THE HUMORIST TACKLES THE SUB-JECT OF ARCTIC DISCOVERIES.

Some Historic Information From the Time of Erik the Red Down

to Lieutenant Greely. Let us for a moment look back across the bleak waste of years and see what wonderful progress has been made in the discovery of the pole. We may then ask ourselves who will be first to tack his location notice on the gnawed and season-cracked surface of the pole itself, and what will he do with it after he has so filed upon it.

Iceland, I presume, was discovered about 860 A. D., or 1,026 years ago, but the stampede to Iceland has always been under control, and you can get corner lots in the most desirable cities of Iceland and wear a long, ricketty name with links in it like a rosewood sausage, today, at a low price. Naddodr, a Nor-wegian viking, discovered Iceland A. D. 860, but he did not live to meet Lieutenant Greely, or any of our most celebrated northern tourists. Why Naddodr yearned to go north and discover a colder country than his own, why he should seek to wet his feet and get icicles down his back in order to bring to light more snowbanks and chilblains, I cannot at this time understand. Why should a robust viking roam around in the cold trying to nose out more frost-bitten Esquimaux, when he could remain at home and vike

But I leave this to the thinking mind. Let the thinking mind grapple with it. It has no charms for me. Moreover, I haven't that kind of a mind.

Octher, another Norweigian gentleman, sailed around North Cape and lawbut he crossed it in the night, and didn't notice it at the time.

Two or three years after, Erik the Red a large snow-shovel and discovered Red was a Northman, and he flourished employed in efforts after self-developflong about the ninth century and be- ment. fore the war. He sailed around in that country for several years, drinking bay rum and bear's oil and having a good time. He wore fur underclethes all the time, winter and summer, and evaded the poll tax for a long time. Erik also established a settlement on the southeast coast of Greenland in about latitude sixty degrees north. These people remained here for some time, subsisting on shrimp salad, sea-moss farina, and neat's-foot oil. But finally they became so bored with the quiet country life and the backward springs that they removed from there to a land that is fairer than day, to use the words of another. They removed during the holidays, leaving the axle grease and all they held dear, including their remains.

From that on down to 1380 we hear or read varying and disconnected accounts of people who have been up that way, acquired a large red chilblain, made an observation, and died. Representatives from almost every quarter of the globe have been to the far North, eaten their little hunch of jerked polar bear, and then the polar bear has eaten his little hunch of jerked explorer, and so the good work went on. The polar bear, with his wonderful retentive faculties, has succeeded in retaining his great secret regarding the pole, together with about it. So up to 1380 a large number brated watering place, shot a few pemlives and a few doughnuts in their hands, wandered away into the uncertain light | method night and morning. of the frozen North, made a few observations-to each other regarding the backward spring -and then cached their skeletons for ver.

In 1380 two Italians named Lem took a load of sun-kissed bananas and made a voyage to the extreme North, but the historian says that the accounts are so conficting, and as the stories told by the two brothers did not agree and neither ever told it the same on two separate occasions, the history of their voyage is not usdd very much.

Years rolled on. Boys continued to go to school and see in their geographies enticing pictures of men in expensive for running sharp iron spears and long, dangerous stab-kuives into feroclous white bears and snorting around on large cakes of cold ice and having a good time. These inspired the growing youth to rise up and do likewise. So every nation 'neath the sun has contributed its assortments of choice, white skeletons and second-hand clothes to the remorseless maw of the hungry and ravenous North.

And still the great pole continued to squeak on through days that were six months long and nights that made breakfast seem almost useless.

In 1477 Columbus went up that way but did not aucceed in starving to death. He got a bird's-epe view of a large deposit of dark-blue ice, got hungry, and came home.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the northern nations of Europe, and espectially the Dutch, kept the discovery business red-hot, but they did not get any fragments of the true pole. The maritime nations of Europe, together with other foreign powers, dynasties, and human beings, for some time had spells of visiting the polar seas and neglecting to come back. It was the custom then, as it is now, to go twenty rods farther than any other man had ever been, eat a deviled boot leg, curl up, and perish. Thousands of the best and brightest minds of all ages have yielded to this wild desire to live on sperm oll, pain killer, and jerked walrus, keep a little blue diary for thirteen weeks, and then feed it to a tall, white bear with red gums, - Bill Nye, in Ohioago News.

It is related that an Ohio widow owned a large gravel bank which a certain railroad company was very anxious to secure. Several propositions were made and re-jected, and the President finally sent his collectors having been sent thousands of Private Secretary down with instructions miles across the ocean to some remote to offer up to \$14,000. The young man returned after a couple of days and, when asked how the business had turned out, replied: "I will accept your offer." "Exactly. I married the widow and own the bank.

An invention has been perfected for occupies a section nearly or quite a mile concentrating the heat of the sun and in length, and between three and four using it instead of fuel to warm rooms, | squares in width,

WISE WORDS.

Actions outweigh professions. He must be blind indeed who cannot see through a sieve.

A clear head and a clear conscience are the attributes of victory. It is a good thing to learn caution by

the misfortune of others. Love of reading enables a man to

exchange the wearisome hours of life, which come to every one, for hours of delight. It is the easiest thing in the world to

train up a child in the way he should go; all you have to do is to go that way yourself. Remember that servants are made of the same material as you are; a little

coarser-grained, perhaps, but the same Regrets, toward the evening of life,

will occur to nearly all, even the happiest; we mourn the departure of the luminary, though his setting be glorious. He is the greatest man who chooses the right with invincible resolution, who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully,

and whose reliance on truth and virtue is the most unfaltering. The glory of man consists not in look ing up to what is above him, but in lifting up what is below him. The noblest and most exalted character is also the

tenderest and most hopeful. He who is truly brave will not only spring to encounter outward obstacles and to do daring deeds; he will also be bold in attacking wrong and misery whenever they appear, and strong in resisting his own desires and impulses whenever they conflict with a higher

As the magnificent river, rolling in the pride of its mighty waters, owes its greatness to the hidden springs of the mountain nook, so does the wide-sweeping influence of distinguished men date a east coast of Greenland. Erik the its origin from hours of privacy resolutely

HEALTH HINTS.

A standing antidote for poison by potson-oak, ivy, etc., is to take a handful of micklime, dissolve in water, let it stand half an hour, then paint the parts with Three or four applications, it is said, will cure the most aggravated cases.

The highly injurious caustic effect of lime accidently introduced into the eye, as frequently occurs to those engaged in building, may be entirely neutralized by the use of cold sugar water, owing to the formation of a compound of the lime and sugar, which is without any action upon the eye.

Biting the nails is a custom founded on the superstition that a child whose nails were cut before it was a year old would be a thief. It was found neces-sary to get rid of the nail, hence they were bitten off. A singularly stupid ments which have been made, and it custom surely. Continue to cut the nails appear with success, in the employment whenever they are too long. They will, of course, grow, and they will naturally become harder. It is proper that they should be so.

If the feet are tender and painful after long standing or walking, great relief may be obtained by bathing them in warm salt and water. A large handful the man who came out there to find out of salt to a gallon of water as warm as can be borne is the proper proportion. of nameless explorers went to this cele. The feet should be immersed and the water thrown over them with the hand, mican, ate a jerked whale, shuddered a and also over the legs as far as the knees. couple of times, and died. It has been When the water becomes too cool, dry the history of Arctic exploration from the feet and legs, rubbing with a rough the earliest ages. Men have taken their towel upward. Neuralgia of the feet has been cured by perseverance in this

Alligators as Pets.

Alligators as pets are getting to be more and more the thing, and the trade in these queer reptiles has grown to be quite an important industry among North William street dealers in zoological curios. When the young alligators are born in Southern swamps in the spring the natives go and gather them in. The warm months find them in New York, where an alligator eight inches long and probably five months old may be purchased-if you go to the proper placefor from \$1 to \$2.

The increased demand began about two years ago. The World's Fair in New Orleans taught Northern visitors to the French quarters to look with kindly eyes upon the lizard's big brother. There is a little old bird store in the Rue Royale where they were sold by dozens at fifty and seventy-five cents each, and a neat little box furnished, so that the pets could be carried away. Of course, some of them came to New York and aroused the interest of that growing class of people who are always on the lookout for something new to caress or to talk about, The inevitable result was a brisk trade in infant amphibians by the William street folk.

A Lexington avenue girl enjoys patting the expansive brow of a fourteeninch alligator that is over two years old. She has a silver collar around its throat and a chain attached to it, and the well-

bred saurian follows her like a pet dog. The baby alligator is usually kept in a large globe acquarium with a gravel bank rising out of the water on which it rests. Its food is raw meat, and it requires only a small quantity. One meal every two days is enough. It develops slowly and is very easily tamed .- New York

In the tropics the finest orchids are often found in the tops of the highest trees at such an elevation that they can only be reached by cutting down the while few are seen in the lower shades of the forest, which are singular-ly bare of bloom. Perched high in air and shaded by the foliage of the tree upon which it grows, the orchid makes its home, and the perilous experiences of collectors in their attempts to find some new and rare species would fill volumes. Instances are not uncommon of expert part of South America, India or the Malayan Archipelago to secure some orchids of which a specimen or two may have been previously brought home.

The dimensions of the Chinese quarter of San Francisco have increased enormously in the last fifteen years. It now occupies a section nearly or quite a mile

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The eyes of poisonous snakes have been found by Dr. Benjamin Sharp to have elliptical pupils, while in the harmless species they are circular.

It is said that only about one-third of the buried city of Pompeii has yet been unearthed. The Italian Government is pushing the excavations with great vigor, and very interesting remains are being constantly brought to light.

It is a familiar and yet it always strike one as a marvellous fact that worlds may have been for years in existence, the light of which has not yet had time to reach our earth, and that we may continue to see the light of the stars that have been for a long time extinct.

To distinguish wrought iron from steel produce a bright surface by polishing or alling, and apply a drop of nitric acid, which should be allowed to remain there for one or two minutes; then wash off with water, and the spot will look a pale gray on wrought iron, a brownish black on steel, a deep black on cast iron. It is the carbon present in various proportions which produces the different appearance.

Some one suggests that trees after transplanting may be kept alive by barying a row of flower pots filled with water around the body and over the roots of the trees. The moisture which will percolate through the bottom and sides of the pots will be so gradual that two-gallon ones will hold enough so as not to require refilling for some time, and the roots will be kept moist till such time as they begin to sprout afresh.

A French entomologist has described the bird-spider of tropical America, the largest of the several hundred known species of spiders, as a formidable creature having a body four and a quarter inches long, or a diameter of seven inches with the legs extended. Its nest, in the center of which its 1,500 or 2,000 eggs are deposited, is so strengthened as to be capable of arresting a small bird: and the spider is sufficiently powerful to destroy not only young birds and adult humming birds, but large lizards and

Captain McGregor, of the English steamer Albano, reports that he used oil on a recent passage from Baltimore to Dublin. Experienced very heavy gales and seas from westward in latitude fortyfour degrees ten minutes north, longitude twenty-nine degrees twelve minutes west. Placed two oil bags astern, filled with linseed oil and oakum. Previous to placing the bags over the stern, had taken heavy seas aboard, flooding the decks; but after towing the bags no more water came aboard. The gale lasted three days, with very heavy seas, but, owing to the oil, ran quite easily and took no water. Used about seven gallons of oil all together.

Accounts are given in the German technical journals of some interesting experipaper in piano construction. case is made entirely of paper, as a substitute for wood, the material being so compressed as to be susceptable of the high polish which is required for such instruments. As described the color is a creamy white; the tone is reported to be characterized by sweetness rather than loudness-the sound emitted, unlike the short broken note of the ordinary piano, being soft, full, and slightly continuous, somewhat resembling that of the organ. This modification of tone, which must be considered an attractive feature, is attributed to the evenness of texture of the compressed paper.

An Electric Mountain.

A very peculiar property has recently been discovered in the rock of a mountain seven miles from the town of Santa Cruz. This rock is heavily charged with electricity and when applied to a battery was found to produce strong electric currents. A small handful of this rock applied in a battery generated sufficient electric force to operate the battery for three weeks and appeared not to be the least exhausted of its powers. This rock has very much the appearance of ordinary soapstone and exists in immease quantities, constituting the principal mass of the mountain. Its strange property was accidently discovered by a man who was experimenting with mineral water on the mountain, and having occasion to u-e some of this rock, placed it in contact with the battery. The man who made this wonderful discovery kept it a profound secret from the world until he and o e or two of his confidential friends had obtained a title to the portion of the land, paying \$15,000 therefor. The present owners are now experimenting with this rock, with a view to thoroughly testing its properties. The result of such investigation we can only surmise, but are very anxious to learn .- Tulare Free

A Successful Dramatist's Profits.

Reporter-"Could you give me some idea of the profits of a successful drama,

from your own experience?" Dion Boucicault- "Well, I suppose it is pretty well known that Mr. Theodore Morse offered me \$250,000 for the profits of "The Shaughraun," and I declined the offer. A successful play should be worth nearly \$1,000,000. "Rip Van Winkle," which I wrote for Mr. Jefferson, I should presume has yielded him more than \$500,000. I have made as much as \$200,000 in one year, as the profits of my pen. At Wallack's New York house "The Shaughraun" drew \$250,000 in one hundred and forty-four nights. It drew more money in that time than any other play ever drew into the treasury of a theatre, either in this

or any other country." Reporter-"The profits of a popular play or a successful actor are larger now

than they have been, are they not."

Boucicault—"Well, a first-class star should be able to make up \$1,000 a week on an average. I have received \$7,000 in a week. I suppose among the stars now on the stage it is a question between Mr. Booth and Mr. Jefferson, as to which of them commands the best incoma .-New York Mirror

Statisticians estimate that in France one-half the population live upon agriculture, one-quarter live by various monufacturing industries, one-tenth by commerce, four-hundredths by the liberal professions, and six-hundredths are rentiers of various kinds.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

Hints and Recipes A little petroleum added to the water

with which waxed or polished floors are washed improve their looks, Peaches, cut in thin slices and dropped into boiled custard before it is served,

make a palatable addition. These Graham puffs are nice for break fast. Sift together a pint and a half of Graham flour, one teaspoonful of salt and three teaspoonfuls of baking pow-der. Mix with this one pint of milk and two well-beaten eggs until a smooth

greased gem pans half full with the bat-

ter, and bake in a hot oven for ten min-

Fill cold, well

batter is obtained.

utes. Sometimes the lamp wick obstinately refuses to be turned up in an orderly manner. It will seem firmly wedged at one side while the other runs up in a point, causing weariness and vexation of spirit. To overcome this depravity take a new wick, draw out a single thread near the selvedge and the wick will be found quite tractable when introduced into the burner. The cogs will take it up properly and it will appear in good form and give an even flame when

lighted. Mrs. T. writes that she has found bran water excellent for cleaning matting. For an ordinary sized room infuse two handfuls of bran, put in a bag in half a gallon of boiling water, pressing the bag so that all the goodness of the bran will be in the water. Dilute this water and wash the matting with a woolen or crash cloth, drying with another cloth imme-By repeating this process every fortnight for a room that is much used the matting retains its good appearance and is kept perfectly clean.

Mrs. S. F., of Norfolk, Va., sends this recipe for lemon jelly cake: One cup of sugar, mixed with butter the size of an egg, one cup of milk, one egg well beaten and flour enough to make rather stiff, sifted with a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder and bake in three jelly cake tins. For the jelly take the juice and grated rind of one lemon, one small cup of sugar, three teaspoonfuls of cornstarch, mixed smoothly with a little water and one cup of hot water. Let all boil together until thick and spread on the cakes. This quantity makes two lavers.

A correspondent sends this recipe for cooking beefsteak: Have the steak cut very thick, with two ounces of fat to each pound of lean and set it on a dish that may be sent to table. If liked well done, set it before a clear hot fire for an hour and a quarter before dinner. Turn the steak once and turn the dish once, so that each side of the steak may be turned to the fire. Before sending it to table put a piece of butter the size of a hickory nut in the middle of it; sprinkle it with a little pepper and a few drops of any desired sauce. Pour over it a pint of button mushrooms that have been cooked in their own sauce, and serve hot.

This layer cake will be found delicious Cream four tablespoonfuls of butter with two cups of sugar; add three full cups of flour sifted with two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one cup of milk, the yolks of four eggs, well beaten, and the four whites whipped to a stiff froth. Bake in two jelly cake pans. Mince a cup and a half of figs very fine and a third of a cup each of pistachio nuts, wal nuts, and blanched almonds, adding the frothed whites of two eggs, a little sugar and enough rose water to moisten all. Mix thoroughly and place as a layer be-tween the two cakes. Cover the cake with thick icing made with white of lemon juice and confectioners' or

XXX. sugar. It is well to remember that too much blueing renders clothes yellow after a time. Inexperienced or careless servants think the more blueing in the water the better for the wash; and it is a difficult matter to convince them that the clothes will look far better if only a small quantity be used. As blueing varies so much in intensity, experience only can teach the required quantity. Usually half a tablespoonful to a tub of water is sufficient. It should always be diluted before it is put in the tub; as, if not thoroughly mixed before the clothes are put in, unsightly streaks will be the result. If the clothes are soaked over night one tablespoonful of pure water ammonia in each tub of water will materially lessen the labor of washing .- New York Commer-

Some Blg Watermelons,

"How big was the largest watermelenger saw! Well, now, let me see. I have been in the business since 1850, said Mr. Hanson P. Barnes, the commission merchant, "and I have seen melons on this wharf which weighed as high as seventy-five pounds, but there have been authentic reports of some which went as high as eighty pounds. The largest melons are not always the best.

"There are various ways of judging a watermelon. Those who have to handle them are educated by experience to know a ripe melon on sight, but if the skin breaks crisply when cut into with the thumb nail, or a peculiar hollow sound is emitted when tapped with the knuckle, or if the meat is heard to break with a brittle sound when the fruit is squeezed, the melon is generally ripe. The 'scaly bark' does not respond kindly to the squeezing or rapping test, as a two-hundred-pound man might sit upon one without crushing the meat; yet when cut the melon might prove a prime one by its dark red meat and black seed.

"The general tendency in improving the melon is to get round fruit and thin rinds, thus obtaining a greater amount of meat in the space handled and obviating crumpled fruit, which may be ripe at one end while the long, thin ends are useless. The 'ice rinds' fill the bill in this respect, but tough rinds are cultivated for shipping purposes!"-Balti-

M. von Keller & Ca., successors to Keller & Ruhi, at the old Choth House, corber Ann and William Sts., New York cits, are doing an extensive business by means of furnishing to the Merchant Tailoring trade throughout the United States, complete sample collections of their Woolens in season, and receiving and executing orders received through the samples. Whenever a style bas been soid out, they notify their customers to that effect, so that the parties holding their samples are always properly informed as to which styles they can offer to their patrons. The Merchant Tailor is thus placed in a position to show a large variety of styles without oncombering himself with a large stock. We understand that any Merchant Tailor desiring such collection of samples can have same sent free of charge. Address Means, M. von Keller & Ca.

The Spring Chicken of History. Few people have any idea of the lon-gevity of that noble, although hysterficky, domestic fowl, the common hen ocommerce. By a late agricultural paper we see that a hen, residing with a farmer near Macon, Mo., seized a rat by the back, carried him to a tub of water, dropped him into it "with a revengeful | cluck" and thus saved her brood from further depredations. Now, when in boyhood's happy days we read the "Boys" Own Book of Natural History," this ven-erable hen, at that time residing on an English farm, was spending most of her time dropping that same predatory rat into the tub of water with the same old "revengeful cluck." And now she is at it again, away out in far away Missouri, where they call us to deliver their land from error's chain. Fifty years is a good ripe age for a brood hen, but we do not look to see her pass away in this generation. No. So long as there is a rat alive in this world of suffering and wrong, so long will that noble old hen continue to pick him up and drop him into a tub of water "with a revengeful cluck." Heas, unreal mockery, hens! We begin to fear

White woodchucks have been seen the past summer in Redding township, Ind.

that the hen of our boyhood was perhaps

only a feeble imitation of the real hen

of to-day. - Burdette.

A huge derrick-pole fell and severely injured the foot of Mechanical Engineer E. R. Hoys at the New Orleans Exposition, and after only three applications of St. Jacobs Oil, all the pain and swelling disappeared.

Among the workmen specially occupied with tar in the Paris Gas Works only three were sick in the course of seven years.

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tent true, there can be no doubt. At last, several years ago, we came to the conclusion that every intelligent person can readily discriminate between spurious and bona fide testimonials, and determined to use as advertisements a few of the many hundreds of unsolicited certificates in our posses-

as advertisements a few of the many hundreds of unsolicited certificates in our possession.

In doing this we published them as nearly as pessible in the exact language used by our correspondents, only changing the phraseology, in some cases, so as to compress them into a smaller space than they would otherwise occupy, but without in the least exaggerating or destroying the meaning of the writers.

We are glad to say that our final conclusion was a correct one—that a letter recommending an article having true merit finds favor with the people.

The original of every testimonial published by us is on file in our office, an inspection of which will prove to the most skeptical that our assertion made above, that only the facts are given as they appear therein, is true.

But as it would be very inconvenient, if not impossible, for all of our friends to call on us for that purpose, we invite those who doubt if there be such), to correspond with any of the parties whose names are signed to our testimonials, andask them if we have made anymisstatements, so far as their knowledge extends, in this article. In other words, if we have not published their letters as nearly verbatim as possible.

Yery respectfully,

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us entirely unsolicited, with permission to publish it:

Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 12, 1886.

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An Editor's Testimonial.

A. M. Vaugban, editor of the "Greenwich Review," Greenwich, O., writes: "Last January I met with a very sovers accident, caused by a runaway borse. I used almo t every kind of salve to heal the wounds, which turned to running sores, but found nothing to do me any sood till I was recommended Hexay's Canson at Salve. I hought a hox, and it helped me at once, and at the end of two months I was completely well. It is the heat salve in the marrot, and I never fall of felling my friends about it, and urge them to use it whenever in need."

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