

Y^e Quaint Magazine



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Pe Quaint Magazine

For the Collection of Odd, Queer and Curious Things.

VOL. IV.

BOSTON, MASS., OCTOBER, 1903.

No. 2

A STRANGE STORY.

Last summer, the schooner William Haley, of Galveston, trading among the West Indies, was becalmed near the Gulf Stream. The second day the captain's curiosity was aroused by a strange floating mass, and he ordered the mate to take a boat and examine it. The mate returned towing a log, from which the men had cut away the marine growth which had made it seem at a distance like a sea-monster. The captain ordered it to be hoisted to the deck, declaring that in forty years spent at sea he had never found anything like it.

When laid on the deck, it was seen to be about twenty feet long and two feet in diameter. It was of some very hard, dark-colored wood, like palm, charred in places, and worn and broken, cut and torn, as if it had been whirled through torrents and maelstroms for hundreds of years. The ends were pointed, and five bands of dark metal, like bronze, were sunk in the wood, and the whole bore evidence of having passed through intense heat. On closer examination, the log was seen to consist of two parts, and these bands were to bind it together. The captain had the bands cut, and in the exact centre, fitted into a cavity, was a round stone, eighteen inches in diameter. The rest of the wood was solid.

The captain, more disappointed at this result than he cared to confess, picked up the stone and was greatly astonished at its lightness. Examining it more closely, he remembered that when a boy on the old New Hampshire farm he used to find hollow stones with crystals in them—geodes, as he afterwards heard them called. This was probably a geode, placed in this strange receptacle for some unknown purpose. He carried it into his cabin and put it into his chest.

Two months later, the old captain returned to his cottage on Galveston Bay, and placed among his curiosities the geode he had so strangely found in the Gulf Stream. One day he studied it again, and the sunlight chanced to lall upon a narrow, irregular line.

"I declare," said the old man; "it looks like as if this stone had

been patched together!"

He struck it with a hammer and it fell apart, and proved to be filled with small pieces of yellowish-brown wood. The shell of the stone was about an inch thick, studded over inside with thousands of garnet crystals. It had been broken into three parts and fastened together again with some sort of cement which showed plainly on the inside.

The old captain poured the pieces of wood on the table. They were perfectly dry and hard. They seemed almost like strips of bamboo, and were numbered and covered with writing, made by pricking marks with some sharp instrument like an awl. He found the first piece of wood and began to read, for it was in English. The work of deciphering the tiny dents on the bits of wood soon became the captain's chief occupation. He copied each sentence off in his old log-book as fast as it was made out. Five or six sentences were all his eyes would stand without a rest, so that it was a long time before the narrative was all complete. This narrative runs as follows:

HEART OF THE ROCKIES, about Sept. 17, 1886.

I am an American, Timothy Parsons, of Machias, Maine. I have no living relatives. I write this in a vast vaulted chamber, hewn from the solid granite by some pre-historic race. I have been for months a wanderer in these subterranean spaces, and now I have contrived a way to send my message out to the world that I shall probably never see again. If some miner tunneling in the Rockies, comes upon a vaulted chamber, with heaps of ancient weapons of bronze, bars of gold and precious stones that no man may number, let him give Christian burial to the poor human bones that lie in this horrible treasure-house. He will find all that is left of my mortal frame near the great everburning lamp, under the dome of the central hall. That lamp is fed from some reservoir of natural gas. It was lighted when I came, months ago. For all I know otherwise it

has burned there for thousands of years.

The entrance to this sub-montane river is in the Assinnaboine Mountains north of the United States line. I was a prospector there for several years, and I heard stories among the older Indians that a river greater than the Columbia had once flowed where the Rocky Mountains now are that the Great Spirit had piled the mountains over it and buried it deep under the ground. At last a medicine-man, whose life I had once saved, told me that he knew how to get to the river, and he took me to a cave in a deep gorge. Here we lived for a week, exploring by means of pine torches, and at last found a passage which ran steadily downward. This, the Indian told me, was the path by which his ancestors, who once lived in the middle of the earth, had found their way to the light of day.

I think we were about three hundred feet below the entrance of the cave, when we began to hear the sound of roaring waters. The sound increased, until we stood by an underground river, of whose width and depth we could form no idea. The light of our torches did not even reveal the height of the roof overhead. My guide told me that this was the mother of all the rivers of the world. No other person except himself knew of its existence. It flowed from the end of the north to the extreme south. It grew ever warmer and warmer. There was a time when people lived along its channel, and there were houses and cities of the dead there, and many strange things. It was full of fish without eyes, and they were good to eat. If I would help him build a raft, he would float me down this river. The old stories said that one could go upon it for many miles. It ran-down a hollow under the mountains.

We built and equipped our raft and launched it on the most foolhardy adventure, I do believe, that ever occupied the attention of men. We lit torches, and set them in sockets on the raft, and we were well armed. For two weeks we moved down the high archway, at a steady rate of only about three miles an hour. The average width of the stream was about five hundred feet, but at times it widened out to almost twice that. It swarmed with many kinds of fish, and they were very easy to secure. The rock walls and roof seemed to be of solid granite. We were below the later formations.

As nearly as I can calculate, we were about a thousand miles from where our voyage began, and nothing had yet happened to disturb its monotony, when we began to find traces of ancient work and workers. An angle in the wall was hewn into a titanic figure; at another point there seemed to be regular windows, and a dwelling was perched far up in the granite dome.

Suddenly we found that the river was flowing much faster, and we failed to check our raft. We went over a water-fall, perhaps seventy feet high, and were thrown on a shelf of rock at the side of the river below. I was unburt, but my companion was so badly injured that he died in a few hours. I repaired the raft after a fashion, and continued the voyage, finding it impossible to contrive any way to scale the sides of the water-fall and attempt a return. All our torches were lost, and the attempt to proceed further seemed but the last act of despair. A few hours later, I saw a light gleam over the river in a very remarkable way, shining clear across, as if from the head-light of a locomotive high up on the wall. This aroused me somewhat from my stupor and misery. I sat up on the raft and steered it close to the edge of the river to see what wonderful thing had happened.

As I came nearer, I saw that an irregular hole was in the wall a thousand feet above the water, and the light shone out through it. It was a cheerful thing to look at, and I hung to the granite and shouted, but to no effect. Than I saw a broken place in the wall a little further down, and let the raft drift along to the base of a broad though much worn and broken flight of steps winding up the cliff. That brought me at last to the place of the light, a domed hall overlooking the river, hewn out of the rock, and having in its centre a metal basin with a jet of natural gas. I have had to cut off a part of this metal basin since, but I have not harmed the inscription. There are many gas-jets, but in the other chambers I have had to light them.

I have lived here for months, and I have explored all the chambers of the place. There is no escape, so far as I can see. The river, twenty miles below, plunges down vaster descents, and the water gets so hot that I should be boiled alive if I tried the voyage. I have discovered a log of

tropic wood like palm, and a geode in which I can send a message to the world of sunlight. Perhaps the will get through the fires and float to the surface somewhere. I am convinced that the river which brought me here flows on into the Gulf of Mexico, and that sooner or later, my log will be picked up. Perhaps this river is really the source of the Gulf Stream. From a sort of a map, painted on one of the walls, I obtain the idea of many and thickly populated communities which used this place as the sepulchre of their chosen few.

Evidently that was before volcanic outbursts made the channel of the river like a caldron boiling over endless fires. All along the course are towns marked, groups of rock-hewn rooms on the cliffs, populated islands on the river, promontories from whose sides fountains of light seem to spring. Did thousands of people once live and find happiness in these vast vaults of death? Things must have been very different then from now. They must have had many reservoirs of natural gas. The animal life in the river must have been much more varied. Indeed, there are pictures in the Hall of War, as I have named it, that show two things plainly—that there were thousands of caverns, extending over hundreds of miles, and peopled by animals with which the heroes fought; and that the river was swarming with existence.

I have tried to put together all I can of their picture-writings and paintings so as to understand what sort of men and women they were. I confess that I have learned to admire them greatly. They were a strong, brave, loving and beautiful people. I am sorry that they are all gone. I never cared half so much about the dead Etruscans or Carthaginians. The earliest chapter in their history, so far as I can discover, is a picture of a line of men and women descending into a cave, and a dragon pursuing them. This seems to point to a former residence on the face of the earth, and to some disaster—war, flood, pestilence or some fierce monster—which drove the survivors into the depths of the earth for shelter.

But all these thoughts are vain and foolish. I have explored the cliffs of the river and the walls of the mighty halls which shelter me. I have attempted to cut a tunnel upward past the water-fall, using the ancient weapons which lie in such numbers on the floor. The bronze wears out

fast, but if I live long enough, something may be done. I will close my record and launch it down the river. Then I will try to cut my way out to the sunlight.

Here the story closed. Some day, perhaps, an old man, white-haired and pale as one from the lowest dungeon of a Bastile, will climb slowly out of some canon of the Rockies to tell the world more about his discovery of a lost race.



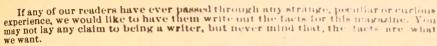
A NEW ESSAY ON MAN.

Cricket layin' fas' asleep
Thoo de win' an' storm,
Man he haster stay awake
An' hustle to keep warm.
Honey bee is layin' low
Until de fros' is sled;
Man, he haster face de cold
An' hunt his daily bread.
Pore ol' man; I really do suppose
You has about the toughest luck of
Anyone I knows.

Squirrel hab enough to eat
Growin' in de tree,
Man he gotter hab de cash,
Squirrel gets it free.
Groun' hog goes back home agin
To pass the time an' dose
Man he has to buy hisse'f
A heavy suit o' clothes.
Pore ol' man! Allus pays de cost!
He's de mos' unluckiest critter dat I
Ever run acrost.

-From the Washington Star.

STRANGE EXPERIENCES.





Crossed Niagara On Blondin's Back.

Harry Colcord, artist, now of Chicago, ran away from home and went to sea. Before he got through with his adventures he rode across Niagara falls three times on the back of Blondin on a tight-rope. He says he would not do it again, but that he did not suffer from fear. One can readily believe him. In his deep gray eye there is a suggestion of self-control, and in his slight, lithe figure of strength and reserve physical force which his gentle voice, his easy courteous manner fails to entirely conceal. Said he:

"In the year 1858 I joined Blondin in Boston. He was of the Franconia troupe, including Martinetti and the famous Ravels. I was their scenic artist, and painted scenes with a whitewash brush. We disbanded in Cincinnati, and there it occurred to Blondin to cross Niagara on a tight-rope, and I went to the falls with him. We had no end of trouble getting the necessary permits to extend the ropes. Blondin only spoke a little English, that was one difficulty, but finally we succeeded in getting them from Porter, who owned the American side, and the rest was easy. Blondin wanted to carry the rope from Terrapin tower and across to Davis' Hotel, which would have led over Horseshoe falls, through the mist and spray of the great cataract. They objected because Blondin was sure to fall, they said. The spray would keep his rope damp, and I who had engaged to go on his back, was very glad of it. Finally we stretched the rope from White's pleasure ground across to the Clifton House. Not far away from the place there is now a suspension bridge. There was 2000 feet of the rope. It was of manila, three inches in diameter, made in a New York rope-walk in two pieces. Blondin joined them with a long splice which, when the rope was extended, was in the centre of the span. It took us nearly five months to stretch the rope and to get guy lines in

place. To begin with a small line was carried across in a boat and although the current used to sweep it away from us, we at last got it over, and by means of a windlass and carefully paving out the big coil we got the big rope in position. It was 250 feet above water at its lowest point, which was fifty feet below the highest—in other words, there was a grade of fifty feet in each 1000 feet. Blondin then rigged a car to cross the rope and proceeded to rig the guy lines. There were 75,000 feet of guy line altogether. Each of them was weighted with a ten-pound sand bag to drop them out of the way of his balance pole and in putting them up Blondin crossed a score of times. At last we were ready to make the first ascension; that was what we called it. Before I went over he made several public ascensions. It was advertised through the papers that I was to ride on his back, and I was the subject of all sorts of attacks and criticisms. People said to me; 'You are a fool' and I was ready to back out, except Blondin began to taunt me, and I got into that corner of pride and vaingloriousness which I could not escape from. Meantime Blondin had coached me as to what I should do. I was to put my weight on his shoulders by my arms and clasp his body about with my legs. But I could not put my weight on his legs, that would incumber his movement. I had to keep all the weight on his shoulders. In July, 1860, we went across. I took my place on Blondin's back, and he began the descent from the Canadian side on the rope. By reason of the fact that I had to bear my weight on his shoulders and had to use my arms and with main strength to support myself frequent rests were necessary. I told Blondin when I wanted to rest, and then I dropped down on the rope on one foot and waited till my arms were relieved when I would spring up again using only my arms to lift and hold myself in place. There was a great crowd there. I did not see them at first. I do not remember what I thought. From my place on Blondin's back I could look out to the other shore and see below me the stunted pines thrusting their sharp points up from the edge of the foaming water ready to spit us if we fell. I remember too that I was anxious to get over, and I recall, too, that the great rope before us made swings from side to side. We afterwards knew that the rope swung forty feet at the centre, and I felt the necessity of preserv-

ing my self-possession, and I did it. There was a forty feet length between the guy on one side and those of the other that it was impossible to make steady. It was the middle span. Below us 250 feet roared the river, and over it we swung from side to side still moving on steadily, however. Blondin never trembled. When we had gone about ten feet on this middle span, somebody on the American side pulled the outer guyline. We afterward found out it was done intentionally, and the rope was stopped in its swing. Blondin stopped, and his pole went from side to side in a vain effort to enable him to secure his balance. At one time it was up and down on the right side, at another up and down on the left, and I recall now with wonder that I was only curious to know whether he would succeed in getting control of himself or not. I didn't feel any fear. Failing of getting his balance he started to run across the horrible span, and we safely reached the point where the guy-rope came out from the American shore. Then to steady himself Blondin put his foot on the guy-tope and tried to stop, but the guy-line broke and with a dash of speed he ran swiftly twenty-five feet further to the next point, where the guys met the main rope. There he recovered his balance and whispered rather than said 'Decendez, vous.' The perspiration stood out on his neck and shoulders in great beads and we balanced ourselves on the swaying rope. Presently he said 'Allons,' and I raised myself to his shoulders and we went on in safety and without incident toward the shore.

"It was not until we landed that I appreciated what had been done. Then it occurred to me that the man who pulled the guy-line was one of those who bet that the feat could never be accomplished, and my indignation mastered any reactionary feeling of fear. You see many thousand dollars were bet upon the ability of Blondin to carry a man over, and human cupidity stops at no sacrifice.

"Then there were the congratulations and the praise of pluck and the rest of it, so that in my foolish, boyish elation I forgot everything else. I do remember as we approached the shore the wonderful tableau of 100,000 people who stood gazing at us. Thousands of them turned their faces away, or half turning, cast glances over their shoulders at us. I remember their white faces, their strained positions of anxiety—women who

stared, white and motionless, and men who wept, and as we drew near the bank the crowd surged toward us and Blondin stopped, fearing they would push each other over the precipice. Then the crowd was still again and with a quick run we came to the shore and sprang to the ground. I remember one man seizing me in his arms and lifting me high in the air, saying; 'Thank God, this thing is over!' From the other side there was a cheer, and then we were thrown into a carriage and drawn to the International Hotel by the people.

I crossed again, twice, the last time under the patronage of the Prince of Wales. He congratulated us personally, and gave us each a purse of £100. N. P. Willis was present and wrote a wonderful sketch of the affair."

- "What was your weight then, Mr. Colcord?"
- "One hundred and thirty pounds."
- "And Blondin's?"
- "One hundred and thirty-five."
- "Would you do it again?"
- "Not for all the wealth of the world. I try to stop thinking about it. Tonight, as on every night after talking about this thing, I will, as I have always, suffer the most horrible nightmares. I fall thousands of feet—I see a million people reaching out to save me—and the roar of the water in that horrible chasm laughing hideously and throwing great arms of spray out to reach and embrace me. I awake bathed in perspiration and trembling in terror."

* *

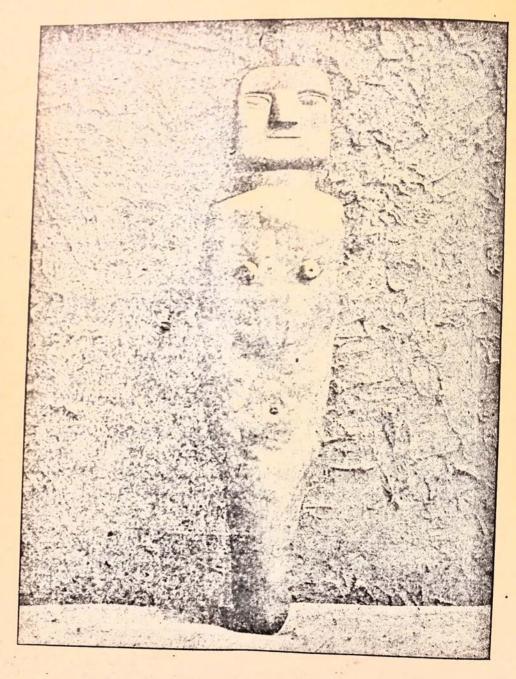
A PIOUS MULE DRIVER.

Senator Cullen tells this story of his grandchild: The little girl approached her mother recently and said: "Mamma, the man who collects our ashes must be awful religious." "Why, my dear?" asked her mother. "Well," said the little one, "after the man emptied our ashes in the wagon the mule wouldn't go, and then the man sat down on the barrel and told the mule all about lots of religious things."

A Remarkable Mosaic.

MRS. H. A. DEMING.

Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour? - Young Life's a short Summer—man is but a flower. — loneson. By turns we catch the fatal breath and die: - Pone The cradle and the tomb, alas! how nigh.—Prior. To be better far than not to be .-- Sewell. Though all man's life may seem a tragedy; - Spencer. But light cares speak when mighty griefs are dumb.—Daniel. The bottom is but shallow whence they come. - Raleigh. Thy fate is the common fate of all; -Longfellow. Unmingled joys here no man befall:—Southwell. Nature to each allots his proper sphere, - Congreve. Fortune makes folly her peculiar care.—Churchill. Custom does often reason overrule,—Rochester. And throw a cruel sunshine on a fool.—Armstrong. Live well: how long or short permit to heaven.—Milton. They who forgive most shall be most forgiven,-Bailey. Sin may be clasped so close we cannot see its face—French. Vile intercourse where virtue has no place; - Somerville. Then keep each passion down, however dear, - Thompson. Thou pendulum betwixt a smile and tear. - Byron Her sensual snares let faithless pleasure lay, -Smollet. With craft and skill to ruin and betray;—Crabbe. Soar not too high to fall, but stoop to rise; - Massinger. We masters grow of all that we despise.—Crowley. Oh, than, renounce that impious self-esteem,—Beattie. Riches have wings and grandeur is a dream.—Cowper. Think not ambition wise because 'tis brave,—Davenant. The path of glory leads but to the grave; -Gray. What is ambition? 'Tis a glorious cheat,—Willis Only destruction to the brave and great.—Addison. What's all the gaudy glitter of a crown?—Dryden. The way to bliss lies not on beds of down.—Quarles. How long we live, not years, but actions tell; -Watkins. That man lives twice who lives the first life well.—Herrick. Make, while ye may, your God your friend.-Mason. Whom Christians worship, yet not comprehend.—Hill. The trust that's given guard, and to vourself be just,-Dana. For live we how we may, yet die we must.—Shakespeare.



The Appanoose Wonder.

The picture on the opposite page is supposed to be a god worshiped by the Mound Builders. It was found in a large mound in Douglas township, Appanoose Co., Iowa, April 27, 1890. The finders, J. M. Clemens and E. Exline were prospecting for coal when they uncarthed this hill-den ideal of an unknown but superstitious people. At first it was regarded simply as a curiosity, or an Indian relic, but when it was discovered that the stone from which it had been carved was not a product of this continent, but was of the same character and kind out of which the lofty pyramids of Egypt had been built in the remote ages of history, then it assumed greater importance.

It would seem to furnish conclusive evidence that long before Columbus discovered this new world it had been connected with the old—that commerce had been carried on between ancient Egypt and North America. How else could the stone from which this graven image was made have reached our shores? The title of "The Appanoose Wonder" was given it from the county in Iowa in which it was found.

For the photograph of this strange relic we are indebted to "Quaint" reader Dr. Chas. Collins of Maquoketa, Iowa.

* Prize Photos.

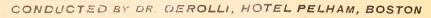
We want photos of peculiar things, people, places, curious and comical situations etc. For every picture accepted we will give an astrological delineation by Dr. Derolli for which his regular charge is \$2.00 and one year's subscription to YE QUAINT MAGAZINE.

We also desire references to old, odd and striking short stories. Any one sending or referring us to anything we can use in this line will be generously remunerated.

Keep your eye out for any oddities in the advertising columns of your local paper. A year's subscription to YE QUAINT MAGAZINE for anything accepted. If you ever had a strange experience of any kind set down the facts and send them to us.



ASTROLOGY





Lucky AND Unlucky Days for October=November

These predictions will not fit into every life with accurate details. They are safe deductions from planetary relations and will be found helpful and in the main quite correct. Of course, to get at an individual experience and to take advantage of precise work a chart of each person must be studied.

OCTOBER, 1903.

- Fine for all kinds of business: good to ask favors.
- 2. Moon and sun are not friendly: rather poor day to begin important duties.
- Very good if not too impulsive: socially strong.
- 4. Sunday. Influences all good. Towards evening in dealing with opposite sex be considerate of words lest they be too sharp. Be nice:
- 5. Fine day, and here is an opportunity to begin or develop any reasonable thing: ask favors. plan, make effective.
- 6. Full moon. Two bad relations of moon. Go slowly.
- 7. Another rather doubtful day: don't press too hard.
- 8. Moon and Saturn and Uranus and Venus are all in a row. You better keep out of it. Watch weather for this and past few days.
- 9. Some better: gaining: upon the whole, safe if you move cautiously.
- 10. Same as yesterday.
- Very mixed influences: the best time is an hour either side of noon—just as you go home from church.
- Doubtful day but not bad; needs caution in all acts especially in what you write and say.
- The afternoon is all right: but go to bed early and save a scrap after eight thirty.

- 14. Mean enough. Moon is up to all sort of antics. You keep out of it. Watch weather in N. W. states and Canada.
- 15. Little better but not enough to brag about.
- This is all right. Now catch up, do your best. Safe for almost reasonable act.
- 17. Well enough and fairly good till evening when the whole thing peters out.
- Sunday. Rather better than the average. If the parson does not preach well it's not my fault.
- Bad wash day in many sections: and bad for new business in most sections.
- 20. New moon: comes on a good day: let us rejoice.
- 21. After breakfast, gains begin and continue all day.
- 22. Another comfortable day, better take up active plans and endeavors.
- 23. All right, specially the forenoon. Get things settled.
- 24. This is a bad one. Storms in northern states and coast will probably be destructive in this section for the past few days.
- 25. Safe for important acts. It's Sunday, so don't act badly.
- 26. An active mind will prompt to active duties: use the day.
 - 7. Just fairly good, like some people. Go carefully in new matters.

- 28. Moon and sun square: and bad with Saturn and Venus consequently the influences will be poor.
- 29. This is better but not first class. Reasonably safe.
- 30. Gains. Probably a good day for you: in planning better than in acting.
- 31. The month concludes well. A day of excellent power.

NOVEMBER, 1903.

- Sunday. Four bad aspects of moon will tend to unfortunate influences both in social and general affairs.
- Should be favorable for new deals, or for vigorous action upon old. Judgement should be good.
- 3. Tendencies toward controversies. Don't argue or sue. Keep out of a wrangle.
- 4. Very mixed influences. Your peculiarities will stick out and produce irritation unless you measure words and subdue sharp tendencies. Don't fight.
- 5 Full moon. Yesterday's cautions will apply to today.
- 6. Much better, but don't blame others if they differ from you. Be considerate.
- 7. You will make no headway today. Go carefully
- 8. Sunday. Keep quiet. You and it wont agree
- This is all right if conservative. If you are rash and impulsive you will put your foot in it.
- 10. Great day for love, but don't be silly about it. Act right out like a man, she will respect you all the more. Women like a manly lover and they hate one who tires them all out before he says it.
- 11. It's astonishing how many poor days we have. This is a mean one particularly for dealing with opposite sex.
- 12. Here's another.

- 13 This improves, in fact you bester not it. Don't take rocks on but foodsh stock or lotters tickets.
- hairly good day. Well causely for things that have been previously started.
- Sunday. If you are wicked and do business you will probably lose. Cross grained influences all day.
- 16. Start out good and strong. You ought to make a success of a matter.
- 17. Fairly good only safe for old matters rather than to begin a new.
- This will do very well. Not big but you should work it. Better not journey much by water.
- 19. New moon and fortunate. Pitch in.
- Safe for conservative acts. Not very good socially.
- 21. Bright, keen, wideawake. Make the most of it.
- 22. Sunday. Influences are good. Let your attitude be the same.
- 23. All right for any proposition. Your mind will be very bright and clear.
- 24. This is all right. The poorest side of it is personal contact or a hasty act. Carefully and you are safe.
- 25. Safe again. Good chance for you especially in making decisions.
- 26. Same as yesterday.
- 27. You will be rattled unless you are very careful. Don't discuss or argue.Keep still.
- 28. Better but not yet out of the woods.
- 29. Sunday. First class all round day.
- 30. Same, wind the month up well.

The weather predictions for the months of October and November, compiled by Dr. Derolli, will be found on page 25.

Ye Quaint Magazine

Published Monthly at Boston, Mass.

OUR MOTTO: "TO BE DIFFERENT."

Subscription price, 50 cents per year. Six months, 25 cents. Single copies, 5 cents. Foreign subscription, 4 shillings, Advertising rates, 10 cents per agate line. Positively no free copies,

QUAINT PUBLISHING CO.,

7 St. Paul Street,

Boston, Mass.

Finding this notice marked you will understand that your subscription expires with this issue

Entered as second-class matter June 16, 1903, at the post office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of Congres of March 5, 1879.

THE BEST BOOKS.

YE QUAINT editor would like to hear from his readers as to what book or books they like the best and for what reason. Favorite chapters or quotations will gladly be received and printed when possible. When a boy was an omnivorous reader of books and there are many old ones the linger pleasantly in my memory. An odd story that I recall was Japhet.

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quite equal to anyever wrote, and Dickthor. Little Dorritt
book and "A Plea in
favorite chapter. One
cles which deserves
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stories of 000, queer
and curious things
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capt. Marryat. The est plot that I have of Gibeon by Walts seems to me to thing that Dicke ens is my favorite a is my favorite Dicke the Marshallsea" of Dickens' short a reprinting in some "Nobody's Story." such clever and in

Queer Accidents.

JOHN K. REYNOLDS.

One morning last summer, in the city I am living in, a man left his new bicycle leaning against the curbstone in front of one of the banks, while he went inside to transact some business.

He had scarcely disappeared behind the closing door when a runaway horse, attached to a single seated top buggy, came dashing around the corner apparently beyond control of the driver. He swerved so near the sidewalk that the wheels of the buggy picked up the bicycle and slung it around crosswise between the two hind wheels. There it became wedged in such a manner that it acted as a brake, and the horse, feeling the dragging weight of the buggy, in addition to the pulling on the reins, stopped within a few yards.

When the owner of the bicycle came out he found three men pulling and tugging at his wheel, trying to extricate it from its twisted and cramped position. He was figuring up in his mind the probable size of the bill of repairs, when the wheel suddenly became free and was handed over to him. On examination he found not a scratch nor a mar, nor a puncture. So the mounted it and rode away.

At another time a man on a wheel was riding along behind a trolley ar. Both man and car were going at a rather rapid rate up a slight actine towards a bridge. Just as the car struck the bridge the rope by which the trolley is adjusted, and which is generally fastened by a steel map to the rear railing of the car, came loose, swung back, and wound self around the bicycle rider's neck. It acted like one of the "bolos" or bouth American lassos which are used by the Indians to capture wild attle. The surprised rider was suddenly separated from his wheel and ragged by his neck half way across the bridge before the car stopped and e was released. He was not seriously injured.

Despise not any man, and do not spurn anything. For there is no man hat hath not his hour, nor is there anything that hath not its place.

-Rabbi Ben Azai.



ODD ADVERTISEMENTS.

Contributions for this Department are solicited. Send the entire page of the paper containing the advertisement if possible.

In a New York daily of 1865 appeared the following, which shows a little confusion in terms, but the meaning of which nevertheless is clear.

If the gentleman who keeps a store on Cedar street with a red head will return the umbrella he borrowed of a lady with an ivory handle he will hear of something to his advantage."

There is an original doctor located on one of the islands in Puget Sound. He advertises in posters and placards printed on a home outfit, and in one of his announcements says:

"Legs and arms sawed off without pane while you wate." "Childbirth and tumors a specialty." "No odds asked in measels, hooping coff, mumps or diarrear." "Baldhead, bunions, corns, warts, cancer and ingrowing toe-nales treated scientifically." "Clock, cramps, costiveness and worms nailed on sight." "Wring-worms, pole evil, shingles, moles, and cross-eye cured in one day or no pay."

"P. S. Terms! Cash invariably in advance. No cure, no pay."

"N. B. (Take Notis) No coroner never yet sot on the remanes of my customers, and enny one hiring me doan't hafto be layin up money to buy a gravestone. Come one, come awl."

Here is an advertisement which is really remarkable for lack of morality.

"To Rent—A house on Melville Avenue located immediately alongside of a fine plum orchard, from which an abundant supply of the most delicious fruit may be stolen during the season. Rent low and the greater part taken in plums."

And here is another that appeared about the same time.

This is to certify that I Daniel O'Fogarty, am not the person that was tarred and feathered by the liberty mob on Friday night last; and I am ready to give 20 guineas to any one who will bet me 50 that I am the other man who goes by that name."

The hardships under which a newspaper was laboring may be inferred from the following which appeared in the *Culpepper Observer*.

"Wanted—At this office an editor who can please every body; also a foreman who can arrange the paper so as to allow every man's advertisement to head the column."

The following was also found in an English paper by the writer several years ago:

"Apartments wanted by a lady in Westend. £1 to £2 a week. Encumbrances: baby, nurse, husband."



Good Health Department.

EATING FOR HEALTH.

BY AMOS WOODBURY RIDEOUT.

11 11 11

WHAT SHALL WE DRINK?

In one of the health magazines a gentleman recounts his experience in an attempt to change from coffee to "Postum Cereal." Of course he found the change very unpleasant and after two or three days he gave up the attempt and went back to his Mocha and Java.

Coffee and tea are both stimulants and habitual drinkers of either can not them give up suddenly without much suffering. I believe that tea is more injurious than coffee. It has a very powerful effect upon the nerve centre and interferes with digestion to a greater extent than coffee.

On the other hand coffee is charged with producing "biliousness" and it unquestionably has a bad effect upon the heart. Cocoa and chocolate are much less stimulating than either tea or coffee and for just that reason one tires of them and they are seldom drank habitually as are tea and coffee. Why this universal craving for stimulants that is found in all countries and climes among people of all degrees of intelligence?

"What! Sober on a day like this? You cannot possibly be a true patriot," says the tavern keeper in Gil Blas.

The Russian has his vodka, the Mexican his pulque and aguardiente, the Chinaman drinks rice wine, in Sweden it is arrack, and so on.

In grape growing countries there is much light wine drank, the German is proverbially fond of beer and we are all familiar with the Irishman's fondness for a drop of "Mountain Dew."

Dr. Oswald tells us that in Kamtschatka the natives have a tipple that is derived from a decoction of the agaricus maculatus, or fly toadstool. It is an especially poisonous variety of mushroom, so repulsive that the very insects avoid it. It is gathered in mid-unmer by thousands of pounds, and boiled over slow fires in copper kettles, that can hardly con-

tribute to the wholesomeness of the result. The frothy liquid is then strained and bottled in stoneware jugs. No distillation or fermentation is needed, but all travelers agree that the effects of a toadstool spree closely resemble those of an alcohol revel. Novices have to overcome repeated protests of nature, but at last get used to the national tipple and ultimately so fond of it that they are apt to indulge to excess and become muddle-headed, yet withal hilarious, "gloriously drunk" in fact. Drowsiness supervenes, and the next morning the toper awakens with a sick headache and a desire to sign a pledge of total abstinence. In the course of a week or two, the poison-passion however, revives, and the votary of reform contrives to find an excuse for another interview with the stone jug.

In the Munich breweries there are employees who get away with fifty quarts of beer a day and sometimes more. What, then, is the solution of the mystery? I believe it is to be found in the abnormal life that we lead. We load ourselves down with clothes, thereby shutting ourselves off from the sun's rays, we wear a hat on our head which already has an abundant hirsute covering, we wear shoes on our feet though they ought to come in contact with the earth. We habitually work beyond our strength in monotonous occupations that exercise only one set of muscles, and keep it up year after year with only the respite of a very brief vacation during the summer months. It would be quite impossible for us to get back to these normal conditions, we can only do the best we can. Perhaps then the reasonable use of tea or coffee may do as much good as harm. Coffee, especially is usually drank too strong, accustom yourself to a milder cup (if you are a coftee drinker) and after a short time you will find that the stronger decoction is not so pleasing. Nature is kind, she establishes what physicians call a "state of physiological tolerance" for these things and if we do not impose upon her too severely she will pull us through. Be reasonable in all things and regret and remorse will not follow after.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD'S DESIRE.

Sir Edwin Arnold would like to see in all Christian governments a minister of state charged with the interests of birds, beasts and fishes.

BRIEF BOOK REVIEWS

BY QUAINTICUS

I believe that book reviews should, as a general thing, be short and to the point, What is wanted is a brief hint as to what the book is, and then you will be able to judge if you are interested in it.



The Health Reporter, (KansasCity, Mo.) This is a large and interesting periodical published monthly and devoted to good health and kindred subjects. The managing editor is Mr. C. F. Eldridge. The leading article for August on Fatalism is very well worth reading. The Problem of Rest is another good one. The subscription price is \$1.00 per year, single numbers to cts.

7 7 7

What to Eat, (Chicago, Ill.) We have before commended this publication. Don't let the name mislead you. It is no cooking school affair. It is a popular magazine the articles in which have some connection with eating, entertaining etc. It is profusely and cleverly illustrated. A series of articles are now running entitled Dietetic Health Hints by Felix L. Oswald M. D., by all odds the brightest writer on health and hygiene that I know of. Yearly subscriptions \$1.00, single numbers 10 cts.

7 7 7

Points, (Holyoke, Mass.) A sma'l quarterly periodical "about new thought books and other things." It is edited by Wm. E. Towne and contains an article in each number by Mrs. Elizabeth Towne of *The Nautilus*. Mrs. Towne's article in the current number shows that you do not need to scour the earth in search of something wonderful to write about, saw-mills will do as well as anything if you only put your whole heart and soul into what you write. Yearly subscriptions 10 cts., single numbers 5 cts.

What's the Use? (East Aurora, N. Y.) This is the novel nomenclature of a tastefully gotten up monthly devoted largely to the exposition of the single tax. It has for its motto this quotation from Montesquien, "An injustice to one is a menace to all." In the September number we find "What Causes Hard Times" by the editor, "Government by Injunction" by John Sherwin Crosby, "The Only Man" by John B. Howarth etc. Yearly subscription 50 cts. Single number 5 cts.

A Gruesome Practical Joke.

The details of a gruesome practical joke alleged to have recently been played on a number of negroes near Miller's Bridge, on the Edisto River, were received recently.

Several citizens of that section, it is said, concocted a scheme with Tom Evins, colored, who agreed to enact the role of a corpse, to the discomfiture of his family and friends, if the white men would guarantee a sufficient quantity of corn liquor to enable him to carry out the part satisfactorily. Evins accordingly took several very large pulls out of a jug of booze and stretched himself out on a rude bier, previously constructed for that purpose. Several times after the grim jokers thought that the corpse had had enough to kill him in reality Evins is said to have made repeated references to the jug. At last, with a parting smile, the negro rolled over on his back and allowed the white men to spread a sheet over the alleged remains. In the meantime Evins' relatives and friends were summoned from far and near. At the same time a messenger had been dispatched for more liquor, the corpse having already consumed more than half a gallon before the game was half over. For about an hour there was great weeping and loud lamentations around the bier of the alleged departed fisherman. A colored undertaker arrived and began preparations for the interment, but the corpse was in blissful ignorance of it; his family knelt beside the body and grasped the rude bier to show the grief that was gnawing at their hearts, but the fisherman heeded them not: the fumes of the powerful apple jack still benumbed his brain and paralyzed his senses.

He was lifted gently and placed in his coffin, a placid smile wreathing his ebony features. Those about remarked the pungent smell of alcohol emanating from the nostrils of the corpse, but were too overcome with sorrow to attach any special signifiance to it. Another hour passed and still the messenger sent after the whiskey had not returned. Evins, of a sudden rose up in his large white cravat, and in a loud voice called for more whiskey or else the corpse would do some damage. Acting on this hint, some forty negroes, who were keeping vigil over the supposed dead fisherman, beat a hasty and disordered retreat into outer darkness, yelling

lustily and scrambling over one another in their frenzied efforts to get away. By the time Evins recovered from the effects of the corn liquor his relatives had summoned enough courage to venture back home.

Weather Predictions.

OCTOBER, 1903

The month opens with threatening weather with probably warmer spell but immediately followed by storms in southern and coast sections quite likely more or less for first ten days of the month. A severe cold snap in north west: quite likely more in Canada and northwest. Matters will be more regular and fairly good till about the fourteenth when several peculiar planetary conditions occur, with probability of vigorous storms in north and middle states. Moon is such shape as to bring warm wave about 17th followed by severe storm, sleet, wind etc., etc. There will be da nage to shipping and cities on the coast. Warmer weather follows out the closing days. October should bring another serious disturbance. The month will be noted for sharp sudden changes and much trouble.

NOVEMBER, 1903.

The month as a whole will be noted for rain, sleet, warm spells and quick changes. With the exception of dangerous conditions which appear from the 18th to the 23rd the month will probably be uneventful. On the dates just named a severe cold snap will come, extending generally over the country. It will be a month when outside work should be closed in and everything put into shape for winter. There will be danger to trees and shrubs from severe sleet and damp snow loading and breaking down.

These weather predictions are made by DR. DEROLLI, Scientific Astrologer, Hotel Pelham, Suite 411-412, Boston, Mass.

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Cat aud Beef Were Mixed.

A pretty good "cat" story comes from one of the suburbs. It seems that the wife of a Boston business man had a pet feline of which she become very fond. Recently, however, the cat was taken ill, and although everything possible was done to prolong the life of the animal. it died. The wife wanted the body disposed of in some way so that she would have nothing to do with it, and suggested to her husband that he take the corpse with him when he went to town the next day, and throw it from a bridge over which the train had to pass.

The poor little cat was carefully covered with a cloth, and then wrapped neatly in a piece of paper. The next morning the head of the family started for Boston with the body of the cat with him. On the way in town he met some friends and forgot all about the burial which was to have taken place when he crossed the bridge. So the "pussy" was taken to his office and reposed on his desk during the day. At night when he started for home the cat went with him, but the same difficulty arose as in the morning; the man met friends, and hesitated about opening the window and dropping the cat into the water, for fear of the comment it

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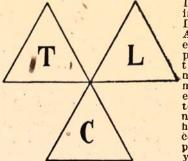
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might arouse among his fellow passengers. So the lifeless body was taken again to its former home.

The man's wife felt badly to see the supposed body of her pet brought back again, but finally agreed with her husband that the ashman could dispose of it the next day. The woman thought she would like to take one more look at her demised friend before it was taken away, so she removed the paper, and was surprised to find in the place of her cat an elegant roast of beef.

The man had placed his bundle in the rack over the seat, and when he left the train had either taken the wrong package or else the original owner of the beef had made the mistake.

It is not known what was said at the home where the beef was to go.

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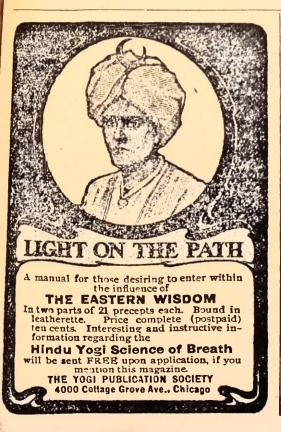
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