

SECRET OF THE ARK.

IT WAS REALLY CONSTRUCTED JUST LIKE A LEYDEN JAR.

The Fire That Came Out of It Was Electrical—Aaron's Sons Were Electrocutted. Edison and Tesla, Had They Lived at That Time, Could Not Have Surpassed Aaron.

There is nothing new on the face of the earth, and there is no doubt that electricity was well known to the Israelites and probably to the Phenicians. The first record of electrical phenomena is as old as the Ten Commandments. Moses, when he received the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written the second time, built a box out of fir—not the common cedar or any other native woods, but firwood, which had to be imported by Phenician merchants from the southern part of Europe. Was this choice accidental on account of the great value of the resinous wood, or was it the choice of the best known nonconductor among the great number of various timbers?

Moses had the fir box lined inside and outside with beaten gold, which converted the ark of the covenant into a very expensive but very perfect leyden jar or storage battery for electricity. As gold is by 50 per cent a better conductor of electricity than copper, was the choice of gold again on account of its value, or was it an inspiration or revelation? So much is certain—that if Edison or Tesla had lived in those days they could not have improved on the choice of material, and the result was a powerful leyden jar.

How was this leyden jar charged, was the next problem. A fire of material rich in carbon was kept burning on top of the ark of the covenant, and during daytime a tall column of smoke guided the 12 tribes of Israel through their wanderings, and at night a tall flame was equally well seen by them. Now carbon is a good conductor of electricity, and the particles of carbon floating in the smoke would conduct sufficient electricity to highly charge the leyden jar. At least the current of electricity would be amply strong, so that if a hand were held toward the ark of the covenant sparks would result. That this was done by Moses at different times is a matter of record, and that he could always depend that his faithful Levites would obey his instructions to the letter and have the jar always charged.

After Moses' death his brother Aaron took the matter in hand and greatly improved the electrical power of the strange battery. He had the ark of the covenant placed in the temple and had it surrounded by poles 50 ells high, or 150 feet. These poles were covered with beaten gold, and gold chains were hung from poles to the ark of the covenant, which made a very expensive but very complete and powerful electrical connection. In a country where electrical storms are as frequent and as powerful as in Palestine at an elevation of 600 feet and a reach of 150 feet of the best conductor an abundant supply of Franklin's electricity would necessarily always be on hand.

It is very likely that Aaron knew nothing of amperes, ohms or volts; otherwise his two sons never would have monkeyed with this powerful apparatus, and they would not have been killed by fire breaking out of the ark of the covenant and killing them without any wounds or burns appearing on their bodies.

Any coroner's jury of today, if it were to sit on an inquest over the body of Aaron's sons, would at once bring a verdict of death by a discharge of electricity.

Aaron knew this power, and to make it effective all he had to do to lead death from his apparatus was to remove the costly camel's hair carpets, which are almost perfect nonconductors of electricity, and make the culprit stand on terra firma. Death would result instantly by fire breaking out and leave no wounds or burns to account for his death. That several members of revolt ing tribes of Israelites were thus electrocuted is also a matter of record in the Bible.

Solomon in building his temple advanced one step further. He found that copper would do as well as gold. He had the temple covered with copper, and copper water pipes led into the cisterns inside the temple.

On the temple, or rather on its roof, a number of gilt spears were placed in vertical positions, ostensibly to scare off the birds and to keep them from defiling the temple, but these spears were several cords high, or from 16 to 24 feet. Such a height would hardly be necessary for scarecrows, but it was ample to lead the roof, water pipes, etc., with a powerful current of electricity.

Franklin, the electric chair in the state of New York and the discovery of the leyden jar itself in Leyden, Germany, are all back numbers. History only repeats itself, whether recorded or not.—C. B. Warrand in Savannah News.

Why the Dial Has Sixty Divisions. We have 60 divisions on the dials of our clocks and watches because Hipparchus, who lived in the second century before Christ, accepted the Babylonian system of reckoning time, that system being sexagesimal. The Babylonians were acquainted with the decimal, but for common purposes they counted by "sossi" and "sari," the "sosso" representing 60 and the "saros" 60 times 60—3,600. From Hipparchus that mode of reckoning found its way into the works of Ptolemy about the year 150 A. D., and on that authority it has been perpetuated to the present day.—St. Louis Republic.

The "Venus de Medici" was 5 feet 8 inches in height, and this is held by many artists and sculptors to be the most perfect stature for a woman.

Some evils admit of consolations, but there are no comforters for dyspepsia and the toothache.—Balwer.

GODS MADE TO ORDER.

The Chinese Variety Are of Both Sexes and All Sizes and Prices.

Chinese josses come from Amoy and Canton, where there are joss factories which supply Celestials with any shape, design or size desired. Josses are either male or female. If the former, they are fat and ungainly; if the latter, they are possessed of four arms.

The making of these images is simplicity itself, the manufacturers relying upon wooden or metal molds. These are filled with wet clay, which dries, is then touched up, dipped in molten glaze and allowed to cool. An average workman can make a hundred gods in a day. The clay used is kaolin and is shaded from red and gray to white and costs about a cent a pound. A good jossman's can earn from 20 to 40 cents a day, while an image costs to make on an average about 3 cents. Natives pay 5 cents for them; foreigners, \$5. Josses can be made in all colors, opaque, transparent or colorless. The most effective work is made by painting the clay with thick white paint and then dipping it in the glaze. Chinese curio dealers are very fond of antique josses, as they can be planted and dug up to order from the time of Confucius to the present day. The most popular is the "black joss." This is made by painting a kaolin cast with paint made of tar, bitumen, shellac or varnish, wrapping it in paper and then firing it in a furnace. In this way any shade of black can be obtained, and the color burns through, as can be proved by breaking.

The josses carved from wood and covered with gaudy colors are often very ancient. The prices vary from a few cents to \$500 or more, according to the size, workmanship and amount of decorations. They range in size from an inch to 10 or 12 feet. In the larger sizes the carving is of a superior quality and the coloring admirable. Josses carved out of stone are rare and expensive. Those made of jade, pale green or light blue, fetch marvelous prices, while white, yellow or brown are almost as expensive. One of these, belonging to Lin, the ex-governor of Formosa, is about 8 inches high and is valued at \$10,000. It is said to be 1,500 years old. In Fuchan they make josses out of steatite and serpentine of various colors. The stone is so soft that the manufacturer, by rubbing the newly made images with sand, can produce a most deceptive antique appearance.—New York World.

Pledged to Suicide.

"There are five men in Deadwood who once belonged to the same suicide club," said T. R. Wortham. "They constituted the entire membership and don't often speak of it. A solemn compact was made that they should hold monthly meetings, at each one of which the members drew balls, one being black and its holder being obligated by oath to kill himself before the next meeting, the last one to hold a solitary dinner and destroy himself. The meetings, with the exception of the last one, were held, and in each case the victim disappeared, first settling up all of his affairs and leaving a farewell letter to his associates. No bodies were found, however. One day, on the principal street of Deadwood, a crowd collected, and in it were all five of the supposed suicides. They had all gone west and drifted to Deadwood. The story got out some way, and their lives were made miserable by it for a time, but they have succeeded in quieting it down, and are all doing well."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Goldenrod's Peculiarity.

Probably a great many people who travel have failed to notice that the period of blooming of the goldenrod does not begin first in the south and move northward, but apparently in the other direction—from north to south. In some places in northern Vermont and New Hampshire goldenrod of the common field and railroad track variety is in profuse bloom as early as the 10th of July. On the Kennebec river the other day a traveler noted that the goldenrod was much more golden and less tinged with green than it is in Malden or Cambridge, Mass. And the place where the plant is latest of all in yellowing apparently is Cape Cod, where the dwarf seaside variety, most common there, hardly begins to do itself justice before September. It is possible that the northern goldenrod ripens before that farther south for the same reason that Indian corn ripens earlier in Vermont than it does in Virginia—it has got to ripen earlier if it is going to ripen at all.—Lewiston Journal.

An Improvement in Electric Bells.

One of the most objectionable qualities of the electric bell is its uniform noisiness and shrillness. There are many places in which an alarm of a less aggressive and peremptory nature is desirable, and it is surprising that a "quiet" electric bell has not been manufactured for use in offices, hotels or private houses. The bell can be adjusted to make as much or as little noise as may be needed. Its principal feature is that it can be used either as a slow striking bell, a single stroke bell or as an ordinary trembling bell, according to the way it is connected on.—Philadelphia Press.

Remarkable Vision.

An old woman who had been in the infirmary with sore eyes told a neighbor that the doctor took out her eyes and scraped them with lances. "Nonsense, woman," replied the other. "Ye shouldn't believe all ye hear. The doctors would only be stuffing ye." "Oh, but ye know it's no use saying that, for I awakened up out of the chloroform and saw both of my eyes lying on the table."—Montreal Star.

Leuenhoek says that 4,000,000 webs, spun by young spiders when they first begin to use the spinneret, are not, if twisted together, as great in diameter as a hair from a human head.

Black gold is a natural alloy of gold and bismuth.

HOW WE WALK.

The Muscles Used and the Mechanical Work That They Do.

The chief muscles concerned in walking are those in the calf and back of the leg, which, by pulling up the heel, also pull up the bones of the foot connected with it, and then the whole body, the weight of which is passed on through the bones of the leg. When walking, the trunk is thrown forward so that it would fall down prostrate were not the right foot planted in time to support it. The calf muscles are helped in this action by those on the front of the trunk and legs, which contract and pull the body forward, and the trunk, planting forward when the heel is raised by the calf muscles, the whole body will be raised and pushed forward and upward. This advancement of each leg is effected partly by muscular action, the muscles used being (1) those on the front of the thigh, bending it forward on the pelvis; (2) the hamstring muscles, which slightly bend the leg on the thigh; (3) the muscles on the front of the leg, which raise the front of the foot and toes, preventing the latter, in swinging forward, from hitching in the ground.

When one foot has reached the ground, the action of the other has not ceased. There is another point in walking. The body is constantly supported and balanced on each leg alternately and therefore on only one at a time. Hence there must be some means for throwing the center of gravity over the line of support formed by the bones of each leg, as it supports the weight of the body. This is done in various ways, and hence the difference in the walk of different people. There may be slight rotation at the hip joint, bringing the center of gravity of the body over the foot of this side. This "rocking" motion of the trunk and thigh is accompanied by a movement of the whole trunk and leg over the foot planted on the ground and is accompanied by a compensating outward movement at the hip. The body rises and swings alternately from one side to the other as its center of gravity comes alternately over one or the other leg, and the curvature of the spinal bones is altered with the varying position of the weight.—London Hospital.

THE POWER OF POETRY.

Scott's Description of the Chase and What the Ordinary Man Would Have Said.

Take, as a single instance of the power of poetry, Walter Scott's opening lines in the "Lady of the Lake," where he describes the chase of the stag. The stag escapes and evades his pursuers, but what a picture the great poet has put into words!

Reduced to prose the ordinary observer and writer would have said, "They chased the stag several miles, but lost him in the Trosachs." He could not possibly have said in prose:

The antlered monarch of the waste Sprung from his heathery couch in haste, But ere his feet career he took The dewdrops from his flanks he shook; Like crested leader, proud and high, Toward his beamed frontlet to the sky; A moment gazed adown the dale, And stretching forward free and far Sought the wild heaths of Uam-Var. That thickened as the chase drew nigh. Then as the headmost foe appear'd, With one brave bound the cope he clear'd, And stretching forward free and far Sought the wild heaths of Uam-Var.

The poet began his picture with an incident that only a poet would have thought worthy of words, but what a picture the few words make!

The stag at eve had drunk his fill Where danced the moon on Monan's rill, And deep his midnight lair had made In lone Glenartney's hazel shade. —Forest and Stream.

Fire Easily Obtained.

The average civilized man would be hard put to it if he were compelled to start a fire without matches, tinder box or burning glass. But Lieutenant von Hohnel describes an African chief as not only accomplishing this feat, but doing it with quickness and ease. The traveler had asked him to show his skill.

It was really wonderful, in view of the moisture laden atmosphere, with what rapidity he did as I had requested. The materials employed were such as we saw wherever we went—two simple bits of wood, one flat about six inches long and not quite an inch wide, with a row of grooves on one side, the other about 12 inches long and of the thickness and shape of a lead pencil.

The longer piece, fixed in one of the grooves of the shorter piece, was held tightly between the palms of the hand and whirled rapidly round and round. In a few seconds the wood dust which was produced by the friction, and which fell through the grooves, began to smoke. This dust was carefully nursed into a blaze, which was fed with fine grass and bits of cotton stuff.

The whole thing is done so quickly that our men, even the lazy Wasungu, always employed this method on short halts for lighting their pipes.—Youth's Companion.

No Word Like the Doctors.

Mr. Sydney Holland enlivened the guests at the annual festival of Poplar hospital by relating an incident which occurred within the walls of that institution. A man was brought in who was thought to be dead. His wife was with him. One of the doctors said, "He is dead," but the man raised his head and said, "No, I am not dead yet," whereupon his wife admonished him, saying, "Be quiet; the doctor ought to know best."—London Echo.

Ominous of Unpleasantness.

"Mrs. Blimber is very nervous about there being 13 at the table tonight." "Does she think something unpleasant will happen?" "Yes. She only has a dozen knives and forks."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The German empire has no prison of its own. Offenses against the imperial government are enforced by the imperial attorney, who calls into service the state's attorneys of the federal states.

In Poland it is a penal offense to speak Polish in any public resort.

Lovers' Ink.

There are various kinds of invisible inks, but here is a method of making ink which can be wiped off a sheet of paper with a pocket handkerchief without leaving a trace: Dissolve some starch in water until it is as thick as cream. Then add to it a few drops of tincture of iodine, which will turn the starch to a dark red color. Now take a pen and write with this prepared ink upon a sheet of note paper. The ink will dry right away, after which you may erase the whole of your letter by simply wiping the sheet with a pocket handkerchief. It will disappear as easily as chalk from an ordinary blackboard.—Boston Post.

Our Future Population.

The territorial area of Japan is about one-twenty-fourth that of the United States, not counting Canada, which is likely some time to come in, and it supports 40,000,000 people. At this rate it is computed that the North American continent would sustain a population of 1,000,000,000. How soon that limit is to be reached may be remitted to the prophets and the statisticians, but it will come some time without doubt, requiring an increasingly wise type of statesman and politician on the way if we are to hold together and carry out the destinies which seem appointed to us.—New York Tribune.



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REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF REYNOLDSVILLE

at Reynoldsville, in the State of Pennsylvania, at the close of business October 2nd, 1894.

RESOURCES:

Loans and discounts	\$61,422 58
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	27 13
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	30,000 00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds	3,775 00
Stocks, securities, etc.	200 00
Furniture and fixtures	2,602 59
Due from approved reserve agents	27,052 37
Checks and other cash items	1,281 33
Notes of other National banks	250 00
Fractional paper currency, nickles, and cents	33 69
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz: Specie	6,623 25
Legal-tender notes	1,975 00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation)	1,330 00
Total	\$136,369 94

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000 00
Surplus fund	2,000 00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	1,698 01
National Bank notes outstanding	27,000 00
Due to other National Banks	420 85
Individual deposits subject to check	54,150 88
Demand certificates of deposit	100 00
Time certificates of deposit	950 00
Cashier's checks outstanding	110 10
Total	\$136,369 94

State of Pennsylvania, County of Jefferson, ss: I, John H. Kaucher, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JOHN H. KAUCHER, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of October, 1894.

ALBERT REYNOLDS, Notary Public.

CORRECT—Attest: C. MITCHELL, SCOTT McCLELLAND, Directors, J. C. KING.

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