BOTANICAL GARDENS OF MARTINIQUE

The Wonders of Tropical Vegetation Vivid Description of the Scenery.

In a short time (too short, considering the beauty and novelty of the scenery,) we arrived at the entrance to the botanical gardens. Somebody had told me that these gardens were well worth seeing, but that, I soon found, was a mild way of expressing it. The entrance was not at all imposing—only a big iron gate, with a small porter's lodge beside it. Carriages are not allowed to enter, so we left the carriage at the gate and walked in. There were on the right as we entered several clusters of mammoth bamboos, each cluster as high as a house and as large around at the base as three or four-hogsheads. On the left, a short distance in, a high steep hill, and at its base a small artificial pond, walled in with rustic stonework, and a ministure cataract supplying it with water, and the surface of the pond covered with lilies and other aquatic plants. Here the path turned sharp to the left and entered a glen between two high mountains.

The foliage was so thick it was impossible to tell where the hills began, and whether the big trees were unusually high or whether they grew on the mountain side. Wherever they grew, they were of immense hight. There were scores of royal palms, running such a distance into the air that it made one's neck ache to look up at the tops of them; and generally their straight round trunks were festooned with parasitical plants, that ran from the ground all the way up into their branches. Wherever there was any possible place on the trunk of a tree for one to stick, a huge air plant was growing. There were bam-boos without number, and hundreds of thick tropical plants that I had never seen or heard of before. The road wound here and there through the ravine, and led us to an elevated spot on which there was a small lake, its edges bordered with such tropical plants as one usually sees ir pictures but seldom in reality. There was a grotto cut out of the rock in the mountain side, where the water gushed through holes cut for it in the back, dashed itself over a sloping bed of rocks, and was caught in a basin of stone at the foot; and this basin was half-covered with green leaves and growing water There were more lakes and more grot-

toes and natural cascades where the water fell from considerable heights and broke itself into foam in tearing over the rooks. Near the shore of the largest lake was a small cottage; with chairs and ta-bles in its single open room—no doubt a favorite resort for pionicking parties. There were more high trees in that one little spot than I ever saw gathered to-gether before. It fairly makes the back of my neck ache now to think of trying to look up at them. And such vegetation everywhere! Just such plants and trees as you see in the pictures of tropical countries, and such as you generally don't see when you visit those countries in person. But here they were, all gathered together in this botanical garden, the whote garden covering a space, at a rough guess, of a hundred acres. I remember seeing a gaudy lithograph once in an atlas in the public library in Bermuda of a "scene in South America." The leaves were the deepest and brightest greens, the trees were preternaturally tall, the mountains were high, the foliage was thick enough to cut with a knife, and birds of brilliant plummage sat in the branches. I thought at the time that that picture must have been made by somebody who had never been in a tropical country; but here was just such a scene colors, trees, shrubbery, birds, and all. There was nothing lacking. Cor. New York Times.

Kerosene Mine in New South Wales. New South Wales possesses in the Vale of Hartley mine a valuable kerosene deposit. The mine is situated in one of the most picturesque parts of the colony, about eighty-three miles northwest of Sydney, in the center of the Blue mountains, at an altitude of 3,118 feet above the level of the sea. The railway up the mountains has aided greatly in the establishment of a number of important industries there. The iron works at Eskbank are carried on successfully, and the coal deposits are inexhaustible. The kerosene shale found there is said to be the richest in the world. Considerable quantities of it are used in the large cities of the colonies for the purpose of enriching gas. It is also exported for the same purpose to Holland, Java, and the states on the Pacific slope of the

Only the better quality of the mineral is exported, the scraps and inferior portions being retained for the extraction of oil. The seams are from one foot to two and-a-half feet in thickness. It is much more difficult to mine than coal, and is usually got out with iron picks and pointed rods. It does not run down readily into blocks, but has to be separated piece by piece and splintered off into sharp this pieces. It is easily lighted with a match, and burns with a steady flame like a candle and emits a strong odor of kerosene. The company working the mine, beside their operations at the mine, have extensive oil works at Waterloo, where they manufacture kerosene lubricants, paraffine, etc.-Iron.

Superior Intelligence of the Pike.

There can be little doubt that the pike is decidedly an exception to the rule that fish have little or no intelligence. Even the size of his brain is worthy of respect. Its proportionate size, as compared to the rest of the body, is as 1 to 1,800; in the shark, whose intelligence has so often been vaunted, it is only as 1 to 2,500; while in the tunny it is but as 1 to 3,700. The only thing that dulls the pike's intelligence is his greed; but even this may perhaps only be caused by an overwhelming confidence in his own gastric juices. Like many other voracious animals, to swallow seems to be his only joy; palate he has little or none.-Chicago Herald.

It is stated that wherever the mesquite wood will grow the olive will flourish and bear well

Revolutionary Heroes Not Venerable.

Probably nine persons out. of ten have the idea that the men who carried through the revolution and established the government of the new nation were venerable worthies. First impressions are always apt to be lasting, and those familiar pictures in the school histories of the staid-looking gentlemen whose hair appeared white with years, if it was really nothing but a powdered wig, were certainly calculated to give a pretty uniform effect of great age. It is therefore with no little surprise that most people learn that Washington was 48 when he became commander-in-chief of the patriot army; that Jefferson was only 88 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence; that more than half of the pendence; that more than hair of the thirty-nine delegates to the con-vention of 1787 who signed the constitution were under 45, while a dozen of them ranged from 38 down to 25, and only four had passed 60; that Washington made Alexander Hamilton first secretary of the treasury at 32, and John Jay chief justice of the new supreme court at 44, giving him, in James Iredell, a colleague who was only 39; that New York in 1789 chose Rufus King, a carpet-bagger from Massachusetts only the year before, United States senator at 34, and that almost two-thirds of his original associates in the body were men under 50.-New York Evening Post.

Another Use Discovered for Cold.

Reduction of temperature in air or liquids by means of refrigerating machines are used on ships, and refrigerating plants are to be found in packinghouses, cold storage warehouses, etc. Among the more recent applications of freezing temperature is the freezing of sand and mud in tunneling operations.
The idea, in one sense, is not wholly new, because in sinking shafts through quicksands, freezing mixtures in pipes have been used to freeze the sand solid, and thus enable the workman to dig through the sand and brick the tunnel up before the sand melted.

In a tunnel constructing under a hill near Stockholm it was found that the interior of the hill consisted of wet sand, and the moment this was cut into it began to flow like a thick liquid, and there was danger that there would be a "cave" on the surface above. . Several houses threatened to collapse and sink in the cave, and the work had to stop. Then the idea of freezing the sand was an entire success. By means of chilled air from a refrigerating machine the loose wet sand was frozen solid, and then it was easy to cut out the hard sand and build an arched tunnel through it. The tunnel then held the sand in place and it was allowed to melt, as the tunnel arch would support it as well as the houses above.—Demorest's Monthly.

To Keep the Muscles Developed. George Hanlan, the oarsman, in speaking of the exercise requisite for an ordinary man to keep his muscles properly nary man to keep his muscles properly developed, condemned gymnasiums for ordinary purposes, as they overdo the thing. Heavy lifting is very pernicious, as it improves one set of muscles at the expense of another. The plain, old-fashioned rubber bands or tubes are best. Fasten them to the wall, about breast high, and then begin. There is no par-ticular formula to go through! Motions will suggest themselves. Exercise the legs by another set lower down. He doesn't believe in plunge or shower baths. Strip in a comfortable room. Wet a towel, wring it out thoroughly, and wipe the surface of the entire body. Wet it again, but leave a little more moisture in it, and rub the body again. Once more, with still more water on the towel, and then rub off dry .- Chicago

Pack of Playing Cards from Alaska. Dr. Wyman, of Sitka, Alaska, has sent to his brother in Detroit a pack of playing cards such as are made and used by the Finklet Indians in Alaska. The cards are bits of bamboo a trifle over four inches in length, the surface of each cylinder is very smooth and even, and on the surface are carved a variety of odd designs—faces, figures, animals, birds and other hieroglyphics. In their general character the signs have features strongly resembling both Japanese and Egyptian designs. The method of playing with these carved sticks is known only to the Indians, but it is known that private seals, made in the same way and of the same material, are also used by the Indians. The impression of the characters on the cylinders is made by rolling the cylinders over melted wax or by fill ing the carved lines of the designs with ink and then rolling it over paper or parchment.—Chicago Herald.

Burnt Coffee as an Antiseptic. Dr. Oppler of Strasburg has discovered in burnt coffee a new antiseptic dressing for wounds. The action appears to be two-fold; first, that produced by burnt coffee as a form of charcoal, and, secondly, that which is due to the pungent aromatic odors which are fatal to the lower organisms. As coffee is always on hand in military expeditions, it will be especially serviceable as a dressing during war times.—Demorest's.

Transparent Paper Made from Seaweed A Japanese inventor has discovered a means of making paper from seaweed. It is thick in texture, and, from its transparency, can be substituted for glass in windows, and, when, colored, makes an excellent imitation of stained glass.

Watch-Making Industry in Switzerland The single town of Besancon, in Switzerland, employs over 15,000 persons in watch-making, and the annual pro-duct approaches 600,000 watches. A government horological school is main tained there.—Inter Ocean.

New Silver Dollars for Tonquin. The French government has coined a new silver dollar for circulation in Tonquin. It is a close copy of the Mexican dollar in weight, size and thickness -Philadelphia Call.

In spite of four famines in India in the last twenty-six years, which killed off millions of the population, the number of inhabitants steadily increased as a whole.

THE LIME KILN CLUB.

Brother Gardner Once More Takes a

Viper to His Bosom. As the meeting opened Brother Gardner announced that the Hon. Standoff White, of Montgomery, Ala., was in the ante-room. The distinguished gentleman was on his way to Chicago to see his dying sister, and had taken advantage of the occasion to stop over three or four days and make himself acquainted with members of the Lime Kiln club. He had a little address which he desired to deliver. It was entitled: "Do We Realize Where We Were and What We Are Now!" If there were no objections the addresser would be brought in.

Whalebone Howker arose, not to object exactly, but to inquire if the Hon. Standoff had brought any credentials with him. How did the club know but that he was a base impostor?

"Brudder Howker!" sharply replied the president, "lo you emagine dat I would take a pusson into my own cabin' an' loan him a clean shirt an' purvide him wid a pipe and terbacker, if I did not know dat he was all right?"

all right?"
"N-no, sah."
"Den you kerflop yerself down into your cheer, an' de less we h'ar of you fur de next two weeks de better it will be fur all hands



The distinguished stranger was then ushered in. He appeared to be a person about six feet high, lame in the left leg, of sanguine temperament, and to be possessed of great presence of mind. He bowed right and left, smiling like a tickled baby, and

"Nobody knows how good it makes me feel to stan' in de shelter of dis famous ole Paradise hall an' look down upon de 200 faces turned up to de shingles. If my sister hadn't taken a noslum to die, an' if I hadn't to be helf fam tighet to come dis way. I got a half-fare ticket to come dis way. I might nebber hev sot eyes on dis famous aggregation of wisdom prudence an' pro-greshun. [Cheers.]
"Whar' war' de cull'd people of dis kentry

twenty y'ars ago? Let your memories run back to de close of de wa'. We war' men in statoo, but chill'n in intelleck. On de day dat peace was declar'd, had you put me down in Cincinnati wid a 820 bill in my pocket I should hev bin helpless. Your wise presishould hev bin helpless. Your was presi-dent here couldn't hev told whether a shot gun loaded from in front or behind. Had you deled fir Isaac Watpolo who Shike speare was, he would hev crawled under de bed in confushun. Trustee Pullback had de Pilgrim's Progress' all mixed up wid de Pirate's Promenade. Waydown Bebee didn't know whether de Ohio ribbor emptied into de Mississippi or Salt creek. [Great ap-planse.]

plause.]

"We war' chill'en in feelin' an' ackshun.
De tones of de fiddle war' mo' to us den dan de voice of Progress am now. If we had hoecake an' bacon we war' content to let de rest of de world hev poetry, science, art an' wealth. Our religun might hev him all right, but de rest of us war' all wrong. In our ignorance de sun rig on de relantashun our ignorance, de sun riz on de plantashun to de east of us an' sot on de one to de west. De world was composed of about fo' staits, an' all de knowledge an' wisdom was supposed to be carried under de hats of a dozen white men." [Agitation.] Here the crater paused to wise his brow

and straighten up his wilted collar, when he had got his second wind he continued:

"Now, fur whar" we are. Take de finest ile paintin' in de land an' walk into any barber shop in de kentry an' you'll find men to criticise it. Dey'll pint out de fack dat de foreground has skipped a cog, or dat de per-spective corkscrews too much. Dey'll light down on a bad sky like a hawk on a chicken, an' you kin trust 'em to diskiber anything wrong wid a waterfall or a side hill.

"White men who come to us an' look wise an' talk about de sciences am astonished to find dat dey am barking up de wrong tree. We has got dar! Sewer gas keeps just as fur away from de cabin of de black man as from de palace of de white. De science of government am discussed ober our dinner pails as often as in de halls of legislashun. Nateral philosophy has to keep dodgin' to get out o' our way. [Prolonged applausa.] Do cull'd race was a long way back when do last gun was fired, but doy has bin trabblin' on a run eber since.

"I should like to talk to you fur two hours, [cheers] but de occashun am not pro pitious. If anybody among you has any pitious. If anybody among you has any doubts dat our race has not passed de three-quarter pole let him sot out and trabble a few miles. I shall now pass on to see my dying sister, and I shall always remember dis event wid de moas' malignant pleasure. In wishin' you farewell, permit me to use de words of Socrates to de Egyptians: "Cum dig Solis,""

PENSTOCK TRIES A SHOT. Giveadam Jones moved that a vote of thanks and the freedom of the city be ten-dered to the orator, and added that he hadn't had anything do him so much good since watermelons went out of market.

"I hope dat moshun will not prevail," said the Rev. Penstock, as he bobbed up. "I claim dat de greater part of dat speech was stolen bodily from one I delivered in Richmond six y'ars ago!" "It doan' seem possible," replied the presi-

dent.
"But I am such of it, sah. I worked fur
three weeks on dat speech, an' I remember
almos' ebery word of it."
On motion of Waydown Bebee a com-

mittee of two went out to find the Hon. Standoff and bring him in to face the music, but he had gone. Also, Elder Raffle's plug hat, Samuel Shin's overcoat and a lantern belonging to Antimony Johnson.—Detroit Free Press.

Mr. Tilden's Wit.

A picture of a floating church used to hang over the fireplace in the office of No. 12 Wall street. It was part of the old Balance dock property-an attachment of the floating docks at the foot of Pike street, in which Samuel J. Tilden was interested. A client in the office one day wanted to know if it was a high or low church. pends on the tide," replied Mr. Tilden.—New York World

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