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THE AMERICAN CONQUEST.

At Panama We Are Preparing the Tropics for the White Man. The advances in tropical sanitation in the last fifteen years have shown that the white man can live in the tropics with as good health as he can in the temperate zones. This has been demonstrated, writes Assistant Surgeon-General Gorges, in the Medical Record, by both of our military occupations of Cuba and by our occupation of Panama.

"The white man can protect himself against disease in the tropics at no greater expense than he would have to undergo in order to protect himself against cold in the temperate zones. The returns for his labor are many fold greater in the tropics than in the temperate zones. I think, therefore, that the tendency in the next few centuries will be for the white man to drift to the tropics, and I dare predict that by the time the year 1909 is as old as is at the present day the Norman conquest of England, localities in the tropics will be the centres of as powerful and as cultured a white civilization as any that will exist in temperate zones."

"I believe that the debility from which the white man has suffered in the past at Panama and in other tropical countries is due to malaria principally and that if he protects himself from this infection he will remain vigorous and strong in the same degree as he will in a temperate climate, and as a reason for this belief I advance the condition of the Americans at Panama. I am inclined to think that in the future the construction of the Panama Canal will be known less as a great commercial accomplishment or engineering feat than as the first demonstration that the white man can flourish in the tropics."

Profit in Blue Gum Groves.
In setting out eucalyptus grove for profit about 600 trees are planted to the acre. For the first two or three years irrigation is necessary, but after that no further attention is needed. Naturally some of the trees are malformed and stunted and these are cut for firewood when three or four years old.

The next better class of trees as they attain sufficient size are cut for railroad ties, masts, bridge timbers, piling, telegraph poles and similar purposes. The best and straightest of all are allowed to grow until they are eight years old, or much longer if the production of very large timber is more desired than quick returns. The best quality of large timber when manufactured into lumber sells at from \$100 to \$120 a thousand feet for use in cabinetwork and interior finish.—The World To-Day.

Ever-Busy Woman.
A newspaper writer, sympathizing with women because there is no longer any cradle to rock, or hardly a baby to care for, no home schooling necessary in the presence of the modern kindergarten, no sewing to do in this ready-made age, little housework in this day of flats and autos and restaurants and prepared foods, asks with concern: "What are we going to do with the woman out of a job? Let him put that question face to face to his woman acquaintances and dollars to doughnuts he will find them all so busy trying to keep up with their engagements that they won't have time to answer his foolish questions."

The Ruling Passion.
His clothes said he was a tramp, but his brow was high and his manner grand. "Madam, may I request the favor of a pair of your husband's cast-off trousers? These are somewhat passe. This, with a sweep of a tattered hat, brought results in the shape of a pair of hubby's oldest, which were just about two degrees better than those the tramp was wearing. After a critical survey of his acquisition, instead of the polite words of thanks the good woman was waiting for, the tramp volunteered, with a deep, long-drawn sigh of regret: "Madam, I see your husband discards from weakness."—Puck.

Forced to Shut Down Mines.
Recently the authorities of Caribbea were much concerned over a decrease in the flow of the famous Sprudel and other mineral springs. The State took up the matter, and it was found that the working of the mines in the vicinity was probably affecting the supply of the thermal springs. As the property of Caribbea, almost, indeed, its very existence, is dependent upon its world famous waters, the government ordered certain mines to be shut down.

Borrowers.
The Trouble man loaned in his pipe, contentedly smoking a pipe. Now and then people rushed up to the door and entered. In a little while they went away carrying great burdens. "Borrowers," the Trouble man explained. "In the old days I used to have to go on the road and simply force my goods on people, but everybody comes to me nowadays and all I have to do is sit here and lend shoes."

RAILWAY SIGNAL SCHOOLS.

Apprentices Take Three Year Course in Block Signals.
The Pennsylvania Railroad has established signal schools on the divisions of its line east of Pittsburgh to train men for the signal service of the system. This is due, says the Bookkeeper, to the rapid growth of block signaling which is in use along these lines. There are some 12,465 signals east of Pittsburgh, covering 1,335 miles of road.
The railroad has appointed six signal apprentices who will be trained as engineers to direct and plan signal installations. Apprentices in these schools will serve a three years' course. The first year will be given to mechanical work with the repair and construction gangs, the second year will find them in the office of the supervisor of signals, and the third year will be devoted to outside work—electric and electro-pneumatic appliances.

HOW ARROWS WERE POISONED.

Indians Say They Used to Rob Rattlers of Their Virus.
An old Cherokee Indian recently told how the Indians of olden times used to poison their arrowheads for war purposes or for killing bears. According to the Denver Field and Fern, they took a fresh deer liver, fastened it to a long pole, and then went to certain places where they knew they would find rattlers in abundance. About midday the rattlers are all out of their dens, coiled up in the sunshine. The bucks would poke the first rattler with the liver on the long pole. A rattler, unlike common snakes, always shows fight in preference to escaping.

The snake would thus repeatedly strike at the liver with its fangs until its poison was all used up, whereupon it would quit striking and try slowly to move on. The bucks would then hunt up another rattler and repeat the performance, keeping up the work until the liver was well soaked with snake poison.
Then the pole was carried home and fastened somewhere in an upright position until the liver became as dry as a bone. The liver was pounded to fine powder and placed in a buckskin bag, to be used as needed for their arrows. This powder would stick like glue to any moistened surface.

Monkey and Goat.
Monkeys are more renowned for mischief than for kindness, but even monkeys can be benevolent. M. Mouton records the doings of one in Guadeloupe that surely seemed to merit that reputation. The monkey had a friend in a goat that went daily to the pasture. Every night the monkey would pick out the burrs and thorns, sometimes to the number of 2,000 or 3,000, from the goat's fleece. In order that the animal might lie in peace. On coming in from the pasture the goat regularly went in search of his light-handed friend and submitted himself to the operation. Strange to say, the tricky instincts of the monkey reasserted themselves after the burrs were removed. He would tease the poor goat unmercifully, plucking his beard, poking him in the eyes and pulling out his hair. The goat bore it all with patience, perhaps regarding it as only a fair price to be paid for the removal of the thorns.—London Standard.

Where Wasps Protect Birds.
There are birds in the swamps of Venezuela, known as caciques, that build their nests in close proximity to a dangerous species of wasp in order to avail themselves of the insects' protection from the constant menace of the jungle. C. William Beebe explored this region, and, with his wife, has written his account of it for the May number of Harper's Magazine. He discovered the nests of the caciques close to the formidable wasps' nests, the two creatures living in harmony. One sting from these wasps would kill a bird, and several stings throw a man into a severe fever. Hence the insects are dreaded by man and beast, and the caciques find their neighborhood a safe one. Whether the wasps cannot or will not sting their neighbor birds is not known.

When the Post Was Happy.
Hjortson, the poet, who is now lying seriously ill at Christiania, was once asked on what occasion he got the greatest pleasure from his fame as a poet.
His answer was: "It was when a delegation from the right came to my house in Christiania and smashed all the windows, because when they had thus attacked me and were starting for home again they felt that they ought to sing something, and so they began to sing 'Yes, we love this land of ours.' They could do nothing else. They had to sing the song of the man they had attacked."

Europe's Record Snowfall.
The snowfall in central Europe last winter broke all records for many years. Germany probably received the worst of it. For days at a time following each big storm, the streets of Berlin were blocked to such an extent that the street department the German capital was taxed to the limit. One snowstorm cost the city \$1,000 to clear away, automobile snow plows and vans being used to a great extent in the work.

Plea for Open Fireplaces.
"If people would only learn to have open fire in their rooms, instead of converting them into hot-air boxes by means of furnaces, there would be fewer colds," said a physician. "Fireplaces and their chimneys are ventilators. To me the beauty of an open fire makes it worth having, but when you consider that it's a sanitary fire, constantly changing the air and driving out germs, it is hard to see how any one can prefer a furnace."

A Vacancy.
Dr. Hale once told of a minister who preached over an hour on the greater prophets, and then, when the exhausted congregation thought he was through, took a long breath, turned a fresh page, and, leaning over the pulpit, said: "We now come to the more complex question of the minor prophets. First let me assign to them their proper order. Where brethren, shall we place Hosea?"
An irascible old gentleman in a neck pew rose, took his hat and strolled away as he departed. "You may give him my place if you want to," he said.

Feminine Propensity.
There is a prominent clergyman in Richmond, Va., who has a happy way of enjoying his own disadvantages. Never a handsome man, Mr. C. was severely battered in a railroad wreck, in which he suffered the loss of a foot.
Soon after marrying a beautiful woman the ill-used minister met an old friend on the street, who had been verily asked: "C—how in the world did such a pretty girl come to marry you?"
"Oh, ladies like remnants!" was the cheerful reply.—The Circle.

WHAT HE WANTED.

Rode a Horse When on Duty and not a Crow.

A certain officer of the Royal Horse Artillery, having his battery divided into half batteries which were garrisoned over 40 miles apart, by a road that he might have to travel, was granted leave for an extra charge. It being his duty to frequently visit both portions. The war office ruled that this allowance was inadmissible. "Measured by the road, the distance is only 33 1/2 miles." For a time the officer was non-plussed, but an idea struck him and he seized his pen and wrote:
"There would appear to be some misunderstanding regarding my application. I am asking for an allowance for an additional charger, not an additional crew. I do not ride a crow, I ride a horse."
He got it.—London Tit-Bits.

Mennonites' Founder.
The Mennonites take their name from Menno Simons, born in Witmarsum, Holland, in 1492. He entered the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, renounced Catholicism early in 1525 and was baptized at Leeuwarden. In the course of the following year he was ordained a minister in what was then known as the Old Evangelical or Waldensian Church. From this time on to his death, in 1559, he was active in traveling through northern Germany and preaching everywhere. The churches which he organized as a result of his labors rejected infant baptism and held to the principle of non-resistance. A severe persecution began to make itself felt against his followers, the Mennonites, and having heard accounts of the colony established in the New World by William Penn, they began to emigrate to Pennsylvania near the end of the seventeenth century.

Some Advice.
The following was sent by a countryman to his son in college not many years ago:
"My Dear Son—I write to send you two pairs of old breeches, that you may have a new coat made of them. Also some new socks, which your mother knit by cutting down some of mine. Your mother sends you \$10 with out my knowledge, and for fear you will not spend it wisely I have kept back half and only send five. Your mother and I are well, except your sister Annie has got the measles which we think would spread on one of our girls. It had not had them before, and he is the only one left. I hope you are well and will do honor to my teachings. If you do not you are an ass, and your mother and my self are your affectionate parents."

Social Spiders.
Our native spiders are notable for their extreme sociability. Of those which are spinners, each one constructs its web apart from those of its kind, and those which hunt, pursue their prey alone. In other countries, however, there are spiders which live in communities, and one such, a native of Mexico, is described by M. L. Digueot. It is known as the mosquito and makes a large nest in oaks and other trees. Here the spiders live gregariously, and along with them in the nest is found a minute beetle and another species of spider. The beetle is said to act as scavenger. Part of the nest of the mosquito are hung up in the houses during the wet season to get rid of the flies.

The First Language.
No one of the existing languages has any legitimate claim to be considered the original of the family of languages, standing to the other as Latin, for instance, stands to Italian and French. Of an original primitive language of mankind the most patient research has found no trace. All of them—Assyrian, Phoenician, Hebrew, Arabic—are sister languages, pointing back to an earlier parent language which has long disappeared. Since the historical period man has done little in the way of the absolute creation of language. The work had already been accomplished ages before he birth of written inscriptions.

Witchcraft.
The number who perished in the erid of the witchcraft delusion will ever be known. In every country, through fifteen centuries, the superstition went on piling up its victims. In Geneva 500 were executed in three months, 2,000 were burned at Treves, by a single bishop of Hamburg and 800 in a single year at Wurzburg. At Toulouse 400 perished at one execution. A judge at Reims boasted he had put to death 800 witches a sixteen years. A thousand were executed in a single year in the province of Como. "Witches" were executed in Spain as late as 1780.

Missionaries of the Sudan.
"Missionaries wherever they work have many difficulties to surmount and many hardships to contend with, but I doubt if there is any part of the earth where the missionary has a harder time than in the Sudan." Dr. A. C. Hudson of Los Angeles, who spent several months in the country.
"Despite the efforts of the Government to stamp them out, superstitious practices are still prevalent in the Sudan. The Government is employing strong measures to punish those responsible for such inhuman practices."
"The worship of their ancestors, witchcraft and the employment of witch doctors and fetish worship are among the obstacles that confront the missionary, but notwithstanding these and other difficulties the work of evangelization is producing encouraging results, and in Africa today there are more than 3,500,000 Christians."

Shooting Stars.
The popular term "shooting star" covers a number of phenomena that are very similar, like meteors, fire balls and aerolites. Meteors and aerolites actually strike the earth very often. Luminous meteors or actual shooting stars do not come nearer than fifty miles from the earth.

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