## THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

**Some Facts Which Give an Idea of Its Immensity.**

In all the heavens, with the exception of passing meteors or meteorites, not one body occupies a position closer to earth than the moon, which is some 240,000 miles away—very far, of course, side by side with any earthly distances, but a mere fraction side by side with other astronomical distances. Next to the moon our nearest occasional neighbor is Venus, and then Mars. Both Venus and Mars, however, are often farther away from us than the sun, which remains always at somewhere about the same distance, roughly at from 90,000,000 to 93,000,000 miles.

This dividing space between sun and earth is of great importance in thinking about the stars, and it should be clearly impressed upon the mind. Next to the sun in point of nearness come the more distant planets—Jupiter, which is about five times as far from the sun as our earth is; Saturn, nearly twice as far as Jupiter; Uranus, nearly twice as far as Saturn, and Neptune, nearly three times as far as Saturn. All these planets belong to our sun, all are members of his family, all are part of the solar system. The size of the solar system as a whole, consisting thus of the sun and his planets, including our earth, may be fairly well grasped by any one taking the trouble to master two simple facts. They are these, that our earth is roughly about 92,000,000 miles away from the sun and that Neptune, the outermost planet of the solar system, is nearly thirty times as far distant from the sun as our earth is.—Chambers' Journal.

## AN ODD BIRD.

**The Kiwi of New Zealand Has Some Remarkable Peculiarities.**

That queer bird, the kiwi, is a native of New Zealand. Its remarkable peculiarities are, first, the apparent absence of wings, as the plumage so covers the small, rudimentary, stick-like appendage of a wing that none whatever is apparent. The situation of the nostrils at the bill's extremity is a second peculiar feature. While hunting for earthworms it probes the soft ground, making a continual snuffing sound. Thus the scent is evidently of great help in finding food and the reason for the position of the nostrils quite apparent.

A third peculiarity is the very disproportionate size of the egg in comparison to the bird, it being a little less than one-fourth the bird's own weight. One kiwi's egg found weighed fourteen and one-half ounces, while the bird weighed just under four pounds (sixty-four ounces) and was about the size of an ordinary hen.

The plumage of the kiwi is a dull brown streaked with light gray, and the body resembles a miniature hay shock, rather badly hacked off at the rear part, as nature has not provided the kiwi with such decoration as a tail. The absence of wings is compensated for by its swiftness of foot, and the large, clumsy looking legs, which are sometimes used as weapons, are placed far back on the oddly shaped body.—St. Nicholas.

**That Was All.**

A young girl who is always trying some new thing was present once when the doctor set a neighbor's broken arm. She was sure that she knew exactly how it was done and rather anxious to put her new knowledge into practice. Some time later a hen out in the chicken yard broke its leg. The girl directly announced that she meant to set it "and make it as good as new." Accordingly it was put into a plaster cast and left for the proper length of time to knit. When the day came to take off the cast the girl ran out to the henhouse in great eagerness to see the result. Presently there was a scream that brought every member of the family to her side. The chicken was jumping miserably over the ground sidewise instead of directly forward. You know a hen's leg has a crook. Well, she had crooked it the wrong way, that was all.

**Aliens In Old London.**

Here is a curious report of the aliens in London in the year 1567: "There being a great increase of foreigners in the city, her majesty ordered the lord mayor to take the name, quality and profession of all strangers residing within the city of London." The list was headed by the item, "Scots, 40." Other nations were represented by "French, 428; Spaniards and Portuguese, 45; Italians, 140; Dutch, 2,030; Burgundians, 44; Danes, 2; Liegeois, 1."

**Shark's Tail For Luck.**

Attached to the extreme end of the bowsprit of a sailing vessel there may sometimes be seen a piece of some material that looks remarkably like leather. This seeming piece of leather is really a shark's tail. It is placed there because the sailors think that it augurs good luck, believing that pleasant voyages will be their lot while it remains there. Instead of the bowsprit the tail is at times nailed to the top of one of the masts.—London King.

**Different.**

"Why don't you elope with her?"

"But, good gracious, man, if you are perfectly willing for me to marry your daughter I cannot see any object to be attained by our eloping."

"Can't you? How will it be if I offer you half of what I save on the wedding?"—Houston Post.

**The Main Point.**

"What do you think? That boss politician says he has divorced himself from politics."

"Then I'll bet he secured alimony."—Baltimore American.

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.—Coleridge.

## Gossip About Literary Folk

FREDERICK A. OBER.

INTEREST in the character of Columbus is revived by the occurrence this month of the four hundredth anniversary of his death. Columbus has been taken by Frederick A. Ober as the subject of the second volume of his "Heroes of American History" series. Mr. Ober spent two years in visiting all places associated with Columbus in Spain and America as the result of a commission received from the World's Columbian exposition, and his investigations have thrown much light on the vexed questions of the first landing place of Columbus and of the final resting place of the remains of the great explorer. In his "Columbus the Discoverer" he has this to say as to the long disputed question of the island upon which the explorer first set foot on reaching this side of the Atlantic:

"No one may positively assert that he can identify the admiral's 'landfall' or the coast he sighted on that memorable October morn in 1492. 'To the first island I found,' he wrote in his journal, 'I gave the name of San Salvador (or St. Saviour), in remembrance of his high majesty, who hath marvelously brought all these things to pass; the Indians call it Guanahani.' But where that island lies and just where Columbus landed are matters of dispute today. Many enthusiastic investigators have tried to trace the voyagings of the admiral, following after him with chart and compass, but whether he first landed on Cat island, on Watling's or on Eleuthera the only thing we can affirm is that the island lies somewhere midchain of the Bahamas."

Theodora Peck, author of "Hester of the Grants, a Romance of Old Bennington," is a daughter of the Green Mountain State and also a daughter of a hero of the civil war, General Theodore S. Peck, whose bravery in the cause of his country was recognized in the bestowal upon him of a congressional medal of honor. With her youthful imagination kindled by recitals of deeds of patriotism and heroism in which her family had a part, she early began writing stories and poems of love and war. She was born in Burlington in 1882 and her first poem was produced at the age of seven. When she was fifteen she wrote some verses about the sinking of the battleship Maine, entitled "By the Hand of an Unseen Foe," which were copied widely over the country. She was only nineteen when she wrote "Hester of the Grants." "Old Bennington," the scene of the tale, is one of historic interest, around which cluster memories of the Revolutionary period. It is a story of the "New Hampshire Grants," the "Green Mountain Boys" and Ethan Allen, and among the incidents are some relating to the famous battle of Bennington during Burgoyne's invasion.

THEODORA PECK.

"Soon after the first linotype typesetting machine was installed in New Mexico," said former Delegate Rodey, "a friend and myself went over to the newspaper office where it was working and took a look at it. It is a wonderful machine, as everybody knows. My friend was much impressed. He walked around the machine and looked at it in awe and wonder and kept saying to himself: 'Gee whiz! That is an intelligent machine. Ain't that the derndest most intelligent machine you ever did see? It's plumb human!'

"Finally he was overcome by his admiration. He took off his hat and made a low bow to the machine and said, 'We certainly would feel highly honored, Mr. Machine, if you all would consent to come out and take a drink with us.'"

When Mrs. Pearl Mary Craigie, better known as John Oliver Hobbes, came from England to visit America she brought over here a new word. It is "blimming." She was talking about the English women who speak in campaigns and remarked, "Blimming is a woman's forte in public."

"What is 'blimming?'" some one inquired.

"Why, don't you know 'blimming?'" said the author. "It's just talking and talking pleasant things and saying nothing. That's what all clever women do in public. There was Mrs. Gladstone; she used to blim all the time. Every one said she was charming and sweet and lovely to look upon, but most persons thought that she did not know a thing. 'What a woman Gladstone's got!' they would say. 'She doesn't understand a thing about big affairs.' But he told her everything, and those who know best say that she was the greatest help to him, but, you see, she was clever enough not to let any one know it. If she had insisted on coming out in public speeches her actual influence would have been no stronger, and her husband's position would have been less agreeable."

JOHN OLIVER HOBBES.

"Then blimming is the saving feminine grace?" inquired one.

"It's a good thing, hurts no one, amuses people and keeps the world off. No one ever finds out that a blimming woman is cleverer than her husband. That's one of the greatest conservers of married bliss. What I object to is the idea constantly fostered by the public speaking women of England, those who insist on doing men's work, that women who don't take part in such things are not such noble creatures as those who do. I see nothing to be gained by taking up masculine burdens, and I believe some very sweet and beautiful things are lost by it."

Hamlin Garland, whose stories of frontier life have done so much to present the Indian problem from the red man's point of view, makes copious notes for his novels, though he seldom refers to them again except for basic facts. He finds that the mere effort of writing them down serves to organize them in his mind. Sometimes a whole paragraph takes form in his mind, and this he sets down as a keynote, or color note, which is to govern some particular chapter. Sometimes, as in making his studies for "The Captain of the Gray Horse Troop," he plans a whole chapter or part of a conversation. His fundamental principle, as regards his story making, is to base his work always upon actual experience and observation.

HAMLIN GARLAND.

The author once sat beside a schoolgirl on a train in western New York. Glancing at the book she was reading, he saw it was one of his own novels. Naturally he was delighted and with an ingratiating smile said:

"I beg your pardon, miss, but do you like that book?"

"Oh, yes, sir. I like it very much indeed!" she replied.

"Is there any particular reason why you should like it?" asked Mr. Garland.

"Well, I find it is a splendid book to read because there are so many pages I can skip."

Then the novelist put on his thinking cap and gazed out of the window.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who proposes that the automobilists of England organize themselves into a motor army to defend the coast in case of invasion by a foe, displays a great interest in military matters, almost as much as Rudyard Kipling. He has taken a prominent part in the movement that is now on foot to increase the number of effective fighting men by encouraging rifle shooting in all parts of the United Kingdom. Besides making many speeches and writing frequent articles on the subject the author of "The White Company" and "Brigadier Gerard" recently set a practical example by having a miniature rifle range built on his picturesque estate at Hindhead and inviting the young men of the neighborhood to use it, and the result is that there now exists in the locality a regular rifle club, of which the novelist is said to be one of the best marksmen.

CONAN DOYLE.

Sir Conan Doyle's first story was written at the age of six and was about a tiger that swallowed a man. When the budding writer had got the man inside the tiger he had to finish the story, but, as he sagely observed, it was easier to get a man into a scrape than to get him out of it. When telling stories to his schoolmates he insisted on tarts as payment, leaving off with some exciting statement, such as "Raising the knife in midair" or "and then the wicked marquis saw," and declining to continue without a further supply of pastry, a case, to reverse the familiar saying, of "no supper, no song."

John Burroughs, the naturalist, poet and essayist who accompanied President Roosevelt on one of his camping trips in the west, has written an article for the Atlantic about the experience. The poet in describing one of the evenings spent with the president in the wilderness says:

"One night in camp he told us the story of one of his rough riders who had just written him from some place in Arizona. The rough riders, wherever they are now, look to him in time of trouble. This one had come to grief in Arizona. He was in jail. So he wrote the president, and his letter ran something like this:

JOHN BURROUGHS.

"Dear Colonel—I am in trouble. I shot a lady in the eye, but I did not intend to hit the lady; I was shooting at my wife.

"And the presidential laughter rang out over the treetops. To another rough rider who was in jail, accused of horse stealing, he had loaned $200 to pay counsel on his trial, and, to his surprise, in due time the money came back. The ex-rough rider wrote that his trial never came off. 'We elected our district attorney.' And the laughter again sounded and drowned the noise of the brook near by."

**The Rise In the River.**

It is little short of astonishing to see how little water is required to float the southern river steamers, a boat loaded with perhaps a thousand bales of cotton slipping along contentedly where a boy could wade across the stream. Once, however, the Chattahoochee got too low for even her light draft commerce, and at Gunboat shoals a steamer grounded. As the drinking water on board needed replenishing, a deck hand was sent ashore with a couple of water buckets. Just at this moment a northern traveler approached the captain of the boat, and asked him how long he thought they would have to stay there.

"Oh, only until that man gets back with a bucket of water to pour into the river," the captain replied. Presently the deck hand returned, and the stale water from the cooler was emptied overboard. Instantly, to the amazement of the traveler, the boat began to move.

"Well, if that doesn't beat thunder!" he gasped.

The fact was that the boat, touching the bottom, had acted as a dam, and there was soon backed up behind her enough water to lift her over the shoal and send her on down the stream.—Harper's Weekly.

**A Remarkable Career.**

General Sam Houston was not only a great Texan, but probably the most striking and commanding figure which has yet appeared in the public life of the far southwest—born in Virginia, taken to Tennessee at an early age, whence, while yet in his teens, he went to war with Andrew Jackson against the Creek Indians; desperately wounded in the battle of the Horseshoe Bend; adjutant general of Tennessee and a representative in congress from that state; governor of Tennessee in his youth; married, separated from his wife in two months, resigning immediately as governor, self exiled for years among the Cherokee Indians, emigrating to Texas in 1832; member of the convention of 1836, which declared Texas to be an independent republic; general and commander in chief of the army which achieved independence at San Jacinto; twice president of the republic, United States senator and governor of the state.—C. A. Culberson in Scribner's.

**John Doe Proceedings.**

"John Doe" proceedings were abolished by law in Great Britain in 1852. Previous to that time John Doe had figured in the old fashioned ejectment action for the recovery of the possession of land, together with damages for the wrongful withholding thereof. For various reasons of convenience and history dating from the reign of Edward III. A did not proceed against B directly in such a case. Instead A delivered to B an entirely false statement from the fictitious "John Doe" that A had devised the land to "John" for a term of years, and "John" had been ousted from it by the equally fictitious "Richard Roe." Then Richard informed B that he was not going to defend the action himself, but B must do it, and so on. Occasionally, by way of variety, "John Doe" gave place to one "Goodtitle."

**Columbia River Thrice Named.**

The Columbia river has had three names. It was first called the Oregon. Afterward it was called the St. Roque, but when it was discovered by Robert Gray in 1792 it was given the name of his vessel, the Columbia, in place of the two floating appellations, Oregon and St. Roque. According to Whitney, the original name of the river was the Orejon, "big ear" or "one that has big ears," the allusion being to the custom of the Indians who were found in its region of stretching their ears by boring them and crowding them with ornaments.

**Why Is It?**

Here is a question in naval science which is to the average sailor man a riddle unsolved. Take a vessel of, say, 2,500 tons; place on it a cargo of 3,500 tons. This gives you a total of 6,000 tons. Hitch a little tug to this vessel, and she will yank the big craft along at the rate of six or eight knots an hour. Now put the tug's machinery in the big vessel. It won't move her half a knot an hour. Why is this?

**When You Take a Bath.**

When drying off after a bath stand in the bathtub in water up to the ankles. When rubbed with coarse towels until the body is all aglow, step out and wipe the feet. This prevents that uncomfortable chilly feeling experienced if one steps immediately out of a bathtub full of water on to the bath mat.

**Love.**

We never can say why we love, but only that we love. The heart is ready enough at feigning excuses for all that it does or imagines of wrong, but ask it to give a reason for any of its beautiful and divine motives, and it can only look upward and be dumb.—Lowell.

**A Kindly Provision of Nature.**

"The codfish," said the professor, "lays considerably more than 1,000,000 eggs."

"It is mighty lucky for the codfish that she doesn't have to cackle over every egg," said the student who came from a farm.

**Not Guilty.**

Lawyer—You say you left home on the 20th. Witness—Yes, sir. Lawyer—And came back on the 25th? Witness—Yes, sir. Lawyer (severely)—What were you doing in the interim? Witness—Never was in such a place.

We are all wise. The difference between persons is not in wisdom, but in art.—Emerson.



**INDIANOLA.**

Cool weather.

G.W.Short has returned from Omaha.

Wm. Rishell who has been seriously ill is improving.

Mr. Hedges shipped two cars of cattle to St. Joe, Sunday night.

Mr. Cook the barber will move into the Taylor property soon.

Gus Kryder was in our vicinity, this week, greeting old friends.

A portion of Indianola's ball team played in Lebanon Decoration Day.

Tim Haley's new barn is completed. Luke Hayden did the carpenter work.

Miss Alma Noe of Danbury is in town, this week, visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Grace Phillip's school at Danbury closed, last Friday, and she is at home now.

Elmer Thompson is in Kansas City, taking treatment for his health which is poor.

The Widow Baker of Bartley visited with the family of Norman Baker, last week.

Orson Lee returned from Oxford a short time ago. He has been painting there.

John Strunk our hustling real estate man is out in the county, this week, on business.

H. W.Keyes went down to Cambridge, Monday morning, returning on No. 5 in the evening.

W. G. Sheppard the jeweler has had his shop painted which adds much to its appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shouse were the guests of Daniel Wolfe and family, Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Daisy Dean who lives near Cambridge was the guest of Mamie Mann, a few days last week.

Rev. E. Smith of the M. E. church preached the memorial sermon, Sunday to a large congregation.

L. B. Simmons has been given a station at Edison and went down, Wednesday, to take charge of it.

John Balding has rented the R. E. Smiths new house and will move into it about the first of June.

Miss Little who has been making her home at L. J. Holland's for some time past has gone to Denver on a visit.

And we are going to have another meat market in town before many moons. Ward Quigley will be the proprietor.

Miss Grace Phillips who taught in Danbury last term is at home for her vacation. She is elected to teach there another year.

E. J. Mitchell and family and James Barnes and wife of McCook drove down to Indianola, Wednesday, to attend the exercises here.

The ball game which was to have taken place, Friday afternoon did not materialize. The Danbury Juveniles failed to appear.

Mr. Webber and family and Miss Ledia Fiddler were among many Bartleyites who attended Decoration Day exercises at this place.

Quite a crowd of Indianola youngsters drove out north of town, Sunday afternoon, to watch the ball game.

Mrs. Maude Calhoun who has been visiting her parents here, went to McCook, Monday night, to visit awhile with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. McCullum drove down to Cambridge, Sunday, to meet Jimmie who arrived there on 13 from Oklahoma where he has been for the past two or three years.

Miss Stella McCool accompanied by the Misses Streff, Miss Ena Gamsby, and Miss Nancy Stevens took supper at the McCool ranch north of town, last Sunday, and took in the ball game.

The commencement exercises were held in Short's opera house, Friday evening, and were attended by a crowded house. The stage was prettily decorated with the class colors scarlet and cream also their class flowers. White carnations were grouped in lovely profusion on and about the stage. Selected music and singing were pleasant features of the occasion. There were six graduates this year. They were: Blanche Crabtree, Bennie Smith, Robbin Stewart, Georgia Short, Neal Quick and Bessie Toogood. J. W. Dolan presented the diplomas.

**RURAL FREE DELIVERY NO. 1.**

They have a fine boy baby at Frank Dudek's.

The Leibbrandt boys killed 13 coyotes this week.

Miss Zella Bowers is recovering from her illness.

Ralph Warfield was kicked above the right knee and is laid up for repairs.

The carrier had a vacation, Decoration day, thanks to uncle Sam's generosity.

The German Lutheran church has been repainted and nicely overhauled inside, and presents a much improved appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dudek mourn the death of their baby son, Wednesday, May 30th, at their home southeast of McCook. The little remains were mingled with Mother Earth in Longview cemetery, Thursday. Rev M. B. Carman officiating at the brief services at the grave. The young folks have tenderest sympathy.

CARD OF THANKS.

We are most grateful to the neighbors and friends for their help and sympathy in the illness and death of our son.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK DUDEK.

**Dynamos Driven from Car Axle.**

The Great Western Railway of England is lighting its corridor trains by electricity obtained from dynamos driven from the car axle. Storage batteries are carried for use when the running speed is slow and for stops.

**Egyptological Enthusiasm.**

It may be noted as an agreeable evidence of the spread of Egyptological enthusiasm in America that nearly half the aggregate income of the fund for the last year came from the United States.—London Spectator.