

The Herald and News. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT NEWBERRY, S. C.

[Youth's Companion.] The recent dreadful flood in Pennsylvania, by which an unknown number of people, lost their lives, was the greatest disaster resulting from natural causes which we have had in this country.

But even this dreadful inundation does not approach in its destructiveness a number of other famous calamities. Holland has been in times past the home of the floods; its greatest calamities have been caused by the breaking of the dikes which protect it from the sea.

In 1587, the Bellow River in China burst its banks, flooded two provinces, drowning more than ten thousand people, and took a new course to the sea. Dreadful famines resulted from the change of its course; and it is supposed that a hundred thousand people lost their lives from the two causes flood and famine.

But inundations and storms mast, after all, yield to volcanic and earthquake disturbances in the errors of their record. No earthquake, perhaps, has destroyed more human lives than the greatest of the floods in Holland; and yet the records of these strange convulsions are far more numerous.

We cannot know how many lives were lost in the earthquakes and floods of remote antiquity, but fifty thousand, it is estimated, must have died in the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii by the eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79.

In Catania, Sicily, in 1137, fifteen thousand people were killed by earthquake, and at and around Naples in 1456, forty thousand; while the Chinese tell of an earthquake in 1731, as a result of which one hundred thousand persons were buried at Peking alone.

Sicily's most dreadful earthquake was in 1693, when Catania was again destroyed by eighteen thousand people; fifty-four cities and towns and three hundred villages were overthrown, and more than one hundred thousand lives were said to have been lost.

Probably the most famous calamity of Europe was the Lisbon earthquake, which happened on November 1, 1755. Lisbon was shaken down in about eight minutes, and fifty thousand of its people were killed by falling walls or swallowed up by the great wave which swept over the quay where they had taken refuge.

The most dreadful earthquake and volcanic eruption known to man is the latest in occurrence. In August, 1883, an awful eruption of the great volcanoes on the island of Krakatoa, Java, began, and before it had ended the island, with all its mountains, had disappeared; sixteen new volcanic peaks had appeared in other parts of the surrounding seas; the great mountain of Kramatan in Sumatra had sunk into the sea; vast areas of Java had been covered deep with sulphurous mud; and about seventy-five thousand human lives had been destroyed.

The United States has certainly been favored among nations in its comparative freedom from great natural calamities.

ASKELTON WITH A ROMANCE. Story of the Fate of a Soldier at Valley Forge which is Vouched for as True.

READING, July 14.—A paper published near the Falls of French Creek, twenty miles below here, prints a remarkable story which the editor vouches for editorially as true in every detail.

The quarrymen came upon a cave, in which was found a human skeleton. The mouldy clothing indicated that the skeleton was that of a Continental soldier.

Mr. Potts' article goes on to say that the correspondence was started with Virginia people, and was finally learned that a Miss Virginia Randolph died in 1780, two years after the date of the Carrington letter; that she died grieving for her soldier lover, and that her tombstone is inscribed:

"Died of a broken heart on the 1st of March, 1780, Virginia Randolph, aged 21 years, 9 days. Faithful unto death."

Such is the Potts story, published and vouched for by the editor. Residents of French Creek were asked to corroborate the story. Some doubted it, while others said they had heard something of it before, reading it in the newspapers.

A forthcoming work by Prof. Masper on the royal Egyptian mummies which were unbandaged in 1886, among them being the great Mosaic Pharaoh, Rameses II, contained much that is interesting.

Among the mummies was one of a young man who evidently had been embalmed alive. The brain, heart, stomach, etc. were intact. The body had been tightly bound in three places—around the shoulders, round the wrists and loins and round the feet—the ligatures being drawn with such force as to leave deep furrows in the flesh.

To "clean out" the bowels by strong purgative medicines that weaken them is a grave mistake. Take those reliable sugar-coated "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," prepared by Dr. R. V. Pierce. They are mild, but prompt in relieving constipation, sick headache, bilious attacks, pain in region of kidneys, torpid liver, and in restoring a healthy action to the stomach and bowels. 25 cts. a vial. One "Pellet" a dose.

Water as Fuel. To say of a man that he would never set the river on fire has always been deemed synonymous with the assertion that he was a dullard or unambitious; therefore, he who can make water burn is a smart and even a great man.

Briefly described the device consists of a report. Out of a stove is a pipe through which the water is fed from a small tank. At the connection of the pipe and tank there is a piece of simple mechanism which regulates the flow of water.

Your correspondent called upon Mr. Alley, and was shown the apparatus and witnessed an exhibition of its performance. The stove was one of the ordinary box variety of medium size. A fire was built under and around the retort, the fuel used being a few handfuls of hard wood and pine wood chips.

In addition to the above I have an elegant line of walnut, oak, mahogany and imitation walnut suits, wood and marble tops.

\$7.25 \$8.50 \$10.00 will buy elegant willow baby carriages with parasols.

\$3.25 DOLLARS \$6.25 will cover your 15x15 ft. floor with nice china matting.

\$12.50 will buy a carpet 15x15 ft. which will be made and sent ready to put down, including tacks.

\$1.00 will buy the best shade you ever saw on spring rollers. 1000 Shades on spring rollers at 50c each.

Wheeler & Wilson SEWING MACHINES. \$35.00 for a Plush Parlor suit 7 pieces solid walnut frame.

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There have been 300 patents granted for the fire-machines and 200 are pending. The common plough is a presublimely convenient implement for sub-soiling and warfare on the frontier, for as the plough beam is hollow and loaded, it can easily be wheeled and fired, killing the Indians or the horses—whichever happens to be in the way; but the same inspired genius has patented the pistol pocketbook; when the innocent and unsuspecting burglar asks you for your pocketbook, you carelessly take it out and empty its contents into his abdomen.

There is a claim in the Patent Office for a patent on the Lord's Prayer, the specification being that the repetition of the same, "rapid and in a loud tone of voice," will cure stammering.

Among odd inventions are "chicken hoppers," which walk the chicken right out of the garden when she tries to scratch; the "bee moth excluder," which automatically shuts up all the beehives when the hives go to roost; the "tapeworm fish hook," which speaks for itself; the "educational balloon," with a map of the world outlined on its surface; "side hill annihilators"—stilts to fit on the down-hill legs of a horse when he is plowing along a side-hill; and the "hen spritzer," a device that drops the new-laid egg through the bottom of the nest, with the intent to beguile and wheedle the hen into at once laying another.

One of the latest patents is the automatic bath-tub, which starts the hot and cold water at a given moment in the morning to which it has been set, maintaining exactly the right temperature of it by graduating the flow of water, rings a bell when all is ready, and two minutes later suddenly drops the sleeper's pillow about a foot and turns him out.

"The illuminated cat" was devised by a genius. She is built a pastboard and made luminous with phosphorus and she sits in the corner the live-long night, and fills the souls of rats and mice with terror.

There is a tremendous activity in the toy division of the Patent Office, especially in automatic toys that can walk and talk. There are whistling tops, dogs that jump and bark, cackling hens, kicking mules, fighting roosters, "very exciting," the patentee casually remarks; running cars and locomotives, a scissors grinder, a horse that walks naturally along the ground, and a baby that creeps on all fours with wonderful resemblance.

[From the Boston Advertiser.] The Concord School of Philosophy is no more formally announced, nor has there been a definite disbanding, but the leaders agree in stating, to all inquirers, that it is improbable that its session will never be resumed. The reasons are various, chief among which may be mentioned the death of several eminent men who were conspicuous in its foundation, and the difficulty which has been experienced in bringing together in Concord each summer persons who can fill the vacant places.

[Lawrence American.] Fannie—I have almost finished my essay, and I am sure I am going to take the prize. Alice—What is the subject? Fannie—Oh, I haven't thought of a subject yet, but I've just bought some of the loveliest ribbon and lined paper for it.

The Invalids Hope. Many seemingly incurable cases of biliousness, catarrh, scrofula and rheumatism have been cured by B. B. B. (Bottan Blood Balm), made by the Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Write to them for book filled with convincing proof.

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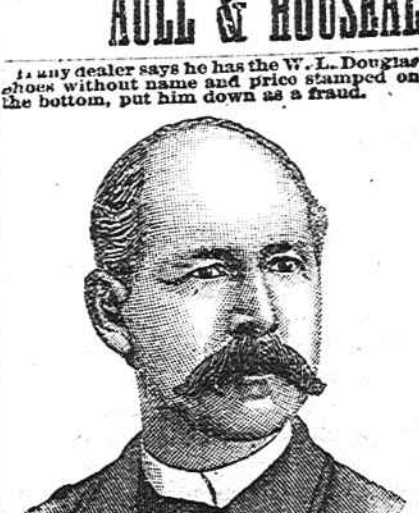
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