The pain of parting is experienced by the small boy when his mother attempts to comb his hair.

Today's Geography

Little Journeys to Places Figuring in World Events

Prepared by The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., for Department of Interior, Bureau of Education.

CORK: MOST IRISH CITY IN IRELAND

Cork, third city of Ireland, a considerable part of which was recently destroyed by fire, bears a very superficial resemblance to our own New York in that its nucleus is situated on an island enfolded by two arms of a river where its waters meet a bay. The comparison soon becomes a contrast, however, for Cork is a city of less than 80,000 souls, has few public buildings or thoroughfares of importance, and was built on a low, swampy site instead of on the rocky ribs of Mother Earth.

The stream that enfolded Cork before it grew across its watery barriers is the River Lee which rises in a little lake to the north. From a tiny island in the lake came the pious hermit, St. Fin Barre, who established a monastery on the island at the mouth of the river in the seventh century, and from this start the present city has grown. Both the Catholic and Protestant cathedrals of Cork are dedicated to this early Irish saint.

At the head of one of the finest harbors in Ireland—a land-locked cove whose waters are as placid as those of a lake—Cork has been subject since its establishment to attacks by sea marauders. Invading Danes burned the city in 821 and again in 1012, and after the second destruction founded on the site a Danish trading post. The Irish, again in control of the city, submitted to the English in 1172, who for many years maintained a precarious foothold.

The Irish eventually regained Cork not by force of arms but by "infiltration," for before a great while the one-time English post was the most Irish city in Ireland, its government entirely in the hands of the people of Erin.

A tragedy overtook Cork the year Columbus discovered America, and was visited most heavily on its lord mayor. During that year the city received and assisted Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the English throne. The mayor lost his head and the city its charter.

Cork's wonderful harbor has given it a maritime importance since early days. Recognition of this fact is seen in the title of admiral of the port bestowed on the lord mayor of Cork by Edward IV and held by the lords mayor to the present day.

Queenstown, at the head of the outer harbor, and practically a part of Cork, is the port of call and departure for trans-Atlantic liners. This fact has made Cork a city of sadness to many, for perhaps a million or more men and women, in largest part mere boys and girls forced by economic pressure to emigrate, have there bidden good-by with set faces and streaming eyes to the land they love so well.

While there are practically no points of great interest in Cork, close by is one of the best known and most frequently visited spots in all Ireland. It is the ruined tower of Blarney castle, stronghold of Cormac McCarthy, who, legend has it, instructed by an old hag he had rescued to kiss one of the stones of the tower—the famous "blarney stone"—became irresistibly eloquent.

SYRIA: UNDER FRENCH AND ZIONIST RULE

Syria, for the control of the northern part of which the Turkish Nationalists are threatening to fight the French mandate-holders, and the southern part of which is settling quietly under Zionist and British control, is another name for "the Holy Land;" for under Turkey it comprised the region extending from the Taurus mountains to Egypt, and from the desert to "the Great Sea."

Its population numbers about three and a half millions, of Semitic origin, speaking the Arabic language, and yet with so many races intermingled through the centuries of the various conquests and occupations that the people cannot claim any one race as their own.

Greek, Roman and European crusader have all blended with the ancient Semitic stock to produce the Syrians of today, whom Lord Cromer, in his memoirs, termed "the cream of the East."

In Syria was the one green spot of Turkey—the Lebanon mountains. In ancient times the mountains were everywhere covered with forests. The cedars of Lebanon not only furnished timber for the building of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, but the kings of Egypt annually floated large rafts of logs from the Syrian coast to supply the demands of the cities of the Nile. This constant demand from foreign lands, together with the lack of any system of reforestation, has practically denuded the mountains of the whole land.

Once more to cover the mountains and hills with pine and cedar and oak would be a simple task if carried on systematically, and under the new control this work is now being undertaken. The chief enemies, in the last few years, of reforestation by nature were the herds of goats, which every spring roamed over the whole country and devoured every green thing. The little seedling trees suffered especially.

In 1890, because of massacres, the European powers insisted that these mountains be made autonomous. And following that date this little district became a living demonstration of what good government will produce and of what the people of the land are capable of becoming.

The steep mountain sides were terraced to a height of 4,000 feet and planted to olives, figs and vines. Taxes were low, safety to persons and property secured, good roads built and kept in repair. The people constructed more comfortable homes and sent their sons to schools and college.

RESOURCES OF ALBANIA

Now that the Rapallo agreement between Italy and Jugo-Slavia has cleared up the status of the northern part of the eastern coast of the Adriatic, Albania is the only country bordering on those historic waters about whose boundaries there is still some doubt. As one of the countries whose confines will probably be fixed in the near future Albania takes on an added interest. The resources of this portion of the Balkan peninsula are dealt with in the following communication to the National Geographic society from Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven, U. S. A., who made a tour of the country shortly after the Austrians had been driven out in 1918.

"The Albanians are probably neither so good no so bad as they have been painted, but certainly they are worth the effort necessary to manage their own affairs and to work their little farms in the fertile valleys, to herd their sheep and weave their garments of wool, if only they are let alone. They do not submit easily to government; have no love for chance strangers, and are slow to accept change in the manner of living or of cultivating the fields.

"The mountains of Albania are practically unexplored. Mineral pitch, or asphaltum, has been known since the time of the Romans, and near Valona I have seen specimens, clean, black and hard, which promise well. Traces of petroleum, too, have been found by the Italians, and I am told boring is, or is about to be, undertaken. Copper and iron are believed to exist in the hills about the Malik valley, and coal, silver and lead are said to be present elsewhere in the mountains. Gold mines were worked in ancient times and Albanian silver was known to the Venetians, but the whole mountain country has lain neglected for ages.

"The climate of Albania is considered healthful in the uplands, though subject to violent changes, which are trying to the stranger, at certain seasons, even if he is confined to one locality. But when a traveler, moving rapidly about the country in a motor—the only practicable way of traveling in these days—rushes several thousand feet from a mountain height, cold and windy and probably snow-covered, into a warm, sunshiny valley and back again in the fraction of an hour, it is well to have a care.

"May is the pleasantest month of the year and the valleys then look their best. Snow, of course, lies in the mountains until well into the spring, but seldom lasts throughout the summer, as the tallest peaks do not attain an elevation of more than 8,000 feet.

"The fever of the Balkans is persistent, but is not especially fatal. Still it is to be dreaded for its lingering effects and the great debility it causes. The usual specific is quinine, a supply of which is placed on the mess table or carried about in the pocket."

TURKESTAN: RUGS AND WOMAN PROBLEMS

Turkestan has been figuring in the world's news lately because of the activities of the Bolsheviki in the central Asian borderland of the old Russian empire, but it is known best to Americans by its wonderful rugs. How the rug industry has affected the people of Turkestan is told in the following communication to the National Geographic society:

In the Bazaar at Merv.

"If some one asserted that the American love for Oriental rugs had changed the marriage customs of a nomadic people, had brought forth on this globe a comparatively homely race of human beings, and had built up a complex system of morals in the heart of Asia, it would seem like a sensational story. Yet that statement seems well founded, and love for beauty in America has reacted on the facial features of a princely race in Turkestan with deplorable result. Truly it is a small world when an artistic recluse in a New York studio fathers a homely son in a distant desert. Yet the rising generation of Turkomans are distinctively homelier than their princely sires. And the conquest of their domain by Russia does not entirely explain it.

"The Tekkintzi rug, more commonly known by the less distinctive name of Bokhara, is the loveliest product of the desert loom. Its charm lies not in intricacy of design, manifold detail, or symbolic meaning. It is not a picture in wool. Brilliancy of coloring it does not have. But in richness of tone the Tekkintzi wins its rightful place as queen of rugs.

"Years of care in selecting the long-fibered, spotless wool, in dyeing it in reds from Bokhara, blues from Afghanistan, or blacks from Merv, with a touch of orange or yellow now and then, and in weaving it beneath the hot sun of the dry desert, give the Tekkintzi a character which more hurried methods cannot give. It reveals no trace of foreign accent, for its language of lasting beauty is bred in the blood.

"For centuries, possibly extending back to the Iranian peoples whom Alexander found here on his way to India, the Tekke maiden had been taught to dye and weave. When she was married to her Mohammedan husband, the young bride took with her to her master's hut the rugs her patient toil had formed, and he in turn paid a corresponding price to her parents. Her dowry was her skill and its product. She was a menial, but with the soul of an artist. Her toil was long, but it was not drudgery. She was not a slave, for her work demanded the inspiration of a soul, and she had an enviable position compared with that of many of her Oriental sisters in polygamy.

"Gradually these masterpieces in mahogany, deep chocolate, terra-cotta, old rose, burnt orange and black found their way to America, where their appeal was irresistible. Buyers raced one another across Europe into the Transcaspian home of history to secure the priceless treasures of a conquered race. The skill of the Tekke woman began to win its reward. Her genius had caused the art world to wear a path to her hut and her open-air loom. But there was the unhappy side.

"Only the rich young Turkomans could afford to buy a wife at the exorbitant price her skill made possible. Parents raised the price of their daughters, consoling themselves with the fact that if they could not produce offspring they could at least produce valuable rugs. The age of marriage became higher. Caught in a trap which skillful women had woven, the young men revolted from the exaggerated demands of the avaricious and unromantic parents and sought cheaper wives elsewhere, while Tekke women, robbed of love and enmeshed in their own skeins of fine wool, dragged out busy lives of hated spinsterhood."

WHY SALTON SEA IS SALT

Reports that plans are under way to develop water power from the Colorado river—which gives ample proof of the power it can exert in the carving of the Grand Canyon—are said to have aroused apprehension in the minds of the operators of irrigated farms in the Imperial valley of California, near the shores of the Salton sea. The Imperial valley depends on the Colorado for its irrigation waters.

The Salton sea is really a part of the Gulf of California with a great ryke of silt separating it from the greater body of water.

"Many centuries ago the Gulf of California extended to a point about 150 miles northwestward from its present head," says a communication to the National Geographic society from Arthur P. Davis.

"It also extended up the present valley of the Colorado river at least to Yuma and probably somewhat above. The Colorado river, rising in the Wind River mountains of Wyoming and the Rocky mountains of Colorado, carved the rocks along its course and brought the resulting sands and mud down in its swift current, discharging them into the arm of the gulf near Yuma.

"As this process went on, without cessation century after century, the valley was gradually filled, a delta built up, over which the river flowed far out into the gulf. It encroached progressively up the shores of the gulf until it built up a delta entirely across, joining the foothills of the Cocopah mountains on the western shore. This cut off the head of the gulf, and the arid climate rapidly evaporated the waters thus separated and left an inland depression, which at its lowest point was nearly 300 feet below sea-level. It is estimated that the amount of silt carried by the Lower Colorado river is sufficient to cover 53 square miles one foot deep with dry alluvial soil each year.

"The river continued to bring down its load of sediment and to build its delta higher and force it farther into the gulf. Like all such deltaic streams, the channel on the top of the delta is constantly shifting, cutting one bank, building up the other, overflowing both banks, and during high water sometimes entirely abandoning an old channel for a new one. In this way the river has from time to time flowed into the Salton sea for some years or centuries, and anon has shifted to the eastward and discharged again into the gulf. This is the general course the river has followed ever since its discovery by the Spaniards in the Sixteenth century.

"At high water the river normally overflows its banks in the valley regions all the way from the Grand Canyon to the Gulf of California. In unusually high water, such as occurred in 1891, the overflow running into the Salton sink has been sufficient to materially raise the level of the lake and overflow the tracks of the Southern Pacific railway, which are built along its shores."

FURTHER USES FOR RADIUM

Its Employment in Pottery Is Said to Be Productive of Results of Great Benefit.

Water containing radioactive compounds is used as a curative agent for certain illnesses. Mere contact with such compounds for a sufficient length of time will make water slightly radioactive.

Pottery is now manufactured which has in it a small percentage of radioactive material. This is mixed with the clay and baked in the kiln. Water left in pottery of this nature for a short time will become radioactive by "induction," and a health-giving drink is made.

Such water may also be employed in the watering of plants with good results, since the presence of a radioactive compound near the roots of a plant is very helpful to its growth.—Popular Science Monthly.

Diverging Views.

She—He is a man of letters and the stamp of man I like.

He—Well, your man of letters is the the stamp I like to lick.

His Feelings.

Figg—What do you do when your wife tells you about her first husband?

Fogg—Envy him!

MONEY IN BREEDING MUSSELS

United States Fisheries Bureau Reports That a Profit May Confidently Be Looked For.

The business of breeding pearly mussels artificially has been carried so far by the United States fisheries bureau that a money profit is confidently promised.

To produce in this way 1,000 baby mussels costs about 20 cents. When they are full grown 13,000 of them will weigh a ton. Thus the cost of producing a ton of pearly mussels of market size (if all survived) would be, as exactly reckoned, $2.68. Assuming a loss of 50 per cent, the cost would be 5.36.

Pearly mussels occasionally yield valuable pearls, but commercially it is the shells, utilizable for mother-of-pearl, that are importantly to be considered.

The fisheries bureau has devoted its attention wholly to the propagation of superior varieties of mussels, the shells of which have at present time a market value of $35 a ton.

Now, Children—

Teacher (after lesson on snow)—As we walk out on a cold winter day and look around, what do we see on every hand?

Pupil—Gloves!—From Life.