



EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Worth of Weather Predictions.

ACCORDING to the authorities at Washington, only 17 per cent of the weather forecasts are failures. It must be admitted that the worth of the Weather Department is growing, and that it has become invaluable. Along the great lakes and rivers the weather forecasters practically control commerce. So much faith is placed in their information that ships sail or remain in port, according to the intelligence given out. On the great lakes it is seldom that a great storm finds shipping unprepared, because the weather man has done his duty.

The farmers are especially benefited by weather intelligence, and the faith that the public has in predictions is shown by the fact that in every newspaper office the one item that must appear without fail, in some fixed prominent position, is the weather report. Every year there is development and more scientific accuracy in peering into the future.—Cincinnati Post.

Be Grateful to the Farmer.

IN seeking the reason for the nation's continued prosperity do not overlook the farmer. He is the man who set the wave of prosperity in motion. Secretary Wilson, of the Agricultural Department, now shows facts and figures to prove that it is the farmer who is still keeping the country prosperous. In 1903, for instance, the surplus of farm products which were not needed for domestic consumption and were sold abroad amounted to \$878,000,000. Exclusive of farm products, the balance of trade was against us, the exports of other products falling \$56,000,000 below the imports. So great was the farmer's contribution to the export trade, however, that his products not only wiped out this balance but established a balance in our favor of fully \$367,000,000.

It is not without reason that Secretary Wilson breaks into praise of the growers of wheat and corn and other agricultural products. Big crops mean activity in all productive and manufacturing lines and an immense freight-carrying traffic on the railroads. A large business for the railroads means general activity in the variegated industries which

contribute to railway maintenance and operation. It also means large and regular dividends and a healthful tone in the world of finance. In fact, while the farmer is producing large and salable crops the nation has a stable basis of prosperity which even the wildest financiering of Wall street speculators cannot disturb.—Chicago News.

The Futility of War.

IN this day and age of the world, what an anachronism it seems that Russia and Japan must settle their differences by the arbitrament of the sword. Nearly two thousand years after Christ, has the world advanced so little, is there no other way? Must men still be food for cannon, to serve the selfish ambitions of their rulers?

What nation ever permanently profited by war for war's sake? Where is the empire of Alexander, the Rome of Julius Caesar, the France as Napoleon made it? And the conquerors themselves? Caesar died by the hand of an assassin, because he was too ambitious. Alexander, unsatisfied, sighed for more worlds to conquer. Napoleon, perhaps the greatest of them all, died a hopeless prisoner, in the awful bankruptcy which robbed him of throne, son, wife, everything.

These men had drunk to the dregs of military glory; their fame makes beggars of the pung military heroes of a day; and yet—

Verestchagin in his *Vive l'Empereur* paints the glories of war in a heap of skulls with vultures flying overhead. A young French professor of history, M. Herve, in a recent text book, thus summarizes Napoleon's work: "Four million men killed on the battlefield; national hatreds that were to perpetuate themselves and bring about fresh hostilities; the Declaration of the Rights of Man hated, and justly hated, by all humanity." If this be as unfair and one-sided as to curse Napoleon for the ills which France endured with the return of the Bourbons (as some writers actually do), it is not without suggestiveness as showing the other side of military glory—the conqueror cursed for his very triumphs, because of this awful cost of his glory in blood and treasure.—Albany Argus.

JAPANESE SOLDIERS CAN SHOOT STRAIGHT.



JAPANESE SHARPSHOOTERS FIRING FROM TRENCHES.

stitute and to the hatchery of the New York State fish commission, and during the two busy summer months when investigation is most active their facilities will be placed at its disposal. Along the upper end of the harbor a sandspit runs nearly the whole distance, forming an almost inclosed basin in which is very rich in marine life, while the channel between it and the outer harbor exhibits a rank growth of algae, among which mollusks and echinoderms are abundant.

There was some prospect at one time that the laboratory established at Woods Hole, at which excellent work has been done for some years, would be incorporated in the general system of the institution, but the selection of Cold Spring Harbor was made upon the advice of Professor Charles B. Davenport, of Harvard and Chicago universities, who will be the directing head of the new laboratory, and whose achievements in the past justify the highest expectation of the new line of investigation in which he is to engage. Researches into tropical marine life have not been carried so far as in higher altitudes, and rich discovery, it is believed, awaits the work at Dry Tortugas, which will be under the direction of Professor Alfred G. Mayer, formerly of Harvard and now president of the zoological department of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Science seems to be adventuring into broader realms of mystery than ever before. It is bolder and more persistent than at any previous time in the world's history. It is building not for to-day, but for all time. The structure which it proposes to rear is boundless, and its fearlessness and faith are in striking contrast to the timidity with which, not so many years ago, it approached problems which now seem simple if not almost contemptible. Could Professor Darwin return and witness the emancipation of mind wrought by his doctrine of evolution he would have no reason to reproach himself for contributing nothing to the world's progress. It is nothing less than the secret of life that it is proposed to probe at these laboratories. How does it start; upon what conditions does it depend in the scale of ascent or descent? As Professor Blackford, of the fish and game commission, says of it, "Neither Professor Davenport nor anyone else expects to live to see the work undertaken more than just begun. It is laid out on lines com-

prehending the causes of maintenance and development that will require a course of observation of possibly centuries."—Boston Transcript.

NEW VEIL DANCE.

Just the Opposite from the Grotesque and Noisy Cake Walk.

A new dance which has already captivated Paris has made its appearance in the London ball rooms, says the London Mail.

The dance of the veil—la danse di voile—is just the opposite of the grotesque and noisy cake walk, and is likely to bring back something of the grace and beauty of the stately minuet.

The veil dancers float and glide about with light, nebulous wings attached to the side or back of the corset. These they wave up and down as they daintily advance or recede with tripping steps, or manipulate them so as to form beautiful and varied figures in wing and cloud effects.

Much of the beauty of the dance depends on the cleverness and originality of the dancer, who may make it stately with statuesque poses, or romping and coquetish, as will best suit her personality.

In the ball room the veil dancer's wings are worn with the regular evening gown, being fashioned of color, material and design to harmonize with the costume for which they are intended.

The wings may be of silk, with long ends, which are waved and handled like scarfs, but those of tulle or muslin are generally preferred, as they give a delightful, transparent, gauzy effect and are more novel, is not so easy to manipulate prettily.

Often the wings are bespangled with gold or silver, so that they scintillate and flash as the dancer moves to and fro waving them beneath the lights.—Boston Herald.

Poet and Reader.

William Morris once heard one of his poems read by a famous elocutionist says W. B. Yeats, the Irish poet. The reader was carefully obliterating all the original rhythm in order to give what he conceived to be the proper expression.

Mr. Morris sat in uneasy silence for some moments, but at last he could stand it no longer.

"Young man," he exclaimed, "it cost me a great deal of trouble to put that into verse! I wish you would read it as it is written."

GOOD Short Stories

When Sir Charles Gavan Duffy was a member of the Melbourne Parliament he declared that the conduct of the opposition was worse than Nero's. A wealthy but ignorant butcher, also a member of Parliament, asked, with scorn and sincerity, "Who was Nero?" "Who was Nero?" replied the delighted Chief Secretary; "the honorable gentleman ought to know. Nero was a celebrated Roman butcher."

The following sentiment has been variously attributed to Stephen Grellet, Sir Rowland Hill, and to Edward Courtenay and the Earl of Devon, and is said to have been inscribed upon the tombstone of the latter: "I expect to pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to any fellowbeing, let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Sir Henry Irving was in New York when Nat Goodwin, who was playing Bottom in "Midsummer Night's Dream," had a narrow escape from death while crossing Brooklyn Bridge. Sir Henry was very incredulous about the story, insisting that the papers had been humbugged. When finally assured that the accident had actually happened, he remarked: "Well, I thought it might have been one of Goodwin's midwinter night dreams."

Herbert Spencer used in his later years to pay visits to Grant Allen, between whom and himself there existed a great friendship. On one occasion he came provided with two curious objects tied behind his ears. These excited the curiosity of the company. Their purpose was soon disclosed, for whenever the conversation took a turn which did not interest him he pulled the things over his ears, and so obtained silence within himself. He called them ear-clips.

The women of New York have been making much of Prince Mohammed Barakatullah. Recently he delivered a lecture before the Professional Women's League on the standing of the Mohammedan women in their own country, and touched upon the subject of polygamy. After his lecture, one of the ladies became personal, and asked him: "Prince, would you be contented with one wife?" "Madame," declared the Oriental, "I never had a desire for more than one until I met the American women."

In all of his accounts of European travel, Mark Twain expresses his dissatisfaction with the cooking there, and in his "Tramp Abroad" he devotes more than a page to a list of the good things he will get upon arriving in New York, supplementing it by a description of a real American beefsteak that would make Thackeray, famous as is his panegyric on the juicy tenderloin, turn in his grave. From all accounts, the American humorist has not modified his opinion of European chefs. It is said that, on leaving for his recent visit to Europe, he confided to Senator Depew: "Rather than eat those European breakfasts, do you know what I'll do? I'll nail a piece of cuttle-fish bone up on the chimney, and every morning I'll hop up on the mantel and pick at it with a tin bill. It will be just as filling and much cheaper than a European breakfast."

ORIGIN OF JEWELRY.

Personal Ornaments that were Objects of Magic—Aesthetic Uses.

Professor W. Ridgeway, in a paper on "The Origin of Jewelry," read before the British Association, said: "Personal ornaments in civilized countries consist of precious stones or imitations of stones, pearls (which are the product of shells), or shells themselves, amber, jet and occasionally various other objects, such as tigers' claws, etc. It has hitherto been held that men and women were led by purely aesthetic considerations to adorn themselves with such objects; but a little research into the history of such ornaments leads to a very different conclusion. The fact is that mankind was led to wear such objects by magic rather than by aesthetic considerations. The jewelry of primitive peoples consisted of small stones with natural perforations, e. g., silicified spoons or joints of coniferæ, or of substances easily perforated, such as amber, the seeds of plants, shells, the teeth and claws of animals, bones or pieces of bone, pieces of wood of popular kinds.

"Later on they learned to bore hard stones, such as rock crystal, hematite, agate, garnet, etc., and obtain the metals. All people value for magical purposes small stones of peculiar form of color long before they can wear them as ornaments; e. g., Australians and tribes of New Guinea use crystals for rainmaking, although they cannot bore them, and it is a powerful amulet in Uganda fastened into leather. Sorcerers in Africa carry a small bag of pebbles as an important part of their equipment. So it was in Greece. The

crystal was used to light sacrificial fire, and was so employed in the church down to the fifteenth century. The Egyptians under the twelfth dynasty used it largely, piercing it along its axes after rubbing off the pyramidal points of the crystal, sometimes leaving the natural six sides, or else grinding it into a complete cylinder. From this bead came the artificial cylindrical beads made later by the Egyptians, from which modern artificial cylindrical glass beads are descended.

The beryl, a natural hexagonal prism, lent itself still more readily to the same form, e. g., the cylindrical beryl beads found in Rhodian tombs. The Babylonian cylinders found without any engraving on them on the wrists of the dead in early Babylonian graves had a similar origin. It has been universally held that Babylonian cylinders, Egyptian scarabs and Mycenaean gems were primarily signets; but as the cylinders are found unengraved, and as many as 500 scarabs are found on one mummy, and as Mycenaean stones are often found without any engraving, it is clear that the primary use was not for signets, but for amulets. The Orphic Lithica gives a clear account of the special virtue of each stone, and it is plain that they acted chiefly by sympathetic magic, e. g., green jasper and the tree agates make the vegetation grow, etc. The Greeks and Asiatics used stones primarily as amulets, e. g., Mithradates had a whole cabinet of gems as antidotes to poison. To enhance the natural power of the stone a device was cut on it, e. g., the Arabian cut on a green jasper, the special amulet of the Gnostics. The use of the stone for sealing was simply secondary, and may have arisen first for sacred purposes.—Boston Transcript.

WAYS OF SAN BLAS INDIANS.

They Are Masters of the Eastern Districts of Panama.

Capt. Pepper, of Jones Lane, who has traded for years with the inhabitants and knows the whole coast in the Gulf of Darien, says in the New York World:

"The San Blas coast is a strip of shore, keys and sound, 150 miles long inhabited by the San Blas Indians, who although nominally under the Colombian government, hardly recognize it. They have about thirty settlements, where they live strictly in accordance with their ancient laws and usages.

"When Colombia tried to erect custom houses the San Blas Indians said they would burn them, and foreign vessels trading with the coast have therefore to get clearance at Cartagena.

"Coconuts, ivory nuts and some turtle shells are chief articles of trade. Coconuts take the place of money, 1,000 being worth \$25 and four equal to 10 cents.

"While the Indians have small vegetable plantations on the mainland along fresh water streams they live principally on account of wild beasts and mosquitos, on the keys. Another reason for the Indians sleeping on the islands is the fear that their women may be stolen.

"Every settlement has its own chief, the most important being at Sassadi. This chief comes in contact with the mountain Indians. These mountain Indians are enemies of Colombia, and I think a Colombian army trying to reach Panama by way of the mountains from the Atrato would have a difficult task.

"The women, who perform all the house and farm work and carry water wear very long, fanciful costumes mostly of red, yellow and blue. Around the loins is a rather long cloak, answering to the American skirt, with a long, wide-sleeved blouse worked with ornamental patterns makes a picturesque costume.

"It is a crime for a woman to flirt and if one of their women is found to have deceived her husband the penalty is death."

He'll Do.

"He'll do," said a gentleman, decisively, speaking of an office boy who had been in his employ but a single day.

"What makes you think so?"

"Because he gives himself up so entirely to the task in hand, I watched him while he swept the office, and although a procession with three or four brass bands in it went by the office while he was at work he paid no attention to it, but swept on as if the sweeping of that room was the only thing of any consequence on this earth at that time. Then I set him to addressing some envelopes, and although there were a lot of picture papers and other papers on the desk at which he sat, he paid no attention to them, but kept right on addressing those envelopes until the last one of them was done. He'll do, because he is thorough, and in dead earnest about every thing." You may naturally be a very smart person; you may be so gifted that you can do almost anything; but all that you do will lack perfection if you do not do it with all your heart and strength.

Shade Trees in London.

London, in proportion to population has more shade trees than any other city.

A LOBSTER AND AN EAGLE.

"The disappearing lobster," as fish commissioners have termed him, might not only remain, but flourish and increase if he always resisted capture like one described in Forest and Stream. The lobster in question lived in Newfoundland. His would-be captor was a white-headed eagle. Says a witness of the conflict:

My guide and I were sitting on the rocks by the seashore watching the bird soaring round in circles, when suddenly we saw him dash down into a pool of water close by us on the beach and reappear, holding an enormous lobster in his talons. He was an old lobster with a huge claw white with barnacles; but the eagle had him clutched firmly round the back, and at first we could see the claw hanging helplessly down, the barnacles shining white in the sunlight.

Only for a second thought. The ripples on the pool had not yet died away, the large drops of water had not ceased to fall upon its surface from the soaring eagle's feathers and the captive lobster alike, when the lobster suddenly awoke to the seriousness of the situation, and to think with that apparently helpless creature was to act. Up came the great white barnacled claw and seized the eagle round the neck.

There was a furious fluttering and beating of wings, a melancholy squawk, and then, tumbling and rolling head over heels in the air in a confused mass, down came eagle and lobster again, into the pool.

We rushed forward, thinking that we could, perhaps, in some way secure both combatants, as the splashing of the conflict continued in the shallow water. But we had hardly time to pick up a stone apiece to throw at the eagle before the lobster, feeling himself at home again, let go his hold.

Now, with his neck all torn and devoid of feathers, away flew the bedraggled eagle to a neighboring cliff, while, brandishing his enormous claw in defiance, the lobster remained—smiling, perhaps—at the bottom of the pool. But the lobster will doubtless tell you, if you meet him, that the lobster-fishing in Newfoundland is very poor at present.

SECRETS OF LIFE.

Object of Biological Laboratories at Tortugas and on Long Island.

Fresh interest in the Carnegie Institution is awakened by the selection, under its auspices and with its support, of two locations for biological laboratories to accommodate those branches of its service that deal with the beginnings, the development and the mutations of life itself. These laboratories are to be established at Cold Springs Harbor, on Long Island, and at Dry Tortugas. The former will be the more important, or at least will begin its work on a larger scale and with better auxiliary equipment than the other, inasmuch as it will be in close proximity to the Brooklyn In-