

EMERALD TALISMAN.

World's Most Precious Green Gem Held by Mexican Indians.

Patle Effort of President Diaz to Obtain Possession of the Sacred Stone--Once Seen by American Woman.

For years--ever since Mexico was opened to the white man--every traveler to that romantic land has heard of the emerald of Oajaca. Rumor said that it was huge almost beyond belief. Whatever its size, it is certain that the Indians believed in its magic properties. No white man ever saw it, but now an American woman has succeeded, through a sister woman's gratitude, where men found failure, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

This emerald of Oajaca has for ages been the object of covetous interest on the part of Spanish viceroys, Mexican presidents and provincial governors. Great dealers in precious stones have sought it, too, but the Indians, as the lineal descendants of the Aztecs, to whom the emerald is supposed to have originally belonged, hold it in superstitious reverence, and such safekeeping that until recent years little but unconfirmed legends of the stone's existence was known.

A few years ago President Diaz became so interested in the matter that he decided to prove the truth or fallacy of the reports of this emerald's size and value. Without warning, he suddenly appeared in the village where it was said the gem was secreted. He summoned the people into the plaza and announced that if they would show him the emerald known to be in their possession he would in return proclaim a public holiday and entertain them with a festa at his own expense. He promised, as president, and by virtue of the same blood in his and their veins, that if they would accede to his request he would not attempt to take the emerald from them.

Upon this a prolonged consultation ensued among the Indians, the result of which was that from afar off in the crowd one of them held up at arm's length between his forefinger and thumb the famous emerald, scintillating in the rays of the sun. Diaz was desirous of a closer inspection, and, turning to his guards, ordered the man to be brought to him. His action, if not his words, were at once considered by the Indians to be suspicious, so they promptly raised a tumult, and amid shouts of "Viva Porfirio Diaz!" "Viva la fiesta!" the man and the emerald disappeared, and this was the only glimpse the powerful president was able to obtain of it. An American woman had better fortune. It happened that her husband was appointed to superintend the medical department of the railroad being built through Oajaca and incidentally saved the life of an Indian woman. In her gratitude this woman begged to be allowed to make some recompense, as the American doctor had refused to accept a fee. But half in jest he replied that if she would show him the Oajaca emerald he would be satisfied. At this the woman seemed greatly disturbed. She at first declared she knew nothing about it, but on being pressed further by the doctor's wife she admitted knowing where it was hidden. Finally she agreed that if the doctor would solemnly promise to absent himself she would obtain the stone and show it to his wife. For some unexplained reason she held steadfastly to this point that the wife must be alone when the emerald was produced, that it was yielded, though much to the doctor's disappointment.

So one morning shortly afterward the Indian woman appeared at the physician's temporary residence. She made sure that the doctor's wife and herself were alone, then she produced the emerald from a fold of her clothing. For about a minute only was the doctor's wife permitted to inspect the gem, while it was held securely in the Indian woman's fingers. In size, according to the fortunate visitor's account, the stone is as large as a pigeon's egg, crudely polished and of a rich grass-green color. In its depths she noticed a few black spots or flaws, which goes far to prove that it is a genuine emerald, and not volcanic glass, as has been suggested. The purest emeralds are seldom without flaws, this being one of the tests taken into account by experts.

In great haste the Indian woman again secreted the gem and went out, but on a curious circumstance the doctor and his wife remained subsequently. During the remainder of their stay in the village, though they met the woman several times, neither by word nor sign would she recognize their previous relations. She treated them as absolute strangers. To her mind the risk she had run in showing the talisman of her tribe was full compensation for the service rendered. The general belief is that the stone is not secreted in any place, but is concealed on the person of one of the Indians and passed on as circumstances may require. If such is the case, the woman must have obtained the gem by stealth, and during the time it was in her possession she was doubtless in no little danger of her life.

Traveler--I sent you half an hour ago to the railway station to find out when the next train goes. Porter--Yes, sir; and to be sure and be exact, I waited till it started--it was just 12:37.--Punchinello.

Too Much of a Good Thing. Doctor--What seems to be the matter with your husband? Mrs. Patient--He took a violent fancy to a new health food recently, and I think he ate too much of it.--Chicago Daily News.

INCENTIVE FOR HOING.

Yakima (Wash.) Women Dig Up \$33.25 While She is Cultivating Her Garden.

Mrs. F. A. Elmer, of Sunnyside, Yakima county, Wash., has hoed out \$33.25 from her garden. She was weeding cabbage when her hoe struck a hard, shiny substance. This was raked out in the sand and proved to be a silver dollar. Then the woman dropped on her knee, raked carefully about, and soon brought forth a \$20 gold piece. A few more scratches and she had a handful of silver and gold.

She hurried to the house and washed the money. On counting it she had a \$20 and a \$10 gold piece and several small silver pieces, the total amounting to \$33.25. An investigation led to the belief that the money had been lost by a former resident of the place. She inquired of the neighbors and finally located a man who had lived there two years ago. He was J. T. Baird, a pharmacist, employed in the Sunnyside drug store.

The woman felt the money did not belong to her and was uneasy. She searched for the druggist and returned the money to the loser. He stated that he had lost the coins two years ago. He kept the \$20 piece and gave the woman the remainder. She returned to her home a happier woman, and carried \$12.35 as a reward for honesty. Other gardens are being weeded in anticipation of finding buried treasures.

NEW FUR SEAL ROOKERY.

Lieut. Ellsworth Berthoff Adds to His Laurels by Making a Valuable Discovery.

Lieut. Ellsworth Berthoff, of the revenue cutter service, who received a gold medal from congress last spring for his part in the overland expedition in Alaska in the winter of 1897-98, and who made a trip to arctic Siberia last year in search of reindeer for the government, has added to these exploits by discovering a new fur seal rookery in the Aleutian islands. While cruising among the islands near the extreme western end of the chain early in July as the executive officer of the steamer Manning, Lieut. Berthoff went ashore with a boat's crew on the island of Houblyer. There he found two rookeries of fur seals similar to those found on the famous Pribiloff islands, which are situated fully 700 miles in a northeasterly direction from Boulder.

The scene of the newly discovered seal herd is a mere bit of land between Bering sea and the Pacific ocean, fully 2,500 miles west of San Francisco, but still within American jurisdiction. Lieut. Berthoff approached the herd closely enough to learn that none of the seals had been branded, and there was no sign that white men in sea search of fur seal had ever been near the island.

WILL NOT BE A MIDWAY.

A Trip Around the World May Compromise the Amusement Features at St. Louis Fair.

In planning for the lighter amusement features at the St. Louis world's fair the original idea has been brought forward by the director of concessions, Mr. Norris B. Gregg, to arrange them in the order of a trip around the world. The attractions will be selected carefully and will be in each instance of the highest character that can be secured. The names "Around the World" and "Tour du Monde" have been suggested. The scheme will furnish the life and entertainment of a trip around the globe. The visitor who makes Mr. Gregg's trip will have an experience as nearly like the actual journey as can be devised. From stepping on board an ocean liner to "Home, Sweet Home" from a band stand on Art Hill, he will have mingled with the peoples of many countries, will have seen their native industries, will have partaken of their food, will have enjoyed their entertainments. In brief, Mr. Gregg's scheme will supplement the exhibits that go to make up an universal exposition and the architecture of all nations as exemplified in the foreign buildings.

MEN OF SCIENCE.

Directory and Biographical Dictionary to Be Prepared Under Direction of Carnegie Institution.

Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, of Columbia university, has been selected by the Carnegie Institution to compile a directory and biographical dictionary of the men of science of the United States.

Prof. Cattell is now sending out blank forms with pertinent inquiries. Among the heads on which information is desired from the recipient: Department of study, honors conferred, books, with publishers; chief subjects of research and researches in progress.

The institution, which was formed by the trust deed of January 28, 1902, has thus far been attempting to define a line of action, and the opinions of many scientific men have been sought to determine these initial steps. The coming autumn is likely to show further activity and definite results on the part of the trustees, who will have \$500,000 a year to disburse.

A Dangerous Signal. They have a new anti-foreign society in China. It is known as "The Red Lantern," says the Chicago Record-Herald, and it probably expects to raise blue blazes.

Mr. Carnegie Forwarded. Mr. Carnegie must not be discouraged, says the Chicago Tribune, if the first \$10,000,000 fails to bring about the discovery of the secret of life.

WORK CONTINUOUSLY

More Than Half of American Employees Never Go on Strike.

Interesting Facts Gleaned from Labor Statistics in the United States--Farmers Never Quit Their Jobs.

In these days of unparalleled prosperity and strikes it is a soothing reflection that the majority of American workers never have gone on strike, and probably never will.

A survey of the national workshop, so to speak, discloses the fact that, including men, women and minors, nearly 32,000,000 persons are daily at work in it--less the number of those temporarily on strike. Of this grand total 15,000,000 only, considerably less than one-half, are employed in the industries that are subject to strikes and lockouts.

Here, then, is the gratifying fact that 17,000,000 workers in these United States always keep working. Included in this great standing army of industrious people who never quit their jobs are the farmers and their help, about 9,000,000 strong. The people at work on American farms, comprising nearly one-half of the adult labor of the country, have never gone on strike; the idea has never even been mooted among them, states the New York World.

Besides our farmers there are over 1,000,000 Americans classified as professional workers--actors, authors, artists, clergymen, lawyers and doctors, none of whom ever strike. Then there are about 400,000 teachers in the country, two-thirds of them women, who work year in and year out in striking communities. Next come our domestic and personal and public servants, about 5,000,000 of them, including our soldiers and sailors; they also belong to the non-striking majority. It is strictly for the workers in manufacturing and mechanical industries and in trade and transportation, aggregating a grand total of 15,000,000 persons, that strikes and lockouts are confined. But from this total many further deductions must be made, because it includes the 600,000 clerks and bookkeepers, the 60,000 commercial travelers, the 200,000 real estate and commission agents, the 800,000 wholesale and retail merchants, the 15,000 stenographers and the 35,000 bankers and brokers, all of whom are outside the strike zone. Returns covering a long period of years show that the total number of persons who go on strike or are locked out averages 314,000 annually. In short, nearly two-thirds of all the working people of the country are steady, continuous workers, who "saw wood and say nothing," and of the other one-third only a small fraction stops working at any one time.

KING IS A GOOD FELLOW.

That is Why Edward VII. is So Popular with the People of His Country.

English solicitude for the recovery of King Edward has been inspired by something besides the circumstance that he happened to be the head of the state. The man is liked, says a London letter to the New York Mail and Express. How he is regarded by the multitude may best be gathered from the phrase which the man in the street is nearly sure to employ. "The king is a good fellow," he will say.

He does not credit him with remarkable gifts of mind or person, or with a character exemplary at every point. His skepticism as to the divine right of kings is probably even more pronounced than the American. But to him the reigning sovereign is a likable person, of good abilities and more than common tact, not unworthy of the part he has to play under the British constitution.

A story is going the round which is characteristic alike of the man and his office. Not long ago the king paid an unexpected visit to a boys' school on the south coast, and after the manner of school visitors, monarchical or republican, began to question the youngsters. He asked them to name some of the great kings of England, and the boys eagerly suggested Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Richard I., Edward I., Henry VIII., and so on. One of the smallest lads to whom the master had privately whispered something, volunteered "Edward VII."

The king beamed. "Ah, my boy," he said, "and what great thing has Edward VII. done?"

The little fellow hung his head and said he did not know. "Don't let that distress you," said the king. "I don't know, either."

Whether the incident actually happened or not it has ideal truth in that it illustrates at once the limitations of monarchy under the British system and the king's humor and humorous perception of them. Edward VII. has done nothing great. But in his state functions he has done nothing badly. His long novitiate as prince of Wales, whatever else it may have done, made him a thorough man of the world. He came into contact with all sorts of people, and while all of the company he kept was not edifying, his experience with men and affairs left him a better judge of human nature and British sentiment than many a monarch who has made a larger mark on his time.

Couldn't Help It. "Did you ever take an oath?" asked the judge. "Wants only 'n'r honor," replied the witness. "Big Moller swore at me from the top of a six-story building, an' I couldn't have me team 't git at him, so I had to take it."--Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

MONT PEELE MYTH.

Many Strange Things Attributed to Martinique Volcano's Eruption.

Positions of the Atlantic Coast Said to Have Been Raised from Three to Six Feet--Not Generally Credited.

The eruption of Mont Pelee has been made to do service to explain every unusual phenomenon in any part of the globe since it occurred, without much protest, but when an alleged scientist attempts to show that the whole New England sea coast has been raised into the air by it, some of the easterners feel that it is time to dispose of the Mont Pelee myth, states the Des Moines Register and Leader. Col. Henry C. Denning, of Harrisburg was first to discover that the Pennsylvania mountains had been lifted bodily, while, as the Philadelphia Press puts it, everything else had remained tranquil except the genial colonel himself. He now has scientific indorsement, however, Prof. Oscar P. Heintzel, connected with the chair of geology in a Pacific coast university coming to this side with the following statement:

"There is no question but that parts of the eastern coast have been raised. The first evidence was obtained by government officials in collecting statistics regarding the coast line. It was discovered at Cape May, Atlantic City and other New Jersey points that the water does not come up so far as previous to the eruptions. Other evidences of an elevation are plainly noticeable along the coast line. Careful examinations further show that the interior has been affected. As far west as Harrisburg elevations have been accounted for that range from three to six feet. In and about Harrisburg the raise is about four feet, while at other points nearer the coast line it is higher. About the only explanation is that the underlying strata on the coast is much softer and more susceptible than that of the interior where air and harder substances are found. While some elevation may have been caused at these sections the results are comparatively slight and unnoticeable as compared with the coast. In some places the elevation has been so great as not to have been noticed by the inhabitants."

The idea that parts of Pennsylvania could be raised three feet and other parts six feet without even a jar to give the people a hint that anything was going on, and all as the result of an explosion in the Caribbean sea, is regarded with amusement by the scientist, who says that as a matter of fact the eruption of Pelee was a very small affair considered as a terrestrial phenomenon, and that it would have been impossible for the eruption to have raised the Jersey coast line or the state of Pennsylvania suddenly without a most frightful cataclysm.

The only level which the Mont Pelee explosion disturbed was the level of the isthmian canal. It did undoubtedly blow the Nicaragua route out of water, and laid it over in Panama. But aside from that the commotion it created was confined to the island where it occurred. There seems to be some evidence of important changes in that vicinity, the reports of which tax the credulity, for it is claimed that the sea is a mile deep now where it was shallow, rivers on the island have been swallowed up, inlets of the sea cover vast estates, and one level field is now a barren ridge. But the Mont Pelee myth will survive. It will be made to explain unusual rains in one part of the country and drought in another, hot days here and cold days there, epidemics and crop failures. The myth has a peculiar attraction for the human mind and science demolishes it in vain.

EMPEROR WAS BROKE.

Occasion When William, of Germany Had to Borrow a Coin from His Brother, Prince Henry.

It seems incredible, yet it is a fact, that Emperor William of Germany is often short of money, and the reason is because he rarely carries any money in his pockets.

One day he was at a festival with his brother, Prince Henry, and his attention being drawn to a new automobile machine, he resolved to put a coin in the slot in order to see how the apparatus worked. When he searched for a coin, however, he could not find one and he was obliged to borrow from his brother.

On various other occasions, and especially while hunting, since it is his custom to give money to the foresters and other attendants, he has found it necessary to borrow from his companions. The only time when he fills his pockets with money is on Christmas eve, for it has long been his custom to stroll at that time through the streets near his palace and to give money to all deserving persons whom he meets, but especially to children and old soldiers.

A Chemical-Lingual Compound. What is believed to be the longest word in the English language occurs in a publication just put out by the census bureau, containing a digest of the most important patents granted on chemical compounds. Hydrotri-amidodithiophenylacridine, under certain treatment, produced a greenish-yellow color when applied to cotton. The number of the patent covering it is 395,080, granted December 25, 1889. This is the way it comes about: It is an amidobenzoflavine produced by transforming the nitro-tetraamidodithiophenylmethane into pentamidodithiophenylmethane. For further particulars, the readers is respectfully referred to the specifications.--N. Y. Post.

Without Thinking. "What do you expect to be when you become of age, my little man?" asked the father. "Twenty-one, sir," was the bright one's reply.--Yonkers Statesman.

VALUE OF A GOOD KICK.

Advice from a Railroad Lawyer to People Who Have Complaints to Make Against the Road.

"One thing that has struck me about the American people," said an Englishman, who is counsel for a railroad company here, says the New York Sun, "is their good nature in putting up with things that other people would stand and their ineffective methods of protesting when they get stirred up enough to make a kick. The average American doesn't know how to kick. While traveling on the railroads in this country you often see people upset over something that is clearly the fault of the railroad management and all they do is to complain to the conductor. That's as far as nine out of ten Americans will go and when the conductor disclaims responsibility that's the end of their kick. After that it's meek resignation."

"Now in England the traveler who finds some inexcusable fault with the railroad management will take the matter either to the president or the directors, and before he gets through it's dollars to doughnuts he will have satisfied."

"An English woman I was traveling with over there lost her trunk. It was a clear case of bungle on the part of the company. The woman went straight to the board of directors, overlooking every one else. She had to wait until the board held a formal meeting and awarded her damages, but she got them in the end and got them from those at the top."

"I happen to know something about railroad officials in this country and I know the same thing would work here if it was tried. One summer I lived up at a little place on the West Shore road. When the train that took most of the business men down to the city in the morning arrived at Weehawken it was always to find no one there and we would have to wait from ten to twenty minutes for one."

"Many of the men who took that train had been putting up with that for years without thinking of protesting to anyone but the deekhands. I stood it about a week-end then I wrote to the general superintendent of the company informing him that I would appreciate the ten minutes more in bed every morning if the boat was not going to be there when the train arrived. In two days I got a letter from him thanking me for informing him of the matter and saying it would be remedied, and it was at once. And that man didn't know me from Adam, either."

"I remember another case of a man who was a friend of mine who noticed that some of the horses on the old Madison avenue car line were in bad shape. He sat down and wrote a personal letter to Mr. Vanderbilt, who didn't know him, either. He got a letter back in which Mr. Vanderbilt said he was always glad to know of any faults found with the company, as it was impossible to find them out himself always, and promising that the horses would be retired at once, and they were."

"That only goes to show that railroad companies are often blamed unjustly for things when it is really the fault of people who, instead of informing the officers at the top of the trouble, content themselves with grumbling to minor officials, who never even forward their complaints."

DISAPPOINTED THE DOCTORS.

Medford (Mass.) Man Outlives the Men to Whom He Sold His Body Several Years Ago.

Walter Wentworth, of Medford, Mass., aged 77, has outlived two physicians to whom he sold his body. For many years Wentworth was well known in the vaudeville business. His feats of contortion, the strange things he did with arms and legs, and even his apical column, made the eyes of ordinary mortals stick out.

Two doctors bought and paid for his body. Mr. Wentworth first received \$100 from a Dr. Cove, who at the time had a practice in Detroit. Dr. Cove died a few months after the contract was made.

Dr. H. N. Wilder, in charge of the King's county hospital, New York, became interested later in Wentworth's ability to tie himself into knots. The contortionist for \$100 made a contract with him, in which was included a clause, stating that the physician "does hereby agree to set up the skeleton of said body in a glass case in his private office in such a manner that it may be exhibited to my many personal and other friends." Now Dr. Wilder is dead.

DEMAND FOR AMERICAN BOOKS

Australia, It Appears, is Slighting the Production of British Publishers.

Does the British publisher need "waking up?" According to A. G. Melville, the Melbourne agent in England of the Publishers' association, the demand for American books is growing apace in Australia, to the possible or accidental detriment, it would seem, of the British product. The American advance, he says, is more apparent in scientific and technical books and works dealing with mining, engineering, architecture, industries and trades, and to a certain extent, in American fiction. Also Australian firms are seeking to appoint agents in New York to select and forward these publications as they appear.

Fencing in United States. They are building a wire fence between the United States and Canada, which leads the Chicago Tribune to ask: Is somebody trying to fence this country in?

RATS STEAL TOBACCO

Carry Off Whole Plants for Construction of Their Houses.

Mysterious Theft Traced to Muskrats Who Carried the Plants Over Well-Beaten Path to the River.

A new enemy to growing tobacco has been discovered at Papunook, which is one of the most important tobacco growing sections in the Connecticut valley. The Clark brothers of that place are large growers. Among other tracts they have eighteen acres bordering on the Farmington river, near where it empties into the Connecticut. For a month past they have been trying to discover whether it was man or beast that was cutting down six or eight of the tobacco plants every night and bearing them away. They would probably have been wondering yet if it hadn't been for Michael Leamy, who knows as much about the ways of animals as the Clark brothers do about growing tobacco, and that's a good deal.

Leamy's attention was called to the matter after about 200 muskrats had been cut down. He examined the surroundings and found a well-beaten path leading up from the river. Along this path he found broken pieces of tobacco leaves.

"It's some kind of an animal," said Mr. Leamy, "and I think it's a muskrat." The others laughed at the idea of a muskrat being strong enough to carry off nearly full grown tobacco plants. But Leamy knew what he was talking about and he set a trap in the path, concealing it thoroughly. He was rewarded the other morning by finding a muskrat in it. All the other people in his neighborhood have come to his way of thinking, and they all agree that muskrats is due the disappearance of the Clark brothers' tobacco.

The muskrats build houses, using principally brush, sticks, and grass, but they have never before been known to destroy and carry off tobacco plants. Mr. Leamy is looking for a house so constructed as to prove his theory beyond doubt. It is supposed that the rats dragged the plants through the water to an island in the river, about 200 feet from the shore, where a winter house was being erected. Those familiar with the habits of muskrats say the animals are very strong for their size and that they have been seen dragging muskrat pieces of timber through the water easily.

PRAISE OF "SLANGAGE."

Prof. Tripps Says, in His Opinion, Street Vocabulary is a Storehouse of Words.

Slang is the vitahing force in the English language, according to an assertion made by Professor Oscar Lewis Tripps of the University of Chicago. "Fables in Slarg" and the jargon of the street urchin, according to Professor Tripps, are storehouses of words freshly coined for the next generation. And in the course of his discussion of the creation of new words, Mr. Tripps allowed himself to take part in the formative process. His contribution is "slanguage."

"So far as natural growth is concerned the English tongue has come almost to a halt," Professor Tripps declared. "The only place where we can look for new contributions is in slang. Words are constantly being coined in the talk of the streets which will eventually become recognized by the academicians and given a place in the dictionary."

"Slang is highly metaphorical and even poetic. I grant that the imagery is often of the homely sort, but it is nevertheless, as involved in its suggestion as the most polished phrase of the masters of diction. Let us not, then, despise this 'slanguage' which is giving virility and picturesqueness to our speech. Among school teachers there is a tradition that the use of slang should be discouraged in the young. When they do so they are ripping in the bud incipient literature."

GIBSON AIDS LOVE AFFAIR.

The Noted Illustrator Intercedes in Behalf of a Former Model and Makes Young Man Happy.

Charles Dana Gibson, before sailing for New York, found one of his former French models at Paris, a bright girl of 22, on the verge of despair because her fiancé's family strenuously objected to his choice, and the fellow was inclined to break the engagement, rather than antagonize his aged mother. Mr. Gibson interceded for the young woman, vouching for her good character, and his eloquent pleas so impressed the young man's mother that she consented to the match. Mr. Gibson said before leaving: "This affair has upset all my Paris plans. I have had no time for either business or pleasure, but I feel that I have done a good work, saved the girl from suicide, or worse, and given the fellow the best little wife he could ever get."

London View of "Invasion." If we have not the sense to see that without anomalies, such as the present disorganization of the part of London, must be abolished completely and economical systems introduced in their place we shall deserve to have them Americanized, says the London Pilot. The trade of this country is safe enough. The only question is whether we are going to conduct it ourselves or the Americans are going to do it for us.

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