

PEARY IS A GRAFTER.

Is Mean, Contemptible and Overbearing, Declares Dr. J. A. Vincent.

"A mean, contemptible, over-bearing grafter," are the terms in which Dr. J. A. Vincent, legislator and former mayor of Springfield, Ill., denounces Lieutenant Peary.

Dr. Vincent's son, Dr. Edward Vincent, who was physician of the Peary polar expedition of 16 years ago and was accuser at the birth of "the Snow Bird," Peary's daughter, who came to life in Greenland.

It was the young man's report of his treatment on this trip that embittered the elder Vincent. The father says that after his son had secured an assignment as one of the party and it was too late for him to withdraw with honor, Peary demanded and received \$1,000 from him before permitting him to make the voyage.

Upon his return, the father says, young Vincent declared Peary was "the meanest man he ever knew." He declared the officer was mean, insolent and overbearing, treating professional men of the party like servants.

When food ran low, Dr. Vincent told his father, Peary and his wife continued to eat everything they desired, while every one else aboard ship was put on shortened rations.

Upon the return, he said, Peary claimed all the glory, although some of the members of the crew went several miles further north than Peary did, and although he performed an act of heroism in strapping himself to a sled and hauling an exhausted companion back to safety, after the dog team had given out, the naval officer stepped into the spot-light on the return and claimed all the glory.

Young Dr. Vincent never cared to repeat his experiences with Peary, and after coming back to America resumed the practice of his profession. He was accidentally killed some years ago by a street car in Detroit.

The elder Vincent does not deny that Peary found the pole, but disposes of the controversy with Cook by saying: "I would sooner believe Cook, for he is an honorable man."

faithful Eskimos, with the proviso that Whitney was to have the use of the house as long as his hunting trip lasted, but he was compelled to let the Newfoundland boatswain continue his watch.

"Now, I suppose the sailor will celebrate his triumphant entrance into New York harbor aboard Peary's ship, while Whitney is, where? Aboard his own yacht Jeannie? Or, perhaps he has not wanted to wait for his own boat and has gone aboard Peary's ship."

"To Mr. Whitney, Dr. Cook gave his instruments and his observations, as he thought those previous things were safer there than on the long sledge trip in the spring across Melville bay, but all his note books and greasy and soiled record books, which have been so closely written upon, he kept and carried with him."

"To me, who understands only a very little astronomy, the records written down so closely and in all directions, were very hard to read, but what is the record to us. The two men, Peary and Cook, their character, their conduct, that is what interests us, and every little item throwing a sidelight upon their natures is valuable."

Cook's Own Story of Finding the Pole. There are three statements which Dr. Cook persists in making with unflinching uniformity, and they are, according to an interview for the American by W. T. Stead:

First—He had discovered the North Pole. Second—He had his data, in the shape of scientific observations, a diary and the like, by which he could convince any competent scientific authority as to the truth of his assertions.

Third—That until he had made good his claim by the production of these data he asked for nothing more than to be left alone to complete his book and present his case as a whole to the scientific world.

The points upon which his statements vary are few and relate almost exclusively to the question of where he has the documents upon which he relies for his vindication. Certain reports represent Cook as saying that all his documents were aboard the Jeannie and were well on their way to New York.

When asked what he had done to safeguard them, as it was of vital importance that he should be able to produce them, Dr. Cook replied: "In order to avoid any risk of their loss I divided them into two portions. The finished result of my calculations I brought here to Copenhagen; the rough material upon which these results were based I sent to New York by the Jeannie."

To the question that although he had divided his documents into two parts, the loss of either would still leave him adequate material to make good his claims, he replied: "That is true. The calculations would have to be worked out over again, but the material would be all there."

er, on March 21. During the first days we made long marches. The cold persisted and there were strong winds.

"I lived as the Eskimos did and managed to get some comfort by sleeping in snow houses which we dug out, eating tallow and drinking tea. The sky during these days was overcast by smoky mist, so that no observation could be taken, but on March 30 an observation gave out position as latitude 84.47. We had covered, therefore, more than 130 miles in nine days."

"Beyond this point we encountered merely a desert of ice. There was no life. Tracks of animals and blowholes of seals were absent. Nor was there a trace of vegetation."

"Day after day, from then on, we progressed monotonously. The surface of the ice grew smoother and more level. It was still cold, and there was a bitter wind. I recorded daily our position and the incidents of the march, but one day, was much like another."

"April 7 was worthy of especial note, because the sun at midnight appeared over the edge of the northern ice. The next day I made an observation which placed our position at latitude 86.30. Our speed had increased slightly. We had traversed more than 250 miles in seventeen days."

"We were then a trifle more than 200 miles from the Pole. We were surprised and frostbitten on the same day, but the light enabled us to advance more easily."

"Beyond the eighty-eighth parallel the crevices became fewer and narrower, and between the eighty-seventh and eighty-ninth parallels I was surprised to find indications of land ice. For two days we travelled over ice that looked like a glass surface. But there was no perceptible elevation and, therefore, it was impossible to tell whether we were on land or sea."

"On April 14th we reached latitude 88.21, and were within a little bit less than one hundred miles of the Pole. We no longer had energy to make snowhouses and slept in a silk tent which we carried."

"In the days that followed we saw mirages, inverted mountains and queer objects that seemed to dance about. The horizon itself seemed to dance. But I made careful astronomical observations and always knew our position."

"On April 21 my observation—corrected—showed that we had reached latitude 89 degrees, 59 minutes and 46 seconds, and were therefore within a stone's throw, almost, of the ninetieth parallel. We advanced the 14 seconds—approximately a quarter of a mile—and there I made a double round of observations which confirmed our position."

came to New York and saw the Hudson River, even if he did not explore it. To prove the facts we have an old engraving made from an oil painting of the Verrazano family which became extinct in Florence in 1769.

The New York Geographical Society 'has in its possession a copper globe of the earth made in 1547, and purchased but a few years ago in which it shows the Hudson River and the lands adjacent and which is labeled on the map 'Verrazano of New Italia.' This globe was discovered in an old Spanish convent and its authenticity is undoubted."

At the conclusion of the address, the sculptor, Ettore Ximenes, broke the ground with a pickax and the chevalier with a silver trowel, turned over the first bit of earth where the foundation is to be placed.

A Curious Animal. When you go to the Museum, at Scranton, find case 17, and there you will find a specimen of one of the rarest animals or birds in the world, the "Duckbill," Platypus, Mullingong or ornithorhynchus anatinus.

This freak of nature is a puzzle to naturalists. It is about twenty-four inches long, has the fur of a beaver, its fore feet are web-foot like those of a goose. It has beak-like eyes like a rat and a tail somewhat like a beaver.

It has the broad bill of a duck, hind legs like a beaver, lays eggs like a bird and hatches them like a common fowl. It makes its nest in the ground and lines it with grass and fur. It burrows in the ground to a depth of forty or fifty feet, one end of the hole opening into a river or stream and the other on land.

It never lays more than two eggs at a time and its young are born naked and helpless. They are carried in a pouch at the mother's breast until they are old enough to take care of themselves. Its method of feeding the young is one of the strangest known to naturalists.

The little bills of the babies are sealed to the breast of the mother, although the old ones have no udder or teats like other mammals. The bill remains sealed to the breast until the young are able to forage for themselves. Up to that time they derive their nourishment from the mother, but in just what way it is transferred is a mystery.

When it is able to secure its own food it feeds on crustacea, insects and water mollusks.

Fortune for the Blind. New York, Sept. 16.—Many blind people here and abroad were made happy to-day when the contents of the will of Edith Rebecca Lord, daughter of the late John Taylor Lord, who was at one time a member of the dry goods firm of Lord & Taylor, became known.

PECULIARITIES OF SAKHALIN.

Curious facts have lately come to light concerning the island of Sakhalin, which lies off the eastern coast of Siberia. Cold winds and sea currents circulate around it, and their effect appears to be to produce on the island a reversal of the ordinary course of nature respecting the arrangement of temperature.

Usually the air is warmest near sea-level, and coldest on highlands and mountains, but in Sakhalin the coldest air is found near the sea, and there the plants are of an Arctic character, while in the lofty interior of the island the climate is mild and even subtropical plants flourish on the heights.

Too Pat. A pun is often the easiest as well as the lowest form of wit. An example of the kind of pun to be strictly avoided is given in the following story, taken from the Chicago News. A customer went into a music store to look over some songs.

"How do you sell your music?" she asked of the clerk. "It depends on the kind you want," said that individual. "We sell piano music by the pound, and organ music by the choir."

The customer did not buy any.—Youth's Companion. Ten Days Queen. Lady Jane Grey was Queen of England for only ten days. Edward VI. died July 6, 1553. Two days later the public announcement of her accession to the throne was made, and on the 19th she was brought before the Council for acknowledgment.

To enable the Duke of Northumberland to win the crown for his own family, the order of succession as fixed by Henry VIII. was changed and Lady Jane Grey was put on the throne, and ten days later the intrigue was ended, and Mary became the acknowledged Queen of England.

No Perpetual Motion. Every machine is constructed to transmit motion or force. In every machine the motion of the machine is derived from without, either from muscular action or the weight of falling water, or a current of air, or the expansive power of steam, or some other natural power.

The motion and energy that the machine has gained has been obtained only at the expense of some exterior agent. The quantity of force in existence being fixed, no perpetual motion can be created, and therefore a self-moving machine is absurd even in name.

Mrs. Lane's Old-Fashioned Ideal. "What is your ideal woman?" was asked of Edith Mearns Lane, the author of "Kathrine," and Mrs. Lane answered: "Nothing of the new woman. A loving, passionate, great-souled, generous creature who loves children and animals, men, women and plants."

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