

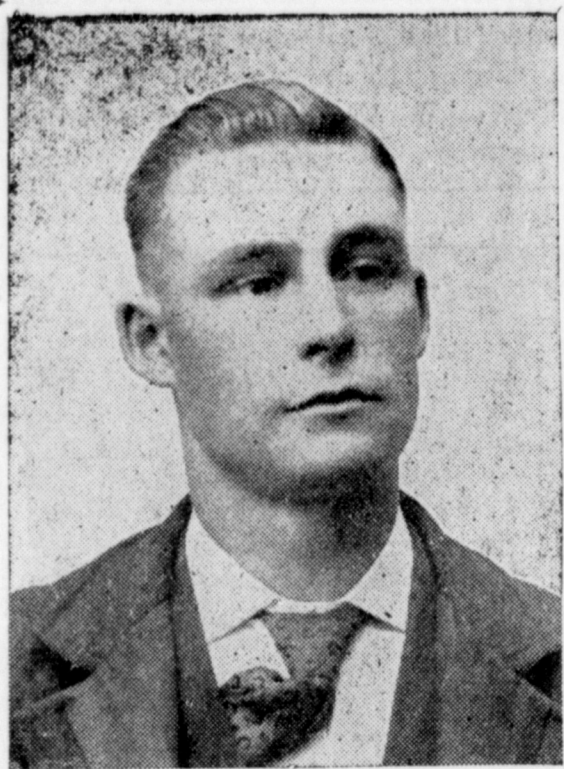
Graveyards — of Gold.

Gold for various reasons disappears rapidly in all countries, but nowhere else does it pass out of sight so rapidly as in India and China. So rapidly does the precious metal vanish in these two Oriental lands that they have come to be known as gold graveyards. Speaking of this curious characteristic, Thomas J. Hurley of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in his recent pamphlet on the gold production of the world, says:

"A yellow stream flows into both of these countries year by year. There is no end to this stream; it is always flowing. The money does not reappear in the Indian banks. The soil of India absorbs the golden flood just as the sands of the desert swallow the overflow of the great rivers. When it is remembered that this work of absorption has been going on with little interruption for ten centuries, and still continues under our eyes, it is easy to form an idea of the immense treasures that are hidden in that country."

"All this gold remains sterile, and consequently is lost. It is absurd to say that it is brought into monetary circulation or that it passes through the hands of the native goldsmiths. It is disseminated in innumerable places, from which it never emerges."

"It is estimated that in the regency of Bombay alone there are 12,000,000 gold sovereigns hoarded. Hundred upon hundreds of millions of dollars lie in the hiding places of the famine-stricken land. All classes are afflicted with the incurable habit of hoarding gold. The splendid



SAMUEL JONES,
Fredericton.

Maharajahs have become shrewd enough to use banks of deposit, but there is still barbaric display of jewelled idols in the strong rooms and of golden vessels in the princes' apartments.

"Even the gods of India," remarked a writer in the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, "are very fond of gold. They whistle for it through the lips of their priests. Obedient to the divine call, it comes rippling from all points, until it reaches the sacred purnis. It accumulates in the subterranean passages of the temples, to which the priests alone have access. Thence it overflows and takes its place like a proud conqueror upon the altars, where it shares with the gods the incense and the homage of the men it has bewitched."

"It seems curious that while half the world is engaged in an eager search for gold the teeming populations of India and China devote most of their energies to keeping it out of use and circulation."

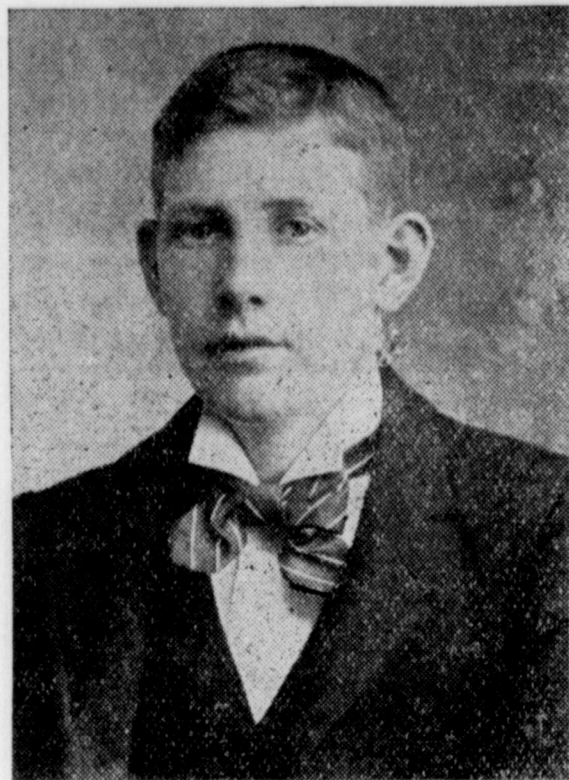
But India and China are not the only countries which absorb gold without ever giving it back again. As a matter of fact, in all countries there is a tendency on the part of coined gold to get out of sight and stay hidden. This is a subject which has occupied the students of finance in all lands, and there have been many analyses of the different causes for the disappearance of gold. Yet with the most ingenious explanations, the problem always has remained a very interesting one. Our own treasury officials have given it a good deal of study.

Of the vast amount of gold that is annually mined and put into circulation, there always remains a heavy balance unaccounted for, even after all allowance has been made for what would seem a fair amount to charge to loss by fire, by being sunk in deep waters and by hoarding."

Our treasury officials, according to Mr. Hurley, estimate that there is used in the arts annually, in gilding, in electroplating and similar operations which will draw gold from possibility of other use, probably not less than \$10,000,000 worth

of gold.

Then there is the use of solid gold in jewelry and plate. This in reality is not an actual withdrawal of gold, for it can be remelted and coined. Still, the handling of the metal in the process of manufacturing these articles and the handling of them after they are made is a source of a very considerable loss from friction, under which gold, because of its softness, loses weight



ADRIAN TIBBITS,
Fredericton.

sometimes with startling rapidity. It is estimated that gold for these purposes is used every year to the amount of fully \$50,000,000. This, with the amount, \$10,000,000, used in the arts, makes an annual total of \$60,000,000 in these two directions alone. Then there is to be added the uncertain and smaller, yet by no means inconsiderable, amount of gold lost every year by fire, shipwreck and carelessness.

"Since the resumption of specie payments in 1879," says Mr. Hurley, "the treasury officials estimate that \$300,000,000 in gold has disappeared from circulation. The Bank of England is said to be poorer by \$100,000,000 in gold than it was in 1897. France reports an immense decrease in gold coined in reserve, and other countries have similar stories to tell. An inquiry recently set on foot by our treasury department showed that the holdings in gold of the national banks on April 26 were \$195,769,872. The treasury holding on May 1 were \$462,989,871, the two items aggregating \$658,759,743. The estimate for May 1 was \$1,043,525,117,



JAMES TIBBITS,
Fredericton.

which left \$520,000,000 to be accounted for as held by state and private banks, companies, and in sales, tills, pockets and hoards.

"A large amount of gold is taken out of the country by travellers. One tourist agency receives from travellers from \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year and turns it into the bank of England. About \$75,000 per year is melted at Geneva, and in all a net loss of from \$600,000 to \$800,000 is indicated. At the latter figure the total in twenty-five years would be \$20,000,000. Inquiries made of 45,000 firms and individuals indicate a total consumption of coin by manufacturers, jewellers, dentists, &c., of \$3,500,000 per year. The official estimate of the entire stock of gold in the country was \$1,053,518,892 at the beginning of August last."

Mr. Hurley says that all the indications are that the world's output of gold will continue to increase for many years to come, even over the vast amounts that are being turned out at the present day. Not only, he says, are new processes saving gold that it was impossible to save ten years ago, but new gold camps are spring-

ing into life and old silver mines are developing into gold propositions as greater depth is attained.

"We predict," he concludes, "that within



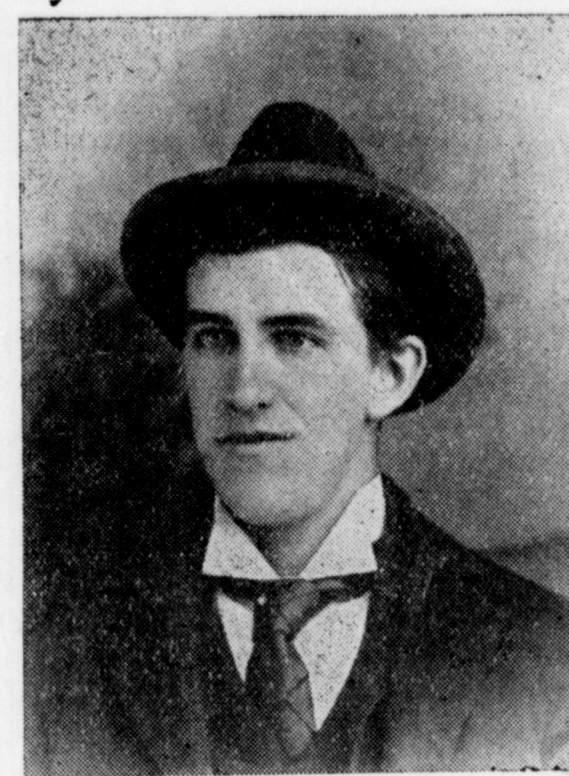
BRUCE MCFARLANE,
Fredericton.

the next twenty years Alaska and the Northwest Territory will yield over \$1,000,000,000, and that by 1925 they will contain a population of over 1,000,000."

Goethe and the Children.

Simple tastes are not confined to people whose circumstances allow them to live the simplest lives. Goethe complained that nature had predisposed him for privacy, but destiny had put him into a princely family and troubled him with the administration of a state. One simple pleasure, however, he could always enjoy—the company of children. Intercourse with them made him young and happy.

At Easter time he was accustomed to invite his young friends to look for for possession when they found the cunningly hidden treasures. Goethe would



JOHN PICKLES,
Fredericton.

himself play with them until evening, and then crown the entertainment with a pyramid of sweetmeats.

Chambers's Journal recalls another annual occasion on which the poet gave pleasure to the children. It was long a privilege of a great public school to send its four best girls to congratulate him on his birthday. There is a widow still living in Berlin who was born in Welmar in 1812 and who had the honor of congratulating him on his birthday in 1823 and 1824.

The girls went in their best dresses, adorned with flowers, each bearing a plate with the most beautiful flowers artistically piled round a lemon. The valet received and announced them. Then Goethe came, accepted the floral offerings one by one, and heard each child recite a simple poem. He shook hands with the children, and talked to them for some time.

The final act of the programme was the beckoning to the valet, who came and placed on each child's plate a head piece



J. ALBERT PERKINS,
Fredericton.

Easter eggs in his garden. They ran all over the place, and fought pitched battles

(an old Austrian coin). This meant that the audience was ended.

So much did the children appreciate the honor of this visit that the old lady says it was one of the brightest memories of her childhood.

The poet had his aversions as well as his affections. He hated tobacco, dogs and spectacles. When a spectacled person called to see him he was respectfully requested to unoggle himself before admission. The poet declared that he liked to see people's naked eyes.

Stories in the Youth's Companion.

In the 52 issues of the year The Youth's Companion publishes more than 200 stories yet so carefully are they selected that they prove inexhaustible in variety, unfailing in the power to delight. The stories already in hand for The Companion's 1901 volume show that this feature of the paper will be as strong as ever.

Among the groups of stories will be one of "Old Settlers' Day Tales"—stories actu-



NORMAN MCLEOD,
Fredericton.

ally told at some of the gathering of pioneers in the West. There will be four stirring "Tales of Our Inland Seas," picturing the adventures of the sailors on the Great Lakes; and there will also be four "True Tales from the Zocos," told by famous keepers and trainers of wild beasts. And this is only a beginning. We shall be glad to send Illustrated Announcement of the volume for 1901 with sample copies of the paper free to any address.

All new subscribers will receive The Companion for the remaining weeks of 1900 free from the time of subscription, and then for a full year, 52 weeks, to January 1, 1902; also The Companion's new Calendar for 1901 suitable as an ornament for the prettiest room in the house. The Youth's Companion, Boston, Mass.

Pearl Patches.

The pearl-fishing industry is described by the author of "The World's Rough



BERT FINMORE,
Fredericton.

Hand," as very much like mushroom-gathering. He says that it would be as sensible to drag the fields at random for one as to haul a scopp-net over the seabottom for the other. The mushroom is not to be found in every field, neither is the pearl oyster to be found on every bottom. Mud and sand it has no liking for, preferring a coral bottom well covered with submarine growths. Such places are called, "patches" by the pearly fraternity.

When a patch is struck, the boats work gradually up to windward until they find the weather edge. Here they drop anchors, fouled so that they may act merely as crags; the divers go overboard, and the drift to leeward begins. While the boats drift on the surface, the divers walk in zigzag fashion over the patch below.

This is the usual mode of working. It might be thought that, with so many vessels engaged in one locality, the supply of shells would rapidly be exhausted. Such, however, is not the case, for not only are

the patches often many square miles in area, but a diver's horizon, even in the clearest water, is extraordinarily limited; and should he chance to walk again in his or another divers footsteps, it is not at all unlikely that he would pick up as many shells the second time as he did the first.

Pearl shells, when separated from the the spongy growths which usually form on the upper shell, and divested of their horny edges, are about as large as an ordinary breakfast plate, and average two pounds in weight. In the London market they bring from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds a ton, or to bring the calculation down to simpler figures, from two to three shillings a pair.

As for pearls, the finding of them is entirely a matter of luck. One man may open tons upon tons of shells without finding anything but a few hundred valueless "seeds," while another may take a fortune out of a day's gathering.

It has now been pretty well established that pearls are formed by the intrusion of some foreign substance between the mantle of the mollusk and its shell, which substance, setting up an irritation, is coated over by the oyster with layer after layer of its own nacreous or pearly secretions until it becomes completely encysted.

In all probability this foreign substance is a minute parasite, for it is well known by divers that shells honeycombed by boring parasites yield the largest percentage of pearls.

By Proxy.

Below is an anecdote, found in Short Stories, which a Roman Catholic priest, now deceased, was fond of telling in his informal parish lectures. Its quaint and homely moral is evident.

Bridget only came to confession occasionally, and when she did come she found it very difficult to remember any wrong-



J. HAWKINS,
Fredericton.

doing on her own part. She had, however, a better memory for her husband's sins.

"It's Moike, me husband, that's the bad one, father," she said once to her confessor. "It's three weeks that Moike niver confesses, an' hiven knows his sins is scarlet. He drinks like a baste an' smokes loike a flue. He swears that blud St. Patrick wud trimble. An' sure ye shud see Moike smash the dishes an' break the furniture an' fling the stove-lids an'—"

"Six 'Hail Marys' every day for a week and three fast days, Bridget," said the father.

"Oh, fawth do you mane, father? Sure, Oi niver confessed a sin!"

"But you confessed Mike's," said the father, quietly, "and as long as you make his confessions for him I think you ought to do the penance, Bridget."

"77"

A swollen face, the characteristic epidemic symptom of Cold or

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