

## HOT SPRINGS OF AUSTRALIA.

Dr. F Von Hochstetter, of the Austrian Scientific Expedition, describes the wonderful region known as the Auckland Lake district, in Australia. The principle attraction is Rotomahana (warm lake), of which the writer says:

Boiling water springs rise up along the banks and from the bottom of the lake. The whole lake is warmed by them, but the temperature of the water differs considerably in various places, as it is nearer or farther from the springs. At many points even in the centre, the thermometer rises from 86 deg. to 104 deg. F., while near its stream it is only 78.8 deg. Fish of no kind can live in it. The Lake is a favorite resort of innumerable aquatic birds, that build their nests on its warm banks, while they find their food in the waters and swamps of the cold Lake Roto, Makariri.

Visitors who intend to stay a few days at the lake are recommended by the natives to select as their quarters the small island Puai. This is a rock 12 feet high, 250 long, and nearly 100 feet wide. The continual roaring, rushing, singing, buzzing boiling sound, with the intense heat of the ground impresses a feeling of terror. The whole island is nothing but a torn and fractured rock, softening and decomposing by steam and gas, and may at any moment tumble to pieces and vanish in the hot water of the lake. Hot water bubbles up everywhere; and whenever a hole is made in the ground hot steam bursts forth, which is used for cooking potatoes and meat.

On the eastern bank are the most important of the springs, the most magnificent of all hot springs at present known.

The Tarata, at the northeastern end of the lake, 80 feet above the level, within a crater open towards the side of the lake, 80 feet long by 60 feet broad, and filling up to the brim with clear boiling water, which issues in the centre several feet higher, looking beautifully blue in its snow white incrustated basin, enormous clouds of steam, rising upwards, are reflected in the blue mirror of the basin. The temperature of the water, which probably reaches to boiling point in the centre, is 103.2 degrees F. near the rim of the basin. Neither alkaline nor acid, it has a slightly salt taste, and possesses in a high degree the property of incrustation. The sediment consists, as in the hot springs of Iceland, of silica, and the overflow has formed in the slope of the hill a system of crystal terraces, which appear almost as white as marble, presenting a sight almost impossible to describe. It is as if a cascade rushing over steps had been suddenly arrested and transformed into stone.

A path leads from the foot of the Tarata Spring through the bush to the great Ngahapu Spring. The basin of this spring is 40 feet long and 30 feet broad. The water within it is in constant agitation. For a few moments the water is quiet in the cauldron, when it again bubbles up, and is thrown eight or ten feet high, and a foaming surf of boiling hot waves stream over the walls of the basin, so that the observer is obliged timidly to retreat. The thermometer rises in these springs to 208.4 degrees F. Further south, close to the banks, is situated the Takapo Spring, a boiling basin of 10 feet in diameter, the geyser eruption of which rises to a height of 30 or 40 feet.

There are about 25 large hot springs at Rotomahana, and a number of small ones. And Rotomahana is only one point of a vent in the earth, about 150 miles long and 17 miles wide, extending from the active volcano, Tongariro, to White Island, a mountain of pure sulphur, 860 feet high, some 30 miles out at sea.

**MANUFACTURE OF WOOL FROM PINE TREES.**—Some years ago, reports were published in the technological journals of Austria concerning the manufacture of wool from pine trees. Now bed-coverings, woven from pine fibre, are in use in hospitals, prisons, and barracks in Silesia and Austria; and in the unwoven state it is used for the stuffing of mattresses, cushions, chair-seats and other articles. The cost is said to be but one-third that of horse-hair, and there is the further advantage that, owing to its aromatic properties, the pine fibre repels the insects that too frequently lodge in woolen textures. —[Athenæum.

**EXCITEMENT AMONG THE JEWS.**—The *Indian Portugera*, a Portuguese journal published at Goa, says a great excitement has been caused among the Jews at Bombay by the issue by their pontiff, H. B. Koyu, who has lately arrived from Jerusalem, of a pamphlet entitled "The Voice of the Vigilant"—the object of this voice being to persuade the Jews that it is useless waiting longer for the promised Messiah, as this is Jesus Christ himself, "whose doctrines have been spread all over the world without sound or force. Compare" says the pontiff, "the Old and New Testaments, and the truth will be seen." He says that he was born in the old law, and under it was elevated to the pontificate, but the light had already penetrated with its rays into the deep recesses of his mind, and he is therefore persuaded, and with well founded reasons, that it is in vain that the Messiah is now looked for.

**RITUALISM IN DORSETSHIRE.**—A "county meeting" was held in Dorsetshire on Thursday evening, against "recent ritualistic innovations," under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, at which the county members, Lord Portman, and a large number of Magistrates and clergy were present. In the course of his speech the noble Earl said that "women were the cause of the whole mischief of ritualism," and if we must have Romanism it should be with the proviso that "every confessor shall be a woman," and when that became the law of the Church there would at once be an end of the confessional."

**A DUTCHMAN** in Canada had two pigs, a large and a small one. The smaller one being the elder, he was trying to explain to a customer, and did it in this wise: "The little pig is the biggest." Upon which his wife, assuming to correct him, said: "You will please excuse him; he no speak as good English as me; he no mean the little pig is the piggest, but the youngest pig is the oldest."

It is certain, says the London Lancet, that many ladies carry about with them in their "chignons" the seeds of "ring-worm"—an intractable malady. There is also a novel species of false hair in the market; it is called "churchyard hair," and consists not only of the shafts, but the roots also, and hence must have been pulled from the scalp of the dead.

THE Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, at its recent meeting, offered two premiums on cultivated forest trees—one of one hundred dollars for the best ten acres, and another of fifty dollars for the best five acres—to be planted the coming season, and the awards to be made at three years old, or in 1870.

## Dansk Presning.

JORDSKJÆLV PAA DE IONISKE OER.

Paa Oen Mytilene har voldsomme Jordskjælv fundet Sted den 8de Marts, og flere hundrede Mennesker er omkomne. Man frygter for Oens Undergang.

Ligeledes har et voldsomt Jordskjælv fundet Sted paa Oen Kefalonia, ved Grækenlands Vestkyst. Et Oienvidne skriver derom:

Den 4de Februar Kl. 6, 10 Min. Morgen hemsøgte vi af et af de stærkeste og længste Jordskjælv, som nogensinde har hærjet disse Egne. Det første og Hovedstødet kan have været 25—30 Sekunder og var ledsaget af en Larm, som er vanskelig at beskrive, men som maa ske nærmest kan sammenlignes med en hel Hærs Gevær- og Kanonild. Man tænke sig hertil de sammenstyrtende Huses Bragen, og man vil da kunne gjøre sig en Forestilling om dette Jordskjælvs Begyndelse.

Jeg selv unslap med min Familie den sikkre Død som ved et Vidunder. Vi var Alle endnu i Sengene og blev i et Nu indhyllede i Støv, Kalk og Sten; neppe kunde vi klæde os paa for at gaa ud paa Gaden, da et andet Stød, mindre stærkt end det første, men uheldigere i sine Følger, overraskede os, förend vi kunde forlade Huset. Men Gud være lovet, vi kom Alle lykkeligt ud, og mødte i det Frie en hel Befolkning, som forstøredelen kun halvt paaklædt flygtede ud af Ruinerne. Jorden var i bestandig Bevægelse, som om vi befandt

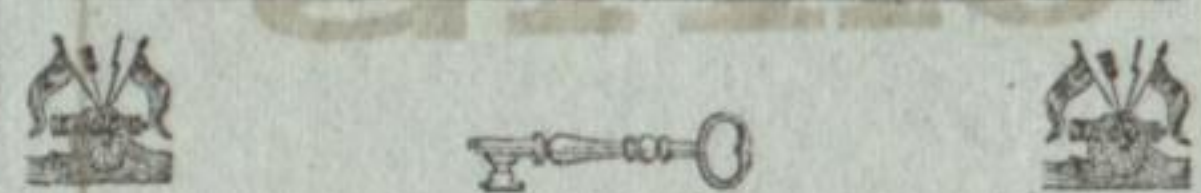
os paa en Kjedel opfyldt med Dunster, og nye Stød gjentoges hver 5—10 Minuter. Heldigvis var vor Hayn fuld af Skibe, som alle opfyldtes af flygtende Familier; de, der intet Skjul kunde finde, flygtede ud paa de frie Pladser og ud paa Landet, hvor de er udsatte for den nuværende Aarstids raae Klima. Jordskjælv har med vexlende Styrke nu været i 6 Dage. Neppe var den første Skræk forbi, før man allerede begyndte at beregne Skaden. Argostoli, Oens største By, har lidt meget; to Trediedele af Husene er, uagtet de endnu staar, saaledes beskadigede, at de ikke kan beboes. Landsbyerne i Omegnen har lidt ligesaa meget. Egnen om Lixuri er nu blot en Masse af Ruiner. Selve Byen af samme Navn med 8,000 Indbyggere har neppe 3—4 Huse, som er forbleven ubeskadigede; alle de övrige er enten styrtede sammen eller befinder sig i en saadan Tilstand, at de hvert Oieblik truer med at begrave de Forbigaaende. I dette Distrikts 40 Landsbyer er bogstavelig ikke et Hus blevet forskaanet—Alt er en Grushob. A mange af disse Landsbyer er ethvert Spor forsvundet, ikke en Mur er bleven staaende, og Eiendommens Grændser lader sig ikke mere angive.

Man maa undres over, at ved en saadan Katastrofe Offrenes Antal ikke har været større. Hidtil har man ikke angivet mere end ca. 300 Døde og Saarede i Forhold dertil. Hvad der förmindskede Offrenes Antal, var Tiden, da Jordskjælv fandt Sted. Den hele Befolkning var endnu i Husene, som for det meste styrtede udad og ikke faldt paa nogen Forbigaaende paa Gaden. Havde Jordskjælv istedetfor Kl. 6 om Morgenen fundet Sted senere, vilde man efter al Sandsynlighed have talt de Døde i Tusindvis, da Lixuris snevre Gader nogle Fod høit var opfyldte med Sten og Grus.

Lixuri syntes at være Midtpunktet for Jordskjælv. Flere Dage itræk var Jorden i bestandig rystende Bevægelse, fra Tid til anden ledsaget af underjordisk Torden. Overalt saae man Revner i Jorden, men i Lixuri er der nogle af 4—5 Fods Brede og 40 Fods Dybde.

Efter alt dette kan man begribe, i hvilken Tilstand en hel Befolkning befinder sig, udsat for Veir og Vind i den raae Aarstid, uden Fortjeneste, uden Möller og Bagerovne, og med aftækkede eller sunkne Magasiner. Folket lider af Sult og er nerved at fortvivle.—[Skandinaviens Stjerne, den 1ste April.

Vore Söskende veed uden tvivl allerede, at et dansk Blad vil blive udgivet her i City, hvis et tilstrækkeligt Antal Abonnenter tegnes strax. De anmodes derfor om at indsende deres Navne snarest muligt; alslags Betaling modtages, naar den bringes hid til Byen, dog helst Penge og Storeordre. Fremfor Alt skynd Eder!



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