

Curious and Interesting Discovery.

The following curious letter from the pen of O. H. Green, of the United States Sloop-of-war Decatur, is dated 'Off the Straits of Magellan, Feb. 15,' and appeared in the New Orleans Picayune of the 1st instant:

There being no appearance of a change of weather, I obtained leave of absence for a few days, and accompanied by my classmate and chum, Dr. Bainbridge, Assistant Surgeon, was landed on Terra del Fuego.

With great labor and difficulty we scrambled up the mountain sides, which line the whole southeast shore of these straits, and after ascending 3500 feet, we came upon a plain of surprising richness and beauty. Fertile fields, the greatest variety of fruit trees in full bearing, and signs of civilization and refinement meeting us on every side. We had never read any account of these people, and thinking this island was wholly deserted, except by a few miserable cannibals and wild beasts, we had come well armed, and you can judge of our surprise. The inhabitants were utterly astonished at our appearance, but exhibited no signs of fear, nor any unfriendliness.

Our dress amused them, and being the first white men ever seen by them, they imagined that we had come from their God, and Sun, on some peculiar errand of good. They are the noblest race I ever saw, the men all ranging from 6 feet to 6 ft 4, well proportioned, very athletic, and straight as an arrow. The women were among the most perfect models of beauty ever formed, averaging 5 feet high, very plump, with small hands and feet, and with a jet-black eye which takes you by storm. Their teachers of religion speak the Latin language, and have traditions from successive Priests, through half a hundred centuries.

They tell us this island was once attached to the main land; that about nineteen hundred years ago, by their records, their country was visited by a violent earthquake which occasioned the rent now known at the Straits of Magellan; that on the top of the mountain which lifted its head to the sun, whose base rested where the waters now flow, stood their great temple—which according to their description as compared to the one now existing we saw, must have been 17,208 feet square, and over 1100 feet high, built of the purest mantle marble. A thousand reflections crowd upon the mind, in viewing this people and this paradise, before unknown to the world.

The ship is in sight that will carry this to you, and I must now close, only saying that the official report of Dr. Bainbridge to the Department will be filled with the most interesting and valuable matter, and astonish the American people. The vessel proves to be the clipper ship Creeper, from the Chinch Islands, with guano, for your part, and I will avail myself of this opportunity to send you a specimen of painting on porcelain, said to be over 3000 years old; and an image made of gold and iron, taken in one of their wars many years before the Straits of Magellan existed.

They number about three thousand men, women and children, and I was assured the population has not varied two hundred, as they prove by their traditions, for immemorable ages. As the aged grow feeble they are left to die, and if the children multiply too rapidly, they are sacrificed by the priests. This order comprises about one-tenth of the population, and what the ancient Greeks called 'Gymnosophists.'

They are all of one peculiar race, neither will they admit a stranger into their order. They live, for the most part, near the beautiful stream called Tazuban, which takes its rise in the mountains, passes through the magnificent valley of Leuvu, and empties into the Atlantic at the extreme southwestern portion of the island.

This residence is chosen for the sake of their frequent purifications. Their diet consists of milk, curdled with sour herbs. They eat apples, rice, and all fruits and vegetables, esteemed at the height of impiety to taste anything that has life. They live in little huts or cottages, each one by himself, avoiding company and discourse, employing all their time in contemplation, and their religious duties. They esteem this life but a necessary dispensation of Nature, which they voluntarily undergo as a penance, evidently thirsting after the dissolution of their bodies, and firmly believing that the soul, at death, is released from its prison, and launches forth into perfect liberty and happiness. Therefore, they are always cheerfully disposed to die, bewailing those that are alive, and celebrating the funerals of the dead with joyful solemnity and triumph.

Fishes and their Migrations.

From an interesting article in the April number of Putnam's Monthly, entitled "Nature in Motion," we clip the following paragraphs:

"For known and for unknown purposes, in the tiny mountain brooks and in the wide ocean, fishes are seen in unceasing motion, darting in all directions, traveling now singly and now in shoals.

Their regular journeys are mostly undertaken for the purpose of spawning; the delicate mackerel moves southward when its time comes, and the beautiful sardine of the Mediterranean goes in spring westward, and returns in autumn to the East. The sturgeon of north Europe is seen singly to ascend the great rivers of the Continent, and the ornate or migratory salmon of the polar seas travels, we know not how, through river and lake, up into the Baikal, and there swims, in whimsical alternations, but always in immense crowds, first on the southern and then on the northern bank.

The travels of the salmon are probably best known, because the fish was a favorite already in the days of Pliny, and yet, strange enough, it is found in every sea in the Arctic, near the equator, and off New Holland, only not in the Mediterranean. They press in large, triangular masses up all the great northern rivers of Europe, Asia, and America. They enter Bohemia, with Shakspeare, by sea, sailing up the river Elbe; they approach Switzerland in the green waters of the Rhine, and even the foot of the Cordilleras by a journey of 3,000 miles up the Amazon! Their crowds are not unfrequently so dense that they actually stem for awhile the current of mighty rivers; still these bands are formed with great regularity. The strongest and largest females lead—a fact which will rejoice the string minded women of our age—followed by others of the same sex, traveling two and two at regular intervals; after them come the males in like order. With a noise like the distant roaring of a storm, they rush up the stream, now sporting in easy, graceful motion, and now darting ahead with lightning speed that the eye cannot follow. Do they come to some rock or wall that impedes their way, they leap with incredible force, and repeat the effort until they have overcome the difficulty; it is even said that, at the foot of the cataracts, they will take their tail in their mouth and then suddenly letting it go, like an elastic spring, rise twelve or fifteen feet in the air. And thus they travel on, undismayed and untired, until they have found a suitable place for depositing their eggs, and with the same marvellous instinct return, year after year, to the distant ocean.

The herring is a small, insignificant fish, yet it gives food to millions, and employment to not less than 3,000 decked vessels, not to speak of all the open boats employed in the same fishery. Where their home is, man does not know; it is only certain that they are not met with beyond a certain degree of northern latitude, and that the genuine herring never enters the Mediterranean, and hence remained unknown to the ancients.

In April and June, all of a sudden, innumerable masses appear in the northern seas, forming vast banks, often thirty miles long and ten miles wide. Their depth has never been satisfactorily ascertained, and their denseness may be judged by the fact, that lances and harpoons thrust in between them sink not and move not, remain standing upright! Divided into bands, herrings also move in a certain order. Long before their arrival, already their coming is noticed by the flocks of sea-birds that watch them from on high, while sharks are seen to sport around them, and a thick oily or slimy substance is spread over their columns, coloring the sea in daytime, and shining in a mild, mysterious light in a dark, still night. The sea, aptly, the 'monstrous chimera' of the learned, precedes them, and is hence by fishermen called 'the king of the herrings.' Then there are first seen single males, often three or four days in advance of the great army; next follow the strongest and largest and after them enormous shoals, countless like the sand on the sea-shore and the stars in heaven. They seek places that abound in stones and marine plants, where to spawn, and like other animals they frequent the localities to which they have become accustomed at a regular time, so that they may be expected as surely as the sun rises and sets.

Other fishes have strange peculiarities connected with their travels. Thus we are told that the mackerel spend their winter in, what would appear to others, a most uncomfortable position. In the Arctic as well as in the Mediterranean, as soon as the winter comes, they deliberately plunge their head and the anterior part of their body into deep mud, keeping their tail erect, standing straight up. This position they do not change until spring, when they emerge, in incredible numbers, from their hiding-places and go southward for the purpose of depositing their eggs in more genial waters. Still they are so firmly wedded to this element that they die the instant they are taken out of the water, and then shine with phosphorescent light.

The eel is the strangest of traveling fishes; he even performs journeys on land. In hot, dry summers, when ponds and pools are exhausted, he boldly leaves his home, and winding through thick grass, makes his way by night to the nearest water. He is a great gourmand, moreover, and loves young, tender peas so dearly, that he will leave the river itself and climb up steep banks to satisfy his desire, and, alas! to fall into the snares of wicked men.

Other fishes travel in large crowds all night long, and a perch in Tranquebar not only creeps on shore, but actually climbs up tall fanpalms, in pursuit of certain shell fish, which form its favorite food. Covered with viscid slime, he glides smoothly over the rough bark; spines, which he may sheath and unfold at will, serve him like hands to hang by, and with the aid of side fins and a powerful tail he pushes himself upward, thus completing the strange picture of fish and shell-fish dwelling high on lofty trees. —[S. E. Post.]

SINGULAR PHENOMENON ON THE LAKES.—In Lakes Ontario and Michigan on the 18th of April, the water rose and fell with astonishing rapidity. 'The Owen Sound 'Comet' says:—'In this bay, the water rose above nine feet, and immediately fell ten feet below its usual level, so much so that the bottom of the bay was dry enough to allow a man to cross to the Indian village.'

Many people drop a tear at the sight of distress, who would do better to drop a sixpence.

INDIAN MUMMIES.—Geo. C. Bates writes to the Detroit Advertiser, that the great mystery among the Savans of the world, to wit, by whatever process of art or skill in science the mummies found in the pyramids of Egypt have been preserved, and in which modern skill has exhausted all its resources in fruitless efforts to analyze—is known on the shores of the Pacific, among the wandering races of the Chinooks and the Flatheads.

These rude savages understand and practise this art with as much success as attended the efforts of the ancient Egyptians. — Mr. Bates says:—

At the famous depository of the farmers of California, on Montgomery street, there are two specimens which are well calculated to arouse the attention of the reflecting, and show how intimate, after all, are the relations of the past and the future.

The former of these is a Flathead mummy, found in his canoe on the shores of Puget's Sound, in a perfect state of preservation. Those who have seen the Egyptian mummy would be utterly astonished at the exact similitude, save in the conformation of the subject.

The forehead of the skull has been evidently depressed by outward mechanical appliances, but in all else, it is the mummy of a pyramid, in a perfect state of preservation.

The eye-balls are still round under the lid; the teeth, the muscles and the tendons perfect; the veins injected with some preserving liquid; the bowels, stomach and liver dried up, but not decayed—all perfectly preserved.

The very blanket that entwines him, made of some threads of bark and saturated with a pitchy substance, is entire.

The inner canoe in which he was found was entirely decayed, and the outer one was nearly gone, yet the body was evidently just as it was prepared by the embalmer; and, altho' exposed now to the open air, it shows no sign of decomposition. It would seem as if prepared for all coming time.

Where these wanderers of the desert learned this art, is a query over which the wise may ponder; and those who are skilled in such things will find food for thought in the strange specimen picked up near the disputed boundary on our western frontier.

TOBACCO CHEWING IS PUBLIC.—The private mastication of tobacco, in one's own home, parlor, bed-room or kitchen, as the case may be, is an affair to be settled between one's wife and one's self. We do not intend to interfere with the police regulations of the home—they are in abler hands than ours. If indulgent wives choose to have their door-steps and balcony floor discolored, their carpets ruined, and their parlors and bed-rooms irrevocably defiled with tobacco juice—if they relish the contact with their own mouths, of lips that have been all day saturated with yellow saliva—if they like the smell of tobacco-scented breaths, coming from beneath dirty and disgusting teeth—we have nothing to say.

But we have a right to protest, and we do protest against the outrageous public nuisance of tobacco chewing. No man has a right to go to a theatre, or any other public gathering, and seating himself in the midst of cleanly Christians, squirt out at random, streams of tobacco juice around him.

To do this in those parts of the house where only men are placed, is in the least degree rude and thoughtless; but to carry the revolting practice into the presence of ladies—into the dress circle of the theatre, the concert room, the church pew—and it is habitually done in all these places—is little short of blackguardism. —[Ex.]

INTERESTING TO THINK ABOUT.—Scientific writers assert that the number of persons who have existed since the beginning of time, amounts to 36,627,843,273,075,256. These figures, when divided by 3,055,000—the number of square leagues on the globe—leave 11,320,689,732 square miles of land, which, being divided as before, give 1,314,622,076 persons to each square mile.

Let us now reduce miles to square rods, and the number will be 1,853,174,600,000, which being divided as before, will give 1,283 inhabitants to each square rod, which being reduced to feet, will give about five persons to each square foot of terra firma.

Thus it will be perceived that our earth is a vast cemetery—1283 human beings lie buried on each square rod, scarcely sufficient for ten graves; each grave must contain 128 persons.

Thus it is easily seen that the whole surface of our globe has been dug over 128 times to bury its dead! How truthful the declaration of the poet—

"There's not a dust that floats on air
But once was living man."

Correction.

Thro' oversight, and the mistaking of some letters by the compositors, the following errors occurred in the report of the 31st Quorum, printed in the 36th number of the 'News':—The name of John Weinle, one of the Presidents, was omitted; also the names of Jerome N. Remington and Richmond Lowder. Seth E. Childs should be Seth G. Lewis. E. Zabriskie should be Lewis C. Alder. Hall should be Alden, William Frost should be Frost, Ebenezer Brice is living in Tooele county, Richard Ralphs in San Bernardino, William Miles in Juab county, James Hawkins is on a mission.

EDWARD BRAIN, Clerk.

Solution of Acrostical Enigma.

My 1, 6, 3, 14, is a part of speech—Noun.
"2, 4, 6, 1, is a river in England—Avon.
"3, 8, 13, 14, 3, 10, is one of the primary Planets—Uranus.
"4, 13, 1, is the front of an army—Van.
"5, 8, 2, 1, is a town in Algeria—Ovan.
"6, 8, 7, is a name often given to the Sun—Orb.
"7, 9, 10, 11, is one of the four parts of music—Bass.
"8, 5, 12, is a dishonest action—Rob.
"9, 2, 8, is a river in Switzerland—Aar.
"10, 2, 1, 9, is a city of Arabia—Sana.
"11, 13, 4, 6, 14, 2, is a town and sea port of North Italy—Savona.
"12, 8, 2, 10, 11, is a shining metal—Brass.
"13, 8, 14, 5, is a celebrated river in Tuscany—Arno.
"14, 2, 10, 11, 13, 3, is a State of Western Germany—Nassau.
"15, 8, 13, 12, is grave color—Drab.
My whole was organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith:—NAUVOO BRASS BAND.
C. S. L. City, July 21. DAVID GIBSON.

MARRIED:

By Elder Daniel H. Wells, on the 21st June, Mr. ALEX. HARRIS and Miss HARRIET CRANER, all of this city.
By Bishop Silas Richards, July 15, 1855, Mr. JOHN F. SANDERS and Miss MARY IRENA CLEMENT, all of Union, U.T.
Our best wishes attend you.

In Mant, on the 15th inst., by President Elijah Averett, Mr. JAMES W. THACKSTON and Miss HELEN M. AV-ERETT, all of Mant.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TAKEN UP.—In my lot, a small sow PIG, black and white. JOHN SUTTON, 20-11.

GEORGE GODDARD HAS on hand several MARES and a large Span of HORSES to exchange for Cattle. Hay wanted for store pay. 20-21

COME ON, BOYS!
WANTED.—Thirty teams to haul Logs, Lumber, Rock, Sand, Clay, and Adobies. Also—Some good Carpenters and Stone Masons. Enquire of S. H. GODDARD, East Templest. 20-21

WASHINGTON L. JOLLY, LUMBER MERCHANT, is still purchasing Lumber, for which he is paying the highest market price; also kee, on hand an assortment of good seasoned Lumber, Shingles, Lath and Pickets, and is prepared to fill orders to any extent on short notice. N.B.—W. L. J. to be found daily at G. Goddard's Auction and Commission Store. 20-41

THE SUBSCRIBERS will practice the Daguerrean Art for a short time at the Old Stand. Our time is limited, for we shall close as soon as we use up our present stock. A few more of those \$2 cases left. 20-31 L. R. CHAFFIN, M. CANNON.

The Pacific Express Co. DESIGN running a regular Monthly Express between Salt Lake City, via the Southern Route to California, the Eastern States, and Europe, and shall start their next Express from this City on the 1st of August, in charge of R. Herford, their special messenger.

Letters, Packages, and Parcels will be forwarded to their destination without detention. Special care will be taken of all Orders and Collections intrusted to their care. LIVINGSTON, KINKEAD, & CO., Agents. Office and delivery at our store. 20-11&c

U. S. Mail to Mant. THE SUBSCRIBER begs leave to inform the citizens of Utah, that the United States Mail Coach for Mant will leave Great Salt Lake City, every Thursday, at 6 a.m., and arrive at Mant every Saturday at 6 p.m.; returning, will leave Mant every Monday at 6 a.m., and arrive at G. S. L. City every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Passengers or parcels for Union, Drapersville, Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Provo, Springville, Palmyra, Payson, Nephi, Fort Ephraim, and Mant, will be carried on reasonable terms. Apply to Col. Hosea Stout, Agent. Great Salt Lake City, July 25, 1855. 20-11

HERDING! HERDING! THE undersigned take this method of announcing to the citizens of Great Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber Counties, that we are making extensive arrangements for herding STOCK, on the West side of BEAR RIVER, in Weber County, near the mouth of the Malad, where the range is unsurpassed by any in this Territory.

We will take Stock to herd at the rate of a cent and a half per day each head, and pay all damages accruing to owners through our negligence; and for the benefit of those residing in this County and the Settlements north, we propose to receive stock at the Stray Pound in G. S. L. City, on the first Monday of every month, commencing the 6th of August; at Sessions' Settlement on Tuesdays, at East Weber on Wednesdays, and at Ogden City on Thursdays following; without any extra charge for driving to the herd ground.

N.B. Sheep taken on shares, as may be agreed upon by the parties. 20-6m W. E. HORNER, E. K. HANKS.

WANTED, for the foundry at the Public Works, old cast iron, for which a liberal price will be paid. 19-11 D. H. WELLS.

Strayed or Stolen, FROM Red Butte Stone Quarry, a small dark brown MULE, branded R on left hip, Spanish brand below it, horse shoe brand on fore shoulder. Whoever will return or give information of said mule to A. Calkin shall be liberally rewarded. 19-31 JAMES S. FIFE.

NOTICE. ALL persons indebted to the firm of A. I. & J. M. Hockaday are requested to call and settle immediately to save cost. All those holding due bills against us are requested to present them for payment by the 15th day of August next. 19-31 I. & J. M. HOCKADAY.

Look out for Bargains! ONE good horse, 5 years old; also, one first rate, Jersey made, light two-horse wagon, gum wood hubs capped, and iron axles—a superior wagon for farmers. For sale cheap for cash, or exchanged for wheat. Enquire of the subscriber, residing in the 14th ward, G. S. L. City, or at the Secretary's office, in the Council House. 19-21 W. I. APPELEY.

STRAYED, FROM the range at Lehi city, on the morning of the 20th June, a dark brown HORSE, branded BV on left shoulder, small white spot in his forehead, some saddle marks, near fore and hind feet white. Whoever will give information, or return him to me, shall be suitably rewarded. 19-31 HENRY McEWAN, Deseret News Office.

To Builders and Others. JOSEPH HORTON, plain and ornamental plasterer, respectfully informs those engaged in building, that he is prepared to take work in the above line, and execute the same in first-rate style, and at very moderate terms. Orders from the country attended to. Office at G. Clements' brush manufactory, East Temple Street; open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. N.B. Ceilings whitened and rooms colored. 19-13*

CITY SCRIP TAKEN at Full Cash value in exchange for merchandise at JARVIS' Store. A few splendid-toned Violins for sale, cheap. 18-3

CASH FOR PRODUCE. CASH paid for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Corn, Flour, Bran, Shorts, Butter, Cheese, Eggs and Tallow, at the Flour, Feed and Provision Store, East Temple Street, by HYDE & PRICE. 18-41