

IN A PORTO RICAN FOREST.

Woods of Tropical Fruits and Nuts to be Found.

By nightfall, after I had ridden up and won some of the most unprepossessing hills, and had got tangled in an end of chaparral, cactus and other thorny undergrowth, which changed a new pongee coat I had bought in San Juan into an old rag, I found myself on a high range of sierra, says the Century. From a jibaro negro I learned that I was half-way between the towns of Quemados and Jaques, and that I would find a better trail for my horse below. So I rode down a lovely green valley, where plantations of coffee and tobacco lay side by side. As it grew darker bats flew all about me and I heard the evening cries of birds which sounded like our whippoorwill and mooking birds. At last I struck the trail that the woman had mentioned. I rode on a little way and took the horse into a clearing, where there was a spring well hidden from view, and there I hobbled his feet to the halter rope. Sung myself on the ground and went fast asleep. The last thing I heard was the beautiful song of the solitaire singing in a copse above me. I was awakened early the next morning by the screeching of the green parrots, quarrelling with other birds in the top of a cocoon palm. I was drenched with dew, but forgot all as I thought of my horse. To my great relief, I found him standing behind a bit of oleander bush red with flowers, crumpling the juicy stalk of a prickly pear. I watched him with interest as he took the stalk and with his teeth ripped off the skin with all its thorns. He whinnied as if we were old friends. After bridling and watering him I found the trail and rode off southward. On the way I ate everything I could find, from green cherries and guava plums to juicy mangoes, which stained the front of my coat, and bell apples, the meat of which suggested mildew. There were also custard apples, a large green fruit not unlike cream puffs inside. The most astonishing and the best of all was a fruit called pulmo—in our language, sour sap. It is about as large as a quart bowl, and so nourishing and full that a single fruit was enough for a good meal, although that did not deter my horse from eating four. Later I found that they are also relished by dogs. Of springs and streams there were so many that I had no fear of dying of thirst. If water was not handy I could always climb a cocoon tree and throw down the green nuts, which were filled with an abundance of watery milk, more than I could drink at one time. Other nuts there were in plenty, but many were more curious than edible, even to my willing appetite. One had a delicious odor. I tasted a little, and thought it ideal for flavoring candy. But it soon dissolved in my mouth in a fine dust, absorbing all the moisture, so that I had to blow it out like flour. Nothing ever made me so thirsty in my life, and even after rinsing out my mouth I felt for a long time as if I were chewing punk or cotton. The fruit of the tamarind only added to my torments by setting all my teeth on edge. When we reached the next spring I fell off my horse, for fear he would get all the water. Only after I had satisfied my thirst would I let him drink.

QUEEN MARY'S PERMISSION.

Grants to an Earl the Right to Wear Two Nightcaps.

Among the dusty state documents of Great Britain is one which every reader of Miss Strickland's "Lives of the Queens" inevitably glances over, says the Memphis Scimitar. In the life of Queen Mary Miss Strickland reproduces a wonderful state document, in which her majesty grants special permission to one of her educators to wear a night cap in her presence. This royal concession is made, presumably as a reward for valuable services rendered. The earl of Sussex was the nobleman thus honored. The earl was a valetudinarian and had a great fear of uncovering his head. Considering, therefore, that the colds he dreaded respected no persons, he petitioned Queen Mary for leave to wear a cap in her presence. The queen not only gave him leave to wear one, but two nightcaps if he pleased. His patent for this privilege is unique in royal annals: "Know ye that we do grant to our well-beloved and trusty cousin and councillor, Henry, earl of Sussex, license and pardon to wear his cap, coil, or nightcap, or any two of them at his pleasure, as well in our presence as in the presence of any other person within this realm, or in any other place in our dominions whatsoever during his life, and those, our letters, shall be sufficient warrant in his behalf." The queen's seal was affixed to this singular grant. Three persons in Great Britain alone enjoy the privilege of remaining covered in the royal presence—Lord Forester, Lord Kinale and the master of Trinity college, Cambridge.

Some English Authors Compared. Mr. Thomas Henry Hall Caine, to give him all the name he is entitled to, is a man of strange appearance, says a New York writer who has sized up the Britisher. He could make a marvellous difference in his looks were he to have his hair trimmed and his face shaved. He is not a whit better looking than Engwill, who is less handsome than Gen. Pryor. Caine is less hairy than Engwill, who is not a hirsutichinous patch on Mr. Richard Le Gallienne.

A Thoughtful Pianos. Jack—"Suppose I teach you to play cards now, and then you'll know all about it after we're married." Marie—"Won't that be lovely! What game will you teach me?" "Solitaire."—Life.

WILL BE A COSTLY STREET.

London to Cut a New Thoroughfare at a Cost of \$2,500,000.

The city of London is about to undertake another of those gigantic operations which have marked its development during the greater part of the present century, in the opening of a new street for the convenience of commerce, extending from Holborn to the Strand. It will be cut through a district now intersected by crooked and narrow thoroughfares and inhabited by a population of about 3,000 artisans. The improvement requires the eviction of those people from their homes, and the London council has agreed to rehouse them within a mile of their present quarters, so as not to disturb their vocations. It is estimated that it will cost the municipality \$1,500,000 to do this, being an average of \$7,000 for each family. The rent to be derived from these artisans when quartered in their new homes will represent only a small share of the interest on the capital invested, but that is the penalty which the municipality has been willing to assume in making the changes involved in the main improvement, which will cost \$2,500,000. Incidentally the measure has introduced a curious problem into municipal government, for in rehousing the evicted working people employed on the line of the new thoroughfare it has virtually established the principle that the municipality shall reserve a part of the constantly expanding and high-priced areas within it, which are devoted to commerce and warehousing, for the housing of the laboring people employed in them, and that the municipality must bear the difference between what the working people can reasonably be expected to pay for such accommodations and the actual interest due on the basis of surrounding land values. The experiment has been made there on a small scale for years past, with some degree of success. The great cities of the world have grown during the present century as they never grew before. Modern travelling facilities, the development of manufacturing industries and the growth of commerce have steadily drawn into them the population of the rural districts. As a consequence the crowding has been so great and rapid within them that many such improvements as the one which London now contemplates making to relieve a gorge, which were little dreamed of in the earlier part of the century, have, in the latter half of it, become imperative necessities. Within the past fifty years the ground plans of Paris and London have been materially altered through the opening of new thoroughfares through congested districts in the interest of convenience, adornment and commerce. During this brief period all the boulevards which make Paris the city beautiful and the magnificent sewer system which makes it the best drained city in the world have been constructed. So, also, the Thames embankment and the great sanitary problem involved in the relief of the Thames of the city's sewage, which it carried with it; the opening up of great thoroughfares through congested districts, the construction of new bridges to accommodate the ever-increasing transverse traffic, and the construction of a subterranean system of metropolitan railroads have largely changed the face of the British metropolis.

WHY HIS SHOES HURT.

Jabbit Discounts His Friends' Stories About Footwear.

They were seated in the back room, and after exhausting all exciting topics of the day the conversation turned on the subject of shoes. One man held that there was no sense in paying fancy prices; it was better to get cheap shoes and buy them oftener. Another claimed that he found it more economical to pay Waxend \$12 a pair for his, as they outlasted three cheap pairs and looked better all the time. A third raised his foot to the level of the table and said: "There is a pair I bought eighteen months ago for \$5. I have worn them all the time and they have never needed repairs and never hurt my feet for a minute." Then Jabbit broke in. He was on the third day of spree and he pointed a wabbling finger at his feet and said: "That's funny. There's a pair I have had on only two days and nights and they hurt my feet already."

A Jap's English.

A Japanese young man of education and social standing recently became a waiter in a San Francisco club in order to learn English and make a living. When he asked the steward for his wages the latter cursed him and struck him with a potato masher, whereupon he wrote the following note to the club officials: "Through all this affair I was never offensive; when I went there to demand the money to which I am entitled he unjustly enjoined me to get out; that is an unreasonable movement and can not fall to hurt a man's feelings. What! Without being satisfied with that insult made my blood boil and veins burst with successive onslaught of ignominious swear. My returning was completely excusable, for to be indifferent to such an ignominious treatment denotes that one is a stranger to the sense of honor; and so he ought to have relished it with abashed submission. And what again! The tongue, the countenance was not capable enough to wreak his savage fury and then resorted to the final step of violence, as though I was a mass of call (callous) insensible to disgrace and pain."—New York Tribune.

A Few Days Ago.

He merely remarked it was "Hotter than!"

She was wise enough not to ask "What?"

She knew enough of the hot-weather men

To demurely admit it was "Hotter."

Spain Town's Silver Mass.

Following the old feudal custom of presenting a town or corporation with a mass as an emblem of authority, the people of London are about to present the colonists of Cape Town, South Africa, with an expensive silver mass. The design follows the form of the finest masses now in use in England. The head, surmounted by an imperial crown, is divided into four panels by figures of mermaids, typifying the maritime character of the city. The front one is filled by the coat-of-arms of the city, the reverse by those of the colony. The whole of the metal work, which is of silver and richly gilt, was designed and executed by a firm of silversmiths in Birmingham. The mass is said to be among the handsomest in the world.

Influence of Woods on Rainfall.

M. Claudot, French Inspector of Forests, has published his observations, made during several years, on the influence of woods on rainfall. He finds that the mean temperature is always lower in woods than in the open, but the difference is only about half a degree as a rule. Rain is more abundant in wooded lands, other circumstances being equal. There is three or four times more evaporation of water from open ground than from forest in a year, and the difference is greatest in summer. In open ground evaporation is greatest in July, and in forests it is a maximum in April. Woods exposed to the south and southwest receive most rain.

Pay What You Can.

The Swedish doctor on his native heath tends the sick and makes no rates. His wealthy patients pay him handsomely, his poorer patients give what they can afford, and the extremely poor give nothing at all. All get the same treatment. The system appears to have its advantages, but there are grave doubts as to the practicability of its adoption in America. It might resolve itself into a similarity with the payment of taxes on property, the principles of which are so well known that a feature is made of the fact that certain rich men honestly pay in proportion to their resources.

Child Marriages in Algeria.

A census was taken lately in Algeria, and it was found that the youngest Arab married man was twelve years old, and that there were very many boys who were married at thirteen and fourteen, while some at fifteen had several wives. There is a youthful Algerian widower of fifteen and a divorced husband of the same age. Girls are still more precocious, and are sometimes married when only eleven years old, though twelve is the more usual age. There are 189 widows of fifteen and 1,176 divorcees of the same age.

A Geyser Heated Greenhouse.

In the Yellowstone Park Geyser basin a small greenhouse has been erected over a geyser stream. A current of nearly boiling water constantly passes through it. Steam rises in profusion moistening the plants, and the sun aids in the work, so that an extraordinary rapidity of growth is the result. Lettuce matures in two or three weeks, and other plants grow with proportional rapidity. The climate of the locality is very severe, which makes more striking this example of the utilization of nature's energy.

From Court to Altar.

Cupid played a funny prank at Mexico, Mo., the other day. In the space of an hour Thomas Lewis secured a divorce from his wife and remarried her. In his petition for divorce he charged his former wife and present bride with trying to kill him with a knife and an iron poker and that she cared more for others than she did for him. Nobody knows what caused him to regret his former action.

Too Far Off Entirely.

First Theosophist—That settles it; I resign from the society. Second Theosophist—What's the matter? First Theosophist—Why, one of my tenants has gone off without paying his rent and left me a note saying he would try and square with me in some future existence.

A Fortunate Discovery.

Wife—Albert dear, while looking through some of your old clothes I made such a lucky find that I ordered a new dress on the strength of it. Hublet—What was it, dear? Wife—Half a dozen checks that had never been written on.

Explicit.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said an Irish manager to an audience of three, "as there is nobody here I'll dismiss you all. The performance of this night will not be performed, but will be repeated tomorrow evening."

Faultless Logic.

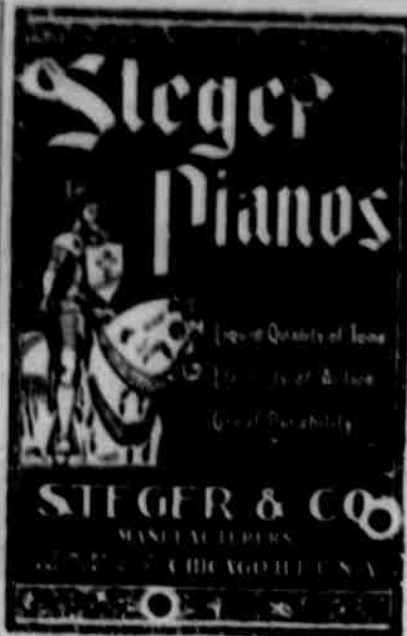
Mrs. Lawville—Which would you rather do today, go to school or help me in the garden? Little Boy—I'd rather go to school. "Would you? Why?" "Cause teacher's sick and there ain't agoin' to be any."

The Practical Side of It.

The Fair One—I suppose you will marry, though, when the golden opportunity offers, won't you? The Cautious One—it will depend upon how much gold there is in the opportunity.

Looking Forward.

Mrs. Noear—Do you think my daughter will be a musician? Professor—I gant say. She may. She dell me she gome of a long-lived family.



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