



HOME WEEK IN VERMONT

There are five times as many people in the city of Chicago as there are in the whole state of Vermont, says the Chicago Tribune. Perhaps two-thirds as many people born in Vermont live outside that state as still reside within its borders. Vermont has been described as a state composed chiefly of hills, mountains, rocks, lakes, and stone quarries. Of its farming land 200,000 acres have been abandoned by those who formerly tilled it and can be bought for \$4 or \$5 an acre. Since the war the population of the state has practically stood still. Its sturdy sons are attracted by the greater opportunities to get rich offered by the fertile West and the large cities of the country. They are widely scattered all over the Union. But wherever they go the sons and daughters of Vermont carry with them deep and abiding love for the Green Mountain States. All over the country may be found associations of the Sons and Daughters of Vermont. In the other New England states alone there are eight great societies of the kind, with an aggregate of 100,000 natives of Vermont who are eligible for membership.

So strong is the affection of the Vermont man for his old home that preparations are now under way for a great and unique celebration in honor of it. In this celebration practically the whole state of Vermont will take part, and the state legislature, by special enactment, has set apart the week of Aug. 11-16 to be given up to it. Invitations bearing the great seal of the state and the signature of the governor have been sent out to tens of thousands of natives bidding them come back to the Green Mountains and join with the stay-at-home population in fitting celebration of "Old Home Week." So general has been the response to these invitations that the plans now under way provide for the entertainment of more than 100,000 returning prodigals. Nothing could furnish stronger proof of the fact that sentiment is still one of the ruling forces of the world.

From Boston will run at least two special trains loaded with sons and daughters of Vermont, and from almost every state word has come that parties are being formed for "Old Home Week." In the meantime the present citizens of that state are making most elaborate plans for the reception of their returning kinsfolk. In more than 100 Vermont towns and cities special and separate celebrations will be held, and every hillside in the state will echo with the strains of "Home, Sweet Home." No matter in what hamlet or on what hillside farm a native Vermonter was born, he will be likely to find his old friends and neighbors gathered together there in reunion during the week of the Old Home celebration.

At Burlington, Rutland, and other large towns of the state, which in comparison with the great cities of the country are mere villages, local associations have been formed which will receive and entertain as their guests the Vermont associations which are coming from distant states. Figuratively speaking, a beacon fire of welcome will be lighted on every mountain top.

To the average man the enthusiasm of the native Vermonter for the stony state which gave him birth is hard to understand. But if he asks a Vermont man to give the reasons for the faith which is in him he is likely to be astonished.

"Did you ever hear of the Green Mountain boys?" he will answer. "Do you remember how Ethan Allen and eighty-three Vermont farmers surprised the great British stronghold of Fort Ticonderoga and forced its surrender in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress? Does Crown Point mean anything to you? Have you forgotten Bennington, where General Stark whipped the Hessians, killing 964 out of 1,500 men, and capturing all their cannon? If you'll go down home with me in August and climb up to the top of the Bennington Battle Monument you'll wonder.

as I do, how a Vermont man can live in one of these flat prairie states."

These Green Mountain boys, who cut such a dashing figure in the revolution, had some practice in fighting before that war began. They were busy for several years before Lexington in driving out the immigrants from New York, who attempted to seize their lands under a royal grant. In 1777, in fact, the people of Vermont got together and declared themselves a free and independent state, without waiting to be taken into the union or asking the consent of anybody. In this exhibition of spunk the sons of Vermont still glory.

In the record of the state during the rebellion Vermont people find another cause for just pride. When Sumter was fired on Vermont had 37,000 enrolled militia. Out of this number 35,000 promptly went into the Union army. More than 5,000 were killed and as many more ruined by wounds and disease. No other state suffered so great a loss in proportion. During the whole war not a single Vermont regiment gave up its colors in battle, and what the Vermont man did at Bull Run, Cedar Creek, the Wilderness, and Gettysburg is a part of history. Vermont people are jealous of the reputation of their state in producing fighting men.

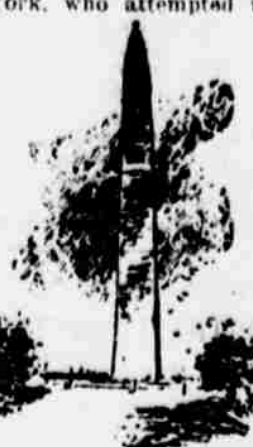
If you feel inclined to pity men born in a state which is sterile and inhospitable you will do well not to waste your sympathy on a Vermonter. He will tell you that Vermont produced 40,000,000 pounds a year of the best butter in the world; that one-third of all the maple sugar in America comes from Vermont groves; that the yearly hay crop of the state is valued at \$12,000,000, and that three-quarters of all the marble quarried in the United States comes from its hillsides. He will ask whether the horsemen of the country owe anything to the Morgan, Messenger, and Black Hawk strains, and what we should do for fine wool without Vermont sheep as a foundation for our flocks.

Vermont as the first state to be admitted to membership with the original thirteen, its admission dating from 1791. Until a few years ago nine-tenths of its population was of American birth. Recently a large number of Canadian French have come into the state to work in the great factories which are being built up about the water powers for which the state is famous. These people are said, as a race, to be the most prolific in the world and there is an expectation that the state will, therefore, increase somewhat more rapidly than it has in the past. Another effort is under way to fill up the depopulated farms with emigrants from Sweden, but the fact that more fertile land can be secured farther west has prevented any great results in this direction.

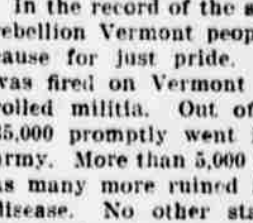
Almost equally with its history, the Vermont man is boastful of the natural



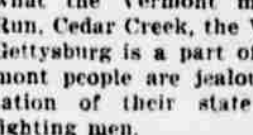
ETHAN ALLEN



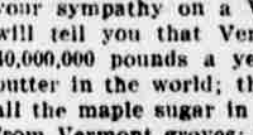
Bennington Monument



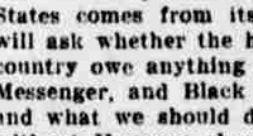
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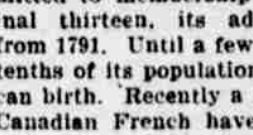
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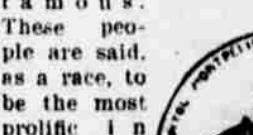
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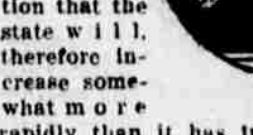
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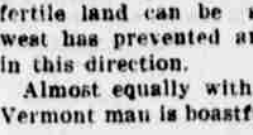
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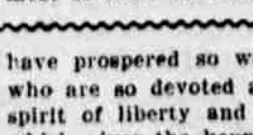
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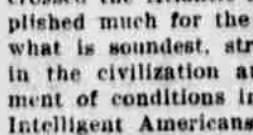
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beauty of his state. He alludes to the fact that there are eighteen mountain peaks more than 3,500 feet in height within the state limits and talks with a pang of remembered pleasure of the glories of Lake Champlain, which stretches for 118 miles in length and is fourteen miles wide. Of all the New England states Vermont is the only one entirely cut off from the sea, while at the same time its chief city, Burlington, on Lake Champlain, has a maritime commerce employing a fleet of 1,000 vessels and amounting in the aggregate to \$12,000,000 annually.

Testing Warnings at Sea.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since Prof. Tyndall, at the instance of the Trinity House corporation, carried out a series of experiments at the South Foreland, near Dover, England, to determine the value of various sounds as warnings to the mariner of his approach to dangerous spots in thick weather. The result was a large increase in the number of fog signals all round the British coast. Much knowledge has been acquired and many new inventions have been made in the intervening period, and a special committee of the elder brethren of the Trinity House, assisted by Lord Rayleigh and other eminent scientists and engineers have been engaged for some time in making elaborate tests of all the latest improvements in the different kinds of apparatus for making cautionary noises. The scene of their operations is the Isle of Wight. One of their chief objects is to determine the relative merits of reeds and sirens as sound producers. Much attention, also, has been given to the trumpet and various modifications of that instrument. Other careful experiments are to determine the carrying capacity, in certain conditions of notes of different pitch, and the effect on the dissemination of sound of the conformation of the coast line, etc. Another point to be considered is the question of the most effective and the most economical utilization of power.—New York Post.

The Laughing Plant of Arabia.

The laughing plant is a native of Central and Eastern Arabia. It gets its name, not because the plant laughs, but because it is the cause of creating laughter in any one eating its seeds. The plant is of moderate size, with bright yellow flowers in clusters, and soft, velvety seed pods, each of which contains two or three seeds resembling small black beans, which, if eaten, produce effects analogous to those of laughing gas. The flavor of the seeds is somewhat like that of opium; they taste sweet, while their odor produces a sickening sensation. The seeds are pulverized and taken in small doses. Any one taking them begins to laugh loudly and boisterously, and then sings, dances, and cuts all kinds of fantastic capers. The effects continue for about an hour, and when the excitement ceases, the exhausted individual falls into a deep sleep, on awakening from which he is utterly unconscious of any such demonstrations having been made by him when under the influence of the seeds of the laughing plant.

Protestants Show Priest Good Will.

A number of Protestant citizens of Toledo, O., believing that Rev. Edward Hannin, a Catholic priest of that city, had overworked himself in the interests of his parish in the erection of a new church, quietly collected \$1,000 and tendered it to defray his expenses on a health trip abroad. Father Hannin declined the offer on the ground that he cannot this year sever himself from the parish interests.

To Preserve Trailing Arbutus.

In an almost despairing effort to stay the dreaded extinction of the fragrant trailing arbutus flower, the Legislature of Connecticut passed a law in 1899 forbidding any person to pull up the plants by the roots on land owned by another under a penalty of \$20.

WESTERN WATER FARMING.

Wisconsin's Many Lakes Give Promise of Great Profit.

Scientists who make it their business to look ahead into the far future are now busy telling what will happen after all the land in the United States has been put under cultivation. When there are no more quarter sections upon which the settler can establish himself, it is predicted that water farming will become a general occupation. This information is comforting to residents of Wisconsin. No state in the Union has better facilities for water farming than the one famous for the number and beauty of its lakes. When the time comes for men to fence off acre plots on the crystal waters of the inland seas Wisconsin will have a boom worth waiting for with patience. Of course there will be drawbacks to water farming, but the industry offers great possibilities. Although it will be difficult to keep one's crop of fish from being mixed with one's neighbors', there will be no plowing or harrowing, no wrestling with stumps, and no trouble over irrigation. After the fish are planted each season there will be nothing to do but to wait until harvest time. By a little diplomatic advertising water farmers may persuade city men to spend their vacations on the lakes as assistants during this harvest season. Houseboats on the water farms would be ideal places of residence during the hot months. It is estimated that the fisheries of the United States produce food of the value of \$45,000,000 every year. As soon as the water farming industry has a good start, Wisconsin will be able to add millions to this amount. If the calamity howler cannot find anything worse to prophesy about than the water farm, this state can pursue daily its business pursuits without any forebodings.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

HOW TO KILL MOSQUITOES.

Chinatown Sells a Cheap and Most Effective Obolator.

It is the experience of the average housekeeper in Philadelphia that no matter how thoroughly the doors and windows of a house are screened, mosquitoes will get inside. Many of them do not understand that a small pool of stagnant water in a cellar or water standing in picher plants is a birthplace for thousands of mosquitoes. In flower vases on the table, where the water is not frequently changed, mosquito eggs are found in great numbers. Applications of kerosene oil will stop that. The general question is how to get the small insect pests out of the house when once they are in. To persons of careful habits chlorine gas is recommended. Pour into a plate containing four teaspoonfuls of chloride of lime about ten drops of crude sulphuric acid. This liberates the chlorine gas, which is said to kill the mosquitoes. The plan can be used only in rooms not temporarily occupied, or in which the gas vapors can be allowed to remain for several hours. The burning of pyrethrum powders in a room will also kill them. The powder should be moistened and then made into little cones, which are dried in the oven. When a cone is lighted at the top it smoulders slowly, emitting an odor which many persons find pleasant. But a good, simple and cheap mosquito killer may be bought in Chinatown. The Chinese use pine or juniper sawdust, mixed with a small quantity of brimstone and an ounce of arsenic. This mixture is put into little bags in a dry state. Each bag is coiled like a snake and tied tightly with a thread. The outer end is lighted. The coils sell at 10 cents a hundred and two of them are said to be enough to clear any ordinary room of mosquitoes.

Drastic Anti-Gambling Laws.

Some little time ago the Belgian chamber of deputies passed a somewhat drastic anti-gambling law. The bill has reached the upper house, and is being discussed in a somewhat acrimonious tone, and meeting considerable opposition. Some of the senators point out that gambling is inherent to human nature, and that if the law were carried into effect it would tend to foster clandestine gambling-houses on an extensive scale. This argument has been put forward before, but where the shoe really pinches seems to lie in the fact that the fashionable watering place of Ostend would be the principal sufferer. The casino there ranks with the famous gambling hell at Monte Carlo, and many of the senators are said to be financially interested, and hence their opposition. It is claimed that if the casino were abolished the loss to the town would lie between \$2,500,000 and \$5,000,000, and that most of the public works now in progress would have to be abandoned as they were undertaken on the strength of the revenues derived from the gaming tables.

A Remarkable Voyage.

The arrival at Manila of the squadron comprising the gunboat Annapolis and the ocean tugs Prolic, Piscataquis, and Wampatuck, which sailed from Hampton roads early last winter, completes a remarkable voyage. This is the longest trip ever accomplished by such tiny naval craft and was probably never equalled by similar warships. The distance covered was nearly two-thirds around the world, crossing one ocean, skirting the southern part of Europe, thence through the tornado seas of the Indian ocean, down to the Philippines at a season when typhoons are usual. There have been trips of small ships across the Atlantic and once an old monitor was sent around to San Francisco by the Horn, but no vessels of such light displacement have yet covered so much dangerous water area as the little squadron of American boats.

CRITICISE EDITOR.

YOUNG WRITERS WHOSE MANUSCRIPTS ARE REJECTED.

Look Upon the Editor as a Very Incompetent Person — Edward Bok Shows How It Is Very Natural for Them to Think So.

There is a popular impression, a very general one in fact, that the editor of a magazine never reads the manuscripts which are sent to him by unknown writers; that all such manuscripts are returned unread, or are thrown into capacious waste-baskets. A great many writers believe this because they want to believe it. And, really, anything becomes plausible if one only believes it hard enough and long enough. It would never do for those who write, and whose writings are not found acceptable, to believe anything else; for the brain-children of a writer are as precious to him as are the blood-children of a mother to her. Each is perfect in the eyes of its parent. Therefore, the editor cannot have had any acquaintance with these brain-children. If he had had they would have been immediately adopted into the magazine family. So, you see, the case is perfectly clear and easily proven against the editor. Here and there it is conceded that the editor does occasionally read a manuscript. But that is only when some famous name is attached to it. And some persons go so far as to say that the editor does not read even these manuscripts. They prove their ground again by saying that if the editor had read the manuscripts by these famous folk he never would have printed them. So there the editor is again trapped. The simple and natural deduction is, therefore, that he reads no manuscript at all. If I may drift for a moment into personal reminiscence, I will recall a case where a considerable lady, who had ascertained in some occult manner that I had a great deal of leisure on my hands, sent me a manuscript, and said that, as a test of a personal reading, she had left out every "a," "and" and "the," and it was for me to supply the words wherever missing as proof that I had read the manuscript. It was a brief article of some eleven thousand words! It so happened, unfortunately, that at that particular time I was very busy. It was true that my occupation was not important; it was simply that I was preparing a number of the magazine for my readers; I presume I could have put the work off for a week. But I didn't, and the manuscript went back without the missing words supplied. I see now that it was a mistake. For that particular lady had had me in the pillory in the public prints a number of times, and has clearly proven the case of an unread manuscript against me. She has thus far withheld the facts of the missing words, but, of course, that is an unimportant detail in proving her case! I remember another instance of a very sweet young lady who inserted some of her most beautiful ribbons between the pages of a manuscript. It so happens that I have no particular taste for ribbons, and as the members of my family do not care for the combined colors of bright orange and a rose scarlet, I had no special use for the ribbons and so put them back in the manuscript. Naturally, it was another case against me. I was caught "red-handed" as it were. With the knowledge of how it is done, any one can easily figure out how impossible it is for a young writer to get into one of the modern magazines. This is particularly true of the young author of distinct promise. The more ability he shows in his first manuscript the tighter are the lines drawn to keep him out. And as all the magazine editors think and act as one man in this particular respect it is easy to see what a formidable front the young author has to face. It is hard on the young author, I allow, but to give way for an instant would mean calamity to the argument of the unknown writer that a writer without fame cannot secure an audience for his wares in the magazines of to-day. And the editor must make good the unknown writer's argument. In fact, that is what he is there for, pure and simple. Every publisher of a magazine employs an editor solely to keep merit and unknown writers out of his periodical! That is all an editor does! The magazine editor, in other words, is a man to be envied! He lives a life of perfect ease and luxury! His personal friends write the contents; the printers print the magazine, and the publisher publishes it. So, what is there left for the editor to do? Nothing but to play golf!—Edward Bok in Ladies Home Journal.

THE FORTY-DAY PERIOD.

Persistent Use of Number Forty Since Earliest Times.

A man who has done readers and students notable service in collating many of the curiosities of literature, calls attention to the peculiar and persistent use of the number forty ever since the earliest time. The Deluge lasted for forty days and forty nights; Moses an Elijah fasted forty days; the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years; the spies spent forty days examining the land of Canaan, before making their report; and Jonah, it will be remembered, gave the inhabitants of Nineveh forty days in which to consider his prophecy and repent. The miraculous fast of Moses and Elijah is reproduced in that of Christ, and the latter is now observed by the church in the forty days of Lent. The mysterious import of the forty-day period has been recognized in the legislation of France and of England from the earliest ages. Louis IX., of France, called Saint Louis, established the King's Quarantine, during which no man could average an injury. We use the word quarantine to signify, specifically, an enforced stoppage of travel to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, but its real meaning is a period of forty days. William the Conqueror of England ordained that no man should be allowed to remain in England longer than forty days unless he was enrolled in some tithing. The Magna Charta provided that a widow should be allowed to remain in her husband's mansion for forty days after his death, during which time her dowry was to be turned over to her. These are only a few limitations of the use of the forty-day period. How that use originated, no one knows. Forty days is not a regular division of time like a week or a month, but is wholly arbitrary. The only plausible explanation is that this period approximates a division of the early lunar year by the mystic number 9.

When Lady Fishes Fight.

Supt. Spencer of the aquarium, spoke of the fighting fishes he has down there. "Strange to say, the lady fish is the hardest fighter to be found. Now, some lady fish agree and are happy together. When they disagree and fight they go at it just the same as women. They bite, gouge, and, so to speak, tear each other's hair out. The only difference is that the hair on a fish is its scales. When a scale is once torn off it never grows on again. Angel fish sometimes fight. Trout in some of the basins start to fight, and we have to separate them. But when it comes down to a rough-and-tumble fight the lady fish will beat any of a similar size and weight."—New York Times.

France to Lay More Cables.

The question of an extended system of French submarine cables, which has been so long intermittently occupying the attention of the government, now promises to come speedily to an issue. Ever since December, 1899, a special committee has been studying the matter, calling in expert advice to help them, and the result is a bill, just finished, which the government proposes shortly to present to the chamber. This bill outlines an agreement with the French cable company for the construction and care of an extended network of cables, aggregating nearly 10,000 miles in length and \$2,000,000 in cost.

The Sting of Poverty is not Always in its Tail.

The sting of poverty is not always in its tail.

SMALL HORSES FOR WAR.

Day of Heavy Cavalry on Big Chargers Is Over.

The recent experience in South Africa proved to the intelligent English mind that the day of heavy cavalry mounted on sixteen-hand chargers was almost as much over as that of the knights of Agincourt. I have myself more than once discoursed upon this very theme, and insisted on the necessity of producing a war horse capable of more durable service on worse rations than any now bred in England, advocating, too, precisely Sir Walter's plan of breeding from Arab sires. Nevertheless, the pronouncement of so high an authority on horse matters as is Sir Walter Gilbey is an event of importance, for there is nobody the English public listens to more willingly, nor by whom it is more ready to be convinced. The argument for small horses in war is one capable of almost mathematical demonstration. In every campaign horses have necessarily to put up with short rations, often with semi-starvation, and the horse that can do with the least and worst food lasts the longest, and the longest lasting wins. If, then, a small horse can maintain himself where a big one starves, doing equal or nearly equal work, the small horse is demonstrably the better. Apart from artillery and transport, where heavy draught power will always be needed, a pony of 14.2, if properly bred—it has been proved in South Africa—will do all the work of a horse of 16 hands, and on equal rations (where these are scanty) will last twice as long. The small horse, too, is easier managed; he is less troublesome to mount under fire and to dismount from on the march. This last is no small advantage when men are weary. The Bedouins on their raids are constantly up and down, on and off their mares, running beside them half the night, and so easing and saving them. The small horse, too, is a smaller target to the enemy, is easier hidden in the folds of the ground, and is easier stowed on shipboard. He needs a less stout rope to tether him, a scantier shelter to screen him in rough weather. It is not necessary to have been to the wars to know this.—Nineteenth Century.

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GIGANTIC STONES FALLING.



The great rocks at Stonehenge, England, which have puzzled archaeologists for centuries, are falling and most of them are now on their sides.

lack of space for our German accessions. That western consul was suffering from indigestion or billiousness when he sent word to Berlin that Germans should stay at home because his purblind vision could see no open door for newcomers here. We want more Germans. They can help us and we can help them.—New York Tribune.

Room Still for the Germans.

A German consul in a western city has warned Germany that immigration from all parts of the fatherland to the United States should cease, because, he says, the crafts and trades in these states are overcrowded, and that no German inclined to seek new fortunes can hope to grow rich in America. That consul is evidently a pessimist of an exceptionally dolorous sort. There is still plenty of room in this wide land for additions to the host of sturdy Germans who

have prospered so well with us and who are so devoted and loyal to the spirit of liberty and true democracy which gives the keynote to our most cherished institutions. Thousands of Germain's sons and daughters have crossed the Atlantic and have accomplished much for the advancement of what is soundest, strongest and best in the civilization and the advancement of conditions in this continent. Intelligent Americans desire that the volume of German immigration may be increased largely. And there is no