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## A Visit To Pompeii

(Children's Encyclopaedia Magazine)

Here is a city nearly two miles around with streets of houses, with market places and shops, with gardens and squares and monuments; all so well dug out of the earth that if the tenant of one of these houses were to come back to life and were set down at one of the three gates of Pompeii he would walk along the old pavement he helped to wear down 2,000 years ago and would walk to his old house quite naturally, recognizing his old home in some cases by paintings still fresh at the gate.

He would find the mosaic floor still almost as new in many of his rooms; he would find beautiful statues still unbroken; he would find the pipes which brought water to his bath still in their place; he would find the bath still capable of holding water; and he would find things at home in such a condition that no power would make him believe that his home had been buried in the earth nearly 2,000 years. I do not remember anything that I have ever seen and known to be true which is so hard to believe as Pompeii for here in a kitchen is a pan on the fire resting on the ashes which were boiling water in it when England was a savage land.

It is this which makes Pompeii almost too true to be true—the preservative through all that dread catastrophe through all these nineteen centuries of the very life of the moment when Pompeii heard its doom.

Pompeii is unmatched as something preserved through nearly twenty centuries, preserved in big and in little so that identity is easy: but Pompeii is unique in the world because it has stamped for ever upon the earth itself the life of a single moment in the dim mists of a time. I mean a moment not a period not a day not even an hour but a moment for I have seen the pan boiling on the fire the loaf of bread half eaten the meat being cooked for dinner the wine still in the bottle the ink still in the pot the key still in the door.

"I have been in the cellar where sixteen people hid themselves when the calamity came where the master of the house was found with the key in his hand a slave close behind him with money and valuables and I have seen the key. I have walked in the courtyard from which they must have fled have seen the open windows through which the ashes of Vesuvius burst upon them the cellar; have seen it may be the very clothes some at these poor people wore.

## RAINBOW LAND.

The West Highlands of Scotland may truly be called the home of the Rainbow, says a writer in the Queen, for here you will see them at any time of the year and in no other part of the world can they be seen in more perfect form and hue.

On a wild autumn day with the west or south-west wind blowing the clouds up across the sun I have seen one rainbow follow another in quick succession. A perfect arch of pulsating color becomes suddenly visible and frames the blue black mountains, which sit hunched at the top of the loch, gathering the storms round their great shoulders and hurling them down on to the foam white waters at other times the bow shimmers across the sunken sky with both its ends resting on the water a veritable gateway in to Faeryland.

Even when the rainbows are not visible in this part of the world it seems as if they had spilled their colors on the woods and hills. When the clouds lift and the belated sun shines over mountain and loch the effect is almost as dazzling as the rainbow itself.

In heather time the hills are wine-colored on their lower slopes, while their tops are a deep indigo blue, standing out in strong contrast to the clear pale sky. Nearer at hand there is every shade of color from warm amethyst to the soft bloom of a purple plum.

Later in the year the hills are checkered with the pale gold of ripe grain, the red brown of withered heather, the rusty glow of bracken, and the still vivid green of past ure fields, while the trees show every imaginable shade of hot color and seem to vie with each other in their efforts to defy the approaching gloom of winter.

The waters of the sea lochs, which add so much to the beauty of rainbow land, are tinted with all the shades of blue, gray and green, and at sunset glow with colors which rival the hues of the rainbow. The leaves fall and spread their brightness on the ground remorselessly; the passionate autumn rains awaken the burns, which slept during the summer, and the air is filled with the hoarse cry of many waters.

"The dwellers in this rainbow land fall into the habit of looking up to see if the arch of color is visible, and even if it is not there the attitude of hope cannot fail to uplift, and the consciousness that the rainbow is not far off never quite leaves them.

## POLITICAL PROGRESS IN CHINA.

The Chinese government has taken the second great step toward the establishment of free institutions and a parliamentary system. The first was the convening of the provincial assemblies a year ago. The second was the opening of the National Assembly at Peking, October 3rd. It was opened by the regent, Prince Chun, who in a brief address declared that the wish of the people was for a parliamentary government, and urged the representatives to labor to this end. Of the 200 members of the new assembly, 100 are royal princes, nobles, officials, 'literate' and rich men; the others were elected by the provincial assemblies. The present program provides for the creation of a general parliament in 1915.—Youth's Companion.

## Raven In Barnaby Rudge

(London Evening Standard.)

Alfred Tennyson Dickens, the oldest surviving son of the great novelist, has just arrived in London from Australia, where he has been for the last forty-five years. He was 20 years of age when he left home—Devonshire House, still to be seen facing Marylebone Church.

In the course of an interview regarding his father's works, Mr. Dickens said: "The original of the raven in 'Barnaby Rudge,' was one we kept at Tavistock House, not its successor, which died at Gad's Hill. The former bird, I remember, was an intelligent, although at the same time a troublesome creature. He was an excellent linguist, and one of his favorite pastimes was to call up the coachman at the most inconvenient hours of the night. 'Tapping,' it would call, 'master wants the horses—master wants the carriage!' Tapping used to think the summons came from one of the maids and one night he had actually got the horses into the carriage before discovering the deception.

Mr. A. T. Dickens does not remember his grandfather, who, however, he is convinced was the original of Micawber, the gentleman who was always 'waiting for something to turn up.' My grandmother, however, I can well recall," he added. "She visited Gad's Hill in 1863. She was a gentle, quiet, simple lady and her character undoubtedly inspired to no small degree that of Mrs. Nickleby."

## SHOOTING FOR THE YOUNG IDEA.

Headmaster (to father of boy entering school)—"Our teaching embraces writing, arithmetic, algebra, geography trigonometre. Father—'Ah! plenty o' tha trigonometrety—He ain't much of a shot yet.'—'M A P.'"



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A spoonful of flour in which eggs are to them from sticking o

