

AMAZONIAN FLOODS.

FEATURES OF THE ANNUAL DELUGE OF THE GREAT RIVER.

Then the "Wild Dog River" becomes a Paradise of the Swamp-loving Brutes. Floating Islands Formed with Refugees of the Brute Creation.

The most foundations of Louisiana and eastern Arkansas are but recent features compared with the monster floods that visit the Amazon valley every year with a regularity equalled only by astronomical events and tax collections. The rainfall of northern Brazil is about three times that of the westernmost corner of Oregon, and in midsummer the thunder showers that drench the woods every afternoon resemble a daily deluge. On the Northern Pacific in other words, the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate.

Not only the Amazon, but the Rio Negro, the Madeira, the Parana, the Uruguay, the Guayana, the Hongo, the Papaya and dozens of other streams empty into the Amazon, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate.

About the middle of summer these streams begin to rise, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate. The deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate, and the deluge is a regular feature of the climate.

At about two months after the beginning of the rainy season the deluge of the Amazon reaches its maximum. Thousands of square miles are submerged so effectively that canoes can be paddled through forests apparently free from underbrush, since only the tops of trees, with their network of climbing vines, rise like islands above the swelling waters. The swollen rivers have found new currents; the broad, gulfing streams twist and eddy through the lush wilderness, tearing off whole groups of trees, with all their roots, and making islands by depositing hills of driftwood, which soon get covered with tufts of new vegetation.

The pressure of the surging flood exerts the means of alluvion soon becomes enormous, but the deep-rooted stems of the mangroves and the canals may resist till new deposits of driftwood consolidate a number of mounds, then forming good sized islands, with a narrow lane of perhaps half a mile, or a narrow head reflecting the current left and right, like the wedge shaped front of a boat bridge pier. At the time of their incipience these new islands may be tenanted only by river birds, but, necessarily in the course of successful exploration, as well as of invasion, and a week after their birth the driftwood hill swarms with animal refugees, dogs, deer and capybaras, jostling each other in their struggle for a base of operations, then often getting noisy enough to attract the prowling catybaras.

The climbing talent of the great cats saves them the trouble of evaporation. The jaguar and the ocelot become truly arboreal, traveling like monkeys from branch to branch, and making themselves at home in the tree tops—so much indeed that some of them go to housekeeping and raise a litter of cubs in the cavity of a hollow tree.

Their lair is replenished by all sorts of flesh-eaters and wood-borers, who make their headquarters in the underbrush, but who are now obliged to take up lodgings on the lower branches of the mangrove trees. By climbing around the stem and rising suddenly in view as the sun can scare a host of gallinaceous fowl out of their hole and strike down two or three of the clumsy quail before the whole flock contrives to take wing—San Francisco Chronicle.

Glaciers.

Glaciers plunge from the sea in many wild, fantastic and perilous, floating away as herds, but their end is by dissolution where the annual mean temperature rises considerably above the freezing point. At some points level they melt faster than they can flow, and so terminate.

The land, indeed, is a fluctuating sea. Icebergs glaciers are now steadily advancing. Swiss glaciers, according to M. Perle, have undergone during the present century five alternating periods of diminution and growth.

The meteorological changes, oscillating and emphasized by these oscillations, are very slight. Their character, however, is unmistakable, and such as might have been anticipated. That is to say, glacial decrease accompanies a warm and dry year, and glacial increase, one that is damp and cool.

Without an additional degree of cold it is conceivable that a persistently augmented deposit of snow upon the glaciers would cause them to advance, starting from the same source, crossed the frozen or un-frozen lake of Geneva, and descending to the Gulf of Lyons. Without severe cold, as well as heavy precipitation, ice could not possibly have gained so great a momentum. And this was no local phenomenon—it was simultaneously prevalent over widely separated tracts of the earth's surface.—Edinburgh Review.

An Ornament to the Profession. The political orator was just warning up to his subject.

"Gentlemen," he said impressively, "the great party of freedom—the party that has upheld the dignity of the American eagle and strengthened it so that it is now able to flap its wings in the face of the British lion, or any other animal on the European continent—made no mistake when it nominated that able and representative citizen, William Montgomery Blair, for alderman from the ward."

"I did," replied the tall, angular man in the back of the hall. "May I ask you to repeat the remark I didn't quite catch it."

"Certainly, sir, I am glad you—"

"He's been an ornament to the profession, I suppose, but that's all. He never has been any use to it. And gentlemen, are we looking for ornaments to put on the ticket?"—Detroit Free Press.

An Architect's Clean White Front. George McKee Kemp's indifference to dress is amusingly illustrated by an incident which occurred when he was called upon to attend a committee meeting, in order to discuss the restoration of Glasgow cathedral. He performed the journey from Edinburgh to Glasgow on foot, and on arriving at his destination it occurred to him that a fresh shirt front would freshen his toilet to a sufficient degree.

He bought the article, put it on, and quite satisfied with his immaculate appearance waited on the committee, and then, business dispatched, called upon a relative.

"Why, George," cried that "plain spoken" person, "what have you been doing to your shirt collar? Just look in the glass and see what a fright you are!"

Kemp looked in the mirror and then burst into hearty laughter.

"It didn't get better now," he said, "for, first and all, I am, I have been among the great folks."

He had forgotten to remove his travel stained collar, and there it appeared, rising majestically above the new and spotless one.—Yonkers Companion.

Young Walter de Untraville, son of Oliver, had left a widow, Emma, presumably in the very bloom of her charms. Peter de Untraville had fallen in his first, but he declined to claim her in her father's house, and this fact, in the current plauds of the chivalry of his day, was a disgrace to his name. He was bound to her, and with the de Untraville was always a security. So he offered the king five palaces for her, and she wished it, and with what would read as a graceful acknowledgment of the lover's pure chivalry, John absolutely drops the commercial from his reply and simply orders Robert Fitz Roger, the sheriff, "to permit it to be done."—Gentleman's Magazine.

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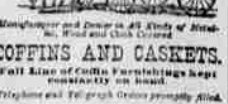


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