

A MESSAGE FROM MARS.

An Aerolite That is Thought to Have Written Characters on It.

Prof. E. Stone Wiggins, of Ottawa, Ont., believes that the aerolite which fell near Binghamton recently and is alleged to have contained a piece of iron with hieroglyphics was really a message from Mars. When questioned, Prof. Wiggins said: "My opinion is that stones have for many thousands of years fallen from space upon the earth, which actually contained written characters. The ancient Jews and other nations speak of their sacred books as having fallen from Heaven, and as the earliest important records were preserved in stone it seems probable that the idea originated with aerolites, like that of Binghamton. There is no doubt in my mind that there are thousands of these stones that have fallen to our planet since man arrived here, and are messages from another planet. "If we lived on Mars and possessed the scientific knowledge of the people there we might send a projectile to another planet without difficulty. In fact, in a few hundred years more we may be able to generate and to control electric force so that we can throw a projectile beyond the moon's orbit, and it will either fall on that satellite or move toward and fall upon another planet. Suppose that Marsman were to throw a stone, highly electrified, into the orbit of their nearest satellite, which is only about 7,000 miles away, so that it would be in advance of it, in its orbital motion, I have no doubt it would repel the stone in the line of a tangent, and with such force as to send it to our planet's orbit. Or suppose a comet were passing near Mars and toward the earth, stones thrown near it would follow in its trail, and fall to the earth like the stones which fell to the earth in November, 1872, after the comet of that year had crossed our planet's orbit. "Although we have no power to send a projectile 50 miles from the earth, yet if we could cloud it would drive a 100-pound projectile beyond the earth's attraction. Stones have been thrown 70 miles from the crater of volcanoes. There are conditions when the earth actually repels bodies by its own electric force. For I have seen meteors moving away from the earth. Prof. Van Ness investigated the path of the great meteor seen at the same moment in France, Austria and Italy July 7, 1892, and found it was directed upward and away from the earth at the end of its course. The time is coming when we will utilize this force for aerial navigation, when ships as large as the greatest vessels now afloat will communicate the globe. It is by utilizing this force that birds are enabled to soar, and some birds, like the condor, cannot fly at all except over mountains, where the earth's electric force collects in their peaks and propels them."—Des Moines (Ia.) Register.

COOL COURAGE.

How an Englishman Worked a Gun at Great Hazard.

A fine example of cool courage in presence of the enemy is contained in a dispatch in the Gazette of India. In the official report of the operations in the Tochi valley the name of Lieut. de Brett, of the Royal artillery, was specially mentioned and attention was drawn to the rapidity with which he had brought reinforcements and ammunition to the front at Maizar. When the young officer fell in with the force the enemy were pressing forward. There was a gun at hand, but was without the usual appurtenances. This gun Lieut. de Brett loaded himself, and rammed the charge home with a rifle, without sponging out between the rounds. He recognized the extreme danger of what he was doing, and for that reason refused to be helped by the Sepoys near him, preferring to take all the risks himself. Afterward he improvised a sponge by wrapping a pugger round a lance. Maj. Gen. Corrie Bird does not hesitate to say that the fact of the gun coming into action when it did materially assisted in dispersing the enemy, and extricating the escort.—London Daily News.

Punch and Judy.

The world known Punch and Judy show owes its title to one of the old mystery plays called "Pontius cum Judaeis" (Pontius Pilate and the Jews). In Italy the chief character in this performance was styled Pontinella, from the Latin pilosus, a thump, because, like his companion, he is a Tom Thumb, or puppet. Our Punch is an abbreviation of the Angelicized Punchinello. The Mystery plays were all founded on Bible incidents, and preceded the Miracle plays which were based upon the lives of the saints. The Moralities were still another form of early drama in which the dramatic personae were allegorical—Vice, Virtue, Honesty, Depravity, Good Doctrine, Charity, Prudence, etc.—Detroit Free Press.

When a man has not a good reason for doing a thing he has one good reason for letting it alone.—Farm Journal.

APPENDICITIS.

A Very Old and Common Trouble with a New Name.

Judging from the reports so frequently made in the daily press, it would appear that appendicitis is not only on the increase, but that it seems to have a special predilection for prominent persons. The New York Herald, however, scouts this idea, and declares that, contrary to popular belief, the disease is no more frequent now in its occurrence than formerly. It is simply a new name for the very old and very common trouble known as peritonitis, or inflammation of the bowels, which, until lately and before operative treatment was instituted, always ended in death.

The trouble having been traced to the ulceration or rupture of an inflamed appendix, causing the fatal peritonitis, the early removal of the diseased organ very naturally suggests the proper line of treatment. It is, perhaps, not generally known by the public that the various foreign bodies, such as grape seeds, cherry pits, and the concretions usually found in the appendix, are merely accidental consequences of the inflammation rather than causes of it. To such as never eat a grape without a certain misgiving it may be comforting to learn that it is a very rare circumstance to find a seed of the fruit lodged in the appendix. In fact, it is now proven that, aside from the intestinal concretions which really form in the organ after the latter becomes diseased, there is scarcely an average proportion of three per cent. in which foreign bodies, distinctively so called, are discovered. That these accidental or deposited substances are not absolutely necessary for the production of the disease is shown by their entire absence in a goodly number of the most severe cases. Among the latter may be mentioned a recent instance which has claimed much public attention.

The real cause of the disease is associated with the destructive tendencies of a peculiar microbe called the colon bacillus, which always exists in the intestine, and is absolutely harmless until an inflammation or injury of the appendix gives it an opportunity for the development of malignant qualities. The microbe then multiplies with great rapidity and penetrates the walls of the weakened organ, intensifying the inflammation, and finally escape into the abdominal cavity by ulceration or rupture of the tube, thus producing the fatal or septic peritonitis.—Illinois State Register.

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Castle Life on the Rhine When Barons Waged Private War.

In the good old days when castles on the Rhine were inhabited by bold barons who were continually at war with each other, the existence of the women cooped up therein was something not easily understood by the fair sex to-day. A recent writer on this subject says: "Just imagine, my dear madam, how you would feel if mistress of such a castle. You have plenty of silverware, most likely, if your husband is a good fighter, and no dearth of heavy old hand-made furniture. The slits of windows are so small that curtains would be of no use; and anyhow, as there is no glass, the rain would soon ruin them. You find that the cold stone floors make your joints stiff, and your spread some rushes on them. Your supply of meat and other eatables depends upon the success of his lordship's raids. You have no women to associate with but your boorish servants. There is one book in the house, a prayer-book, but you are not able to read it unless you are one of the advanced women of the time. You would go out? Then you must first climb down the crag by a path that is barely passable, at the risk of being captured by a neighbor. You have a beautiful view, and some fine afternoon you go up in the highest tower to watch a little passage at arms on the plain. It is something that you take considerable interest in, for your husband is in the thick of the fight. He and his men have clashed with Sir Adolphus and his men, and your husband may come home laden with plunder or he may come home on a board. You go into your chamber and kneel before the stone crucifix, where you spend a great deal of the time. Before you have reached the last bead in the string you hear joyful shouts below. The sorrow is not to be in your castle this time, but in the next one. Wilford is safe, and there will be fresh meat for a fortnight."

Umbrellas for African Royalty.

A West African king has just had an umbrella made for him 21 feet in diameter. When in use this umbrella, which opens and closes in the usual way, is fixed to the ground, and there is room underneath it for the king and 30 guests to take dinner.

The Uro-Ox in Russia.

In consequence of disease and the ravages of poachers the Russian uro-ox has become nearly extinct. It is now proposed to renovate the stock by importation of the Caucasian uro-ox.

MAN AND PANTHER.

Fearful Struggle in Which Only Nature's Weapons Were Used.

Probably the only man who ever killed a panther with no other weapon than the strong hands and brawny arms nature gave him is a resident of Memphis, says the Commercial-Ap peal. He is an Australian native, born in Sydney, and gives his name as John L. Sullivan. He stands six feet five inches in his shoes and weighs 215 pounds, not an ounce of which is surplus flesh. His colossal frame is one solid mass of bone, sinew and muscle, and if fighting were his trade he would be ready to go into the ring at a moment's notice. Had he been reared a pugilist he would have cut no mean figure in the history of the ring, and in all probability have proved a match for Peter Jackson in his palmist days.

But this modern giant says he never fought a man in all his life. The only fight of note he ever had was with a panther, and that laid him up for a year. He will remember that fight to his dying day. It occurred nine years ago. Sullivan was then fireman of a construction train on the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas railroad. One day his engine stopped in the woods, near Shelby, in Bolivar county, Miss., and having an hour's leisure he got off, intending to snatch an hour's rest on a pile of cane near the right of way. Just as he was preparing to lie down he saw a panther approaching through a ravine that concealed him from the construction crew. Sullivan gave the alarm and the crew fled, leaving him alone on the field. The panther turned on Sullivan, whose presence it was ignorant of until it heard his warning cry.

The animal, which proved to be of formidable size, made a spring and landed on Sullivan with an impact that would have felled an ordinary man. The Australian stood the shock without a stagger, however, and pushed the beast off with a powerful shove, but not before its terrible claws had buried themselves in his flesh and torn off the skin and tissue from the neck to the waist. Then with a blood-curdling snarl it attacked his legs, clawing off a section of his thigh and biting through the calf, where its teeth remained until Sullivan, with a powerful effort, "kicked loose," as he himself described it.

Then the battle began in earnest. The animal, now roused to fury, roared himself on his hind legs and came on with a rush. Sullivan caught him by both forelegs and held them in a grip like iron. A furious battle followed. It was a hand-to-hand fight between man and beast on equal terms and with life as the stake. Sullivan tried to throw the beast, but the ground was slippery with his own blood and prevented a firm foothold. At last, inch by inch, he forced the animal toward the root of a big tree and with a mighty effort threw it down and fell on top of its prostrate body, never releasing his hold of those mighty forelegs.

Then came a struggle that Sullivan long remembered with a shiver. He knew his only chance lay in keeping his clutch on the brute's forearms, extending them as wide as he could force them. After a brief breathing spell he crawled up the brute's body and planted one of his knees firmly on its chest. All this time the panther was using his hind legs to great advantage, tearing chunks of flesh from Sullivan's feet. But he never thought of it. He had other work before him. How to kill the beast was the question that puzzled him as he kneeled there, panting, half-fainting with loss of blood, his nerves almost overcome with the fetid odor of the brute's carcass, inhaling its hot breath and almost feeling the fire of its eyes.

At last he thought of a way, and nervously himself to the task he dug his knee deep down into the animal's chest, summoning all his strength to the effort, and feeling its bones crunching under him. Then using the spot on which the knee rested as a fulcrum he drew the animal's head toward him so to break its neck. The animal divined his motive and resisted with all its strength, but the man prevailed and the neck broke with a snap that might have been heard a block.

When the conductor and engineer came along half an hour afterward they found Sullivan lying unconscious in a pool of his own blood, almost in the arms of the beast he had slain.

Mortality Among French Soldiers.

Messrs. Burot and Legrand, two eminent French naval surgeons, have for a long time given close attention to the mortality among French colonial troops. They estimate this for 1891-5 inclusive at 42.95 per 1,000. During the same period the mortality in the Paris garrison was six in the 1,000 and 11 in the 1,000 in the fleet.

Nothing makes one feel so small as to say mean things about a person and then have him treat us exceptionally well the next time we meet him.—Washington Democrat.

Bulletin Financier. Bulletin Commercial

Mercredi, 26 janvier 1898. Mercredi, 26 janvier 1898.

COMPTOIR D'EGANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE ORLEANS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Jaqu'lot, Meme temps, and other market items.

Marché de la Nlle-Orléans.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes various market goods like flour, sugar, and oil.

Marché de New-York.

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Vertical list of market items and prices on the far right edge of the page.