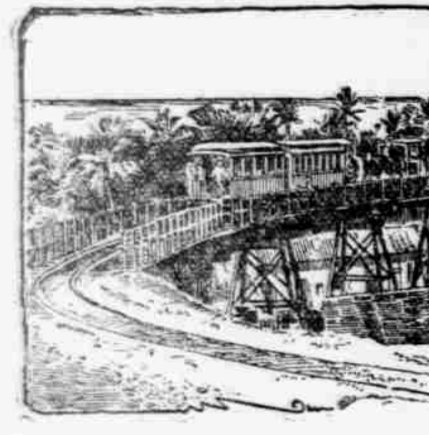


UP A MOUNTAIN SIDE On One of the Most Remarkable Works in the World. 23 MILES OF RAILWAY TO GO 6. A Trestle Work Nearly a Thousand Feet High Along the Route. THE VIEW UNEQUALED ANYWHERE

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.) I was getting on toward the tropical winter, that is to say, it was nearly the end of March, when I first made my acquaintance with the Andes mountains. I had come almost direct from the wilds of tropical Mexico and Central America and had taken passage in a slow going British tramp steamer from Vera Cruz. Shiring the coast and stopping at every port where it was likely that a few bags of coffee might be picked up, the steamer was seldom out of sight of land and after leaving Maracibo, it was never far distant from the huge red mountains that



CROSSING A CREVASSE MADE BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

seemed to descend abruptly into the Caribbean Sea. I did not know then that these mountains were the most northerly peaks of the Andes, but when I had successfully passed the Custom House officers at La Guayra, the chief port of Venezuela, I learned that I was actually standing at the most northerly extremity of the chain which extends almost due south along the entire western side of the continent. For a hundred miles or more the coast line had given me the impression that the mountains had been cut for nowhere, except at the mouth of some water course, baranca or ravine was there more than a hundred feet of level land between the precipitous mountain slopes and the green waters of the turbulent sea. In fact, there are very few places where there is more than ten feet of steady shore between the rocks and the water, and the roadway that extends from town to town on the hanging waves that frequently send their spray over the traveler.

It is only at a distance that there is a grandeur in the appearance of the harbor, and this is due to the background, the peak of La Silla. Perhaps Rev. Charles Kingsley, when he wrote his "Westward Ho!" and took his way to the faraway island, to La Guayra to rescue his sweetheart, who had been courted and coaxed away from Devon by a Spanish cavalier, the Governor of Venezuela, drew his descriptions from a distant view. The long, low adobe house in which this Devon maiden lived, immersed in still at La Guayra under the shadow of what Kingsley calls a "glee-yielding looking fortress," but what in reality is an expression of mud perched upon a hill top. The glamor of romance cannot hide the fact that Venezuela's chief port is a dirty-looking, dusty, hot, disagreeable collection of one-story mud built shacks scarcely fit for habitation even by the aborigines.

But nature has compensated the traveler for man's lack by placing at the back of the town the mountain La Silla, the highest peak in the world that rises abruptly from the sea. Its saddle-like top, touching the clouds 9,000 feet from the water at its foot, and it rises almost unbroken by smaller peaks or benches. Its base in a direct line is but six miles wide, but that six miles is not much used except by persons attracted by the impressive scenery and by the civilized Indians who still prefer to go over the mountain on burros to waiting for the railroad train and paying out money they can spend much more agreeably in the purchase of rum or gin at 10 cents per bottle. By starting early in the morning, one can make this trip in four hours of the country, when the colonies were still young, a wagon road was built. It still exists, but some of the original grades have been abandoned and the Spanish took possession of this country, there was but a mule path over the mountain to the rich valley where now the capital of the Republic, Caracas, nestles at the southern foot of La Silla. This path was only 12 miles long, and was called Dos Aguados.

An Attraction for the Tourist. It was trodden by Indians ages before the discovery by Columbus, but at present it is not much used except by persons attracted by the impressive scenery and by the civilized Indians who still prefer to go over the mountain on burros to waiting for the railroad train and paying out money they can spend much more agreeably in the purchase of rum or gin at 10 cents per bottle. By starting early in the morning, one can make this trip in four hours of the country, when the colonies were still young, a wagon road was built. It still exists, but some of the original grades have been abandoned and the Spanish took possession of this country, there was but a mule path over the mountain to the rich valley where now the capital of the Republic, Caracas, nestles at the southern foot of La Silla. This path was only 12 miles long, and was called Dos Aguados.

From this point downward we wound along the side of the mountain on the north side of the valley that debouches into the larger valley, where 300 years ago the Spaniards selected a site for their capital, secure from attack from the sea. Not a foot of the road to within a few rods of the depot at Caracas was built upon a bed that did not first have to be cut out of the side of the mountain, and in this short distance of 23 miles there are no less than 40 tunnels. Some of them are several hundred feet in length, but most of them are so narrow that there is barely room for the train to squeeze through. The safe conduct of this little road requires the employment of an army of men. Track workers are met every half mile, and it is their duty to be constantly on the move, for there is danger when a rock may roll down the mountain side and find judgment upon the track. I was informed that on an average these track workers find from 30 to 50 rocks a day on the tracks, so that their presence is indeed a necessity. Nothing could save a train that had been derailed by a boulder. It would only leave the track in one direction and that on the side where there is a precipitous descent, involving any one from 50 to 1,000 feet. So uncertain are the movements of these boulders that no train is run after dark and all travel ceases promptly upon the setting of the sun. If a train be caught on the mountain side at this hour, especially in the winter season, it must remain at some side track until the next daybreak.

At BARGAINS, LADIES' CABINET DESKS, MMENSE STOCK CHOICE DESKS AND CHAIRS. STEVENS CHAIR CO., 318 SIXTH ST. PITTSBURGH, PA. D. L. DOWD'S HEALTH EXERCISER. For Pain-Expeller & Sedentary People's New "Imperial" EXERCISER. Complete Gymnasium for Home and Office. Stamp for Circular. Books: "An Ideal Complexion and Physical Development," 20 Illustrations. "Health and Strength in Physical Culture," 40 Illustrations. 50c for both books. Chart of 40 Athletes for Dumb-bells or Pullers, 5c. J. E. DOWD, 118 MONROE STREET, CHICAGO, ILL. This exciting paper will give you...

Since that time the opening has been filled with adobe buildings, and over their tops and through the cocoanut trees of a grove below, the traveler catches his first sight of the contour of the coast. From this point until the summit is reached, 15 miles up the mountain, the sea is never out of sight save when the walls of a tunnel or a cut hide it from view.

The famous "loop" of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Tehachapi in California and that of the Santa Fe Railroad in New Mexico are not to be compared in the same breath with the loop on this South American line. At one point I stood and looked back. We had wound around a peak three times and were about to cross on a hogback to the opposite side of the canon. Below were the two tracks upon which we had traveled only a few moments before, so close that I could almost jump from one to the other and yet to reach the spot where I stood, had taken 20 minutes of hard pulling by the plucky little locomotive over those same tracks.

Tracks Above and Below. Across the ravine, half a mile away were two tiers of rails one above the other, the iron standing out under the light of the strong sun overhead. We had approached the peak upon which I stood over a mile and a thousand feet above like a mere thread was another track for which we were climbing. Along the bottom of the ravine which debouched near the little village of Magueto on the coast, were hundreds of washerwomen, beating clothes on the rocks, cleaning them as did the washerwomen of ancient times. Little girls, maidens, young women and old women were congregated there along the banks of the mountain stream and for two miles the rocks, bushes and huge ferns were covered with white garments that glared back at us in the sunlight.

Half an hour later the train stopped for a few minutes on the track, which I had seen from below. No more magnificent panorama exists than that which spread before me. Away to the East and West stretched the sea coast lined with the cocoanut grove fringing the green waters were alive with craft of all kinds from the palace-like Red D. line steamship to the punt of the native fisher on the harbor. The solitary war steamer of the Venezuelan Government lay at anchor with steam up and English, German and French steamers swung with the tide on either side. To the north the Sugar Loaf Mountain on the island Curacao was barely visible and rising from the sea to the east were the islands Los Roques and Orchilla. It was a picture to which the painter's brush could do full justice and one, once seen, can never be forgotten.

A Station on the Summit. Two hours after we started our train stopped at the Summit, a station hollowed out of the rock. Only one building besides the water tank could find lodgment here, and these were perched upon stilts at the rear. Children free from other covering save that which nature gave, were upon the track, their eyes seemingly indifferent to the fact that if one of them fell over the cliff it would never stop until it reached the bottom a thousand or more feet below, where it could distinguish the huge boulders that had been dislodged by the ravages of time, weather and earthquakes. The water of a running stream, clear as crystal, could be seen through trees covered with crimson and purple flowers. Mocking birds, parrots and paroquets fluttered about down below in the foliage, but none of them ventured to come within 500 feet of our height.

A little further on we crossed a short trestle work. It was only a hundred feet or so long, but the engineer slowed up and proceeded as cautiously as if he were crossing on newly-formed ice. I did not wonder much at his caution when I looked out through the car window, for we were upon the highest piece of trestle work in the world. The timbers extended downward 800 feet, but there were so many of them that they seemed to form a network of straight lines and angles. An effort had been made to bridge this chasm, but it had found impossible to secure such a structure, and the trestle work was constructed only after many months of hard labor and numerous mishaps in the way of land and rock slides.

Gliding Down to the Capital. From this point downward we wound along the side of the mountain on the north side of the valley that debouches into the larger valley, where 300 years ago the Spaniards selected a site for their capital, secure from attack from the sea. Not a foot of the road to within a few rods of the depot at Caracas was built upon a bed that did not first have to be cut out of the side of the mountain, and in this short distance of 23 miles there are no less than 40 tunnels. Some of them are several hundred feet in length, but most of them are so narrow that there is barely room for the train to squeeze through. The safe conduct of this little road requires the employment of an army of men. Track workers are met every half mile, and it is their duty to be constantly on the move, for there is danger when a rock may roll down the mountain side and find judgment upon the track. I was informed that on an average these track workers find from 30 to 50 rocks a day on the tracks, so that their presence is indeed a necessity. Nothing could save a train that had been derailed by a boulder. It would only leave the track in one direction and that on the side where there is a precipitous descent, involving any one from 50 to 1,000 feet. So uncertain are the movements of these boulders that no train is run after dark and all travel ceases promptly upon the setting of the sun. If a train be caught on the mountain side at this hour, especially in the winter season, it must remain at some side track until the next daybreak.

There are railroads that climb to greater altitudes, but there are none along which the scenery is so impressive throughout their whole length. After the Caribbean Sea is left behind, the banana groves, also trees, cacti with strange forms, and other tropical plants and flowers that fill the valley along which runs the old wagon road filled all travel ceases promptly upon the setting of the sun. If a train be caught on the mountain side at this hour, especially in the winter season, it must remain at some side track until the next daybreak.

The scenery along this old road is exceptionally fine and the Spanish Cavalier upon arriving at the top of the mountain and viewing the beautiful valley and the city of Caracas at his feet must have felt quite as contented as the famous Hebrew who gazed westward across the Jordan upon the country reserved for his people. A Marvel of Railroad Work. The third route to the capital is over the remarkable little narrow gauge railroad which starts only 2 feet above high tide level and reaches an altitude of 5,128 feet in less than 15 miles of tortuous climbing, crossing ravines on high trestles, piercing cliffs by insurmountable tunnels and winding around the lesser hills and peaks until one is bewildered. Altogether this line is 23 miles long; that is, it takes just 23 miles of track to reach Caracas, which is but 9 miles distant from La Guayra in a direct line. Inside of a mile from the depot the road crosses, upon a curved iron trestle, one of the crevices made by the earthquake of 1812.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Bijou THEATRE. POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE. Under the direction of R. M. Gulick & Co. MONDAY, FEB. 22. ONE WEEK ONLY. WEDNESDAY—MATINEES—SATURDAY. Annual Engagement of MARGARET MATHER. Assisted by OTIS SKINNER AND AN ESPECIAL COMPANY. EVERY PERFORMANCE, except Wednesday Matinee and Friday Evening, A GRAND PRODUCTION OF THE EGYPTIAN! From Victor Hugo's Famous Novel, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Preceded by the Petite One-Act Comedy, NANCE OLDFIELD. Miss Mather in Both Plays. NEW AND ELABORATE SCENERY. Special Music and Picturesque Costumes. Wednesday Matinee, ROMEO AND JULIET. Friday Evening, LEAH, THE FORSAKEN. FEB. 29—"YON YONSON." PITTSBURGH'S LEADING THEATER. SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT. ONE WEEK ONLY, Commencing MONDAY, Feb. 29. RUDOLPH ARONSON'S COMIC OPERA COMPANY, Presenting the Great Successes, the TYROLEAN AND NANON. Performed 300 times at the New York Casino Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings. THE TYROLEAN. Thursday, Friday and Saturday Matinee and Evening. NANON. Original Cast: Marie Tempest, Louise Beaudet, Grace Golden, Eva Davernport, Drew Donaldson, Sylvia Thorne, Edwin Stevens, Fred Schuetz, Max Pagan, Fred Solomon. Original Scenery! Original Costumes! Musical Director, PAUL STERNBERG. Produced Under the Stage Direction of HEINRICH CONRAD. Seat selling begins Thursday next at 8:30 A. M. Orders by mail promptly attended to. feb-24

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. WORLD'S MUSEUM THEATRE. The Leading Amusement Resort for Ladies and Children. WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, FEB. 22. EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! The Grandest List of Attractions Ever Presented to the Public for ONE PRICE OF ADMISSION. CURIO HALL. JO-JO, THE RUSSIAN DOG-FACED MAN. "UNZIE," The Handsome Australian Bushman. "ORSON A," The Man With Iron Hair. "FATIMA," THE BEAUTIFUL HINDOO SNAKE EX-CHANTRESS, and others. THEATRE. THE FITZGERALD AND LEWIS DRAMATIC CO. In the New and Original Drama, "DESPERATE CHANCES," OR, The Lost Heiress. Deploring Life in New York City. Grand Scenic Effects! THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE BY MOONLIGHT! GRAND WATER SCENE! THE WHARVES AT NIGHT, with the SHIPPING, etc., all lit up. A BEAUTIFUL EFFECT! OPEN AT 12 M. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY. ADMISSION 10 CENTS. feb-24

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. DUQUESNE PITTSBURGH'S LEADING THEATER. HENDERSON AND NOTTON, MANAGERS. YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU MISS IT, AND THE TIME IS COMING FAST WHEN IT MUST LEAVE. JUST 6 NIGHTS AND 2 MATINEES MORE ONLY. On Next Saturday Night the American Extravaganza Co. and SIBBAD MUST SAY FAREWELL. MR. DAVID HENDERSON, MANAGER. SECOND EDITION DON'T PROCRASTINATE, BUT COME! HEAR THE NEW THINGS THAT THE WILD WAVES SAY AND THE NEW SONGS BY Eissing and Muller, Foy and Dunn. WITH NEW Songs, Dances, Features, People. THE WINTER BALLET. THESE ARE THE THINGS YOU LIKE ALREADY. The Stupendous Pageant of Nations, The Exciting Storm and Wreck at Sea, The Enchanting Tropical Island, The Frost-Spangled Valley of Diamonds, That Dream of Opulent Magnificence, Sibbad's Palace, AND THE INVULNERABLE TRANSFORMATION SCENE. "THE MORNING OF LIFE." The Jolly Cannibals, Happy Harlequins, Animated Icicles, Spinning Snowflakes, Merry Skaters, Sleighers and Tobogganers. "The Bogie Man," "What the Wild Waves Say," "True as Steel," "The Felice Serenade," "Moments When One Wants to Be Alone," "Haven't Got It Now," "In a Minute," Etc., Etc.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. POSITIVELY LAST TIME IN PITTSBURGH. Popular Matinee WEDNESDAY.. BEST SEATS 50c. Next week—THE CASINO OPERA CO. Special engagement. feb-27. THE ALVIN THEATER. CHARLES L. DAVIS, Owner and Manager. 70—FIRE EXITS—70. Week of February 22, with Wednesday and Saturday Matinees. Holiday Performance Monday Evening, Washington's Birthday. NO PERFORMANCE ON TUESDAY EVENING. FIRST TIME AT THIS THEATER! DANIEL FROHMAN'S SPECIAL COMPY, In Belasco and De Mille's Most Enjoyable Play, THE CHARITY BALL. An Entire Season's Bill In New York And the Greatest LYCEUM THEATER SUCCESS. IN THE CAST—Messrs. Putnam, Leonard, Sands, Bruce, Granville, Gregory, Sheldon, Lawrence, Master Vaughn; Mesdames Chapman, Elton, Lowrie, Greybrooke and Logan. FEB. 29—THE GRAND MILITARY SPECTACULAR, "THE SOUDAN." feb-25

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. FREE LECTURE! "A FLEA FOR LITTLE CHILDREN" BY A "LAWYER FOR CHRIST," AT CARNEGIE HALL, ALLEGHENY. THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON, AT 2 O'CLOCK SHARP. ENDS AT 5 P. M. SEE NOTICE IN PRESS. feb-27. Ancient Cities and Inhabitants OF YUCATAN. ADMISSION 50c. Tickets at Mellor & Hoehn's, 77 Fifth Avenue, or Alex. Ross', 141 Federal street, Allegheny. feb-29. Notice to School Teachers. Prof. J. S. Christy is forming a new private class for school teachers on next Wednesday, at 4:30 P. M. Prof. Christy guarantees to learn dancing in one term, as he has the best system and music, and all conveniences. Terms \$5. New classes for beginners on Monday evening, February 22. feb-29

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. AT BARGAINS, LADIES' CABINET DESKS, MMENSE STOCK CHOICE DESKS AND CHAIRS. STEVENS CHAIR CO., 318 SIXTH ST. PITTSBURGH, PA. D. L. DOWD'S HEALTH EXERCISER. For Pain-Expeller & Sedentary People's New "Imperial" EXERCISER. Complete Gymnasium for Home and Office. Stamp for Circular. Books: "An Ideal Complexion and Physical Development," 20 Illustrations. "Health and Strength in Physical Culture," 40 Illustrations. 50c for both books. Chart of 40 Athletes for Dumb-bells or Pullers, 5c. J. E. DOWD, 118 MONROE STREET, CHICAGO, ILL. This exciting paper will give you...

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. THIS IS THE DUDE That got left. He went to McAllister's party and he's here. VOLTAIC DIAMONDS. In their shirt fronts, but he knew better. He thought he would "smash the heart" of some girl without one. He got beautifully left. VOLTAIC DIAMONDS are without an equal. They are set in Rings, Studs, Earrings, Pins, etc. We have the loose stones, and mount them in any style of Jewelry. Not sold by any other jeweler in the United States. B. E. ARONS, SOLE OWNER, 65 FIFTH AVE. feb-29

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. HARRIS' THEATER. HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY. Popular Prices Always Prevail at Harris' Theater, 10, 15 and 25 Cents! WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, FEB. 22. Every Afternoon and Evening. The Popular Young Actor, N. S. WOOD, In the Spectacular Melodramatic Success of the Year, THE ORPHANS NEW YORK. A True Picture of Life in the Metropolis. The Great Drawbridge Scene. The Battery at Sunset. Presented by a COMPANY OF COMPETENT ACTORS. Week Feb. 29—Frank I. Fryer, Jr. feb-28

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. MATINEE To-Morrow Monday. WILLIAM GILLETTE'S TERRIFIC HIT. CHARLES FROMAN'S SELECT PLAYERS. ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME. An iridescent presentation of a series of the most wonderful accidents that will happen in even the best regulated families. A sweet-scented, refreshing story told with such mirthful stimulation that when once heard is forthwith rehearsed to other gatherings. GRAND OPERA HOUSE. NEXT WEEK—MR. BARNES OF NEW YORK. feb-24

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. HARRY DAVIS' FIFTH AVENUE MUSEUM AND FAMILY THEATER. WEEK COMMENCING FEB. 22. FEATURES WITHOUT PARALLEL. First Appearance of CHIEF DEBRO AND WIFE, THE ONLY GENUINE REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT ICE-BOUND RACE, THE HSQUIMAUX. Now before the American public. They will appear in the Curio Hall in their native costumes, as shown in the appended cut.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. LACES! LACES! LACES! Our Spring importation of new Laces has just arrived, and we are particularly anxious that the ladies of both cities should see our beautiful display of these goods while the stock is complete and looks its loveliest. Laces, so Dame Fashion says, will be more worn this season than ever before. We are amply prepared to furnish the very latest novelties in this line at our well-known low prices. Examine the following: Point de Irlande, in black, white and ecru. Point de Gene, in black, white and ecru. Point de Paris, in white and cream. Black and Cream Chantilly, in all widths, from 10c to \$2. Linen Hand-made Torchons, 240 patterns, from 4c to 50c. Originals in white, ecru and two-toned, narrow and demi-floencing. Valenciennes, narrow, wide and demi-floencing.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. WHITE GOODS! This department has been greatly enlarged and attractively low prices prevail all this week. Come and see the bargains. They're of a kind that will draw lots of new customers and make business brisk. Hemstitched Lawns, nice goods, 15c, 18c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c. Cambrie Tuckings, 28c, 50c, 60c, 75c, \$1. Flaid Nainsooks, 5c, 10c, 12c, 15c to 25c. India Linens, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c. Dotted Swisses, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c. Apronettes, 12 1/2c, 15c, 18c, 22c to 25c.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. TABLE LINENS—This, our new department, is growing in favor daily, and no wonder. Prices and goods speak for themselves. Such excellent values are not to be had elsewhere. Buyers can very easily satisfy themselves on this point. Damask Table Linen at 45c, 50c, 62, 65c, 75c and 98c. Napkins to match all Table Linens. Fine Linen Towels, large sizes, 12 1/2c, 20c, 25c—extra fine ones at 35c, 48c and 75c. Full lines of new Pillow Shams from 50c a pair up. Be sure to see them. A grand line of Aprons, 12 1/2c to \$1—bargains, every one of them.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Rosenbaum & Co. 510-518 MARKET STREET. feb-28