

In Darwin Vindicated?

Editor of the Indianapolis Journal. I find in the Diario do Maranham the following account of an important discovery which I have translated for your columns. D. H. FERNANDES.

In Maranham, a province of the empire of Brazil, at a plantation of a Mr. S. Viera, a well was being dug by his negroes. When they had dug down to the lower bed of the tertiary strata they came upon some bones which appeared peculiar to them. They sent to the house for their master, who, upon seeing them, comprehended the importance of the discovery at such a depth. He immediately ordered the work stopped and sent to the city of Maranham for Drs. Brandao, Sogner, Barbosa, and Jansen Pereira, who after studying the subject agreed that they were human bones in a fossil state. They repaired to the place, and after twenty-four hours labor in excavating, succeeded in taking out a complete skeleton without the loss of the least particle. The skeleton is of colossal dimensions, measuring eight feet and three inches in height. And what is more extraordinary is the prolongation of the dorsal spine more than twenty inches. If this skeleton does not belong to an individual who had such a deformity, then we have the most brilliant confirmation of the doctrine of Darwin. What is necessary now is to continue the excavation and discover another skeleton, and at once the great scientific problem of man is solved.

What this discovery has already absolutely solved is the existence of man before the tertiary epoch. To what nation, then, does this skeleton belong? Can it belong to any nation of the red men who inhabited South America at the time of its discovery? Or can it belong to any nation extinct before that epoch? All corroborate the latter hypothesis. Extensive investigations will yet one day give to humanity the solutions of these problems. The whole skeleton has been brought to Major Polycarpo Pinheiro to be prepared for exhibition. It is to be sent to the museum at Rio de Janeiro, with a box of the clay in which it was buried as a specimen.

Missouri River Improvement.

Atchison Globe. It has been decided by the engineers that the best way to improve the Missouri river is to make it narrower and deeper, and to this end at all wide points where work has been ordered dykes will be thrown out to confine the channel to one side, and prevent it from scattering over a mile and a half of territory, which width can be seen at several places between this city and Leavenworth. It is supposed that the Missouri river is always changing its channel, but Captain Young, who has been a pilot for thirty years, says that he can point out mile after mile that has never changed a particle in all that time, and he showed us one place on Saturday where the current had run uninterruptedly for thirty years to his knowledge. Captain Young has an opinion on large transportation, which is to the effect that it is God's way of carrying grain, but every barge must be supplied with motive power. A tow in this river is hard to handle, but the railroads can be seriously stabled by building barges of a capacity of 1,500 tons, and supplying each one with motive machinery. The Missouri river only falls 7-10ths of a foot to the mile. The plan of protecting the shore with mattresses of willow will be abandoned this year, as it has been found that unless both banks are matted from the source to the mouth, the river will get in behind them during high water and go on with the cutting. Lines of piles will be driven out into the river instead, which will throw the current into the centre, and stop the cutting. By means of approved machinery, now being tested at the east end of the bridge, these piles will be driven at the rate of thirty feet a minute. This is accomplished by running an iron pipe down with the pile, and which tears the sand from under it by hydraulic pressure. The piling used will be live cottonwood from the government reservation.

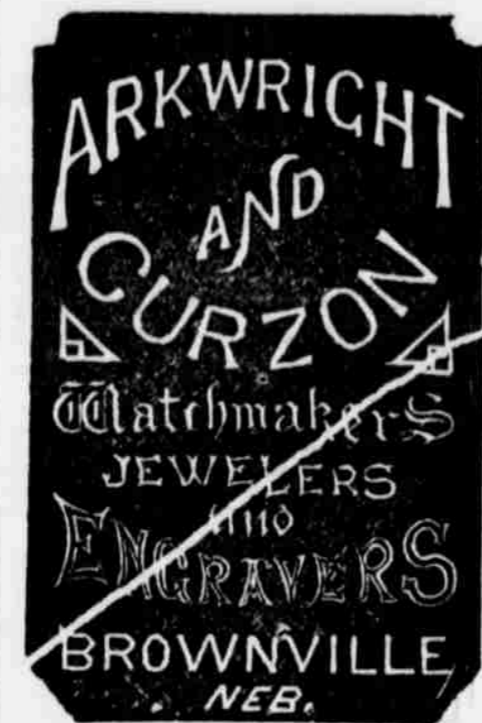
Senator Sherman is credited with the remark, that "if Foster is beaten he can attribute it to Halstead's foolish course toward Conkling." It does Governor Foster no good to have his praises sounded in a newspaper that demands that the President to "crush the political life out of Conkling." It simply disgusts the Stalwart Republicans whom Foster depends upon for his election. Only last October Mr. Halstead, writing of Mr. Conkling in the columns of the Commercial, said: "The Senator from New York is the most conspicuous figure in the campaign. If his attention were called to the subject, he would see that all things have worked together for the good of placing him prominently before the country, and we assure him, as it were confidentially, that if he puts in a few days of stalwart service in Indiana, and then returns to and carries New York, he will have this country in a sling. If not he will have the primacy, as we believe they call it. He can not establish the third term

even as a recognition and reward for the most illustrious service, but he can do almost any thing else that may seem good to him. This Western trip will nationalize him. It is important that an American statesman should look upon the Miamis and the Wabash, and walk in the woods pastures where the buckeyes and tall sycamores bloom. The point of the present writing is, however, to quote for the benefit of Senator Conkling, a letter we received the other day to this effect: "You attach too much importance to Indiana. We shall win without that State. The election of Garfield and Arthur is certain. Senator Conkling is about to render his country a supreme service. He can and will carry New York for the Republican ticket, and save the campaign. This he will do irrespective of Indiana."

An enterprising rascal drew to New York a young countryman, to whom he had agreed to sell \$10,000 in counterfeit money for \$300. The young countryman received the counterfeit in his room at the hotel, got the drop on him with a six-shooter, and politely handed him over to a police officer.

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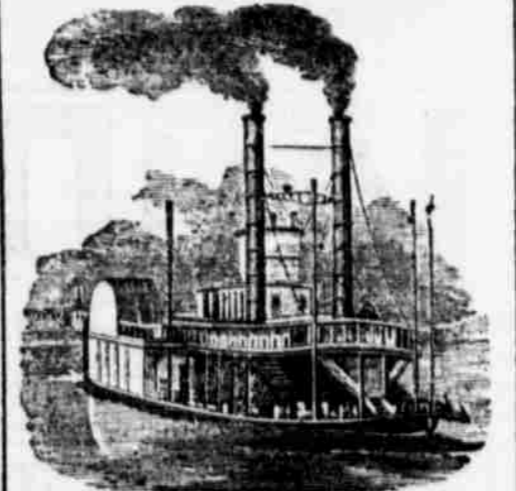


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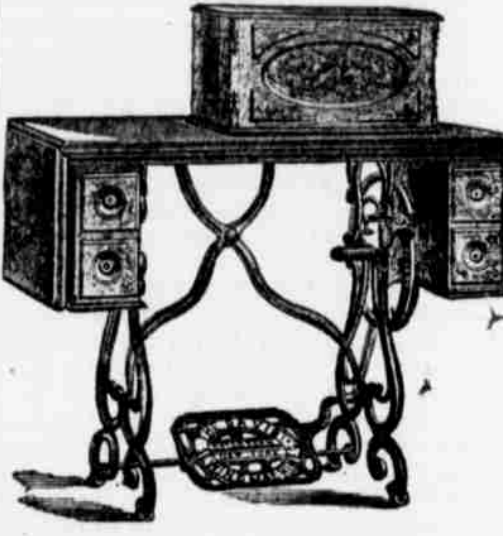
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