

HELEN KELLER AND HER TEACHER.

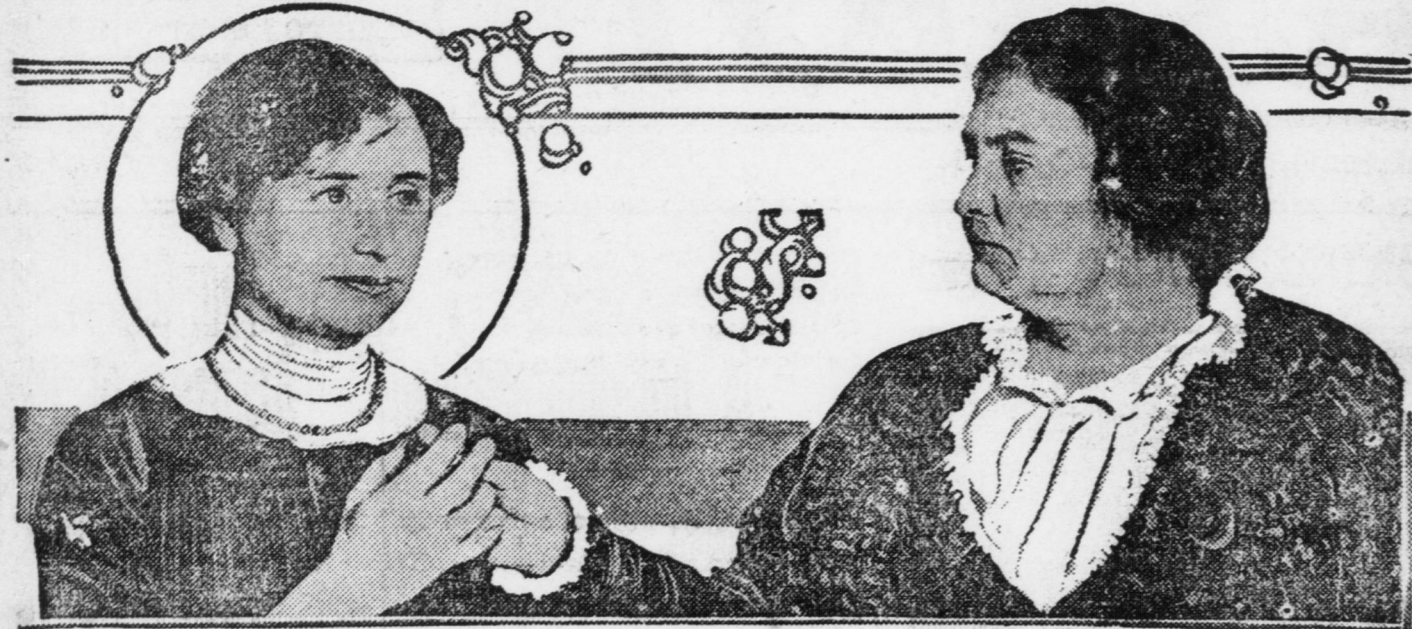


Photo by American Press Association.

The marvelous blind deaf mute is shown on the left in conversation with Miss Macy.

STARS IN THE UNIVERSE.

Enough to Allow One For Every Human Being on Earth.

For years the approximate number of stars visible to the eye, a matter of 3,000 or 4,000, according to the definition of average vision, has been known. By most persons, however, and by many scientists, the total number of stars in the heavens has been considered countless, if not limitless. The universe is now declared to be finite, yet of a magnificence of dimensions and of a populousness far beyond all earlier conceptions. This assumption is a result of very recent investigations into the motions and distances of the stars.

The latest studies on the subject of the number as well as the light of the stars have been made at the royal observatory at Greenwich, England. The late Franklin Adams succeeded in making a set of 206 photographs covering the entire sky. After counts were made on these pictures, from which the brightness of the self-luminous bodies between practically the twelfth and seventeenth magnitudes could be inferred, it was concluded that they recorded about 55,000,000 stars.

From this a formula was determined showing the change of number in passing from one magnitude to another. With these figures it was reasoned that the aggregate number of stars is not less than 1,000,000,000, probably not more than 2,000,000,000, and probably approximately 1,600,000,000, the estimated present population of the earth.

In making computations it was inferred that there would be as many stars fainter than magnitude twenty-three or twenty-four as there are brighter. — From September Popular Mechanics Magazine.

KILL LOBSTERS KINDLY.

Put Them in Cold Water and Slowly Bring Them to a Boil.

Boiling over a slow fire is the happiest death a lobster can meet, so it has been determined at the Jersey marine biological station. The experiments were carried out by Joseph Sinel, a well known biologist, for the Isle of Jersey Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, whose members associated the prevalent method of killing lobsters with medieval torture.

Lobsters, says Mr. Sinel, are extremely difficult to kill. Piercing the brain does not seem to cause the lobster more than temporary annoyance, since his brain is a mere nerve ganglion the size of a hemp seed. He has to be killed all over. To throw him into boiling water fails to do the work either mercifully or quickly since he struggles violently to escape for about two minutes.

The pleasantest way to end a lobster's troubles, Mr. Sinel finds, is the old fashioned way of placing him in cold water and bringing him to a boil. As the water warms he becomes lazy and rolls over as for a sleep. By the time the water reaches the comparatively mild temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit he becomes comatose. At 80 degrees he is dead. To use a human illustration, the biologist says it is like a person succumbing to a heat wave, with loss of consciousness and a painless end. — London Cor. New York Post.

Tips and Tips.

"The Scotch caddie is the best caddie in the world," said a famous player. "Only, like all his race, he's a little near, a little tight across the chest. 'Bang goes sixpence,' don't you know. 'A friend of mine spent his vacation golfing on the famous St. Andrews links in Scotland. My friend had a very fine Scotch caddie, a notoriously fine Scotch caddie, and he said to the man the first day on the course: 'Dugald, my man, I expect to get some good tips from you during my stay here.' 'And I expect,' said Dugald dryly, 'the like frae you.' — Exchange.

Velocity of Sound.

The velocity of sound depends upon the medium through which the sound has to travel. The mean velocity of sound in air is 1,125 feet per second, while the velocity of sound in water is given at 4,708 feet per second, being about four times quicker than in air. Cast iron conveys sound at the rate of 16,822 feet per second, or about sixteen times more quickly than air. — New York American.

Extravagance.

Extravagance in thought is as bad as extravagance in living expenses. — E. W. Howe's Monthly.

Overheard.
"Tinker has placed an old railroad sign, 'Stop, look and listen!' at the entrance to his driveway."
"What's the idea?"
"His wife is running the touring car." — Judge.

Our First Sawmill.
It is said that the first sawmill in the United States was at Jamestown, from which sawed boards were exported in June, 1607. A water power sawmill was in use in 1625 near the present site of Richmond.

He, Mean Brother.
She—Aime's twin brother annoys her dreadfully. He—How? She—You see, everybody knows they are twins, and poor Aime can't pass for only twenty-four because he tells people he's thirty! — Exchange.

Russia's Fisheries.
Russia ranks third among the fish and deep sea food producing countries of the world. The total yield of fish is well over \$8,000,000 worth a year, but even this great supply is not equal to the needs of the population.

HENRY SHRAPNEL.

Inventor of the Deadly War Missile and His Reward.

Shrapnel was originally the name of a British general who, about a hundred years ago, was begging the board of ordinance of his native land for some substantial recognition in respect of the new and deadly missile he had placed absolutely at their service and was being told that the institution in question "had no funds at its disposal for the reward of merit."

Henry Shrapnel's invention was probably first employed at Surinam in 1804 and was then "favorably reported on," but eleven years later Sir George Wood, who commanded the artillery at Waterloo, declared that shrapnel had won that famous battle. Without it, Wood asserted, no effort of the British could have recovered the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte.

In 1814 the government granted Shrapnel a pension of £1,200 a year for life, but this was interpreted by his paymasters to cover all the inventions Shrapnel had given to the army, including an ingenious gun mounting whereby the recoil was utilized to bring one gun into action at the same time as another was put under cover. Shrapnel was thus placed at a disadvantage, though he had the satisfaction of drawing his pension to a ripe old age. He died in 1842, aged eighty-one. — Argonaut.

Very Temperate.

"He was very temperate. He got drunk only once a week," remarked a witness to a Liverpool coroner.

JAPANESE RED CROSS NURSES.



Photo by American Press Association.

This picture was made when the oriental maidens were en route to Europe to care for the wounded.

Wasted Generosity.
"Oh, I'm so sorry I can't marry you. I had no idea you thought of me that way!"

"Well, what do you suppose I've been letting your father beat me at golf all the time for?" — Judge.

BLIND, BUT HAPPY FOR THE TIME.



Photo by American Press Association.

New York city annually gives a substantial sum in cash to each blind resident. This shows a blind couple, led by their daughter, after they had received their gratuity. The woman is counting her money.

Strenuous Love.

"Do yer love me, 'Erb?"
"Love yer, 'Liza! I should jest think I does. Why, if yer ever gives me up I'll murder yer! I can't say more'n that, can I?" — London Punch.

Very Moving.

Talk about moving things with a derrick—the most powerful thing known to move man is a woman's eyes. — Florida Times-Union.

Good Cooks in Demand.

"I've had my daughters learn to cook so that they might get better husbands."

"And did they?"
"No, they feel above marrying now." — Boston Transcript.

Professor Armbruster asserts that the reason very young children are relatively immune to infectious diseases is that their hearts beat so much more rapidly than those of older persons that the blood flows swiftly through the arteries, and this swiftness of flow makes it difficult for micro-organisms to gain a foothold in the blood stream. — New York World.

One Danger.

"Have you fastened the windows, dear?" she asked as they were about to retire for the night.
"No. What's the use? I gave you the last dollar I had to buy that new hat, and we needn't fear burglars."
"But they might sit down on the hat, you know." — Washington Post.

Between Citizens.

He was abusing things in general.
"Have you registered?" asked the other man.
"N-n-no."
"A citizen should always register. Your vote will do more to correct matters than your criticism." — Pittsburgh Post.

Laughed and Won.

When the British were storming Badajoz the Duke of Wellington rode up and, observing an artilleryman particularly active, inquired the man's name. He was answered "Taylor."
"A very good name too," said the duke. "Cheer up, my men! Our Taylor will soon make a pair of breaches in the walls!"
At this sally the men forgot their danger, a burst of laughter broke from them and the next charge carried the fortress. — London Answers.

His Definition.

"Pa, what is an 'interior decorator'?"
"I'm not quite sure, Wilfred, but I think it's a cook." — New York Times.

Rather Too Light.

The landlady who had not a reputation for overfeeding her boarders asked her solitary boarder as he looked dolefully at his supper, "Shall I light the gas?"
The boarder gazed at the scanty meal and replied, "Well, no, it isn't necessary; the supper is light enough!" — London Telegraph.

Two Puzzles.

Mrs. Bowns—How do you expect me to buy things for you to eat if you don't give me any money? Mr. Bowns—And how do you expect me to earn money for you if I don't get anything to eat? — New York Journal.

OCEAN TO OCEAN TELEPHONE SERVICE ACHIEVED

First Message From New York to San Francisco

Historic Event Celebrated With A. G. Bell at Atlantic End and T. A. Watson at the Pacific End of Line

NEW YORK, January 23.—This afternoon the voice of man was made to leap across the continent—New York and San Francisco were connected by telephone. Impressively, almost solemnly, Alexander Graham Bell, a big white-haired man whose full white beard gives him a typical, patriarchal look, spoke the first words over the span of 3400 miles. In San Francisco there sat, listening to this first trans-continental message, the man who almost forty years ago heard Dr. Bell speak the first words that ever traveled over a wire. This man was Thomas A. Watson, Dr. Bell's assistant when he invented the telephone in 1875.

Small wonder that few of those who witnessed this formal opening of the new continent-spanning line could restrain their emotions. Here was history in the making as well as a confirmation of that oft-spoken phrase that history repeats itself. Here were these two men who, in their youth, had conceived and created the epoch-making telephone—an achievement the greatness of which is reserved for the few—here were they, testing the crowning achievement of the telephone engineers who, following in the footsteps of the inventor and his assistant, took the first little telephone and created for it lines and switchboards and innumerable pieces of apparatus until speech can now be speeded across the entire nation from ocean to ocean. This indeed was a wonderful fulfillment to be crowded into the short space of a man's life-time.

Such were the thoughts of those who witnessed this impressive inaugural of the trans-continental telephone service in the office of the President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company at 15 Dey Street. Among those who witnessed the formal opening by Dr. Bell, and who afterward talked to "Frisco," were Mayor Mitchell, other city officials, members of the various civic bodies and other prominent persons to the number of about one hundred. There were besides a number of telephone officials including J. J. Carty, Chief Engineer of the Bell System, under whose direction the new line was constructed; B. Gherardi, another prominent telephone engineer, and Thomas B. Doolittle, who developed hard drawn copper wire.

In San Francisco, beside Mr. Watson, there were the Mayor, the President of the Panama-Pacific Exposition and a small group of other much-interested persons.

At the White House President Wilson spoke into the mouthpiece of his telephone and his voice was whirled across thirteen States to the shores of the Pacific.

Theodore N. Vail, the President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, was unable to be present but special arrangements were made which permitted him to be connected with the trans-continental line from his stopping place in New York.

Bravery and Cowardice.

Cowardice is often ignorance. Are any men brave, more ready to take their lives in their hands, to reckon death as one of the daily encounters, than the deep sea fishermen? Yet a group of these men brought to London by one of their missionaries have been seen too terrified to cross the street. The police had to stop the traffic to allow them to cross. The quick, quarrelsome, fearless cockneys who laughed at them—how would they feel in a freezing storm in the North sea? A spider may terrify the most courageous of women and a veteran shrink from a cat. Every hero has his weakness, and we may believe every coward has a point where he turns and will fight the world. — London Outlook.

Bullet Wounds.

The entrance wound caused by the modern small arm bullet is not a grawsome spectacle. It is small, and its appearance has been compared to that produced by the bite of a certain parasite insect. Often there is but little external bleeding, but this is not to be taken as a danger signal, as might be popularly supposed. — London Telegraph.

Quite Enough.

Penman—Did you wade through that last book of mine?
Wright—Yes, I did.
"Were you much stuck on it?"
"Only a dollar twenty-five." — Yonkers Statesman.

Sporting Note.

Speaking of mollycoddle games, how would you like to play cricket on the heath? — Judge.

AT THE HISTORIC CHATEAU DE MONDEMENT.

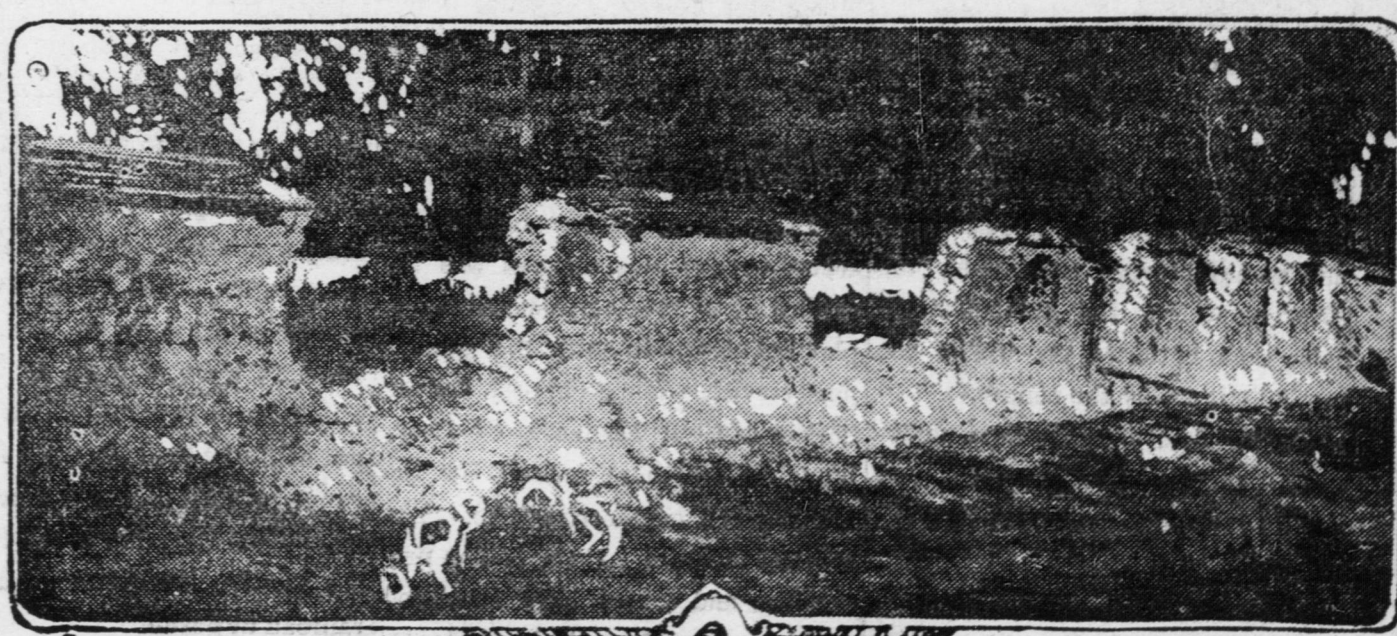


Photo by American Press Association.

This estate, near the river Aisne, was often visited by Napoleon. It was taken and retaken by French and Germans several times. The cat shows a wall demolished by shell fire.