

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 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 height.

There were more lakes and more grottoes and natural cascades where the water fell from considerable heights and broke itself into foam in tearing over the rocks.

There were more high trees in that one little spot than I ever saw gathered together before. It fairly makes the back of my neck ache now to think of trying to look up at them.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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 packing-houses, cold storage warehouses, etc. Among the more recent applications of freezing temperature is the freezing of sand and mud in tunneling operations.

In a tunnel constructed 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.

To Keep the Muscles Developed.

George Hankan, the oarsman, in speaking of the exercise requisite for an ordinary man to keep his muscles properly developed, condemned gymnasiums for ordinary purposes, as they overdo the thing.

Pack of Playing Cards from Alaska.

Dr. Wymann, of Sitka, Alaska, has sent to his brother in Detroit a pack of playing cards such as are made and used by the Chinkit 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.

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.

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 product approaches 600,000 watches. A government horological school is maintained 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.

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?

"Den you kerlop yourself down into your cheer, an' de les we har of you fur de next two weeks do better it will be fur all hands round!"



THE HON. STANDOFF.

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.

"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 noshun to die, an' if I hadn't got a half-fare ticket to come dis way, I might nebbber hev sot eyes on dis famous agregation of wisdom, prudence an' progreshun. [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 intellock. On de day dat peace was declar'd, had you put me down in Cincinnati wid a \$20 bill in my pocket I should hev bin helpless. Your wise president here couldn't hev told whare a shot gun loaded from in front or behind. Had you seen de Isaac Warpole who Snake-speare was, he would hev crawled under de bed in confusshun. Trustee Pullback had de 'Pilgrim's Progress' all mixed up wid de 'Pirate's Promenade.' Waydown Debee didn't know whether de Ohio ribbor emptied into de Mississippi or Salt creek. [Great applause.]

"We war 'chill'en in feelin' an' ackshun. De tones of de fiddle war 'mo' to us den dan de voice of Progress an' now. If we had hoecake an' bacon we war 'content to let de rest of de world hev poetry, science, art an' wealth. Our religum might hev him all right, but de rest of us war all wrong. In 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' states, an' all de knowledge an' wisdom was supposed to be carried under de hats of a dozen white men." [Agitation.]

Here the orator paused to wipe his brow and straighten up his wilted collar, and when he had got his second wind he continued:

"Now, fur whar we are. Take de finest ole paintin' in de land an' walk into any barber shop in de kentry an' you'll find men to criticize it. Day'll put out de fack dat de foreground has skipped a cog, or dat de perspective corkscrews too much. Day'll light down on de bad sky like a hawk on a chicken, an' you kin trust 'em to diskeriber anything wrong wid a waterfall or a side hill. [Cheers.]

"White men who come to us an' look wise an' talk about de sciences an' astonished to find dat dey an' 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 an' discession ober our dinner pails as often as in de halls of legislashun. Natural philosophy has to keep dodgin' to get out o' our way. [Prolonged applause.] De cull'd race was a long way back when de last gun was fired, but dey has bin trabbilin' on a run eber since.

"I should like to talk to you fur two hours, [cheers] but de occashun am not propitious. 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 mos' malignnat 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 tendered 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't seem possible," replied the president.

"But I am suah of it, sah. I worked fur three weeks on dat speech, an' I remember almos' every word of it."

On motion of Waydown Debee a committee of two went out to find the Hon. Standoff and bring him in to face the music, but he had gone. Also, Elder Raffo'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. "That depends on the tide," replied Mr. Tilden.—New York World.

GIVEN AWAY.

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