

THE SUN'S ECLIPSE.

Preliminary Account of Observations Made at Wadesboro, N. C.

Programme as Laid Out Was Successfully Carried Through - Main Object of the Investigation Was the Corona.

A preliminary account of the observations made at Wadesboro, N. C., during the recent eclipse, under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution has been prepared by C. G. Abbot, of the institution. "The main object of investigation," says Mr. Abbot, was the corona, and of this first, a photographic study of the detailed structure of the inner corona; with, second, a determination by the bolometer, whether appreciable heat reaches us from it, and, if possible, an examination of the form of its spectrum energy curve.

"The fall of temperature and rising breeze were distinctly noticeable before totality. No change in direction of the wind was noted. Shadow bands were seen, but those observers who attempted to measure their velocity found them too rapid and flickering for any successful work in this direction, yet there was notable unanimity among independent observers as to their size and distance apart (about five inches).

"It was noticed that the birds were silent during totality, but, true to their nature, the English sparrows were last to be still and first to begin their discussion of the eclipse after the return of light.

"The attention of all visual observers was caught by the equatorial streamers. Father Woodman described the appearance as like a mother of pearl, but different observers differed on the color estimate.

"A yellowish green tinge was noted by the artist of the party, Mr. Child, while to others the light was straw-colored, or golden. The visual telescopic observations of the writer gave little indication of the finely divided structure of the inner corona, which he had noted at Pike's Peak during the eclipse of 1878. Structure, to be sure, was evident, but not in such minute subdivision as had been then seen. One remarkable prominence was seen as well as several smaller ones, but the coronal streamers did not give to visual observers the impression of being connected in any way with the prominences, nor to the writer was the telescopic coronal structure (the 'Original' structure of Lias) connected with them. All observers reported a successful carrying out of the programme.

SERVANT GIRL PROBLEM.

Miss Laughlin, a New York Lawyer, Thinks the Question of Hours is the Most Difficult.

Members of the Woman's club are delighted over the appointment of Miss Gail Laughlin by the congressional industrial commission to investigate the knotty servant girl problem. Miss Laughlin is a lawyer at 47 Broadway and lives at 199 West One Hundred and Thirty-fourth street. Although only 23 years old, she has already made her mark as a debater and orator.

A PUBLIC SPANKING.

Parents of Unruly Youngsters Noted And That They Must Administer Punishment for Misdeeds.

There will be a public spanking exhibition in Parkview, a suburb of Newark, N. J., in a day or two or else several school children will be arrested on a charge of breaking and entering the school building.

They were caught Tuesday in the act of wrecking the kindergarten department of the school. Books and maps were torn, ink spilled and desks overturned. Four of the youngsters were captured. School Commissioner John J. Quinn decided that the time had come to give Parkview a lesson. He has therefore served notice on the parents of the guilty children that they must bring their offspring before the school board and administer before the public assembly as severe a spanking as the offense demands.

Khaki Craze.

The khaki craze has now gone so far that statutes in many West End London villas have been painted that color, and in one small area, the St. James' Gazette says, one now sees the Mercury, a Laocoon group, an Achilles, an Aphrodite, and a Hercules all resplendent in the popular hue.

The Mating Passion.

The first thing a woman does after three weeks' absence in the country, says the Somerville Journal, is to ask for the latest issues of the fashion magazines.

HASTY SWEETS.

After Dinner Melishes That Can Be Connected in a Few Minutes by a Clever Housewife.

With a good egg beater the following delicious "airy nothing" may be made in a few moments. Eggs are cheaper than ever and three will make a plateful of these dainties, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. First beat half a cup of butter to a cream, then add to it gradually half a cup of powdered sugar, beating all the while. Next stir in the beaten yolks of the eggs, beat again, then add the well-stiffened whites; lastly, beat in half a cup of rice flour and the juice and grated yellow rind of a lemon. After the last beating the mixture should look fine and light and is then to be poured into little greased pans. If scalloped or any fancy shapes so much the better. Bake 20 minutes in a moderate oven.

Perfection Pudding.—It is well to have a quick dessert at the end of one's fingers in case of disappointment in the one planned for or the arrival of unexpected guests. The following is easily made and is so light and delicate that it fairly melts in the mouth: Separate four eggs, beat the yolks until creamy, then add three tablespoonfuls of fine granulated sugar and beat the same length of time again. Next mix three even teaspoonfuls of flour with two of milk, add a quarter of a teaspoonful of salt, stir in the yolks and strain. Grease a baking dish, see that the oven is evenly hot (brisk but not scorching), then add the juice and carefully graded rind of a lemon, beat briskly into the whole the stiffened whites, dust the top thickly with powdered sugar and bake 15 minutes. Eat with hard sauce or fruit juice thickened slightly.

Peach Pudding.—There is now such an excellent brand of both canned and evaporated peaches in the market that there is no need to wait for the peach season to have one of the most delicious puddings imaginable. Choose the rich yellow variety, each half large and tender. The evaporated sort must be well washed and soaked overnight; they will cook sufficiently in the pudding.

Have 12 halves spread out, with sugar in the hollows; each half may have a stoned date, cherry, etc., placed in it, instead of the pit. Rub a large tablespoonful of butter into a pint of flour, sifted with a teaspoonful of baking powder and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Beat an egg very light, stir into a scant cupful of milk and mix this gradually with the prepared flour, beating well at the last. Pour this into a greased baking pan, large enough to allow the fruit to be spread out and the batter to be about an inch thick; bake for half an hour in a brisk oven. Serve hot with cream and sugar or any sauce fancied.

CARE OF A FERN-DISH.

Why the Florist Has Success Where the Housewife Meets with Failure.

A well-filled fern-dish as it is delivered by the florist is really a very pretty and dainty affair, but unfortunately the length of time that it remains in good condition is generally very short, says Robert R. McGregor, in Woman's Home Companion. The majority of the ferns and plants used in filling the fern-dish are of a tropical nature. The florist being able to maintain the moist, humid atmosphere in the greenhouse, the plants consequently thrive and do well for him; but on removing them to the average dining or living room conditions are so changed that disastrous results usually follow. During the fall and winter keep the fern-dish in the kitchen as much as possible, for there the steam from boiling pots and kettles keeps the air moist. Keep ever in mind that a high temperature and a dry atmosphere will certainly kill the ferns or injure them greatly, so that if it is impossible to maintain sufficient moisture, keep the plants in a lower temperature, say about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer a moist, shaded place, such as at the north of the house at the base of the wall, should be selected, and a slight excavation made in which to plunge the pan when not in use. The matter of watering, especially in very dry weather, is important, and the soil should never be allowed to become too dry, nor the plant to suffer for water. It is a beneficial practice to syringe the foliage of the ferns every two or three days. In addition to these suggestions one should keep a sharp lookout for scale-insects, which work such havoc often before they are discovered. During severe rains or storms the pan should be taken into the house. Avoid keeping the fern-dish in the direct sunshine, but allow plenty of light. The majority of fern-dishes are in two parts, the inner part of either tin or pottery, to hold the plants, and the outer the ornamental part. The arrangement makes it convenient to move the inner part with the plants.

French Way for Stew.

Have you ever tried stewing meat in the French fashion, au jus, in its own gravy? This for invalids is delicious. For this take, say, the fillet end of a small leg of mutton and put it on a pan previously lined with sliced onion and (if handy) turnip; dust the meat with a little flour and pepper and a tiny pinch of salt, fasten down the lid of the pan tightly, and let it stew gently at the side of the stove till cooked, when it will be deliciously tender and surrounded by rich gravy. Lift it out, thicken the gravy slightly with a little brown roux, add a dash of catchup and pour it over and round the joint. A clove or two stuck in the onion adds to the flavor.—Philadelphia Press.

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GEORGE DIDN'T GO.

His Sweetheart's Indifference Spoiled a Delightful Romance He Had Connected to Bring Her to Terms.

George Hudson thought there was no one in the world so good as Madeline Norwood. To his way of thinking nothing could be compared with her except, perhaps, one of the angels in Heaven.

One day they had a difference, says the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle. In high temper he took his hat and went out of the house, saying as he went: "I'll go away and never come back." But Madeline only laughed. The idea that George could get along without her did not even make a dent in her imagination. The thought of how he would come back amused her greatly.

She knew she would not like him to bow before her, plead with her and be submissive. No, that wouldn't do. Crushed would be her ideal of manly strength. He had always been her general and she his next in rank. "And yet," thought she, "I couldn't go to him and say it's all right. That would make me least in rank of all the army, and that which we hold in common would fade away."

Early next morning the bell rang vigorously. Madeline was dressed in a handsome gown of light blue. George entered. The expression on his face showed he was still irritated in mind.

Madeline said rather indifferently: "O, you here?"

"Yes" (heroically). "I thought you were going away" (coquettishly).

"I am" (heroically). "Soon?"

"Yes; to-morrow" (roughly). "Er—er—er, I have a trunk of mamma's I could loan you" (archly). "I don't want anything belonging to you."

"Well, really, it would be the least of trouble if you wanted it."

"I don't. I came here to get my book of travels."

"O, yes, certainly." She ran into an adjoining room and brought the book. "There," as she placed it in his hand. "Anything else?"

"No," answered George, as he put the book under his arm and went out the door toward the stairs. He descended one step.

She—Er—er—where are you going? He (gruffly)—South Africa.

"To dig?" "No, to fight."

"O!" Silence. "English?" "No, Boers."

"Er—er—do you think Roberts will get to Pretoria?" "I haven't thought."

"Wonder if he'll get there before you?" "No answer. By this time he had descended all but eight steps.

She—Anything I can do—pack your trunk, do your purchasing?" "No answer. Another step.

"Hope you don't miss the boat." He stopped, looked up at her leaning over the baluster.

"You don't seem to care whether I go or not?"

"No" (laughing tormentingly). Three steps more.

"O, George, you might take the big apple tree with you. I won't need it, of course. You know the one I mean. The one you and I used to sit under in the summer time. Why, 'twas only last summer we sat there. (More serious.) Well, you better take it with you, for I don't want it now. (He sat down on the stairs.) Have you gone? Well, good-by."

The old apple tree has furnished a happy thought. Slowly he turned in his position.

"I am going," he said, slowly, and then very softly and clearly: "I am going to stay with the apple tree."

Impressable Girl.

The charmer will always be abroad in society, and, while the world may excuse or berate him, his influence over the susceptible girl is constantly working. Knowing that his species will never be stamped out, and that the maiden will always be found to offer her heart as a pure tablet for impressions, how important it is that she should have for a friend and guide one who will not destroy the exquisite quality of her nature, through trying to harden her so that she may not become indifferent to possible rebuffs in her heart's experiences. What is needed is not the blunting of the sensibilities, but a development of the judgment. So that if the one nearest and dearest to her is an enthusiast, knowing the dangers of the way, while recognizing the delights of a pure and true love, she may show the inexperienced girl how to avoid the pitfalls in her relation to the other sex, teaching her to use discretion.

"Nor lose the childlike in the larger mind."—Mary R. Baldwin, in Woman's Home Companion.

Marriage Maxims.

Never both be cross at the same time. Wait your turn.

You were gentleman and lady before you were husband and wife. Don't forget it.

A blind love is a foolish love. Encourage the best.

There is only one thing worse than quarrels in public. That is carelessness. The man who respects his wife does not turn her into a mendicant. Give her a purse of her own.—From Conan Doyle's Books.

The Ever Popular Gumps.

Now that the upper portion of the bodice is so generally cut away to show a chemise of gumps, great attention is bestowed upon this picturesque article of dress. China silk, French lawn, liberty silk, or surah, laid in fine lingerie tucks, are the fabrics most used for gumps on everyday gowns.—Detroit Free Press.

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

The Men Are the Dressmakers, But the Women Have a Pretty Hard Time, Notwithstanding.

"The native women of South Africa give their infants four or five hot baths daily," said Mrs. Ellen Gooding, a prominent delegate from the South African mission field, who, according to a special correspondent of the Globe-Democrat, attended the ecumenical conference in New York city. "They consider it necessary for the health and proper development of the child. After these baths they rub its little body with a sort of paint made by mixing a soft clay with oil. This completes its toilet and, after feeding, it is placed on its little mat by the fire to sleep.

"A mother does not leave her young child in her krasa when she goes out to gather wood, fetch water or work her farm, but carries it on her back in a sling, which, by the way, is made by the men of the household. One of the odd things about these Kaffir-Zulus is that the men do the sewing. They are both tailors and dressmakers, and fashion a bridal robe with as much skill as they make a man's apron or war shield. Of course, you will understand that they use the same material, namely hide, for all of these purposes.

But to go back to the babies, their principal food, as soon as they have learned to drink from a gourd, is the whey which their mothers draw from the clabbered milk prepared in great quantities for the men of the household.

"You must not fancy that the women think of themselves in preparing the food for the family. A woman's taste is of too little importance. Indeed, I think such thing is not known to exist. Food is prepared for the husband and his friends, according to his orders, and if there should be anything left over the women and girls may eat it in another part of the little hut, if not, they must satisfy their hunger with what, or fruits, for which the men are known to care very little. The meals for the men usually consist of several courses, of which boiled or broiled meat or fish is the first, then follow vegetables of several varieties, fruits, the clabber of which I have spoken, and a sort of hasty pudding, made of corn meal with coarse brown sugar sprinkled over it. Cooking is one of the many duties performed by the women, and most of it is done in the same vessel, an iron pot, with a second pot of the same size fitted over it as a cover. In this clumsy vessel they manage to do very creditable cooking. Besides boiling their meats, vegetables and puddings, they manage to steam a loaf of bread.

"Their huts, of which each woman has one, is circular in shape, and so low that she can only stand erect in the center. The Zulu woman keeps it remarkably clean, when you consider that it is the only place in which she and her family must live, and at night the dogs, goats, calves and chickens creep in at the door and huddle in the corners assigned to them. This door is the sole opening to the house. It is about 2 1/2 feet high, so, of course, even the infants and children are compelled to crawl in and out.

"Like her sisters all over the world, she is fond of ornaments, and not only delights in covering her body and limbs with beads, rings, bangles and all sorts of strange articles as charms, but takes great pride in the number of scars she can show. Mothers often have the arms and bosoms of their young daughters cut or burned for the purpose of making these beauty marks. I have seen the whole body covered with little gashes which the doctor was making and filling with what appeared to be a mixture of charcoal and ashes. You may be sure that girl sold for an extra price on account of great beauty, when she came to a marriageable age.

"Upon reaching the marriageable age both men and women shave their heads. The men leave a circle on the top and the women a tuft of hair. This tuft of hair, which is on the crown of the head, is smeared with a mixture of grease and red ochre, and gathered into a sort of crest or topknot. Their clothing, until they don their bridal costume, consists principally of beads, brass jewelry and numerous strings of charms. Native fathers are not in favor of clothing their daughters, as they consider it a useless expense. Legally, a woman has no rights, but her father has, and unless her husband can show just grounds for complaint he cannot rid himself of his wife. Their process by law is exceedingly tedious, and that fact alone prevents many men from seeking a divorce."

Odd Ideas in Bathing.

In a sketch of the childhood of Louis XIII, his tutor wrote under date of August, 1608: "The Dauphin was bathed for the first time; put into the bath, and Madame, his sister, aged six, with him. The Dauphin was seven-years old at the time." In his fourth year he had his feet washed with a damp cloth; when he was six, they "washed his feet in tepid water in the queen's basin for the first time."

Her Discouraging Experiences.

"Aunt Minerva did you ever get up in a dark night and take a dose of medicine in the dark?" "No, dear; I tried it once or twice, but it always turned out to be shoe polish or hair tonic."—Indianapolis Journal.

These Girls.

Ella—I saw your intended to-day. Hattie—to whom do you refer? "Why, to Tom Brown, of course." "Oh, he isn't my intended. I'm only engaged to him."—Chicago Evening News.

FRENCH CONSCRIPTION.

As First Discovers by the National Convention, It Was in the Year 1792.

Conscription, i. e., the calling of all citizens to arms, was first decreed by the French convention on the 23d of July, 1792, when all able-bodied men were called out to defend their country against the invaders, says the Nineteenth Century. But it being impossible at that time to retain every man in the ranks, the law of the nineteenth Fructidor, An VII, established conscription by drawing lots. Two years later a new act authorized the recruit who had drawn a number obliging him to serve to employ a substitute. Soldiering soon became a trade, and the men whose time had expired generally reenlisted as substitutes. Thus was established a system which gave France excellent armies of old and tried soldiers. The law was modified several times, but lasted until 1868; it is only the law of 1869 that entirely wiped away all remnants of it, and firmly established the obligation of personal service for all.

In accordance with this law every Frenchman serves for 23 years. He enters the army at the age of 21, remains three years with the colors, and re-enters at 24 into the reserve of the active army, which in time of war is merged in the active troops. He remains for the next ten years in this first reserve, during which time he is called out for two trainings of 28 days each; at the age of 34 he enters the territorial army, or second Reserve; where he remains six years, being called once for a period of 13 days. Finally, the last six years are spent with the reserve of the territorial army, a force specially intended for the defense of the country itself, and for the protection of railways, canals and roads.

The 580,000 men who form the peace establishment are distributed between 80 army corps. Each corps has at least two divisions of infantry, a brigade of cavalry and a brigade of artillery. The corps stationed on the eastern and southeastern frontiers comprise additional troops. Altogether there are about 368,000 infantrymen, divided into 163 regiments of zouaves, four of Algerian sharpshooters, or "Turks," 30 battalions of chasseurs a pied ("lighters") and five of African chasseurs (white troops). There are 80 regiments of cavalry, 13 regiments of cuirassiers, 31 of dragoons, 14 of hussars, 27 of chasseurs (including the six white Algerian regiments), and four of spahis. The field artillery numbers 50,000 drivers and gunners, divided into 40 regiments. There are, moreover, 16 batteries of siege artillery and seven regiments of engineers.

A SUNDAY-TRADING TOWN.

Which Gathers in About \$5,000 a Year by Fitting Breakers of Obsolete Law.

Over \$1,000 was received by the Hull corporation last year in fines from traders for trading on Sundays, says the London Leader.

No fewer than 4,069 successful prosecutions were undertaken by the police against shopkeepers for contravening the Lord's day act of Charles I, and in every case the usual fine of five shillings, including costs, was imposed. Hull stands unique in the system and regularity with which this ancient act—it is dated 1677—is administered.

And Monday morning one may see on the charge list at the police court 70 or 80, and sometimes more, Lord's day summonses. A stranger might expect to see a file of indignant tradesmen passing before the learned stipendiary magistrate, protesting against being fined for keeping open shop on Sunday. But nothing of the kind. Last year only about three out of the whole 4,069 defendants appeared in answer to the summonses; the year before there was one, and in many previous years none. Strange as it may seem, they send the errand boy or some one to pay the fine—the uniform sum of five shillings, including costs, for each offense), and stranger still is the fact that they are content to pay it week after week with the regularity of clock work, since it is practically the same people who are summoned every week. None is permitted to escape the fine—not even for a single Sunday. A shopkeeper who thus keeps open persistently Sunday after Sunday pays in the course of a year £13 in fines, which, by reason of the fixed sum of five shillings per week, is looked upon rather as a license to break the law than a punishment for violating it.

The class of tradesmen pounced upon with this unrelenting regularity is composed mainly of tobacconists, sweetstuff dealers, news agents and sellers of fried fish and other delicacies. Even the Hebrew slipper makers, who keep their Sabbath on Saturday, are not spared if they work on the Christian Sunday.

Each Sunday plain-clothes officers are told off in the respective divisions to report all shops open. In one division—the Old Town—there are over 60 tradesmen who make a practice of Sunday trading. Summonses are subsequently served. Up to recently the constable who delivered the summons for the latest offense collected the five shillings fine imposed for the preceding delinquency.

Asking and Receiving.

The tramp had been unsuccessful and returned to the road from the house empty-handed.

"Aw," he growled, "that woman's no good. I asked her for bread, and she gave me a stone."

"That's nothin'!" said his companion. "I tackled one yesterday for bread and she gimme a broom-handle."—Detroit Free Press.

LOCOMOTIVE CARRIES A JONAH

Engine on the Wabash Road Which Is Feared by Every Employee.

Engine No. 174, which was recently placed in the Wabash shops at Peru, Ind., for repairs, has a longer list of casualties to her credit than any other engine on the road. The engine is known as the "Pru Jonah," and was built at the Wabash shops as a matter of experiment. It proved to be one of the fastest engines on the road, but it was scarcely put into active service until it went through a culvert east of the city. A short time after being repaired No. 174 collided with another engine, and two more men were added to her list of killed. After this accident occurred the engine was sent back to this city and arrived here in time to suffer another accident in which several men were injured. A number of minor accidents occurred soon after this, and the engine was sent to the Chicago division, where it has kept up its reputation for both speed and casualties. On being removed from the shop this time the engine will be sent back to the Chicago division, as the railroad men are superstitious concerning it, and truly believe as soon as the engine nears this city it is possessed with the evil one.

FOUGHT OVER BURIED RICHES.

Four Men Struggle Desperately, Then Find It Was All for Naught.

The buried treasure of Hermit John Harris provoked a terrific fight between four men at the late residence of the recluse, No. 324 Spring avenue, Omaha, Neb., the other afternoon. The police responded to a riot call, but when they entered the cabin they found nothing but a crowd of boys, an old keg filled with rusty nails and considerable blood. The participants are unknown to the police.

Harris died a week ago and there were rumors that he left much money buried around his home. Since then gangs of men and boys from the neighborhood have been digging around the floors for the treasure. Four men were seen by boys tearing up the floor of the cottage. They were digging around and unearthed a large keg. Instantly a row was started, as they thought it contained gold. During the battle the keg was broken to pieces and a pile of rusty nails were exposed instead of the hoarded gold.

The riot call was turned in by Joseph Simma, who witnessed the fight, but when the police arrived all the men had disappeared. One of the survivors procured a wagon and placed two of the injured men in it and drove away. The other man walked off.

GNAWED TO DEATH BY ANTS.

Horrible Punishment Inflicted by Means of Red Ants on an American by Mayo Indians.

A mining man who reached El Paso, Tex., from the state of Sinaloa, Mexico, tells the story in detail of the terrible punishment recently inflicted on James Wilson, a renegade American prospector, by Mayo Indians. Wilson frequently visited the villages and finally won the affections of a handsome young girl. Instead of marrying the girl according to the rites of her tribe, he is said to have decamped her to his camp in the mountains and kept her there against her will. She finally escaped to tell the story and Wilson fled. He was overtaken and carried back. As a punishment for his crime it was ordered that he be put to death by a method common with the Mayos. The prospector was stripped of his clothing and bound across an ant hill infested by large red ants. After many hours of horrible suffering as the insects slowly gnawed away his flesh Wilson expired. Wilson was reputed to be a fugitive from justice from Oklahoma.

ENGINEMAKERS ANGRY.

Frenchmen Are Disgruntled Because the State Exhibits American Locomotive.

In the official section of the machinery exhibit at Vincennes is a locomotive manufactured in America for the state. The action of the minister of public works, M. Pierre Baudin, in exposing such an exhibit has aroused considerable feeling among the French engine builders, who were at first displeased with the government for having recourse to American skill and then resented what they considered to be an official advertisement of their American competitors. M. Danette, republican member of one of the divisions of Lille, who represents important manufacturing interests, voiced this discontent the other day in the chamber of deputies, demanding to know why the government was thus advertising a foreign manufacturer "to the detriment of French engineers."

Old Roman Paintings Found.

At Bosco Reale, on the slope of Vesuvius, near Pompeii, where the great silver treasure was found a few years ago, recent excavations have brought to light some of the most remarkable paintings of the Roman period yet discovered. In the grounds of the Del Priaco villa a great peristyle and four large rooms have been unearthed, the walls of which are covered with 80 large frescoes of rich coloring and more careful execution than any hitherto known. The figures are of life size.

Statue of Gladstone.

Mr. Gladstone's statue is to be set up at Athens in the gardens of the Zappelon, in recognition of his services to Greek independence.