

AMERICA'S POMPEII.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES MADE BY AN ALASKAN TRAVELER.

Relics of an Unknown Race Revealed by an Avalanche—The Walls of What May Be a Prehistoric City Laid Bare—Some Beautiful Specimens of Pottery.

One of the most interesting theories in regard to the ancient colonization of America is that relating to its Asiatic origin. These theories were supported by tribal traditions, chiefly among the highly civilized races of Mexico as they were discovered by the Spaniards, from an analysis of which it would appear that the first settlements of this continent were Asiatic—for the time of a high degree of cultivation, in time over-run and subjugated by more warlike and powerful invaders, who, like themselves, came from the north.

Archaeological discoveries in New Mexico, Arizona and California have tended to confirm these obscure legends, and a correspondent of The Globe-Democrat of St. Louis presents the latest claims in the evidence of a Professor Alfred Eldridge of Montreal as to recent discoveries made by him in Alaska. Professor Eldridge's statements to the correspondent were, in brief, as follows:

"At the mouth of the Kuvalik river, on the shore of Kotzebue sound, I encountered a small settlement of Indians, who were much surprised at my desire to proceed up the stream.

"The chief did all in his power to persuade me to abandon my project, explaining unbearable perils galore which I would be certain to encounter. The savages seemed to think the district cursed by the Great Spirit, and nothing could tempt them to set foot on it.

"I did not feel uneasy, however, until I arrived at the mouth of the Kuvalik. As I entered the mouth of this frozen river it seemed as though I could read, 'Abandon hope, all ye who enter here,' written across its horizon, and the vision of a possible Dantean 'Inferno' beyond amazed me.

"On the border of a little lake where I stopped my attention was drawn to a spot half way up a steep peak, which had evidently suffered some recent disturbance. On arriving at the situation I saw that a great body of earth had broken away and rolled down the mountain.

"The first thing to attract me was the discovery of a small piece of broken earthenware, light brown in color, with an artistically worked trimming of Greek design worked in black pigment. It was just such a piece as those I had found in New Mexico some years before, and any one can imagine my amazement at its discovery in that quarter.

"I turned quickly to scan the sides of the earth where the avalanche had torn it apart, and in the midst of the crevice, not 300 yards away from where I stood, I saw the protrusion of a wall of dull gray masonry, crumbling and broken, but showing beyond all doubt, even at that distance, that the builder was human. On making further investigations I found evidences of numerous other walls at a distance of 30 or more feet apart, and some of them revealed corners of masonry.

"It soon became evident to me that I had discovered an American Pompeii through the work of the avalanche. The remains of houses I saw were undoubtedly those of a prehistoric city, covered with earth and debris, which had hidden it through some volcanic action, possibly during, but most likely long after, its desertion, centuries on centuries ago.

"All of the masonry was of beautiful symmetry, constructed of heavy sandstone blocks of an approximately even size, laid in strong mortar beds and with the joints broken. There were many pieces of broken pottery and other articles of domestic use lying around the ruins.

"But I sought higher game, and after preparing a wooden handle to a copper spade which I picked up on the scene I went to digging most industriously. Almost immediately my antiquated spade unearthed a few more fragments of pottery, which seemed an ominous sign. As I reached about six feet beneath the surface pots, vases, cups, plates, jugs, pipes and numerous articles of doubtful use and too heavy to bring away with me were uncovered with almost every thrust of the spade. The last articles my spade revealed were mixed sizes of arrows, spears of odd design, scrapers, hatchets and drills.

"I dug into a square room which had no windows in the walls. Here I found some of the finest specimens of pottery I have ever seen. They were beautifully decorated and finished in a way that is a lost art to modern potters. There were many exquisitely shaped jars, about 3 feet tall and as perfectly preserved as the china just delivered from the hands of our nineteenth century potters—if anything, more artistically proportioned.

"It does not require much thought or study to see an undeniable connection between the evidence of prehistoric habitation in Spanish-America and those which I have unearthed in northern Alaska, a fact which opens an entirely new and extensive field for archaeological study."

Always Running. "Your wife has such a liquid voice," said Mr. Fosdick to Mr. Tiff. "Yes, that's a pretty good name for it," replied Mr. Tiff. Mr. Fosdick looked up inquiringly, and Mr. Tiff added, "It never dries up, you know."—Harper's Bazar.

Swords were formerly all handmade, the utmost dexterity and skill being required to give the steel the proper temper. In the ordinary sabers now used in the army machinery is, to a limited extent, employed.

From Bremen to Sandy Hook is 3,484 knots.

And Case of Suicide.

St. Stephen, N. B., March 10.—Walter G. Stinson, of Saint Andrews, employed by F. A. Grimmer of Calais, shot himself through the heart in the rear of the store last night. He seemed despondent last evening and told some people at his boarding house that he would die last night. The deed was calmly premeditated, for the young man had written several letters to relatives and friends declaring his intention but so far as known assigning no cause. About a year ago he nearly met death from escaping coal gas. Since then his health has been poor and he has been constantly under a physician's care. He leaves a father, mother, and several brothers and sisters in St. Andrews. He was 26 years old.

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Queen's Trip.

London, March 10.—The Queen accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenburg (Princess Beatress) and the members of Her Majesty's Court, started from the Windsor at 10.30 o'clock this morning by special train for Portsmouth on her way to Cimiez.

At Portsmouth Her Majesty will embark on board the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, for Cherbourg, where she will take a special train for the Riviera. At Cimiez the Queen will occupy the Regina Hotel. She will return by way of Germany at the end of April. The weather at the time of her departure from Windsor was bright and sunny, and a large crowd of people cheered the Queen on her way from the Castle to the station.

Spain May Have to Give Up.

NEW YORK, March 11.—It has been announced in Havana by official permission that the monetary resources of the Government will not hold out until summer. Leading banking houses in Paris, Berlin and London have declined to make any further loans to the Spanish Government and it is therefore assumed that Spain will be obliged to give up the fight in Cuba before the summer is over.

Beware!

Whenever in need of kidney treatment always be true to yourself and refuse any substitute or imitation of the original and genuine



WANTED—Young women and men, or older ones if still young in spirit, of undoubted character, good talkers, ambitious and industrious, can find employment in a good cause, with \$60 per month and upwards, according to ability. Rev. T. S. LINSCOTT, Toronto, Ont.

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LIVING BAROMETERS.

CREATURES OF THE LOWER ORDERS THAT FORETELL WEATHER.

Animal Instinct or Something Else Which Tells Bugs, Birds and Beasts When There is Going to Be a Storm—A Frog That Climbs a Ladder to Give Warning.

The spider is a good example of the living barometer. Close observation of the work on its web castle will soon enable one to forecast the weather. When a high wind or a heavy rain threatens, the spider may be seen taking in sail with great energy—that is, shortening the rope filaments that sustain the web structure. If the storm is to be unusually severe or of long duration, the ropes are strengthened as well as shortened, the better to resist the onset of the elements. Not until pleasant weather is again close at hand will the ropes be lengthened as before. On the contrary, when you see the spider running out the slender filaments, it is certain that calm, fine weather has set in, whose duration may be measured by their elongation.

Every 24 hours the spider makes some alteration in its web to suit the weather. If these changes are made toward evening, just before sunset, a fine clear night may be safely counted upon. When the spider sits quiet and dull in the middle of its web, rain is not far off. If it be active, however, and continues so during a shower, then it will be of brief duration, and sunshine will follow.

These various indications may be witnessed and studied to the best advantage in the open air. But you need not always go outdoors to watch the spider barometer. There are few houses where the crafty creature does not find an obscure corner wherein to swing its sign-board. "Flies taken in and done for here." Watch these places, and when you see the spiders coming out on the walls more freely than usual you may be sure that rain is near.

There are individuals who would not keep a stock of spiders about their premises for the express purpose of prophesying the weather from their movements, and the enmity felt by the good housemaid for this particular species of animal is notorious. Those individuals can study the movements of their own domestic animals. Cats and dogs are given to scratching and other uneasy movements on the approach of rainy weather, and their fur looks less bright and glossy. Horses and cattle stretch their necks and sniff the air. Sheep become frolicsome or turn their backs to the wind and quarrel frequently. Goats bleat incessantly and leave the hillsides for more sheltered spots. Pigs run uneasily about, carrying straw to the sty, and no longer wallow in the mud and mire. Fowls huddle together in the farmyard with drooping wings, and the air is filled with the clamorous cackle of geese and ducks. Those who live in the country and spend much time in the open air have the advantage of observing the movements of wild animals and the operations of the changing atmospherical conditions. Moles become more active in digging, stoats and weasels become unusually restless and uneasy, and the hedgehog fortifies his cave against the coming storm with an unflinching provision which has earned for him a most enviable reputation as a weather prophet.

Wild birds make still better objects of observation, because in the "large air" their actions are easily noted. Crows and swallows remain near home when a tempest is brewing; sea gulls no longer venture out to sea, but hover over the fields or fly inland when wind and rain are near; swallows fly low and skim the water, and the robin broods melancholy in the bush or seeks the shelter of a neighboring roof. These are only a few of the many creatures of the fields and the air which enable a man who has eyes to see to forecast the weather during the next few hours. The explanation of all this is to be found in the exceeding sensitiveness of most animals, especially those which are more or less wild, to atmospherical conditions. They are all constantly making forecasts after their own manner, and, as we have hinted, they are far more trustworthy than any devices of man toward this end.

Several ingenious attempts have recently been made to turn this unflinching instinct to some commercial use. A number of very unique living barometers have been put upon the market. The cheapest, and the one which will probably become the most popular, is the frog barometer. A small green frog is found in Germany which always comes out of the water when cold or wet weather is approaching. These frogs are caught and kept in glass jars furnished with a tiny ladder and half filled with water. The frog weather prophet sits high and dry on the top of his ladder for several hours before a storm and climbs down to the bottom when the weather is to be fair and clear. Other remarkable weather prophets are leeches, and we have heard of a old meteorologist who adjusted his barometer in such a way that the leeches would ring a little bell whenever a storm was approaching and would remain silent when the weather was fair or setting fair. These creatures will also indicate the weather in the same way as the green frog referred to. If kept in a jar filled with water, they will climb up the sides when it is about to rain and gather round the top.—London Standard.

Misguided Leniency.

A man was up before the judge the other day for stealing coal. The railroad detective said that he caught the fellow in a coal car, but the man said he was only sleeping there because his wife had locked him out, and he had no money to go to a hotel. "Pretty hard bed, wasn't it?" asked the judge.

"Oh, no, sir," he answered; "it was soft coal." The judge was so struck by the joke that he let him go.—Buffalo Enquirer.

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