

Some Facts about Mountains.

Mt. Washington is not, as many suppose, the highest summit east of the Rocky Mountains. That eminence belongs to Mt. Mitchell, in North Carolina, which has an elevation of 6,476 feet. The loftiest mountain upon this continent is Mt. St. Elias, in the Pacific Coast Range, British America, which has an elevation of 17,900 feet. The highest peak of South America was long supposed to be Chimborazo (21,415 feet,) but Aconcagua, one of the Chilean Andes, is now known to have an elevation of 23,944 feet.

The highest summit of Europe is Mont Blanc, 17,750 feet; of Africa, Mt. Kilimandjaro, supposed from its summit being covered with perpetual snow, to have an elevation of 20,000 feet. This mountain was discovered by a missionary in 1849, and was afterwards seen by Bayard Taylor, who wrote a splendid poem upon it. But little is known about the interior mountains of Africa from the fact that its vast peninsulas and sea indentations renders it the most inaccessible of all the continents. The highest summit of Asia is Kunchinjing, of the Himalaya range, which reaches to the great height of 28,178 feet above the level of the sea. This is the highest known mountain on the globe.

What more inaccessible heights exist, if any, remain for future explorers to determine. Much of the earth's surface yet remains unknown to civilized man, so that there is yet work for future Barths, Kanes, and Franklins. The highest points on the earth's surface have never yet been reached by man. It is an awe-inspiring thought to reflect upon the perpetual solitude of those extreme summits where no living thing exists, and where blank desolation holds its eternal reign. Yet men do exist, and where blank desolation holds its eternal reign.

Yet men do exist and carry on the business of life at great elevations in the air. Probably the highest city in our country is that of the Great Salt Lake. The table land on which it is situated has an elevation above the sea of 4,300 feet, being more than two-thirds as high as the summit of Mt. Washington. It is not without some truth, therefore, that "The Latter Day Saints" claim to be nearer heaven than the rest of the nation!

The highest city upon this continent is Mexico, 7,570 feet. The highest village of Europe is that of Soglio, in the Grisons, at an elevation of 6,714 feet. The highest permanent habitation in Europe is at the pass of Santa Maria, Alps, 9,272 feet. Milum, a village in the Himalaya, is situated at an elevation of 11,405 feet.

But it is to South America that we must look for the highest, if not the most splendid cities. The ancient civilization of Peru found its home in the elevated valleys of the Andes, and there at those immense heights, still stand the principal cities of Bolivia and Peru, Cuzco, the ancient capital of Peru, has an elevation of 11,380 feet; La Paz, in Bolivia, 12,226 feet; while Potosi, also in Bolivia, and the highest city of the globe, is situated at an altitude of 13,350 feet, more than twice the height of Mount Washington! Yet man can permanently inhabit even higher regions than these. The post-house of Rumihausi, in Peru, has an elevation of 15,540 feet.

The highest point of the globe ever attained by man was upon Chimborazo, when M. Bousingault and Col. Hall, in 1831, reached the height of 19,699 feet. The summit still towered 1,716 feet above them. If we take Kunchinjing as the highest point of the globe, (28,178 feet,) it will be seen there yet remains 8,449 feet of altitude to be overcome by man's ambition ere he can say he has reached the pinnacle of the world! But physical elevations, like political ones, are dangerous to reach and difficult to hold, and it is doubtful if man could exist at all on the summit of Kunchinjing. At much less elevations the rarity of the atmosphere causes bleeding from the nose and eyes, and produces other unpleasant effects.

Thomson, who reached an elevation of 17,600 feet on the Himalaya, says he was not free from a dull head-ache during the whole day. In Bolivia there is a mountain malady, the "veta" or "Soroche," ascribed to the effect of a rarified atmosphere, which is very severe during its continuance of half an hour or more, and sometimes proves fatal to foreigners. In the mountain cities of Bolivia, although it is sometimes quite chilly, yet no fires are used to warm buildings, the inhabitants protecting themselves from the cold by increased clothing. Such is the rarified state of the atmosphere that the natives believe, should fire be extensively used, they would not be able to breathe!—[Ex.]

Interesting from Amoor River.

We are informed by Mr. James Pike, chief officer of the bark Palmetto, recently arrived from Ayan and the Russian settlements on the Amoor river, that the forts erected at the latter place by the Russians, under the direction of the Governor of Siberia, are actually impregnable, and were so regarded by the English observing officers. No naval power possessed by the Allies in the Pacific is strong enough to take the three forts.

The Palmetto entered the Amoor river and proceeded some distance up. The navigation is intricate, and the mouth, where the river empties into the Saghalien Gulf, not unlike the Mississippi. The Gulf for many miles, is discolored by the great volume of water discharged into it. The country bordering on the river is low and alluvial, and the banks and channels constantly changing, owing to the great number of quicksands and debris sent down the

stream. The Russians have good charts of the river, and the Allies were making a survey when the Palmetto left. The supply ships of the Allied fleet have been wrecked, so that provisions and naval stores were scarce, and commanded an unparalleled price.

Our informant saw two small pigs sold by the supercargo of the bark to the English flag ship for \$15 each! Soap sold readily at two dollars per bar, common brown. Liquor commanded the most exorbitant price, and all that could be obtained was eagerly bought up. Mr. Pike thinks that a small trading schooner, loaded with stores and the necessary articles, would find a constant market in following the Allied fleet from port to port. The Governor of Siberia presented each of the officers of the Palmetto with valuable gifts—that of the chief officer being a superior gold and silver goblet, which we have seen, and which an eminent jeweler values at \$600. A splendid sword was also sent by the Governor by the Palmetto to the commander of the American squadron. The gift, however, we believe, could not be accepted by him, owing to the rules of the service prohibiting the receiving of presents from foreign officers.

Money was abundant among the Russians, and exchanged readily for the common necessities of life. While at anchor in a small port in Siberia, there were at one time above a hundred Russians on board the Palmetto, who slept on deck, wrapped in their furs and their skins of deer. During the night snow fell on the deck to the depth of ten inches, but nothing incommoded by the cold, these hardy northerners aroused themselves in the morning, shook the snow from their clothes, crossed themselves after the devout Russian manner, and repaired to their work, after eating a crust of black bread, and tasting nothing stronger than liquor.

The mode of traveling in the great region of Montchoorio, drained by the Amoor river, is by the reindeer and sled. Expresses were constantly passing between the Russian settlements and the far interior, bearing orders and news from post to post. All was activity and cheerfulness, and the Czar was rapidly and surely strengthening his position on the coast.

Our informant states that the inhabitants, from the Governor down, displayed a particular desire to conciliate and please all Americans, and it was thought they were manifesting this friendly spirit by orders from St. Petersburg. The Governor and his wife (a Parisian lady) came on board the bark, and paid many compliments to the vessel, and made presents to all according to rank.

The navigation of the Amoor is probably at this time completely closed, for various reasons. But with the close of the war, a field for trade is here presented to Americans, which will in all probability prove of great value. All the tribes along the course of this immense stream, which winds its way for thousands of leagues amid fertile countries, are well disposed towards Americans, and doubtless have instructions to keep on as good terms with us as possible.—[Alta.]

SEPARATING THE SEXES IN SCHOOL.—On this point Mr. Stow, a celebrated Glasgow teacher, uses the following language:

The youth of both sexes of our Scottish peasantry, says Mr. Stow, have been educated together, and as a whole, the Scots are the most moral people on the face of the globe. Education, in England, is given separately, and we have never heard from practical men, that any benefit has arisen from this arrangement.

Some influential individuals there mourn over the popular prejudice on this point.

In Dublin, a larger number of girls turn out badly, who have been educated alone till the age of maturity, than those who have been otherwise brought up—the separation of the sexes in youth is productive of fearful evils.

It is stated, on best authority, that of those educated in the schools of convents apart from boys, the majority go wrong within a month after being let loose in society, and meeting the other sex. They cannot, it is said, resist the slightest compliment or flattery.

The separation is intended to keep them strictly moral, but the unnatural seclusion actually generates the very principles desired to be avoided.

We may repeat that it is impossible to raise girls intellectually as high without the boys as with them; and it is impossible to raise boys morally as high without the presence of girls.

The girls morally elevate the boys. But, more than this, girls themselves are morally elevated by the presence of boys, and boys are intellectually elevated by the presence of girls.

Girls brought up with boys are more positively moral, and boys brought up in school with girls are more positively intellectual by the softening influence of the female character.

In the Normal Seminary at Glasgow, the most beneficial effects have resulted from the more natural course. Boys and girls, from the age of two and three years to fourteen or fifteen, have been trained in the same class rooms, galleries, and play grounds, without impropriety; and they are never separated except at needle-work.

NO MORE CORNS.—There is no doubt some quackery in the corn-doctor's trade, but there is more ignorance. For the benefit both of him and his patients we will now disclose a secret which will relieve humanity from a load of misery, not the less difficult to bear that it is unpitied or ridiculous.

The cause of corns, and likewise of the torture they occasion, is simple friction; and to les-

sen friction you have only to use your toe as you do in like circumstances a coach-wheel—lubricate it with some oily substance.

The best and cleanest thing to use is a little sweet oil, rubbed upon the affected part (after the corn is carefully pared) with the tip of the finger, which should be done on getting up in the morning, and just before stepping into bed at night.

In a few days the pain will diminish, and in a few days more it will cease, when the nightly application may be discontinued.

The writer of this paragraph suffered from these horrible excrescences for years. He tried all sorts of infallible things, and submitted to the manipulations of the corn-doctor; but all in vain: the more he tried to banish them, the more they wouldn't go; or if they did go (which happened once or twice under the strong prevailment of caustic) they were always sure to return with tenfold venom.

Since he tried the oil, some months ago, he has had no pain, and is able to take as much exercise as he chooses. Through the influence of this mild persuasive, one of the most iniquitous of his corns has already taken itself off entirely; the others he still pares at rare intervals; but suffering no inconvenience what ever from them, he has not thought it necessary to have recourse to caustic—which sometimes, if not very carefully used, and vinegar and water applied at once to the toe, causes almost as much smart as the actual cautery.—[Chamber's Journal.]

PADDY AND THE DENTIST.—A male representative from the Emerald Isle enters, hat in hand, with, 'The top o' the morning to ye, sir, an' I got a bad tooth, an' the divil a bid o' comfort can I get short of a bottle o' brandy; an' I've got one of Father Matthy's medals to kape me from all such evil spirits, sure. Now, sir, what'll you be axin to pull me a tooth, sir? 'Half-a-dollar,' says the doctor.

'Well,' says Pat, 'what'll ye pull two for?'

'O,' replied the doctor, 'I wont charge you anything for pulling the second one.' Pat seated himself, turned up his mug, and the doctor took a peep at his grinders, and with a little assistance from Pat, soon found which were the ones he wanted out.

Pat says, 'This is the first one, and that is the second one. Plaze pull the 'second one out first.'

'Very well,' replied the doctor, 'any way to get them out.' And he pulled. Before he had time to fix the instrument for the other tooth (the first) Pat had got out of the chair, and was edging towards the door. 'I guess, doctor, I won't have the first tooth pulled out until it aches, and you told me you would pull the second one for nothing.'

Pat mizzled, and the doctor pocketed the joke instead of the fee.—[American Paper.]

ROYAL KISSING.—The lively and extravagant correspondent of the New York Sunday Courier relates this incident, which has more morality than truth:—

The first tragic event occurred upon the cheeks of Victoria, as Louis, on her landing at Boulogne, impressed two earnest kisses, one upon each cheek, as the London Gazette carefully reports. But no allusion was made to the movement of disgust which the Queen could not repress on receiving this osculatory ovation. As the brush of bristling hair came down upon her face, she shuddered on thinking that these mustaches were the same upon which Fanny Howard and many of the other frail and virtuous left their mercenary honey.

Victoria is very excitable, and orthodox as her principles are, chaste as her life is, as the wife of a virtuous and industrious husband, nothing could possibly give her greater pain than contact with lips whose warmth has often dried the passion-tears of eyes which beamed with an unholy love.

HOW TO FILE GLASS.—When it is desired, in the laboratory of the chemist, to divide glass tubing accurately into pieces of a certain specified length, the following simple recipe will be found invaluable. Having immersed a small three-cornered file in spirits of turpentine, file the tube in the directions desired with one of the edges of the file, keeping the point of friction constantly wet with the liquid. By using a flat side of the file in the same manner, the ragged edges of broken tubes may be rendered perfectly smooth and even. Glass, in all shapes may be easily bored by using the point of the file, providing the point of friction be constantly moistened with the same liquid as above. This plan applies equally well in cutting all other articles of glass and is strongly recommended for its rapidity, and from the fact that it avoids all danger of cracking. It will be found infinitely superior to the old method of simply using the file.—[Ex.]

ON THE CHOICE OF ACQUAINTANCES.—Among other observations which I have made in the short period of life (said the celebrated Sydenham) this one thing appears to me particularly deserving notice (and which I am anxious should be most strongly impressed on the mind of my son) that the acquaintance of those who are distinguished by integrity and other graces of character has invariably turned to my profit and advantage; and, on the other hand, that the friendship of the wicked (if indeed that alliance which is not based on virtue should not rather be called a combination, or even a conjuration, than a friendship) although they may never have injured me either by word or look, has in some way or other at length done mischief or damage to me or my affairs.

The new rifle musket, manufactured at the United States armories, has the length of its barrel reduced from 42 to 40 inches; the exterior reduced, and the calibre from 0.69 to 0.58 of an inch. The barrel has three decreasing grooves, with a point and rear sight brazed on, graduated from one to one thousand yards. The weight of the new arm is one quarter of a pound lighter than the old model. The lock is changed to a front action swivel lock, with the Maynard attachment, which will contain sixty primers. The ball is an elongated, hollow, pointed ball, weighing 497 grains, which is about 60 grains heavier than the present round ball. The new model rifle requires but 60 grains of powder, which is 50 grains less than the present service charge of the smooth bore musket.—[True Delta.]

Odessa has 70,000 inhabitants, representing a great many different nationalities. The foreign commerce is in the hands of Englishmen, Germans, Italians and Frenchmen. The retail trade is carried on principally by Greeks, Armenians and Jews, some of whom are also engaged in foreign commerce. The Russians are in the minority in the city; they inhabit mainly the country, where there are also German and Bulgarian settlers. In the neighborhood of the city are extensive vineyards, and mulberry plantations for the production of silk. Since the beginning of the siege of Sebastopol, the fortifications of Odessa have been improved and extended, and it is probable that a regular investment will be required to effect its surrender.—[Ex.]

HOW THE PROCESS OF COLORING GLASS WAS DISCOVERED.—At a meeting of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, Professor Mapes stated that a few years ago the art of staining glass was unknown, when at a club, something like this—only composed of mechanics—a member stated that he had stained glass blue with cobalt, and another, that he could color it red with ease, but not blue, until finally others came forward with their facts applied to other colors, and when all were combined, the result was a mass of facts that has produced the beautiful combinations of colored glass, equalling the art when it was applied to the old cathedral windows, centuries ago, in Europe.—[Ex.]

THE ART OF HEALTH.—Walking is the best possible exercise. Habituate yourself to walk very far. The Europeans value themselves on having subdued the horse to the use of man, but I doubt whether we have not lost more than we have gained by the use of this animal. No one thing has occasioned so much degeneracy of the human body. An Indian goes on foot nearly as far in a day, for a long journey, as an enfeebled white does on his horse, and he will tire the best horses. A little walk of half an hour in the morning, when you first rise, is advisable. It shakes off sleep, and produces other good effects in the animal economy.—[Jefferson's Memories.]

PECULIARITIES OF GLASS.—It is a curious fact in science that glass resists the action of all acids except the fluorine; it loses nothing in weight by use or age; it is more capable than all other substances of receiving the highest degree of polish; if melted several times over and properly cooled in the furnace, it receives a polish which almost rivals the diamond in brilliancy. It is capable of receiving the richest colors produced from gold or other metallic coloring, and will retain the original brilliancy of hue for ages. Medals, too, imbedded in glass, can be made to retain for ever their original purity and appearance.—[Ex.]

BEAUTIES OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING.—Col. Fitzgerald, senior editor of the Philadelphia Item, in a recent issue, thus relates his experience in newspaper publishing:—"During the first years we have frequently gone home of a Saturday night without money enough in our pockets to buy bread for our little ones for the ensuing Sunday. Sixteen times we have pawned our watch to pay our hands. In the course of these sad and stern probationary eight years, we have twice been blind from over reading and writing, and our eyes are seriously and permanently injured."

DISCOVERY OF DIAMONDS.—A few days ago, says the Union Democrat, three diamonds were found in Scorpion Gulch, near Byrne's Ferry, and on the slope of Table Mountain. The claim has for some time been worked for gold, and the diamonds were picked up merely out of curiosity, as pretty pebbles. Upon one of them being exhibited to an eminent jeweller of the city, it was pronounced fine, and valued at sixty dollars. The claim is now called the "Diamond Claim," and the precious stones will hereafter be saved.

WHO CAN ACCOUNT FOR IT?—(The Book of Mormon.) The *Sorora Herald* says: "It is a well known fact that the channel under Table Mountain contains many fossil remains, petrified and charred wood, oyster and other shells, etc., clearly exhibiting that what is now some two or three hundred feet below the surface was once at the surface."

"The sun is all very well," said an Irishman, "but in my opinion the moon is worth two of it: for the moon affords us light in the night time, when we really want it; whereas we have the sun with us in the day time, when we have no occasion for it."

THE CRIMEA.—This peninsula, to which so much interest is attached, is considerably larger than the State of Massachusetts. It contains upwards of nine thousand square miles; the climate mild and the soil fertile. It contains about 200,000 inhabitants.