ON MT. ETNA AT NIGHT

HOW THE HEAVENS APPEARED TO A DARING TRAVELER.

Watching the Dreaded Volcano in the Sicilian Sky—Visits the Crater for a Sunrise—How the Ancient Wise Made Sodaic Holes.

The story of the ascent of the mountain from whose summit Pliny, in his zeal and thoughtful love, and Mr. Hodgson, in our troublous days, have, amid the storm, has a strong fascination because of its wild contrast, in some sense, of strength and energy, and its supreme, even inspiring, proof the enthusiasm of that which moved the ancients and the poets of the Middle Ages.

From the lemons and the orange groves, from the vineyards and the olives through the sweet botanical region to the snowcapped crest that rises for six square miles between the left bank of unquestionable fire and the hearth that unfolds some day to brought near, the traveler mounts in an ever increasing sense of the sense beyond and around him.

Ten twelve miles of the ascent from Nicolosi have been accomplished when good bodies are far off as ever. When it followed more than one, in August, 1874, one man had fallen in Sicily for five months, and along the eastern one of the mountains the mean temperature was 61 degs. Fahr. The observatory on Catania, his first halt at Nicolosi, a little town consisting of one long street, lessened by one storied cottages (1868). Nicolosi has more than once been stolen to the ground by quakes and lava. Then thence begins the journey, on mules, by no delicate path, not a vast tract covered with lava and also with lava and there patches of snow. The mules know all about it, and the travelers trust them as they trotted.

Beside the district of lava and ashes is beset of small trees, and at a height of 4,500 feet is the Casa del Bosco, where an in charge of the woods live and where the last refuge for spirits the upper of the mountain—where cold surprising that of the higher Alps has to be encountered—is made. There, Mr. Ridwell records, "the air was so extraordinary still that the flame of a candle burned near the door did not flicker," at 4,200 feet the Regione Deserta is entered. Life-lessness is all around. Since blocks over the waste of black ash, ashes and lava; these are the only living creatures in the crater—some little lower down Spallanzani found pots, thrushes, ravens, kites and a few partridges.

Then was an moon on the night on with Mr. Rodwell made the visit, to see the desolation deepen, and the earth became more and more void of all life, the moonrays "took up the sadness tale." "The stars," he says, "came with extraordinary brilliancy and sparkled like particles of white hot iron. I have never before seen the heavens studded with such myriads of eyes. The milky way shone like a path of fire, and meteors flashed across the sky in such numbers that I soon gave up the attempt to count them. The vault of heaven seemed to be much nearer than when seen from the earth, and more flat, as if only a short distance over our heads, and some of the brighter stars appeared to be hanging down from the sky."

A hundred years ago Brydone, beholding this same wondrous spectacle of "awful majesty and splendor," results have and his companion were "now struck with veneration than before" now they exclaimed together, "What a glorious situation for an observatory! Had Empedocles had the eye of Galileo, what discoveries must he not have made!" and how they regretted that Jupiter was not visible, as he was persuaded they might have discovered some of his satellites with the naked eye, or at least with a small glass which he had in his pocket.

At 1 a. m., with the temperature at 4 degs. Fahr., Mr. Rodwell reached the volcanic shelter of the Cas a Inferno, and rested there until 3 a. m., when, the brighter stars having disappeared, he started for the summit of the crater, 1,200 feet above him, in order to witness what Brydone calls "the most powerful and most sublime sight in nature." There was no strong wind; the weather did not suffer from the sickness of which travelers constantly complain in the rarefied air of the summit.

He reached the highest point at 4:30, and, cautiously choosing a cooling place among the cinders, sat down on the ground, whence steam and sulphurous odors were being, to his surprise, the sun. "Above the place where the sun will presently appear there was a brilliant red, shading off in the direction of the zenith to orange and yellow; this was succeeded by pale green, then a long streak of pale blue, darker blue, dark gray, ending opposite the rising sun with black. This effect was quite distinct; it lasted some minutes and was very remarkable. This was succeeded by the sun's rays appearance, and at ten minutes to 5 the upper rim of the sun was seen over the mountains of Calabria."

So clearly does Mr. Rodwell record the glorious sight, and, he says truly, no one could have the hardihood to attempt to describe the impressions which an such upon the mind while the eyes are busy in following the motion from the summit of Etna. How greatly the beauties of the scene are enhanced by the fact that the ancient Brydone implies when he dwells upon "the immense elevation from the surface of the earth, drawn, as it were, to a single point, without any neighboring mountains for the sense and imagination to rest upon and are now from their astonishment, in their way down to the world." It must be a wonderful experience to turn from such a contemplation to gaze into the broad, prosaic face of the great orator, Pliny, and say, it is good, so on this occasion.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Taking it Coolly.

The ship of an admiral, who was the Duke of Wellington's near connection, was wrecked. He was placed in command of a second ship, which was also lost and as himself was drowned. Lord Clarence communicated the disaster to his father, who merely exclaimed, with Spartan coldness and laconicity, "That's the second ship he has lost."—Portsmouth Review.

FALL MARKET LAMBS.

Practical Suggestions from a Dressier of Dressed Dressts.

For early lambs I think they best pay to buy one a head of sheep that are the most prolific and that make the best mothers. I expect to make the profitable of another lambs my business in the future, and for that purpose have selected the Dorset Horn sheep, and my experience with them for two years in dress me to believe that I have made no mistake. Ewes of this variety which dropped lambs in April and May, 1891 and were allowed to run with the ram constantly, and whose lambs were permitted to suckle until weaned by the mothers, dropped lambs again in December and January next following. The ribs is twins or more, when more than one will suckle with enough for the crop and it is amazing to see how they will eat and accumulate fast when very young.

From my experience I believe that the Dorset can be bred at any time desired without any special care or precaution and that if the lambs are weaned when six weeks old 75 per cent of the ewes will breed spring and fall. I wish every one who contemplates raising early market lambs would investigate the merits of this breed, as I think that for that purpose they certainly have no superior. The wool is of secondary importance, but is entitled to consideration, as it helps to pay for keeping the sheep.—William E. Kinney in Rural New Yorker.

Fine for Pigs.

Peas contain 23 per cent. of digestible muscle forming nutrients and 58.5 per cent. of heat and fat producers hence they make excellent food for pigs and all other young stock as well. For the young animal the muscle producers are the most valuable, and for the fattening pig the heat producers are the most valuable. Nature begins the journey on milk, by no delicate path, and a vast tract covered with lava and also with lava and there patches of snow. The mules know all about it, and the travelers trust them as they trotted.

Kitchen Work a Good Occupation.

Kitchening seems to be the only one of work that no one need blush for, and, after all, does not longer, justly be counted in the number of that class of the French revolution known as the refuse of terror, did not the ex-Empress Eugenie, Charles's ex-court in the scheme of good living; never the "moulinette" truffles are reader of Gourmets, and also "a la purée de Saint-Germain." Do you know that it was to the cooks of Escarts that we owe the "Marengo," which was prepared and made under his own eyes for the first time at the Cafe Procope?

Modern history also gives noble examples to our admiration. The Empress Elizabeth, of Austria, that accomplished horsewoman, that conveyer of a story where aristocratic prejudice are of the strongest kind, stories in her talent as a pastry cook. Her daughter, the Archduchess Valeria, boasts of having participated all the secrets of the ancient and modern cuisine. Queen Victoria is very Fond of mutton cutlets, and it seems she has several recipes. Her daughter, Alice, the Princess of Wales, excels in preparing tea and buttered toast.—Paris Intransigeant.

The Design of a Jewel.

The design of a jewel should be such that we can take pleasure in the idea of its permanence. We associate permanence with a star, and therefore a star form in jewelry is agreeable. But transient forms, like flowers or ribbons, bows, unless they are worth conventionalized, present a disagreeable congruity. They ought to change with time, and they do not. Imitations of such objects may please for a moment the curiosity of the vulgar, but interest in them, even for such, is exhausted as soon as they have been examined, and the cultivated taste finds them intolerable. Interest in an object of true art, on the contrary, never grows less.—Harper's Bazar.

When They Became Acquainted.

"I know that woman when she lived in an attic." "Yes. I can remember that time perfectly. It was when you were living in the basement of the same house." Then there was a silence, and the waves gossiping to the beach had it all to themselves.—Boston Saturday Gazette.

A Sensitive Family.

July 10, 1896, Jean Lafargue, his wife and a daughter nineteen years of age committed suicide by hanging themselves in the dining room, all because a neighbor had accused them of stealing vegetables from her garden. This at Oise, France.—St. Louis Republic.

A Dangerous Question.

Little Girl—How old are you?

Miss Antique—I—er—how old do I look?

Little Girl (after reflection)—Don't look old.—Good News.

Rural Delights.

Jinks—Boarding in the country now, eh? What do you do with yourself evenings?

Winks—Some nights I sit outdoors to keep cool and other nights I go to bed to keep warm.—New York Weekly.

There exists in Chicago a society the membership of which is restricted to colored men with white wives. The object is to foment a class of persons who, for their interracial marriage, are estranged by both blacks and whites.

The keen notice of trifles and the rapid marriage in the mind of causes and effect, constitute what may be called the detective quality, which belongs to intellectual grade to great inventors or intellectuals.

In the human blood there is an average of 300 red cells to every white one. The red cells have an average diameter of 1-3,200 of an inch, the white one 1-25,000 inch.

It has only been eighty-one years since the first tomato was introduced into America. The original plant was cultivated as a vegetable curiosity at Salem, Mass.

Walter Besant, the English novelist, was intended by his parents for the church, but he proved naturally a literary work.

Some Common Expressions.

Men use few adjectives as a rule—men of mature years; that is, not the freshmen on the early cigarette men—while women of all ages employ a great many with which to weaken their speech. Ladies are fond of lavish in adverbs, which it is the latest fancy in speech to use inappropriately for fun. "I promised to be there" and so, which I "promptly forgot" (that sighs is much in vogue, and "I like it awfully," "Very pleased" is also the new thing now, and the old fashioned "very much pleased" has quite gone out. "Literally you know," which has no excuse in grammatical construction, is also in style, and it is considered bad form by critics it. The last two are of course direct importations from the British isles, and therefore desirable.

"Quite" in its personal meaning of "rather" is no longer correct, I am glad to say. This English is a decided improvement. "Quite splendid and evening," that most high form of expressing enjoyment, nobody with social pretensions would dare to be heard uttering nowadays, while "quite well again," implying complete recovery, is in common use. Dreadful and splendid, provided by perfectly, are out of favor, and that barbarism, a "perfectly splendid time," is left, thank goodness, to very young girls and boys. "Rather dry" is "good sport" is heard commonly now, and "rum go"—but the last is pure slang and I am not venturing within that sacred sty.—Chicago Post.

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