VOL. 15, NO. 85.

EXTRAORDINARY PROPHECIES.

A German paper publishes the following: The prophecies of the Monk Tranquil Wolgang, died at Munich, 1570, in Bavaria, the new Pope recognized in 1876. Paris surrenders in March.

1876. War between Italy and France. The Italian army besieges Paris. Defeat of the French army. Italian occupation of Algeria.

1877. Communism and famine in France and Spain. European Congress in Rome. The new Pope recognized with Italy. General armistice in Europe.

1878. Inauguration of the Congress in Berlin. Death of Queen Victoria. New government in Spain. Christians in Turkey are free.

1879. Great storms in England. Universal peace. General disarmament. Great discoveries at sea.

1880 to 1890. Peace. The Pope blesses all nations.

One of the most interesting features of the excavations in this buried city is the discovery of many homely objects of daily use.

The Arabian scholars made use of the maps of Ptolemy, and perhaps of others. But a hint in the literature of several centuries indicates the decline and fall of the colossal power of Rome.

THE CATHEDRAL AT SPEYER.

Whoever is so fortunate as to visit the Rhine, the garden of Southern Germany, the Rhine, should not fail to devote a few hours to the old imperial city of Speyer, in order to see its majestic cathedral, which rises above the plain as a landmark that can be seen from afar.

Speyer is one of the oldest bishoprics in Germany. Here, owing to its partiality for the city, the Emperor Conrad I determined to build a magnificent cathedral in the year 1025 and 1040. It was himself officiated at the laying of its cornerstone.

The rebuilding was not done, it is true on the same magnificent scale as the church of the three naves 127 feet in length, and 100 feet in width, the breadth including the two wings 178 feet, the height of the towers 236 feet.

Without going further into details, it will be seen that the cathedral of Speyer is a masterpiece of architecture, and one of the most beautiful specimens of the Roman style of architecture.

HOT WINDS OF AUSTRALIA.

A correspondent of the Alta California, gives a graphic account of the hot winds of Australia. It makes one gasp for breath to read it. He says: "The colonists of Victoria and New South Wales have long known the hot winds, which are so boisterously prevalent there during short periods of the summer months, and which are very extraordinary in their character."

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THE IRISH BRIGADE.

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OLD LETTERS.

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