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FOSSILIZED TREES.

IMMENSE FORESTS THAT HAVE TURNED TO STONE.

An Insight Into the Mighty Operations of Nature—One of the Many Wonders of the Great Yellowstone National Park Fossil Forest Ridge.

The Yellowstone National park is called the wonderland of America, and since the destruction of the New Zealand geyser area it is perhaps entitled to be called the wonderland of the world, for within its limits the most varied of nature's workings may be observed. Its hundreds of hot springs and geysers, its precipitous canyons and rushing cataracts, its snow capped mountain peaks and mirrored lakes make it of surpassing interest. The lover of natural scenery may linger long over its beauties and its wonders.

From the geological point of view it is also of great interest, for here may be found rocks that range in age from the most ancient of which we have any knowledge to those in process of formation at the present moment. The superheated waters of the hot springs and geysers hold a large amount of rock-making material in solution, which is deposited about the openings of the springs on the cooling of the waters, and in this way building up a mass of great magnitude. These springs and geysers are constantly breaking out in new places, often on the borders or in the forests of living trees. The trees are killed at once by the hot water, and on becoming withered and dry begin soon to take up the rockmaking solution by which they are bathed, and thus to pass into the fossil state.

Conditions similar to these, or at least favorable to the preservation of fossil forests, appear to have existed from a remote time, for there is evidence to show that the fossil forests were preserved before the most active of the hot spring phenomena were inaugurated. These fossil forests are located in the northeastern corner of the Yellowstone National park, at a place known locally as Amethyst mountain, or Fossil Forest ridge. This is really a mountain some ten miles long and rising nearly or quite 2,000 feet above the general level of the valley. If it were possible to cut a section down through this mountain, as a slice is cut from a loaf of bread, there would be found a succession of at least 15 fossil forests, one above another—that is to say, at some remote day, geologically speaking, there grew a great forest, which was covered up by the ejected material from a great volcano, rivaling in size Mount Etna, that is known to have existed some miles to the north. The trees were entombed in an upright position, and under the action of silica charged waters were fossilized. The action of the volcano ceased, and quiet was restored for a sufficient length of time for a second forest to be developed above the first. Then came a second outburst from the volcano, and this forest was buried and fossilized like the first, and so, in turn, have the dozen or more forests flourished and been engulfed.

Then came the final quiet, the rumbling of the volcano ceased, and its fires were extinguished. But immediately the action of the elements began, and the wearing forces of rain and frost, acting through long ages, have carved on this mountain, in the heart of which may be read the story of its origin. This denudation appears to have been unaccompanied by any of the violent movements so often characteristic of mountain building, and consequently when the softer material is worn away from around the trunks they stand upright in the exact positions in which they grew originally.

The first forest to be visited is in the vicinity of Yancey's, a stage station on the trail route from the Mammoth Hot Springs to Cooke City, Mon. It is about a mile west of the junction of the Lamar ridge and the Yellowstone, and on the middle slope of a low hill. As one approaches the locality, several trunks are observed standing on the hillside, which at a distance seem quite like the stumps of living trees, and even a nearer approach barely suffices to reveal their true nature, as they are covered with lichens and blackened and discolored by frost and rain. They are, however, veritable fossil trunks, standing upright on the steep hillside, in the same positions in which they grew. The largest trunk is 18 1/2 feet in circumference and about 15 feet in height. It is considerably weathered and must have been much larger when living, for the bark is in no place preserved. The others—and there are dozens of them—are slightly smaller, and have been weathered down until, in most cases, only a few inches can be seen above the surface. So perfectly are they preserved that each stump shows the annual rings as distinctly visible as in a freshly cut living tree, and even each tiny cell, with its fine and delicate markings, is absolutely perfect.

The next forest is some 10 or 12 miles distant, along the Lamar river, on the south side of which faces the Fossil Forest ridge. In some places perpendicular cliffs many feet in height may be seen. These cliffs have worn away, leaving exposed huge trees, which may be observed from a distance of a mile or more from the valley, standing out in bold relief, as it has been aptly said, "like the pillars of some ancient temple." A closer view shows these trees to be from 40 to 6 feet in diameter, and often 90 or 80 feet high, with their great roots running off into the solid rock. A great niche in the face of the wall marks the place from which one of these trunks has fallen. Some of the remaining ones appear just ready to fall, while others project but little beyond the face—showing that the mountain is filled with the remains of these trees.—Epoch.

The train to take: The Knights Templar official train, having on board Grand Commander Finch and escort, will leave Omaha via the Burlington Route at 4:35 p. m., Thursday, Aug. 22d, after arrival of all trains from the west. Through to Boston without change. Seven hours stopover at Niagara Falls.

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Half Rates to Boston.
August 19 to 24, Burlington Route agents in Nebraska and Kansas will sell round trip tickets to Boston at the one way rate. Return limit, Oct. 6th.

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MUST KNOW THE STREAM.

The Information a Western River Pilot Must Carry in His Head.

At the season of the year when the river excursion business is at its height and hundreds of boats are carrying thousands of people to and fro along the entire length of the Ohio river from Pittsburg to Cairo many persons who ordinarily never give the subject a thought are impressed with the wonderful way in which navigation on our beautiful stream is carried on. The first thing noticed generally is the accuracy with which the pilot handles the boat, avoiding the bars, which are near the surface of the water in the summer, going from one side of the river to the other, and finally, without a jar, landing them all safely at their destination. When the excursion business is over, these same men, in similar positions on packets and towboats, carrying hundreds of tons of freight and thousands of bachelors of coal on every trip with the same accuracy with which they handled the excursion steamers during the summer.

A large number of the pilots running out of Cincinnati know the river from New Orleans to New Orleans, others from here to Memphis, and others still to points up the river as far as Pittsburg. "Know the river," this phrase means much. For instance, a man running from here to New Orleans must be able to take charge of the wheel of his boat at any hour of the day or night at any point on the river and on any stage of water. He must be able to tell at a glance exactly where the boat is at any point on this long stretch of 1,518 miles. He must know every bend and oxbow, and by day the different points by which to steer, such as houses, barns, trees, fences and even haystacks; by night every light placed by the government in conspicuous places as well as the hills and their shape. He must know exactly how long to hold the boat to one light or object before changing to another. When the Mississippi river is reached, a new feature presents itself in the shape of the constantly changing channel. To work here requires more skill and greater judgment probably than all the rest of the difficulties combined. Going down a boat may go on one side of the river. Coming back it doesn't go within two miles of that place. When these things are appreciated—and they are only a few of the things a pilot must know—then it is that the pilot gets credit for what he does.—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

Kipling's Mulvaney.

The statement published in various newspapers to the effect that the original of Mr. Kipling's intimitable Mulvaney is now living and talking in San Francisco under the name of McManus, has called out a pleasant letter from the author. It is addressed to the editor of The Book Buyer.

"In reply to your letter," Mr. Kipling writes, "I can only say that I know nothing of the Private McManus mentioned in the cutting you forward. At the same time, I should be loath to interfere with a fellow romancer's trade, and if there be such a person as Private McManus, and if he believes himself to be the original of Terence Mulvaney, and can tell tales to back his claim, we will allow that he is a good enough Mulvaney for the Pacific slope and wait developments.

"At the same time I confess his seems to me rather a daring game to play, for Terence alone of living men knows the answer to the question, 'How did Deersley come by the palanquin?' It is not one of the questions that agitate the civilized world, but for my own satisfaction I would give almost any deal to have it answered. If Private McManus can answer it without evasions or reservations, he will prove that he has some small right to be regarded as Mulvaney's successor. Mulvaney is dead, but there is but one Terence, and he has never set foot in America, and never will."

Double Duty.
A capital story was once told of the Rev. Thomas Hunt, the veteran temperance-creator, who was well known in the early history of the Wyoming valley. He was a somewhat eccentric man, but possessed a remarkably quick wit, which showed him in good evidence many occasions.

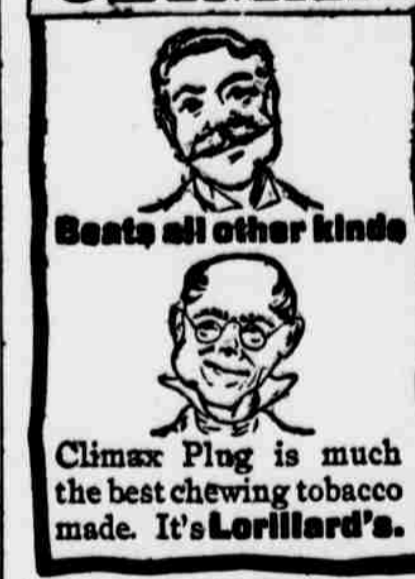
During the civil war he enlisted in one of the regiments of infantry raised in the valley and served as chaplain. One day in the very height of the battle a major rode up in front of the regiment, and seeing Father Hunt at the head of the ranks inquired in great astonishment:

"Chaplain, what are you doing there?"
"What am I doing?" repeated the stanch old minister quickly. "I'm cheering the hearts of the brave and watching the heels of the cowards!"
He was evidently performing this double task so well and thoroughly that the major could find no fault with him and left him to his self appointed charge.—Youth's Companion.

Many men of many minds



CLIMAX



WATER POWER.

American and European Methods of Using It in a Large Way.

The standard American method of utilizing a large amount of water power has hitherto been to distribute the water to the several consumers or mill owners by means of a system of head races, so called, with facilities for its discharge at a lower level, to be utilized as the owner or lessee saw fit, and generally on his own premises. This led to long head canals and to insignificant tail races, whereas the Niagara plant consists of a common tail race, a mile and a half long, with comparatively insignificant head races. The old time water power company sold or leased the right to draw a definite quantity of water at defined times, with the privilege of discharging it at a lower level, and the mill owner did the rest, whereas at Niagara Falls the right is leased to discharge a definite quantity of water into the tail race tunnel, with the privilege of drawing this quantity from the head canal, or from the river. But over and above this the product—power—may be contracted for at Niagara Falls, delivered on the shaft.

To create a large group of mill sites of the older sort there was necessary, in the first instance, a large, continuous body of land, properly located for the purpose. If this could not be bought up secretly, and in large blocks, the whole water power enterprise would fail to come to fruition. In Europe, however, several such enterprises came into being in spite of the inability of the projectors to primarily buy tracts of land such as have been described. This was done by establishing central power stations near the dam, or head canal, and then transmitting the power produced, instead of the water to produce it, to the consumers or mill owners. Up to within, say, five years, this had always been accomplished by means of wire rope transmissions of power, and it is only to see that the invention of the electrical transmission of power would give this form of the utilization of a large water power a great impetus. Many such plants are therefore already in existence, many are building, and among them all no one is probably so celebrated and attracting the attention of all intelligent men as this at Niagara Falls.—Cassier's Magazine.

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Died With His Chum.
In the reminiscences of General Sir Evelyn Wood, himself a brave English soldier, a touching instance of courage and self sacrifice is given. One June day in 1885 a detachment of English marines was crossing the Woronsow road under fire from the Russian batteries. All of the men reached shelter in the trenches except a seaman, John Blewitt. As he was running a terrific roar was heard. His mates knew the voice of a huge cannon, the terror of the army, and yelled:

"Look out! It is Whistling Dick!"
But at the moment Blewitt was struck by the enormous mass of iron on the knees and thrown to the ground. He called to his special chum:
"Oh, Welch, save me!"
The fuse was hissing, but Stephen Welch ran out of the trenches, and seizing the great shell tried to roll it off of his comrade.
It exploded with such terrific force that not an atom of the bodies of Blewitt or Welch was found. Even in that time when each hour had its excitement, this deed of heroism stirred the whole English army. One of the officers searched out Welch's old mother in her poor home and undertook his support while she lived, and the story of his death helped his comrades to nobler conceptions of a soldier's duty.

A True High.
Her Brother—A wfully bad news, sister.
The Sister—What?
Her Brother—That count of yours is a bogus one.
The Sister—How did you find that out?
Her Brother—I was telling him today how hard up I was, and he actually offered to lend me \$100.—Syracuse Post.

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with his surroundings—who wants to better his condition in life—who knows that he can do so if given half a chance, should write to J. Francis, Omaha, Neb., for a copy of a little book recently issued by the Passenger Department of the Burlington Route.
It is entitled "A New Empire" and contains 32 pages of information about Sheridan County and the Big Horn Basin, Wyoming, a veritable Land of Promise, towards which the eyes of thousands are now hopefully turned.

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