

THE BURNING OF THE WORLD.

[Franklin E. Denton in The Current.]
The morning climb the East as young as when
Adam and Eve, pure as their Paradise,

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The Cost, Appearance and Construction—In the Elevator.
[George Alfred Townsend.]
It is a majestic thing to stand below
and look upon this wonderful shaft,

As you go into Washington from the north you can see this shaft, now rising behind the capitol, which is on a hill, and the monument is about a mile further off.

When the work was taken up by a direct government appropriation the largest and best elevator was immediately purchased and set up in the center of the monument, where it is to remain perpetually and carry up passengers.

How Tobacco is Burned.

Tobacco raisers and producers of other plants whose dried and curled leaves are of value in the market, will be interested in the latest explanation of the cause of the brown discolorations—spots of small diameter, in which the tissue is nearly destroyed—that so often impair the value of their products.

For Building Partitions.

A composition of sand, cork, and lime moulded into blocks is now on trial in Germany for building light partitions. It is said to have the advantage of excluding sounds better than ordinary brick work, while being light and a good non-conductor.

One of the good old crusted jokes of the bicycle club-people is: "When a man becomes a good bicyclist he says, 'good by, sick list.'"

THE GOOD TIME COMING

When Cheap Electricity Shall Have Superseded Steam.
[Chicago Tribune.]

While the spokesmen of "the age of steam" are ringing all the changes on the glories of Watt's invention the pioneers of science and invention are hard at work to displace it.

The description Edison gives of the happy results that would flow from the realization of his dreams of cheap electricity justifies his enthusiastic declaration that the inventor who succeeds in getting at it will do the world the greatest material service yet rendered to man.

There is another possibility in this possibility of cheap electricity which Edison does not refer to. Babbage, the great English mathematician and philosopher, predicted that if a power was ever discovered which could be cheaply distributed from a common center to the houses and shops of the working classes it would completely revolutionize the tendency of steam to mass capital and labor in great factories and swarming hives of industry.

Gentlemen at Large.

We have among us a class of men who deserve neither our commiseration, sympathy nor pity, who are miserable by choice, and of no value in society.

We have one such in our mind's eye at this moment; he is a man who neither indulges in the vicious nor the innocent pleasures of the age; his life is as regular and monotonous as an eight-day clock; he is punctual in waking and rising, punctual in lying down and sleeping, punctual at breakfast, punctual at his desk and the performance of his regular duties, punctual at church, except when there is to be a collection, and then he is suddenly indisposed; punctual in his appearance at another's dinner table, most dilatory in making a return. He leaves the city in the spring, to avoid high taxation, having first bargained with the selectmen of some county town that they will only assess him for about one-quarter of the value of what he really owns.

Under Alaskan Glaciers.

After a visit to some of the Alaskan glaciers, Mr. Thomas Meehan states that beneath the Muir glacier, said to be 400 miles long, flows a rapid torrent, which he estimates to be 100 feet wide and four feet in average depth, and which runs summer and winter without interruption. At its termination the glacier hangs over the sea, and gives off icebergs. Mr. Meehan remarks that the great ice-sheets have their lakes, rapids, waterfalls, hills and valleys; that the water ways change their courses at times through the melting; and that melting progresses freely in the sun's rays, but not in the shade.

Philadelphia Call: Laugh at "rites"—but do it behind their backs. For the world is made up of rites.

Where Indigestion Begins.

Indigestion is often set up at the earliest end, to the dyspeptic, the lightest meal of the day, at which he probably confines himself to crisp toast buttered as soon as cold, bread-and-butter with a very lightly boiled egg, or a little fat bacon, the whole moistened with a little tea.

Food should be swallowed without extraneous aid in a liquid form, and ought never to be washed down. A sip of tea may be taken between the bites, but not when there is food in the mouth, of which a fair quantity ought to be disposed of before the tea is even thought of.

Progress in Common Schools.

But I suppose this is progress, and it takes more learning to do this generation than it used to, and so they must be loaded heavier. Cobe wouldn't take a long shoot at a squirrel for fear of straining his gun, but we must shoot now, strain or no strain. I was in hopes there would be a reform in spelling, and we would leave out all these silent letters and save time. I don't see why labor is not as good as neighbor, and plow as good as plough—we have got rid of some things. I remember when a was called lizard and when the way to spell buzzard out loud was to buzzard (buzzard a rd (ard) buzzard. Mrs. Arp says that when she was a child (that was a long time ago) an old-fashioned carpenter was working for her father, and she wanted to play with the footstaple and the carpenter said she might if she could spell it. She tried several ways, but he said no, that the way to spell adze was a dizzard e.

But our little chaps are happy now. They go a mile and a half to school and carry their dinner and they eat some at the first recess and the rest at noon, and come home hungry, and ransack the cupboard and closet. I go out to meet them most every evening for their absence makes me lonesome, and I wish I was a boy again that I might go with them. I look forward to Saturday and Sunday as proudly as they do. Children are a great trial and a source of constant care and anxiety, but they are a blessed comfort, too.

An Author's Peculiar Way.

For the life of him, Steppiak could not work regularly and methodically, as, for instance, Anthony Trollope was wont to work. Like all men of nervous temperament, he is more in the vein at some times than at others, and, though the reverse of a desultory worker, he writes by fits and starts. But the fits are of frequent occurrence, and when he finds one coming on he places himself under what he calls the regime litteraire. He goes to bed at midnight, rises at 2, and plies his pen without surcease—save for refreshment, which he tastes as he writes—until noon. Then he sleeps for about three hours, when he again sets to work, and, until midnight, gives himself only one or two short spells of rest. This goes on for five or six days a week, or until the task he has set himself is accomplished; and while it is in progress he drinks enormous quantities of tea and coffee, one as black as the other.

Like all conscientious men of artistic feeling, he does not find writing easy. He writes slowly and polishes with poetic care; there are whole chapters of his "Underground Russia" which were written and rewritten six times, and even then sent to the printer with reluctance, so far from perfection did they seem.

What the Baby Was Thinking.

Mrs. Fogg—As I came by the station just now I saw a baby in its carriage. It was amusing to see the little thing watch the locomotive as it rushed past and until it was out of sight. I wonder what the little darling was thinking of.

Fogg—That depends. If it was a girl, she was thinking "splendid," "just too lovely for anything," or something of that sort. If it was a boy, he might have been mentally constructing a smoke-consumer or patent coupler, but probably was considering whether it was best to invest in the road's common preferred stock, its first, second or third mortgage bonds, its equipment—evens, land-grant eights, or car-trust thirties.

For Fat People.

Fat people have now their choice between four systems. 1. The original Banting, which consists of eating nothing containing starch, sugar or fat. 2. The German Banting, which allows fat, but forbids sugar or starch. 3. A Munich system, which consists of being clothed in wool, and sleeping in jannel blankets, instead of sheets. 4. Not eating and drinking at the same time.

The Black Rat.

The black rat, so common in England 800 years ago, has been, it is believed by naturalists, completely exterminated by the gray and brown species of later times. Specimens cannot be obtained by offering extravagant prices; and residents in old houses declare that they have never seen such a thing as a black rat, although they have heard traditions of their existence.

FLORIDA SULPHUR POOLS.

Natural Phenomena in the Peninsular State Explained.
[Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union.]
The Apalachicola Tribune explains the great smoke which has been puzzling observers for years, and which could be seen on any cloudless day ascending from the vicinity of Ancilla river, in Florida. Various efforts have been made to discover the supposed volcano, while, on the other hand, some have concluded that the smoke came from the camp-fires of some remnant of the Seminole Indians. The Times-Democrat expedition threw no light upon the mystery, the tall grass, bogs and dense undergrowth impeding the progress of the curious.

One Capt. Asher is the hero who arrived in Apalachicola, with the following information, which puts out the Florida volcano, and the romance is lost of the poor Seminole lingering in the land of his fathers. At the same time it adds to the attractions of the lovely land of fruits, flowers, and wonders. Perhaps from the sulphur pools came the healing virtues which laid the foundation for the legend that in Florida flowed the waters of eternal youth. Capt. Asher was in search of palmetto logs on the Ancilla river when he described the smoke or cloud from a point in the distance. Remembering the many reports he had heard about this smoke, he determined to unearth this mystery, if possible. So, calling his crew together, and picking up their traps, the party pursued their way in the small boats up the Ancilla river. They traveled up the river, or creek, for it hardly deserves the name of river, for miles. After ascending from its mouth twenty-five or thirty miles, he judges, he was brought to an abrupt halt by a rock barrier in front. Upon investigating he found that the river ended and was lost underneath the ground. Seeing that the smoke became more distinct at this point, and seemed straight ahead, he had the boat hauled up to the bank and sprang ashore, determined, if possible, to pursue his investigations on foot. As he sprang on shore he gave an exclamation of surprise. Scattered at various points were huge rocks, towering many feet above his head—a thing unheard of in Florida.

Mr. Asher describes some of the rocks as being as large as an ordinary dwelling and apparently hollow, containing much water. He describes them as being of a flinty appearance, and when struck with an iron or steel instrument to emit thousands of sparks. A mile or two further on were seen numerous rocks that were formed into round basins, their sides being smooth and beautifully polished. Mr. Asher sprang upon the top of one of these basins. As his foot came in contact with the flinty substance a hollow sound was emitted from the rock. Calling for a pole, and it being handed to him, he placed it in the center of the basin. What was his surprise on drawing the pole to the top may be easily imagined when he discovered that the rock, being hollow, was filled with a strong sulphuric water. Pursuing their way through the bog, sometimes up to their knees, again on hard ground for some distance, then again scratched and bruised by the underbrush, and fighting mosquitoes that seemed to resent this intrusion of their dominion, the little party had a hard time of it. Presently they came to where the river issued from its underground covert and pursued its way onward, to again disappear in the bowels of the earth.

Mr. Asher states that every few hundred yards those pools would make their appearance, and from them would issue white, misty clouds that would ascend heavenward, seeming in the distance to be clouds of smoke. He stated that the water in these pools was as clear as crystal and filled with beautiful fish, both fresh and salt. He caught a great many of the fish, and attempted to drink some of the water, but it was unpalatable—nauseating to the smell and taste. He spent several days wandering around these points, and he says he never before thought there was such a place in Florida. He discovered several rocks that he presumed would have answered very well for houses, being quite as large, hollow, and the walls as smooth as glass. He appeared to think it very strange that these monster rocks should be found in such a low, flat, marshy section. He says that the rocks are separated by a distance of 200 feet, and rear their black, grimy heads to heaven from a level plain of marshy soil. There are no indications of there having been a hill, much less a volcano, in this section, and the smoke or cloud seen so often is simply the vapor rising from the sulphuric pools.

Dress Reform for Men.

Now, to my mind the dress, not of the time of William the Conqueror, or of the seventeenth century, but of just 100 years ago, was the most suitable and most manly that was ever worn by the male population of these islands. By reverting to it, we should get rid of two inconvenient and ugly portions of our present attire—namely, the cylindrical hat and the almost equally cylindrical trouser. The man of to-day is too cylindrical altogether to be a satisfactory object to himself or to artists. That a hat (to say nothing of its shape) should be made of a delicate material, which requires to be carefully protected from the weather and ironed and brushed if rained upon, is clearly ridiculous; that a man's legs, in this moist and muddy climate, should be clothed in tubes of cloth which reach to his heels and form admirable conductors of mud and dirt, both inside and outside, is equally so. By simply going back to the conical felt (not beaver) hat and the breeches and boots of our great-grandfathers, we should free ourselves at once of this inconvenience. And their caped frock-coat for riding and walking—why not that too? It saved the shoulders from the wet, and was a warm and sensible garment in every way.

Keeness.

Keeness in a man is not always to be taken as a sign of capacity, for it is generally observed most in those who are selfish and over-reaching; and his keeness generally ends in that kind of penetration into other people's interest which will tend to benefit his own.

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