

LOFTY RAILROADS.

The Highest in the World Crosses the Andes.

Nearly Three Miles Above the Level of the Sea.

The highest point attained by a railroad in the United States is in the Rocky mountains, 9027 feet above the sea. Trains on the Calloa-Oroya line in Peru are now ascending to a height as far above this great elevation as the total height of Mount Washington. In other words, when a train on the Oroya line enters the Galera tunnel to cross from the western to the eastern slope of the Cordilleras it is more than a mile higher above the sea than the loftiest bit of railroad track in this country. Some stretches of track in Mexico are also higher than any railroad in the United States.

At present the Galera tunnel is the highest elevation attained by any railroad in the world. Some months ago the Sun reported that this wonderful Oroya railroad had at last crossed the Andes. It was on September 28th last that the first train from Callao passed through the tunnel to the eastern side of the mountains. Twenty years elapsed after the line was started at the sea before the Cordilleras were conquered, and trains have scarcely a foot of level grade for 106 miles until they pull into the Galera tunnel, 15,638 feet above the sea, and emerge upon the eastern face of the Andes.

If this were not the loftiest tunnel in the world it would still be conspicuous as a specimen of railroad construction. It was driven through the rock a distance of 3855 feet. If a train happens to stop in the tunnel, passengers can hear water from the vaulted roof pattering on the car tops. The melting snow that crowns the mountain summit above it filters through to the excavation. Two channels are cut in the rock to carry the water out of the tunnel. One of them leads to the head stream of an Amazon tributary and the Atlantic; the other to the Rimac River and the Pacific.

It is doubtful if any other railroad for general traffic will ever be carried to so great an elevation. The surveys for the Pan-American railroad do not thus far indicate elevations at all approaching that of the Oroya line. It will be necessary here and there to pass from one valley to another separated by mountain ranges, but the highest points along the line will not be over 7000 feet above the sea, if the results of the preliminary surveys hold good.

South America will always beat the rest of the world in elevated railroads. The South Peruvian line from Molendo to Lake Titicaca attains a height of 14,641 feet, only 997 feet lower than the Galera tunnel. The remarkable Chilean Railroad, now nearing completion, which, starting at Antofagasta, runs hundreds of miles northeast into Bolivia, has its highest point at Carcoto, 12,008 feet above the sea; and it is a noteworthy coincidence that the Trans-South American line from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso is also said to be just 12,008 feet above the sea at its highest point. These results have been obtained by triangulation, but for ordinary purposes it may be as well to lop off the extra feet above 12,000, just as some geographers do in the case of Mt. Everest. They say that the figure 29,004 feet, given as the height of this loftiest of mountains, implies a refinement of accuracy in measurement to which it is not entitled.—[New York Sun.]

Grant Had no Ear for Music.

General Ulysses S. Grant was not a musician, but he took a certain degree of pride in being able to distinguish two tunes from all that he ever heard. He frequently remarked that he never failed to recognize "Old Hundred" and "Yankee Doodle."

In the spring of 1880 General and Mrs. Grant were in Galena, Ill., occupying the house which Mrs. Grant still owns. On April 27, the fifty-ninth birthday of Grant, a number of his townsmen, in recognition of the event, gathered at his home to treat him to a serenade and wish him "many happy returns." The local band was called upon to furnish the music. The visitors and band assembled in the front yard and the latter opened the serenade with its usual opening melody, "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

General Grant appeared on the veranda, where he stood resignedly until the musicians had blown out their customary three airs. Then he stepped forward and heartily welcomed the crowd, at the same time inviting the people inside, where they were cordially greeted by Mrs. Grant. An

hour was delightfully spent. One of the party apologized for the quality of the music which the band had furnished. The general's reply was: "You might as well have serenaded me with tin pans, as far as I am concerned, as I know less about music than anything else I can think of. I know, of course, that your band played 'Yankee Doodle' for its opening piece, but whether it played artistically or not I am not able to judge."

Further apologies were not deemed necessary, nor did his friend enlighten him that his uncultivated ear had mistaken "The Girl I Left Behind Me" for one of the two airs which he never failed to recognize.—[Chicago Herald.]

Queer Pay for Property Rights.

The tenant of a large farm at Broadhouse Dangsett, County of York, England, holds the right to the property as long as he shall pay a yearly rental of "a snowball at midsummer and a red rose at Christmas" to the owner, Godfrey Bosville, Esq.

One of the Scottish dukes relinquishes his rights to his lands if it should ever get warm enough to melt the snow from the highest mountain in Scotland.

William de Albemarle and heirs hold the manor of Leaston "by the service of fluding for our lord, the King, two arrows and one loaf of oat bread whenever the Sovereign shall hunt in the forest of Eastmoor." Although the forest is no longer a hunting ground and arrows have long since given way to rifles and shotguns, still the heirs of Leaston Manor keep the arrows and oat loaf ready for any stray king that may happen that way, thus holding good the title to their estates.

Solomon Attefield and heirs or, rather, the heirs of Solomon Attefield, old Solomon having gone the way of all the world 235 years ago, hold lands both at Repland and Atterton, upon condition "that as often as our lord, the King, shall cross the sea, Solomon or his heirs shall accompany him to hold the royal head in case of sea sickness."

Geoffrey Frumbrand and heirs hold sixty acres of land in Suffolk on condition that they pay the King an annual rental of two white doves.—[New York News.]

Restaurants at the World's Fair.

There never were so many restaurants as there are going to be at this World's Fair. Along the promenades around most of the building you will see tables and tables—some waited on by Americans, others by Frenchmen, others by Germans, others by Chinese, and Japanese, and Italians. Some very queer and pretty buildings are restaurants such as they have in Ceylon, Japan, China, Algiers, Morocco, Switzerland, Holland, Paris, India, and Turkey. You will see people eat with sticks, with their fingers, and with knives and no forks. But the drinking will be even more wonderful. Littered everywhere out-of-doors are pretty little stands and booths and cagelike houses called "kiosks." Hundreds of these are for the sale of water at a cent a glass; others are tea-drinkers' resorts, kept by Oriental people; others are chocolate booths, attended by pretty young girls; others are coffee stands; at others you can drink cocoanut milk from Cuba, or lime juice, or sugar and water, as the French do. And scattered among all these often beautiful little buildings are others, literally by the hundred, for the sale of chewing gum, candy, and mounds of sweet flowers.—[Harper's Young People.]

A German Pedagogue.

The various accomplishments of barbers in the older days are illustrated by an advertisement recently republished in the German Pedagogue's Gazette, which appeared on the signboard of a barber of Nuernberg in 1640. It read as follows: "Isak Maperl, barber, wigmaker, surgeon, copyist, schoolmaster, blacksmith, physician. Shaves for a kreuzer (two cents), cuts the hair for two kreuzer, using butter and pomade for pretty young ladies; lights the lanterns by the year or quarter; teaches young noblemen to speak their mother tongue grammatically and with ease, teaches them good manners and how to spell. A master in style, makes and repairs shoes and boots, teaches to play on the flute and other instruments; teaches in the houses cotillions and other dances; sells perfumery of all kinds, paper, shoblacking, salted herrings, honeycakes, mouse traps, candy, heart-strengthening condiments, potatoes, sausage and other vegetables. N. B.—He teaches also chirography and explains the nature of foreign wares every Saturday and Wednesday. Isak Maperl."

EASTER LOVE

Ancient and Modern Observances of the Day.

A Curious Custom Which Prevails in Paris.

Easter is much older than Christianity. The very name by which we know the day is identical with that of the ancient Saxon goddess of spring, Easter or Eostre. The Anglo-Saxon name for April is Easter month. Taking advantage of the coincidence of the Christian festival in point of time with that of the yearly feast in honor of the Saxon goddess, the early missionaries gave a Christian meaning to the observance of the day, but it has ever retained its ancient name. Easter was one time called the Christian passover, because the Jewish passover occurs about the same date, and early converts from Judaism celebrated Easter and the passover as one festival.

"The primitive Christians," we are told, "when they met on this day, saluted each other with the words, 'Christ is arisen,' to which answer was made, 'Christ is arisen indeed, and hath appeared unto Simon.'" This custom is still observed in the Greek church.

"Indeed," to quote a foreign writer, "all the ceremonies attending the observance of Easter were at first exceedingly simple; but in the early part of the fourth century a decided change was brought about. Constantine, naturally vain and fond of parade, signalized his love of display by celebrating this festival with extraordinary pomp. Vigils, or night-watches, were instituted for Easter Eve, at which the people remained in the churches until midnight. The tapers which it was customary to burn at this time did not satisfy His Majesty, but huge pillars of wax were used instead, and not only in the churches, but all over the city, were they placed so that their brilliancy at night should far exceed the light of day. Easter Sunday was observed with most elaborate ceremonies, the Pope officiating at mass, with every officiating accessory that could be devised."

Not kneeling in token of humility, but standing erect with arms outstretched and faces looking to heaven, to express triumphant peace, the early Christians prayed during the fifty days between Easter and the Pentecost, and no songs but those of joy and gratitude were heard. Between Easter and Pentecost the time was considered the most auspicious in the whole year for love-making and marriages, and those two holy days were the best on which to baptize children.

Of all the Easter customs, that of coloring and making presents of eggs seems the only distinctive one that has found a place in our time and country.

On the first day of Easter week in Paris, everybody presents every one else with a present emblematic of an egg, which is known as a Pascual egg (œufs des Paques.) Among a people so ingenious as the Parisians, an opportunity of this sort is literally a "God-send." Egg-shaped articles are to be had of all conceivable, and some inconceivable, forms and materials. One would think the once imperial eagle of France had summoned all the birds of the air to come to Paris, build their nests in shop windows, and there deposit their eggs; for, go where you will, you will see eggs, from the size of a caraway comfit, such as is found in the nest of the humming-bird, to one as large as a bowl, or an ostrich's or emu's egg.

The shops are full of egg-shaped boxes, the receptacles of candy, jewelry or toys. Here you have chocolate eggs full of cream where the yolk should be, and again, ivory eggs, within which is a scent-bottle. Passing along are women with barrows, crying, "Les œufs, des œufs." Upon their barrows are piled in separate heaps, white and colored eggs.

Some of the nests are beautiful works of art. Here is a stoat or weasel stealthily climbing up a tree to suck the eggs, while the parent bird is represented with her feathers ruffled in a threatening attitude, to drive away the intruder. Here, again, a cuckoo—a European cuckoo, our American bird is above such tricks—has turned out a little chaffinch egg which lies broken on the ground below, while she has left her own for a foster-parent to hatch.

More charming, however, and much more interesting, are those little gifts which are not only reminders of the day and expressions of friendship,

but that carry with them something of the personal taste and individuality of the donor. It may well be a pleasure, in addition to its reception, to know whose busy brain planned your gift, and whose dainty fingers lingered over it long and lovingly.—[Demorest.]

On a Big Steamship in Port.

An invitation to lunch or dine on board a big ocean steamer when she is in port is rarely refused. There is a novelty about the great ship's solitary decks, saloons and lounging and smoking rooms that is mighty fetching, and the opportunity to become a privileged guest isn't to be had every day. In all sea novels as soon as the ship ties up and the captain has seen its owner he strikes the bee line for his own snug cottage and little wife, and doesn't appear till the vessel is ready to sail again. In reality the captain and officers of an ocean racer are rarely busier than during the week they are forced to remain in port.

The ship's doctor is the man with the best chance to get away, and unless there is sickness among the crew he picks up his hat and doesn't come back until the next sailing day. The rest of the official staff has to put in some hard work during the stay. Every one rises about the same time as usual. The officers all mess together when in port. The mates have to get out and emphatically earn their wages. The unloading is under the mates' eyes, and two of them see to the checking of every piece of freight that has been put aboard on the other side. With such a vessel as the Teutonic that is no boy's task, and no sooner is the hold emptied than another gang of men, under the direction of a mate, begins to pile in other freight.

Then the mates have the logs to write up and see that the ship has a thorough cleaning from crew's nest to steerage, and the seven or six days of what most people suppose is liberty is slavery to duty.

The business man of all is the purser. In the first 48 hours out and the last 24 hours before land is made a purser has more responsibility than work, but at other times he is on the jump. He and the steward have to victual the ship, and to perform that operation for the Teutonic, which often carries over 2000 people, does not permit a man to be lazy. Supplies for crew and passengers, hundreds of letters concerning special accommodations months ahead, as many more about table seats, clearing the vessel, all the details of the big ship come directly under the purser's eye. The ship's books have to be kept, and when the purser gets a chance to run uptown to dinner with some friend he is in a vein to enjoy it.—[New York News.]

Traveling and Camping in Egypt.

Dr. Frederick Peterson of this city recommends winter camping in Egypt as a hygienic measure. He finds it something luxurious, and says: "I have camped out on shooting expeditions in Nebraska, Dakota and other Western places, and endured hardships that I should not care to experience again. But in Egypt, where labor and carrying costs next to nothing, where everything in the way of furniture and supplies can be stored away somewhere on a camel, where every day can be foreseen to be rainless and beautiful, life in tents becomes a pleasure. It is always well to have some objective point in view to reach, and among the pleasantest desert trips with tents and camels are those to the Sinaitic Peninsula, to the Natroon Lakes, to the Fayum and to several other oases to the west of the Nile. Probably the warmest and driest for an invalid would be that from Assiut, Girgeh or Esneh to the Great Oasis.

But one may camp on the edge of the desert, traveling southward along the Nile, in that way having the advantage of more interesting surroundings; for some people might find the desert monotonous. On a trip to Wadi Natroon, where they spent ten days, "we were a party of three, and had eight camels with their drivers, a dragoman (interpreter), desert guide, cook, hunter guide, and a boy; two tents, three folding bedsteads with mattresses, two folding tables, chairs, rugs, cook-stove, fuel, water, rifles and shot-guns, and provisions for all the party, camels included. Camel-riding becomes easy after a time. One can assume almost any position, even lying down and going to sleep, and one can read with ease. Ladies are not at all debarred from taking such trips. Everything necessary can be procured in Cairo, and the expense should not be over five or seven dollars per day for each traveler."—[Popular Science Monthly.]

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The Japanese for good morning is "O-hi-o."

The fashion of serving the fish before meats began in 1562.

The notation system of writing music was invented in 1070.

An old lady in Beverly, Mo., is said to have slept in the same corded bed every night for ninety years.

The excavated temples near Bombay, in India, would require the labor of 40,000 men for forty years to complete.

There are now 27 royal families in Europe, which have about 400 members. Of these 27 families 18 are German.

Dwarfs are the inhabitants of the Andaman Islands. It is seldom that a full-grown man is seen over 42 inches in height.

A "hog-killing" in North Perry, Me., recently deserves more than local fame. The victim weighed more than half a ton.

During the reign of Elizabeth English dukes wore shoes three feet in length, the toe pointed and fastened up to the garter with golden chains, to which little bells were attached.

Ancient Greek temples were always erected without roofs, so that they might be open to the sky. The largest of them was that of Jupiter Olympus, which was 370 feet long and 60 broad.

A farmer of Norden, Neb., heard sounds from his hog pen one night the other week which indicated great agitation among his pigs. He went to the pen armed with an ax and drove away 12 wolves.

There is a lake near the Japanese town of Nara in which no person is permitted to bathe, because once, many years ago, a Japanese Emperor bathed there, and the waters have since been held sacred.

The "wardroom" boy on board a man-of-war is often as old as many of those whom he serves, but the old-fashioned title and form of address sticks to him. Wardroom boys usually are colored men.

W. C. Hart, the geologist of Wyoming, has unearthed a bed of petrified palm trees at Rawlins, and shipped 4000 pounds of the find to Cheyenne. The specimens are rare and beautiful. The find includes flat rocks carrying prehistoric tracks of birds and animals.

American Bear and Eagle Elk, two Sioux Indians, who were taken to Sydney, New South Wales, as part of a sort of Wild West show, are now in the hands of the police at that place. They broke their contract, then went broke themselves, and soon joined the profession of tramps.

Few people are aware that the Queen of England possesses a fine herd of German wild boars at Windsor, which are kept in a schwingarten formed out of a corner of the Home Park. Wild boar was introduced at court during the regency, and it has ever since been a favorite winter dish at the sovereign's table.

The Height of Man.

A French statistician has been studying the heights of men at different periods of the world's history and has reached some alarming conclusions. The recorded facts extend over nearly three centuries. It is found that in 1610 the average height of a man in Europe was nearly 5 feet 6 inches. In 1790 it was 5 feet 6 inches. In 1820 it was 5 feet 5 inches and a fraction. At the present time it is 5 feet 3-4 inches. It is easy to deduct from these figures a rate of regular and gradual decline in human stature, and they apply this, working backward and forward to the past and to the future. By this calculation it is determined that the stature of the first men attained the surprising average of 16 feet 9 inches. The race had already deteriorated in the days of Og, and Goliath was a quite degenerate offspring of the giants. Coming down to later time, we find that at the beginning of our era the average height of man was 9 feet, and in the time of Charlemagne it was 8 feet 8 inches.

But the most astonishing result of this man's study comes from the application of the same law of diminution. It is conclusively shown that in 4000 A. D., the height of the average man will be but 15 inches, and in a few thousand years more the end of the world will come, for men will get so short that there will be nothing left of them. This is altogether the most comfortable solution of the end-of-the-world problem that has been presented. It will be so much more pleasant for the coming man to diminish out of existence than to be burned off the earth.—[Buffalo Express.]

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Love never loses by being tested. Bees in the bonnet never make honey.

Peace dies the moment every shows its head.

It is only the truth we obey that can do us good.

The religion that is used for a cloak has no warmth in it.

It is never hard to find people who want to play first fiddle.

The world will always listen to the man who makes it think.

Character is what we are when we think we are not watched.

Every time a stingy man looks at a dollar it shrinks his heart.

A lie is always an enemy, no matter how well-meaning it may look.

The man who rides a hobby always wants the whole road for himself.

A boy's idea of having fun is to be allowed to make all the noise he can.

Our zeal will not attract any attention above until our motive power is love.

It is hard to make a thief believe that there is an honest man in the world.

No man can name his children without telling the world something about himself.

Nothing hurts us like disinterested kindness, when we know that we do not deserve it.

If men were as ungallant during courtship as they are after marriage, it is doubtful if more than one in ten thousand could ever get a wife.—[Ram's Horn.]

Harmonies in Color.

Some foreign writers on matters of art insist that Americans have no idea of harmony in color and are almost lacking in artistic appreciation of color effects. The explanation is that we are too busy to settle down selecting exact and harmonious shades, and that in matters of dress we simply duplicate the colors worn at Paris regardless of their suitability to our American atmosphere.

The ability to select harmonious shades with an unerring instinct for proper effect is largely a matter of temperament, affected more or less by climatic influences. Take the people in semi-tropical regions. The most fastidious artists have no fault to find with the color relation between apparel and background. It is said, for instance, that no two Moors will walk together on the street if the colors of their robes are inharmonious, for the Moor has an instinctive sense of colors. The tints in the gown of the merchant are in perfect harmony with the prevailing tones of his wares.

An American would probably think he was straining a point if he took time to regulate the color of his attire by the prevailing tones in his office or of the street in which he walks. The fact is, the Oriental does not take time either to cultivate a taste for artistic effects or to put in practice prescribed rules for color effects. With him it is a matter of temperament. The colors of the Scotch tartan, while very effective in the soft, misty atmosphere of Scotland, look crude and are consequently out of place in the clear air of France or Italy. In this country there is an epidemic of color riots. At least an esthetic foreigner pronounces this lack of harmony in color a disease. Take, for example, a combination which is very stylish at present, that of a clear, decided blue and a green—not a transparent shade, but a green that is glaringly bright. There is absolutely no excuse for such a combination, but it is one of the caprices of fashion, and fashion too often rather than taste or reason sways most of us.—[New York Herald.]

A Free Translation.

An English journal states that a foreigner, slightly acquainted with the English language, cannot always place much reliance on its synonymous terms as the dictionary seems to promise. To prove this statement it adds that a tutor has revealed the effort of a young German who was studying English under his care, to translate the famous lines of Longfellow:

"Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream."

The young German's translation of this from his own tongue back into English, read:

"Tell me not in sadful poetry
Life is the larger end of a vain imagine."

In 1884 there were 1117 soldiers in English prisons; in 1891 there were 433, and on Dec. 31 last there were but 4. Last year not one soldier was sentenced to penal servitude. The expulsions for misconduct have decreased since 1888 from 2020 to 1590.