

# PEARY'S WORK

## RESULTS OF THE EXPLORER'S TRIP TO THE FAR NORTH.

Peary and a Companion Traveled Over 1300 Miles Across Inland Ice—No Human Beings on the North Greenland Coast.

An illustrated account of Lieutenant R. E. Peary's expedition, which returned recently to this country, the Chicago Graphic says:

The success of Lieutenant R. E. Peary and his party goes far to prove the claim that Americans are peculiarly fitted to explore. They are quick to adapt themselves to their surroundings and possess unusual skill in contriving means by which to attain the desired ends.

In a dispatch to the Navy Department, from St. Johns, N. P., Lieutenant Peary says: "United States Navy claims highest discoveries on Greenland east coast. Independence Bay, 82 degrees north latitude, 34 degrees west longitude, discovered July 4, 1892. Greenland ice-caps end south of Victoria inlet."

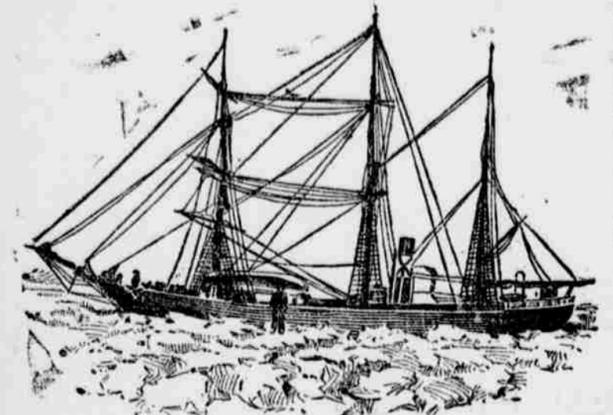
Lieutenant Peary presented his ideas of exploration to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in January, 1891. His plans showed so wide a

attempt over the land, on foot and by sledge journey, establishing, as the line of discovery progressed, necessary depots of supplies for the purpose of securing retreat, or tiding over unseen delays.

Although Peary reached North Greenland last year with a broken leg, good luck seems to have been his portion. He was fortunate in being able to procure plenty of dogs. He took with him on the ice cap twenty of these animals, bred by the natives of Whale Sound, and they hauled four sledges as far as Humboldt glacier, where the return party went back, and Peary and Astrup, with thirteen dogs and three sledges, kept on their course. Peary had killed an abundance of seals and walrus for dog food during the winter, and traveled in the lightest marching order. Pemican, pea soup, beans and biscuit formed his sole provisions.

Edward Astrup, who accompanied Peary on this journey of 1300 miles, is a young Norwegian who had lived in the United States only a few months when he volunteered for the expedition. He was skilled in the use of the "skis," as the peculiar snowshoes of Norway are called.

Peary's enumeration of the Arctic highlanders gives a total of less than 250 souls. They are apparently decreasing in numbers, but not so rapidly as was supposed a few years ago. In their recent intercourse with the whites they have been favored beyond most savage people. A large part of the men whom they have seen were rough, and they haven't always been treated with justice. Kane had serious difficulty with the natives, and two of his men accused these people of plotting against their lives. This time



LIEUTENANT PEARY'S VESSEL, THE KITE.

familiarity with existing conditions, and were so practical in character that the academy, which had previously borne the expense of the expeditions under Dr. Kane and Dr. Hayes, accepted his proposition and provided the outfit needed for the journey.

It has been the experience of Arctic explorers who had heretofore attempted high northern latitudes by means of ships to find that once their way was barred by ice it was impossible to proceed farther with their ships, and, should they become ice-bound, they must remain there until their vessels are destroyed or drift out in the springtime. Peary, recognizing this fact, made careful arrangements to travel on foot and by means of sledges.



AN ESQUIMAU.

The expedition sailed on the Kite, a steam sealer, which on July 30, 1891, left the party on the south shore of McCormick Bay. After constructing a house, a series of boat trips and short excursions was begun. These trips continued through the winter and until May 3d of this year, when Peary and all the party, excepting Mrs. Peary and Mr. Verhooff, left for the north. On June 3d the supporting party returned, having parted from Peary and Astrup at Humboldt glacier. From this point they continued northward until July 4th they discovered Independence Bay. After an absence of ninety-three days, during which time Peary and his companion traveled over 1300 miles across inland ice, they returned to McCormick Bay, meeting the Kite, which had in the meantime returned for the party.

While preparing to return home, Mr. Verhooff went on a short geological trip to a neighboring settlement. Not returning, search was made, and after some

time traces of his footsteps to a large glacier were discovered, but no sign of the missing man was found, and it is supposed he lost his life in one of the numerous crevasses.

This expedition verifies the possibility of parties making their way on foot toward the north pole, instead of by ships, and this belief has been entertained before by eminent and practical Arctic explorers.

Lieutenant Peary's accomplishment revives the inspiration in the heart of every Arctic explorer who has been baffled by ship progress to again make



PEARY'S HOUSE, MCCORMICK BAY.

his long association with them enabled him to secure photographs of fully half the Arctic highlanders. He brings back a large quantity of ethnological material, including tents, costumes, sledges, boats, dogs, and photographs of the people and dwellings.

Eight days after Peary and Astrup left the party and pushed forward by themselves they saw, says Peary, "the land at the head of the St. George's fjord, and then for two weeks were baffled and harassed by storms, fogs, crevasses and steep ice slopes, while trying to weather the feeder basins of the St. George's and Sheard Osborne glacier



A TURF HUT.

system, the Hatteras of the northern inland ice sea. June 26 we were under the eighty-second parallel, when the land which I had been keeping in view to the northwest confronted me to the north and northeast and then to the east, deflecting me to the southeast. After marching four days to the southeast, the land still extending southeast and east, I made direct for it toward a large opening in the mountains visible over the nearer summits, and landed July 1. July 4, after three days' travel overland, I reached the head of a great bay, latitude 81.37, longitude 34, opening out

east and northwest. I named this Independence Bay in honor of the day and the great glacier flowing north into it Academy glacier. I reached inland ice again July 7, with foot gear cut to pieces and selves and dogs exhausted and dead lame from the hard climbing, sharp stones and frequent falls."

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**Hindoo Women.**  
The women of the dark-skinned Hindoo race are remarkable for their physical beauty. Below the medium height



A HINDOO WOMAN.

(from a European standpoint) their carriage is erect and exceedingly graceful. The long, swinging motion which they affect in walking is produced by their habit of carrying all kinds of merchandise on the head. The Hindoo head is small and the face is refined, with delicately chiselled features. The hair, "woman's crowning glory," is blue-black and very abundant. It was worn parted in the middle and drawn down straight behind the ears, being coiled at the back of the head in a heavy knot.

They practice the barbaric custom of piercing the nose, through which a gold or silver ring is inserted. The fingers of the small black hands are usually covered with rings of various kinds, while silver bracelets adorn the slender wrists. Rings are worn also frequently on the toes, and the women are seldom seen without heavy silver anklets.

The single garment worn by the Hindoo woman consists of a long scarf, always of some white material, which is dexterously woven about the body until it forms a skirt and what looks like a sleeveless jacket.

The caste is denoted by the color of the mark which the priest of the Brahman religion places each morning on their foreheads.

**Vegetable Oddities.**  
Freaks of vegetables, especially of turnips, radishes, parsnips and the like, have probably been observed from time to time by most people, though very rarely in such distinct and striking forms as in these instances, which have been recorded in old prints, which we reproduce in our Figure 1.

The radish, which we give first, grew in a sandy soil at Harlem, more than 200 years ago, and was painted in fac simile by Jacob Peary, one of whose friends presented the picture to Glandorp in the year 1672. This picture was engraved by Kirby, showing the root exactly as we reproduce it here in Figure 1.

Nor is this the only instance in which the root of a radish has taken this particular form, as another, exactly resembling a human hand with fingers and thumb complete, was possessed by Mr. Bisset, Secretary to the Birmingham Museum, in 1802.

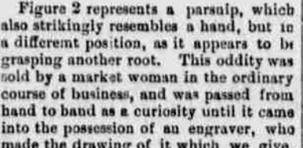
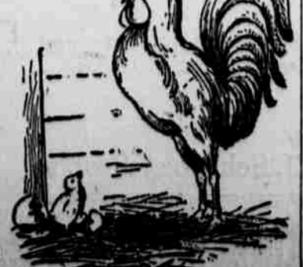


Figure 2 represents a parsnip, which also strikingly resembles a hand, but in a different position, as it appears to be grasping another root. This oddity was sold by a market woman in the ordinary course of business, and was passed from hand to hand as a curiosity until it came into the possession of an engraver, who made the drawing of it which we give.

Figure 3 is a turnip with a face, a plumed headdress, body, arms and a number of intertangled legs, like those of some sea monster, "ending in snaky twine." This root grew in a garden in the village of Weiden, in Germany, in 1628, the fact being recorded in the curious columns entitled "Miscellanea Academicæ Naturæ."



Just Out.

# UGLY STOWAWAYS.

## VENOMOUS CREATURES FOUND IN BANANA BUNCHES.

Scorpions, Tarantulas, Spiders, Centipedes and Snakes Obtain Free Passage to America—Danger in Unloading Vessels.

WORKMEN for wholesale banana dealers, says the New York Herald, never begin work that they do not take their lives in their hands.

Scarcely a wagon load of the fruit is taken from a ship that some sort of deadly poisonous reptile, spider or insect is not hidden away

beneath the layers. The animal life which takes free passage from foreign countries by storing itself away in bunches of bananas would furnish food for an interesting volume of natural history.

So accustomed have the handlers of this fruit become to seeing big, hairy tarantulas crawl out of the bunches and up the legs of their trousers that they whisk them to the floor and step upon them with no more concern than if they were harmless Croton bugs or caterpillars instead of the venomous insects that they are. The bite of a South American tarantula is in all cases poisonous and in many instances deadly, yet their presence among banana handlers creates no more terror than if they were the most harmless of spiders.

They are more frequently found in bananas than any other reptiles, and they come from every place from which bananas are shipped. They are black and fuzzy, with long, hairy legs and little beaklike eyes, which twinkle and snap like electric sparks, and their very appearance would strike terror to the hearts of those who are not accustomed to seeing them. As a rule the bodies of these big spiders are about the size of the end of a man's thumb, but sometimes a "Gulliver" crawls out into daylight, and he is immediately captured and caged, and the cantor easily sells him for from \$1 to \$2. Those of the arantulas which are not aroused by the oiling of the bunches in handling and keep a hiding are stowed away in the hot cellars of the dealers, where they become varmed up and then crawl out and spend the remainder of their days in the cracks of the ripening rooms, PECULIAR SNAKE.

with the domestic rats and other small animals with which these cellars abound. Snakes are not infrequently found coiled around the stalk of a bunch of bananas, and they are seldom killed. As a rule the variety is peculiar, and a ready market is always found where they can be disposed of at a reasonable price.

They rarely escape after the bananas have been lifted from the hold of a vessel. If the snake becomes curious when he air and light strikes him and sticks his head out for a survey of the surroundings he is immediately pounced upon and imprisoned. If he remains to be stowed away in the ripening room the heat invariably wakes him up and he unrolls himself and crawls out.

Among the most feared of the reptiles is a black snake with a brown stripe near its under part. It usually measures about eighteen inches in length. Its head is rather flatter than is usual with snakes, and just back of its head for about two inches it is marked with small yellow stripes which look something like gold collar.

The workmen say that its bite is invariably fatal, a statement which is somewhat robbed of its terrors by the fact that diligent search failed to discover anybody who would assume the responsibility of making an affidavit that he ever knew anybody who died in this way. These snakes are generally found in the consignment of bananas from Baracoa, although occasionally they are discovered in shipments from Jamaica and Costa Rica.

The most frequent visitor to our shores in the snake kingdom, on banana vessels, is what the workmen call diamond snakes. There is nothing in their appearance to indicate the origin of the same. Mr. Genaro, an Italian wholesale

dealer on Washington street, suggested that at one time several rough gems were found in the stomach of one of these snakes, hence the name. In length they are about two feet. The head is flat and sharp, and those who profess to have knowledge on the subject say that its bite is poisonous, though not necessarily fatal.

Scorpions of the real order are also among these unbecome banana stowaways, and while their stings are not considered actually dangerous they are usually extremely painful, and workmen when they are stung by them generally stop work for a few hours and reduce the swelling which follows and allay the pain at the most convenient liquor saloon. When one of these animals lights on a fit subject it seems to go about its

work with all its body and soul. It catches on with its two arms and head, and giving a sudden hump of its jointed back it jabs the end of its needle pointed tail into the flesh where it calculates to do the most harm, and the subject usually jumps and creates an atmosphere of a sulphurous odor about him for several minutes. The little stowaway then, as a general thing, is made to expiate his crime by being crushed beneath a large sized foot.

Centipedes are not uncommon among cargoes of bananas. They are not a domestic order commonly known as "earwigs" either. They are long, fellows with two rows of saffron colored legs and brilliant purple bodies, and their stings are feared more than small pox by the handlers of bananas.

It is said that these creatures are so poisonous that when they walk upon the bare flesh their legs leave a red trail upon the skin as if a pin had scratched it. It is also said that with such lightning like quickness do they sink the ends of their numerous legs into whatever they are crawling upon, when they become alarmed, that it is impossible to knock them off. Should the legs penetrate a person's flesh, so the men who unload ships will tell you, death is inevitable, and when the poison is injected the flesh mortifies almost immediately.

These are the sort of tropical centipedes which reach these shores in bananas, and when a workman discovers one crawling upon him he stands perfectly quiet and allows it to crawl off without disturbing it. Then it is crushed beneath a heavy boot or captured and sold, as the man feels disposed. They are usually summarily killed, as the workmen prefer foregoing the loss of fifty or seventy-five cents rather than run the chances of being stung.

A peculiar crustacean in the shape of a crab also hides itself in the bunches of bananas from Baracoa occasionally and makes a free trip to this city. How these animals find their way among the bananas is known only to themselves, but the supposition is that when the fruit is piled up for shipment they crawl among the bunches and stick there. In shape there is scarcely any difference between them and the ordinary crab of commerce, but in dress they are as gay as a stylish woman Easter Sunday. Their legs, claws and eyes are flaring red and



LAND CRAB.

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A BUTTERFLY VISITOR.

give the impression that they have stepped into hot water and managed to hop out again without being parboiled all over. Their bodies are about as large as the back of a man's hand and are perfectly black, and their long feelers are of a dark blue color. They are known among banana handlers as land crabs. Sometimes they are caught and kept as curiosities, but they are generally killed, as they live only a short time after they have been captured and confined.

Big cockroaches, pure white in color, are regular travelers among bunches of bananas. They are about twice the size of croton bugs and appear to have undergone a bleaching process at some stage in their existence.

A beautiful butterfly, with big body and large wings, is also among the insects found in banana ship. Its body is almost white, except for a delicate pink tint, and its wings are of pure white, dotted with brilliant red spots. A superstition exists among some of the handlers of bananas that if one of these butterflies lights upon a person it is an assurance of good luck.

Innumerable varieties of sea shells find their way into the banana bunches, many of which are prized highly by the workmen for their beauty. It is supposed that they get into the bunches when the latter are piled upon the sea shore, preparatory to being stowed away in the holds of the vessels.

Rats and mice run out of the bunches when they are being jolted about, and a few days ago two little bird's eggs were discovered by a Washington street dealer in a piece of folded leaf which had become in some way attached to a stalk. They were white, speckled with brown.

Of the thousands of small spiders which stick to the banana as none is more feared than a red one, which is so small that often it is not perceived until it has perched itself upon a man's hand and has injected its sting. The sting is not fatal, but it causes no end of inconvenience, as the spot it penetrates becomes exceedingly painful and swells up to a great size.

It is only a little over forty years ago that a Russian farmer began the cultivation of the sunflower in order to extract oil from the seeds. Now 700,000 acres in Russia are in sunflowers, and the original founder of the industry is a millionaire.

# How Thieves Are Punished in China.

There is no honesty among rural Chinamen, writes Eli Perkins in the New York Sun. They all steal anything that they can carry away without being seen. A farmer never leaves a



PUNISHED FOR STEALING.

plow or a hoe in the field. It would be stolen. Each man guards his own property, and it is a case of the "survival of the fittest." A Chinese rural family usually consists of from twenty to forty people, all related. The family government is patriarchal. A small family would not dare to live isolated. In the big cities murder and theft are about the only crimes punished. Every Chinaman lies, and the man who is the most skillful liar is considered the best man. Punishment for theft is made by locking a big heavy wooden collar around a man's or woman's neck, and then exposing him or her to the gaze of the people.

# Flesh That is Poisonous.

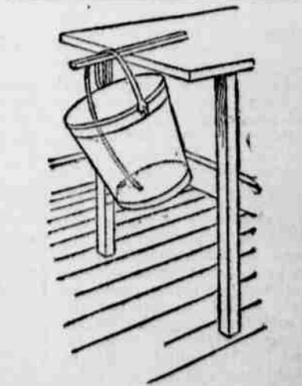
The polar bear presents one of the best attested examples of a poisonous animal, this property of its flesh being probably derived from some of its vegetable and berries which it seeks on the shores during the autumn. Scoresby says that sailors who have been obliged to eat bear's flesh, and have not taken the precaution of rejecting the liver, have almost always been attacked with sickness, and a peeling off of the skin, and have sometimes died from its baneful effects. The same thing happened to Sir John Ross's party at Fury Beach, also to the party under Sir Edward Parry. In America, where the snow lies so deep as to prevent the deer from grazing, they are compelled to subsist by browsing on the leaves and bark of the laurel, in consequence of which they secrete so much of its well known poison that their flesh proves hurtful to persons who eat it. The flesh of hares and rabbits is occasionally noxious, owing to their having eaten largely of poisonous barks and poisonous plants, which, strange to say, do not hurt them. The fact is, certain animals will eat with impunity various plants, barks and berries, which prove poisonous to human beings. In the same way the flesh of many birds that eat poisonous berries is sometimes hurtful to people who partake of it. During the time that the American ruffed grouse feeds on laurel buds its flesh is highly deleterious. Southey says that the flesh of parrots is so powerful that it is used medicinally abroad.—Yankee Blade.

# The Bible is Polyglot.

There are 3000 spoken languages. The Bible has been translated into about 290 of them, but is accessible to fully two-thirds of the human race, a billion people. The Mandarin Chinese affords communication to 200,000,000 souls; the English to 120,000,000; the Hindoostani to 82,000,000; the German to 54,000,000; the Arabic to 50,000,000. It appears, however, that there are still 500,000,000 souls who have no Bible in their own tongue. The English people have translated most of the versions that now exist.—New York News.

# An Instructive Trick.

Here is a trick that will amuse and instruct: It consists of supporting a pail filled with water by means of a stick placed on the edge of a table and passed through the pail. To be successful with this experiment, which appears like an impossibility, it is only necessary to place a small rod of suitable length between the point of the suspension stick and the bottom of the pail. The system thus consolidated forms, after a manner, a single mass, and the pail is readily held as in the engraving, because the



whole centre of gravity of the system is beneath the point of suspension.—The Scientific Cyclopedis.

# Hot Water on Tap.

Public fountains of hot water are being established in Paris, France, on the automatic system. By putting a half-penny in the slot, anyone can obtain nearly two gallons of thoroughly hot water, heated by the public gas service. The first fountain put up as an experiment proved a great success, as in summer few housewives in the poorer quarters care to keep a fire.—New York Telegram.