

PERSONALITY OF BORCHGREVINK, PERSISTENT EXPLORER OF THE GREAT ANTARCTIC REGIONS

THAT hardy Norseman Carsten Egeberg Borchgrevink, who has the name and fame of having been the first man to set foot on the great antarctic continent, has no sooner got back to civilization than he begins to plan for another trip to the icy land in the far south. He has made two voyages to Antarctica and two lecture trips to this country, the latter being a natural sequence of the former.

While he is telling Americans what he saw in Antarctica—which seems to have been very little, by the way, except water, snow and ice—three expeditions—British, Swedish and German—are gliding the waves with the great white land as their common objective. It is something to have penetrated within the charmed circle of the antarctic, and what is better still, to have escaped to tell of it. We have a countryman, Professor Frederick A. Cook, who while a member of the famous Belgica expedition forestalled Borchgrevink by first passing the winter in the antarctic, though he did not penetrate so far to the south.

Borchgrevink is called a Norwegian, and he certainly bears a Norwegian appearance, but his mother was English, and he speaks and writes her language fluently. As explorers go, he is still young, being only forty. He was born in Christiania, Norway, where he was educated after several voyages at sea. He supplemented his college education by travel in France, Germany and Denmark, studied awhile at Dresden and about fourteen years ago settled in Australia, where he became professor of

Antarctic. Well, this old whaler—she was twenty-three and let you know it sometimes—had set out from Norway in search of the famous black whale, or rather, to ascertain if it existed in any numbers in the antarctic seas. She touched at Melbourne, and, being unable to induce her captain to take me as a scientist, I shipped before the mast as a common sailor. To be exact, I was supposed to be a seal shooter, but in reality I was not looking so much for seals as for new lands. I was the only scientist aboard, and I had a pretty hard time, as may be imagined; but, as it turned out, the voyage was a benefit

January and February of 1891-92. We did not find any whales, but I cared little for that, being on the lookout for land and traces of animal life that I

speak of this new continent. No human foot had ever landed there—no human foot that we know of—and naturally there was considerable anxiety

large promontory of rocks rising up toward the ice covered tablelands and spent some hours ashore. I got several natural history specimens to add to the collection that I prepared during the voyage of the Antarctic.

Three years later, in August, 1895, Borchgrevink was again on his way to the southern ocean, this time in command of a well equipped expedition of his own. In the good ship Southern Cross, a barkentine rigged vessel with auxiliary screw and a crew of thirty-six men, including six scientists, Borchgrevink sailed to a point about 2,000 miles south of Australia and, after establishing a camp at Cape Adair, South Victoria Land, sent the vessel back with instructions to look him up a year later. It was in February, 1899, that the explorer, with his staff of six scientists, two Laplanders and a Norwegian sailor, together with ninety sledge dogs, was landed and left alone to brave the season in Antarctica. The crew of the Belgica had passed the winter two years before with their vessel caught in the ice, but this was the first camp ever established on the mainland. This isolated place in which Borchgrevink and his companions passed the dreary months, including the long antarctic night, at times braving a temperature of 78 degrees below zero, he named Camp Ridley after his mother.

Just a year later the Southern Cross came back and found the party anxiously awaiting their arrival, having experienced nearly three months of darkness. There were no great discoveries to record, for no animals of consequence had been found or any vegetation larger than lichens. By means of sledge journeys, however, Borchgrevink had penetrated to latitude 78 degrees 50 minutes, the farthest point south ever trodden by man. Until the reports arrive from the expeditions now in the antarctic this record holds good. The achievement brings the distance within between 700 and 800 miles of the south pole, while the north pole has been approached to within about 200 miles.

But for having made the farthest south of any explorer and having, as he believes, located the magnetic pole of the southern hemisphere, Borchgrevink's expedition was practically barren of results. The Belgica had established the fact that man could winter in the antarctic, and her naturalists had seen about all that Borchgrevink found in the way of animal life, such as seals, fishes, penguins, some few insects, etc., while neither expedition had discovered absolute evidence of human life on the great antarctic continent, which is estimated to be twice as large as Europe.

Vast glaciers and glaciated plateaus and volcanoes frowned upon the explorers everywhere they went and prevented access to distant points in the interior. Attached to the British expedition now on the way to the southward is a complete aeronautic staff, with balloon equipment, so that it is barely possible that the glaciated cliffs will be surmounted.

That exploration in the antarctic is extremely difficult and that relatively little attention has been paid to this region is evidenced by the fact that though it is now sixty years since Ross made south latitude 78 degrees, Borchgrevink has surpassed that distance by only fifty miles or so. But the ardent explorer, still healthy and vigorous, speaks of undertaking shortly another expedition into Antarctica, this time with two ships under his command. CHANNING A. BARTOW.

A PORTRAIT OF MME. ZOLA, THE LITTLE KNOWN WIFE OF THE FAMOUS FRENCH NOVELIST.



Mme. Zola has acquired fame by the reflected luster of her husband's greatness and, being of a retiring disposition, is herself but little known as a personality. The novelist will be sixty-two years old next April, and his wife is not very much younger, though she does not look her age so nearly as Zola does his, having escaped the severe trials to which he has been subjected, notably in connection with the famous Dreyfus case. Both Mme. Zola and her husband are fond of children, though they have none of their own. They live at 21 rue de Bruxelles when in Paris and spend their summers in the country at a picturesque villa in Melan. This portrait was taken by an artist in Rome when Mme. Zola was visiting his studio.

LARGEST TREE IN THE WORLD.

The largest tree in the world, or at least of greatest girth, is said to be the wonderful baobab, which is native to the tropical region of Africa. The spec-



imen shown in this illustration is 118 feet in circumference and stands at Stanley pool, Kongo Free State. It is hollow, and before the advent of Europeans the natives were accustomed to use it as a place of deposit for executed criminals, it being contrary to their laws to bury them in the earth. The baobab is locally known as the monkey bread tree. Its most nearly related species in this hemisphere is the ceiba or silk cotton.

Dr. Paul Garnier, the French statistician, says juvenile criminality is relatively increasing, and he attributes the evil to alcoholic heredity.

TELEGRAPH GIRLS.

Although woman suffrage has made greater progress in this country than anywhere else in the world, it seems to have remained for a European telegraph company, the famous Reuters, to make the experiment of substituting girls for boys as local messengers. The innovation has not been adopted to



any great extent in the United States, but the reports from across the water are to the effect that the girls perform their duties faithfully and threaten to become dangerous competitors of the telegraph boys.

natural sciences in a university at Sydney. While employed as a government surveyor in Queensland, Australia, he succeeded in getting to the top of Mount Lindsay of the McPherson range, a feat which had been several times attempted by others, but never accomplished.

While presenting the appearance of a common sailor, being short and stockily built, with a face bronzed from exposure, Borchgrevink betrays by his speech the professor and linguist, his English being exact and of purest diction. He has written a book of his adventures, which was published several years ago. As to his first venture into the antarctic he says: "It was while engaged in Sydney, Australia, teaching natural science and languages that I became possessed of the idea of exploring the great south polar region, and when opportunity offered I found myself aboard an old whaler called the



MR. BORCHGREVINK IN POLAR COSTUME.

C. E. BORCHGREVINK.

to me, as it supplied the information for the trip in the Southern Cross. We were in antarctic waters on that first cruise during the months of December,

should show the existence there of man or the larger mammals. We did not get so far south as Sir James Ross penetrated in 1842, but I accomplished what he did not, and that was setting foot on what is believed to be the land of the great antarctic continent. Ross landed on an island only, while I landed at Cape Adair, the advance point, so to

among us as to who should be the first ashore. "I was pulling one of the rear-most oars in the boat which carried the landing party. As a result, I should hardly have been the first ashore, but when we got so close in that I could see the shallowing bottom below I leaped out of the boat and waded ashore. The water was very cold, I can tell you, but I didn't think much about that, and the others laughed good naturedly as I scrambled ashore ahead of them all. We landed on a

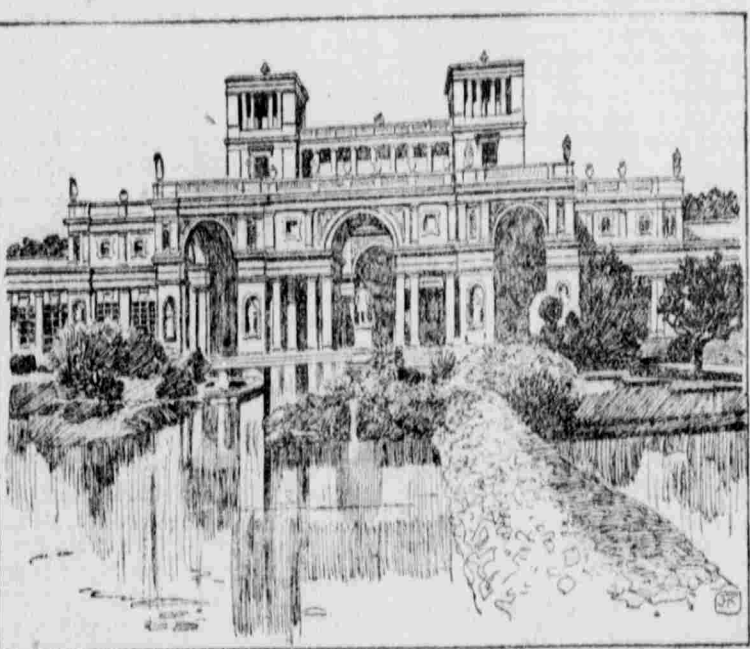
ANCIENT CANOE FOUND IN A BOG.

In the illustration is shown what remains of an ancient canoe found in a bog in County Galway, Ireland. Such remains are not uncommon either in this country or across the water, and they are generally all of the same



type—the ordinary "dugout" which is used in the United States today. The peat bogs are particularly prolific in examples of primitive man's handiwork, as well as of animals that have long since become extinct, being quite as favorable to their preservation as are the limestone caves of Florida and the Bahamas.

THE ORANGERIE PALACE AT POTSDAM, PRUSSIA.



Potsdam, the city founded by the elector Frederick William of Prussia, who built the first of its palaces in 1673, has the reputation of being one of the most picturesque places in Europe. Beautifully situated, amid its fine scenery at various times palaces and pleasure gardens have been implanted by different rulers of Prussia, notable among the structures being the Orangerie palace, with its beautiful grounds, shown in the accompanying illustration.

SANTOS DUMONT'S NEW RIVAL.

The latest claimant to fame as a rival of the aeronaut Santos-Dumont is one M. Severo, who is just about to commence experiments with a new balloon of the dirigible variety, in which he promises to surpass the performances of the young Brazilian. His airship is



built along the same lines as Dumont's, but the motor has been made more powerful and at the same time lighter than that in the machine in which Santos made his last voyages over Paris and above the bay of Monaco. M. Severo's movements are watched with great curiosity in Paris.

HOW THE CHINESE RAISE THE WIND.

The vehicle shown in the illustration is no new invention, its type having been in use by the Chinese for several hundred years. It is the coal barge by which John Chinaman delivers enormous loads of black diamonds with a minimum expenditure of effort. The barge is usually made by the coal man himself, and, though it is clumsy, it can travel with a fair wind at the rate of five or six miles an hour. If the wind is not fair, says a traveler, you may whistle for your coal, for John will not work on a day that is calm, no matter what inducements are offered.



EDMUND GOSSE, LITTERATEUR.

Edmund Gosse, distinguished critic, poet and litterateur, was born in London, 1849, and is the son of the late P. H. Gosse, who was a prominent zoologist in his day. The older Gosse lived in Newfoundland, Canada, Jamaica, and Jamaica, pursuing in those places the studies of natural history for which he became famous. His "Naturalist in Jamaica" is a classic and an authority even now. The son has inherited the literary ability of the father and has won distinction as a writer and lecturer. He is author of many books and is the "Clark lecturer" in English literature at Trinity college, Cambridge, England.



HOW A STAGE DRAGON IS MANIPULATED.

It has sometimes been said rather satirically that "they do these things better in France," but the latest French conception of what a stage monster ought to look like, and especially of how he ought to act, is admitted even by the Germans to take the palm. In order to give realism to the scene and make the dragon look like a "really truly" monster, the killing of which by Siegfried would send a thrill of horror through the audience, no pains were spared. He was made forty feet long, and his internal anatomy was filled with machinery so that any part could be moved by men concealed inside. The body was constructed in segments, each one in charge of a different "sape." One spouted forth fire and smoke from his jaws, another wriggled his body and still another wagged his tail. The illusion was so perfect that when the hero proceeded to "do the monster up" several ladies fainted on the spot. The French are delighted at having been the first to perfectly realize the grand Wagnerian conception.

SUPPOSED RELICS OF PLINY THE ELDER.



Intense interest has been awakened by the reported discovery near Pompeii of the skeleton and other relics of the ancient Roman author and naturalist Pliny the elder, who was suffocated by fumes from Vesuvius during an eruption A. D. 79. According to history, the elder Pliny was on his way to observe the phenomena of the eruption when he was overcome by the gases and fell dead. The bodies of his guard were found near the skeleton assumed to be his, which was supposedly identified by a great gold chain wound three times about his neck and by a sword with hilt of bronze incrustated ivory lying near. There were also found in the accompanying illustration, consisting of ornamental chair knobs, respecting which there is less doubt than about the sword and skeleton.

GRANDMOTHER OF ALFONSO XIII.

In the illustration is given the portrait of the venerable mother of the queen regent of Spain, the Archduchess Elizabeth, who has just entered her seventy-first year. The mother of Alfonso XIII, of Spain, who has so long held the reins as queen regent, was an Austrian archduchess and has always been spoken of by her enemies in Spain as "that Austrian woman." However, she has ruled fairly well and gained the esteem and affections of many who once hated her. Her mother is so nearly related to the emperor of Austria that it is within the range of possibilities that one of her sons or a grandson may some time occupy the throne now filled by Francis Joseph.



CURRENT HAPPENINGS.

Sir Wemyss Reid while in the United States recently had a friendly bout with Mark Twain over the dinner table and came off victorious. Mark was chaffing Sir Wemyss on the vagaries of English pronunciation. "You spell a name Bea-u-champ and pronounce it Marchbanks," he said. "And you do precisely the same thing," replied Sir

Wemyss. "What do you mean?" asked Mark. "Well, you spell your name C-i-a-m-e-n-s, and you pronounce it Twain."

A South African newspaper has this picnic story: "A picnic party of Hopefontein composed of school children and teachers, with their friends, had their outing flavored with a degree of excitement which does not usually fall to the lot of picnickers. During the day it became known that one of the goats on the farm had been killed by a leopard in open daylight. Several of the boys of the farm went in pursuit of the marauder, which was discovered early in the afternoon, and two well aimed shots ended its career, but not before it had clawed two of the natives and a dog. The carcass, which was that of a fairly

large animal, was borne on poles in the conventional South African manner to the picnicking ground."

A romantic interest attached to one of the contributions to a recent exhibition of South African stamps in London. This was an envelope bearing two Cape of Good Hope and six Bechuanaland protectorate stamps, all surcharged "Mafeking besieged," which was posted by a sergeant in Mafeking to his sweet-

heart in Belfast. After the little town had been relieved and the warrior had returned home the recipient of his letter sold the envelope to a stamp collector and with the money thus realized bought the dress she wore when the reunited lovers were married.

For thirty years, says the London Chronicle, Richard Luburn, who has just died at the age of eighty-two, occupied the editorial chair of the oldest existing newspaper in Ireland, the Belfast News Letter. It was first published on Sept. 1, 1757, and for many years came out twice a week. It first consisted of a single leaf of small folio size printed on both sides in the form of a letter, each issue commencing with the word "Sir."

A novel boat has been introduced as a necessity of German military equipment. The framework consists of six-

teen of the lances in use in the regiment, and the cover is of strong saltpetre cloth, provided with loops, into which the lances may be adjusted. The boat can be put together by half a dozen men in five minutes and taken apart in less than half that time. It weighs sixty-five pounds.

In the present United States senate there are two each of Clarks, Fosters, Joneses, McLaurins and Piatts.