

HOW ICEBERGS ARE MADE.

THE GIANT OFFSPRING OF RIVERS OF SOLID WATER.

Glaciers of Greenland and Alaska and their annual output of millions of tons of ice into the sea.

Standing upon the deck of an ocean steamer, passengers see an iceberg sweeping by in splendid loneliness. Looked at from afar it seems a huge curiously shaped ship with great white hull and great white sails all set and blown full with the breeze. But the strongest glass detects no flag floating from its frozen peaks and sees no crew moving upon its glistening decks. It is an enormous, clumsy craft which no passing-captain hail; it is one of the rovers in nature's pirate navy which every skipper avoids. An hour and the steamer passengers have seen the ice ship vanish in the distance; it is moved in a current of the ocean, and before long it will pass to warmer waters in the south, and there the frozen craft will end its journey and melt out of commission.

Icebergs are born every day in every month, but most of them remain in or near their native waters for a long time before they escape and wander to the great lanes of travel between here and Europe. The bergs which will be seen this summer are from two to ten years old; that is, they have had an existence individually for years, though the ice from which they are formed is much older, some of it possibly having been frozen first a thousand years ago. Bergs are born of glaciers. Four out of every five floating masses in the Atlantic come from Greenland; the fifth may be from Spitzbergen Sea, Frobisher's Sound, or Hudson Strait.

A glacier is a river of solid water confined in the depressions running down the mountain sides. Soft and powdery snow falls upon the summits, and though some is evaporated, the yearly fall is greater than the yearly loss, and so the excess is pushed down the slope into valleys which possibly at the time are covered with green and have afforded pasture lands for cattle. The snow gathers in the high valleys and every day undergoes some degree of the change which finally transforms it into ice. Hundreds of years ago the people who dwell at the foot of the Alps, in the Engadine valley, went up the green hillsides and built new houses. Far above their homes rose the mountain tops, covered with eternal snow. Little by little a glacier was forming upon the lofty slope above the site of these new houses. The surface of the soft snow river forced down from the summit was melted day after day, and the water trickling into the mass beneath froze by night. Thus the fine feathery crystals became changed into sponge-like ice, and as time went on and the quantity above increased, the pressure grew greater, and the sponge ice became harder and then compact and solid. And all this while more snow was falling upon the summits and was driven down the mountain side, piled on the surface of the growing glacier and forced down into the mass beneath as new ice. Scientists estimate that with the thickening of the rigid stream it extended down the hillside seven inches each year. This was going truly at a snail's pace, but at last the slowly creeping river of ice, crested with melted snow, approached so near the homes built upon the slope that the people had to move. Their houses, of course, they had to leave behind them, and in time the solid river came upon the buildings and broke them up and smothered the fragments. This was the Morterated Glacier, and many tourists in Switzerland have looked upon it. In 1865 there were great floods in the valley and many bits of the old dwellings were washed out from under the ice.

Now, just as this Alpine glacier grew and flowed down the mountains at the rate of seven inches a year, so have greater glaciers grown in colder Greenland and come down the mountains of that country to the sea. And these glacier streams of Greenland are the parents of the North Atlantic icebergs. So, too, in Alaska there are tremendous glaciers, and one of the incidents of an ordinary Alaskan journey is the cruising of your vessel along the coast, where the glaciers break off and fall into the water. They are far more beautiful than the finest of the glaciers of Switzerland, and in size they are so great that the largest Alpine glacier would make only a fair-sized nose, if it could be taken bodily and placed upon the face of one of the Alaskan giants. At Glacier Bay icebergs are being born all the while. Muir Glacier, the largest that dips into the bay, presents a front of 5000 feet. It is 700 feet thick, five-sevenths of it being under water. It extends back for miles and miles. Each day the central part moves seventy feet into the sea, the discharge every twenty-four hours being 140,000,000 cubic feet of clear ice. As this great quantity cracks into pieces from the glacier the bergs of the North Pacific begin their life. The separation from the larger mass and the plunge into the sea cause terrific noises.

It is known that the only part of the land which is not covered completely by ice is a narrow belt around the shore. Crossing this belt at hundreds of places are the glaciers. Some are only a few hundred feet wide and fifty feet thick, while others are several miles wide and measure 1500 feet from surface to bottom. All of these ice streams are making their way to the sea, and as their ends are forced out into the water by the pressure behind they are broken off and set adrift as bergs. The rate of movement of the glaciers is variously estimated. The central part of a glacier moves more rapidly than the sides. The progress of the Greenland glaciers is in many cases at the rate of forty-seven feet a day in the centre, while at the sides it varies from ten to fifteen. Observations made on a typical Greenland glacier show that its breadth was 15,400 feet, depth 940 feet, and advance per day forty-seven feet during the summer season. This would give about 200,000,000 cubic feet a year as the product of

an average sized icefield, which, allowing five pounds a day to each person in the United States would last over 100 years. This particular glacier, it will be seen, is very much larger than the great Muir Glacier of Alaska, whose annual output is some 5,100,000 cubic feet a year.

Each glacier in Greenland, so far as any estimate has been made, gives birth each year to from ten to 100 icebergs. When these bergs have plunged into the Arctic Sea they are picked up by the Arctic current and begin their journey to the North Atlantic. But there are thousands of them afloat; they crowd and rub against each other, and frequently they break into smaller masses. Many go aground in the Arctic basin, others get to the shores of Labrador, where from one end to the other they continually ground and float. Some disappear there, while others get safely past and reach the Grand Banks.—*New York Sun.*

Australia's Drawbacks.

"What inducement does Australia offer to a young American in search of a fortune?" was asked of J. H. Mulford, of Rockford, Ill., who is registered at the Sherman House on his return from the continent in the Southern Pacific. "None," he answered promptly. "Don't hesitate to advise all young and old Americans who desire to make a living to be satisfied in the finest country God ever made. If a living can't be made here it can't be made anywhere. Of course if a man has a situation ready for him there it might be all right for him to go there. But I doubt if even then he would succeed. Very few Americans remain there who can get away. You see that the business men from Australia are Englishmen who were brought up in English ways, which are altogether too slow for men accustomed to the business methods of America. Moreover, business is at a standstill there. It has been growing worse for the past four years on account of the big droughts. Water is scarce, there being only a few rivers, and along their banks there have been this year floods which proved equally disastrous to the droughts. And if these two combinations were not enough, the labor element is getting restless again. Australia has the strongest labor organization in the world, and when a demand is made by the organization something has got to give way. Eight hours with a half holiday on Saturday is in vogue throughout the colonies, but that is not enough, and the question of seven hours with a whole holiday on Saturday is being agitated. Many of the branches have declared for it, and it will only be a short time when the entire organization will declare for seven hours and all of Saturday. The purpose of doing so will be the hope of supplying work for the thousands of now idle men by lessening the productive power of those at present employed. No—tell young Americans in search of fortunes to stay where they are, or if they are bent on leaving this country to go anywhere but to Australia. I have just traveled all over that continent, studying the situation carefully, and know whereof I speak."—*Chicago Post.*

Drunkenness From Coffee.

Dr. Mendel, of Berlin, calls attention to the use of coffee in a manner to make his remarks of importance. The inebriety of coffee, if not as dangerous to others, may be as harmful to its subject as alcoholism, and generally leads to it. Dr. Mendel's studies have covered Germany, but he has given special observation to the great working force in the gun factories at Essen, where wages are high and employment uninterrupted, and a comparative degree of luxury is within the reach of all.

The people of Essen drink immense quantities of coffee, bringing the average for a large portion of them up to a pound a week, many men taking much more than that. The result is a form of neuritis, in which the nerves are disturbed in a degree and manner approaching delirium tremens. Intoxication is followed by gloom and sleeplessness, and about all the disorders characteristic of acute nervous derangement, added to a hate for work. As in the use of alcohol or opium, temporary relief can be had by more and stronger coffee, by tinctures of coffee formed by crushing the berries in spirits; but the cure of a confirmed coffee drunkard is next to unknown, unless the final change to pure alcoholism be counted as a cure.

Troubles of this nature are said to be much more widely spread than one would think from the immediate evidence. Most of the stages of excessive coffeeism are too obscure to be apparent. And they are increasing. Tea is merely a weaker agent of the same sort, so that in fact there is no such thing as a cup that cheers without inebriating. Moderation must be the law for tea and coffee as for alcohol.—*New York Sun.*

When Big Trousers Were the Rage.

The old Saxon settlers of England delighted in vivid colors, and the Scandinavian invaders, who came soberly suited in black, learned to surpass them in gaiety of apparel. The Normans, in their turn, were remarkable for the variety and splendor of their costumes. In the reign of Henry III., foppishness reached its height, and men half ruined themselves to be clothed in the magnificent and costly stuff called cloth of the Balderns. In the reign of James I., men wore breeches of enormous breadth, and at an earlier date that fashion was even more extravagantly indulged. "Over the seats in the Parliament House," says one authority, "there were certain holes, some two inches square, in the walls, in which were placed posts to uphold a scaffold round about the house within, for them to sit upon who used the wearing of great breeches stuffed with hair like wool sacks, which fashion being left the eighth year of Elizabeth, the scaffolds were taken down, and never since put up." But, as we have seen, the fashion returned, and ever since men have alternated between loose and tight trousers.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

A CRUSTACEAN COLLECTION

AN EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBITION OF CRABS AND LOBSTERS.

"Trilobites" Twenty Millions of Years Old—A Forty Pound Lobster—The Big Cocooned Crab.

The most wonderful exhibition of crabs and lobsters ever seen in this world will be placed on permanent view in Washington as soon as the Smithsonian Institute gets its new building. At present the collection is stored away out of sight, for want of space to show it properly. In this exhibition will be displayed for the instruction of the nation members of the crustacean family that were actually alive during the earliest geological epoch—twenty millions of years ago.

These "trilobites," as they are called, were contemporary with the earliest creatures that lived upon the earth. They are taken out of the rock to-day as perfect as when they were incased in the shelly mud 200,000 centuries ago; the very facets of their eyes are as distinct as in life. If you like you may find any number of their direct descendants in the horseshoe crabs on the sea beach. The horseshoe crabs, indeed, may fairly be called the oldest creature in the world, being but a slightly modified trilobite, and thus representing the very most ancient family that anything is known about. In comparatively modern times—only 18,000,000 years ago—some crustaceans attained great size. Frogs in those days used to grow as big as men are now, and thought nothing of hopping two or three blocks' distance at one jump; it was the age of things gigantic, and a lobster-like creature, six feet in length, called the "pterygotus," prowled the watery shallows then in search of prey.

It is not so very many years now since lobsters were captured weighing as much as forty pounds apiece. There is one such in the Smithsonian collection, three feet long in the body and with claws big and strong enough to crush your clenched fist. Unfortunately the business of lobsters has been carried on for a century or so past with such eagerness that all the big ones pretty nearly have been taken and eaten.

To find a giant crustacean to-day you must go to the eastern shore of Asia, where sports himself the enormous Japanese crab, which has claws which spread twelve feet. Even the crabs of Rider Haggard's fancy did not attain the dimensions of this Asiatic rearty. One of the most extraordinary of the Smithsonian's specimens is a "cocooned crab"—a tremendously powerful looking creature, so big that when tightly folded up it will fill a four-gallon glass jar. This is the crab that climbs the cocooned tree, and after plucking the fruit tears off the outer husk with its mighty claws and then knocks in the shell in one of the "eyes," subsequently digging out the meat with the long and narrow pair of pincers provided by nature for this purpose. This cocooned crab inhabits the islands of the Indian ocean. It accumulates surprising quantities of the picked fibers of the cocooned, which it uses as a bed; the flesh is very good to eat, and under its tail is a mass of fat which sometimes yields as much as a quart of limpid oil. Among other strange crabs in the Smithsonian collection is a smaller variety of this same species which lives in a burrow at the root of a fruit tree. Then there is the "painted crab" of the West Indies, which is a land animal; it used to exist there in countless numbers, and indulged annually in a migration to the sea coast, moving always in a compact army. During such migrations they were caught in great numbers and so have become almost extinct. A crab from the Barbados is remarkable for its swiftness in running, which has given it the name of the "horseman crab." The "dorippe" is a species of crab quite plentiful on the shores of the Adriatic, which has two legs on its back—a great inconvenience, since, if turned bottom side up, it can run just as well that way.

One remarkable crab in the Smithsonian collection is entirely covered with what looks like whitish moss, but is in reality something between the vegetable and the animal. All crabs of that variety have a coat of this sort to render them indistinguishable by their enemies and unrecognizable by their prey. Another kind of crab is always covered entirely with growing sponge, save only his eyes, antennae and the tips of his claws. He hides in crevices where sponge grows among the rocks, and becomes as much like them as he knows how. A crab from the Pacific coast is invariably found with sea anemones growing all over his back and legs. Another from the same region has large tubes with which it sucks water into its lungs by way of breathing. Still another California crab has a very neatly made snuff-box underneath its body for holding eggs, which closes with a snap-fastening just like a real snuff-box. A crab with a long beak and legs that look like straws is also from the Pacific.

One of the fiercest crabs known is plentiful on the coast of South America. It is also called the "rock crab" and hides in crevices among stones. It is captured generally by dropping a hook on the end of a string into its lair, when it will seize the hook in anger and permit itself to be hauled out by its own grip, which is so strong that the claw will still bite powerfully after it has been pulled off from the animal. A funny crab is the "messmate," which one finds in oysters; it does not hrrm the bivalve, but merely lives in the shell with it and feeds upon whatever the oyster gets to eat.—*Chicago Times.*

The government statistician of New South Wales has estimated the population of Australia at the beginning of the current year to be 3,786,798. This is an increase during 1889 of 113,995, or 3.10 per cent. The population of New Zealand is now 620,279, an increase during the year of 12,899.

Columbia is the wealthiest of American universities, and Harvard comes next.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

Lace is gradually creeping into favor again.

Save with) tailor suits, linen collars are not worn.

Children's dresses (are) longer than in past seasons.

Silk sleeping gowns (take) the fancy of young ladies.

The colored leather shoe appears to have come to stay.

Women's secret societies are being boomed in Boston.

An effort will be made to introduce colors in the saddle.

The dog-nose is a new pattern for rich white satin brocades.

Two-toned twilled louisine silk parasols are the most stylish.

Cricket is becoming popular as a ladies' game in England.

Collars are either cut very high or very low. The rest is no medium.

Birds are again making their appearance among fashionable garnitures.

Crepe, ruches and picot ribbons are not much used in the necks of dresses.

Many of the house dresses have a bow of ribbon pinned under the ear as a finish.

The women's exchanges in this country have paid out \$1,000,000 in twelve years.

Gold-headed umbrellas are regaining the popularity extended to the silver handled ones.

Fashion has a new posy—the corn flower, better known as bachelor's button, or blueys.

The fashion of planting large fuchsias on the grass is popular in lawn decoration in England.

The strongest woman now living is Mme. Victorine, a Swiss, who lifts 250 pounds with ease.

Reefers and blazer jackets are made in silk, serge or flannel, and are the favorites for outdoor wraps.

Some of the most practical papers published of late in leading bee journals have been written by women.

Ladies' shirts are in greater variety as the demand increases. Dotted muslin, percale and linen are used in negligee attire.

Illuminated nets are all the rage. The square-mashed Greek net, ribbon-striped or with chenille dots, is most fashionable.

Miss Mary Sharp, a Brooklyn (N. Y.) school-teacher, has just returned from an exploring expedition in the wilds of Africa.

A noticeable feature of recent beekeepers' conventions is the increased number of ladies who take part in the exercises.

Vieux rose broche and forget-me-not silk is one of the many beautiful combinations displayed on the hotel piazzas along the beach.

A new style of mourning paper drops the band of black all around the sheet, and has it drawn diagonally across the left-hand corner only.

A sailor hat is dark blue straw, with band of blue ribbon dotted with white, sets off a boating dress of dark blue flannel with small white dot.

The Queen of Sweden, who still suffers from shattered nerves, finds ease in working like a house-maid, and in wooding and digging in her garden.

An autumn hat has appeared above the horizon of fashion. It is an open steel braid faced with velvet, and is large and round and has a medium crown.

A Hindoo woman doctor, Miss Jagannadnan, has been appointed house surgeon at the Edinburgh (Scotland) hospital for women and children.

The Primrose League, of England, has a membership of 915,000 persons. This is the first popular organization for political purposes which has awarded equal positions to women and men in its ranks.

Low-crowned hats have insertions or edgings of openwork in passementerie or embroidery devices at the edge of the brim, presenting an effect like lace. These hats have wide, flat, projecting brims.

A charming little toque is covered with a wild-rosevine, with leaves, buds and foliage, and with full-blown roses over the forehead, and is finished with ties of narrow black velvet ribbon coming from the back.

Gray and black form a stylish combination. Dresses for cool days are made with gray skirts, around the bottom of which from three to nine rows of black velvet are placed, and plain gray basques with black velvet sleeves.

Miss May Rogers, of Dubuque, Iowa, is the author of a Waverly Dictionary, in which the 1300 or more characters in Sir Walter Scott's novels are described, with illustrative extracts from the text; the book is said to be a complete key to Scott's works.

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