

LOOKING INTO VESUVIUS

ACCOUNT OF A VISIT BEFORE RECENTLY THREATENED ERUPTION.

Since Then Roads to the Volcano's Crater Have Been Closed to the Public.

SULPHUROUS OUTPOURINGS

WITH MONT PELEE IN MIND, THE SIGHT WAS ALARMING.

The Tour Through the Streets and Houses of Once Buried Pompeii Always Interesting.

Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal.

NAPLES, June 15.—After a six weeks' cruise in African waters, a batch of American papers giving first news of the Martinique disaster.

"It's working," said the porter when I bought my ticket for the carriage. "Miss will see it at its best." Vesuvius's "work" consists in spouting stones and lava. I had noticed its fire from time to time during the night, now its giant throat was ejecting steam and smoke, white and black clouds, mounting heavenwards in perpendicular line, straight as a candle.

At the landing-place scores of guides and an army of beggars, old men and women who exhibited sores, black-eyed girls offering babies to be kissed and trinkets for sale, youngsters of both sexes who insisted upon doing acrobatic stunts for the fraction of a penny.

The road was tolerably good at the start, but after a few hundred feet of climbing the snow-white column, the lava blocks became more irregular in shape, the fine ashes reached in some spots to the tops of our gaiters, while here and there, out of zigzag crevices, rose hot sulphur cloudlets, so strong as to tarnish the metal buttons and buckles of my skirt and bring tears to my eyes.

I sternly resisted temptation to have myself pulled up for 2 francs, and continued to climb ash mountains and wade through ash valleys for at least two-thirds of the way, when at last one of the rope gentlemen caught me by the remark made with a side glance at my notebook: "That is great-grandfather I passed up the immortal Signor Goethe." Well, if Goethe, why not I, a mere American reporter?

The wind was favorable, smoke and sulphur clouds drifted the other way and I had the great satisfaction of seeing the crater's activity unobstructed. Imagine all the vapors of a great city like New York rising out of a single chimney, a snow-white column, tinted a delicate pink here and there, a mile or more in circumference. For five or ten minutes the cloud rose as steadily as a Welshbach burn, then there was violent agitation. Separate clouds appeared, spouting forth as if under irresistible steam pressure, an explosion seemed imminent.

With this sublime spectacle in sight I climbed (at the end of my rope) some forty-five or fifty minutes, until at last I stood at the crater's brink. All around is a foot path, about three feet broad, consisting of hardened lava. This gallery is about two feet from the ground, and it gave me a peculiar sensation when the guide pulled me up by the hands. What if his foot slipped and he fell backward, dragging me after him? Something similar happened, you know, some ten or fifteen years ago, and the parties, a Neapolitan and a German professor, were never seen again, of course. Lucky if they dived, head foremost, into the sea of fire, for then their death was instantaneous. But think of the bodies catching on one of the jagged rocks and being slowly broiled or steamed to death.

Just now the crater has two openings—it changes its form after every eruption—and is said to be some 1,200 feet in circumference. It looked much smaller though, probably owing to the fact that it is never visible in its entirety at one and the same time. Out of the further throat came a cloud of steam and smoke, intermixed with fire balls, stones, ashes and lava. I thought for a moment I was witnessing the performance of a New York subway explosion.

KALIDOSEOPIC EFFECTS.

As they spouted up the whirling masses united and dissolved, forming bizarre figures in the air, now mighty bowlders threatening slaughter, again assuming shapes that reminded me of the finest filigree work. There was a constant change of colors, pink and scarlet alternating with saffron and poisonous green-yellow. Now a cloud of brownish hue. It turns a somersault and then, suddenly, as if seized in the clutches of a gale, dissolves into yellow, blue, purple and pink smoke. But—presto—it unites again and continues its aerial trip as a ball of fire, or may be, a rain of snowflakes. That Chicago friend of mine touched me on the arm. "Listen." It sounded like suppressed thunder deep down in the bowels of the earth. My feet felt the vibration, I thought. It lasted perhaps a minute. Then all was still, except for the hissing of the rising steam and the cannonade of fire balls from the masked battery.

The guides told us that up to a week ago it was permissible to descend some three hundred feet below the outside rim, but when Vesuvius is working it would be sure

death to risk an invasion. Besides, we were quite enough to "real thing," for even were it understood the lava was so hot, as to burn the underparts of my gaiters and scorched the soles of my stout boots.

Jessie made some excellent counterfeits of American dollars and cents of molten lava, and the leader of our party packed some eggs on "hellfire" that tasted delicious.

After this and similar nonsense somebody had the hardihood to remind us that we stood facing the most horrible death possible to imagine. And, indeed, not more than fifteen feet away yawned the safety valve, as tremendous as it is incalculable, whose breadth of smoke and vapors might instantly burst into a fiery avalanche, knocking the shins bones and toes off the Italian "boot," devastating miles of city streets, townships and villages, the fields and forests as far as the eye travels and killing all living creatures, men and women and children and cattle, on the earth, the birds in the air and the fish in the sea. Just then I got a whiff of Vesuvius's power—a fifty-pound bowlder from the crater's bottom dashing over my shoulder. It left a trail of white sulphur behind that colored yellow the white well protecting my face, and threw me into a coughing fit from which I didn't recover for five minutes or more. I am carrying the dyed piece of silk back to America as a more genuine souvenir of Vesuvius than the lava brooches and similar ornaments sold in Naples stores.

IN POMPEIIAN RUINS. An hour's ride in an interurbly hot railway carriage brought us to Pompeii, which at first sight struck me like some American fair ground. I saw here some American fair grounds, I saw here some American fair grounds, I saw here some American fair grounds.

Outside are two small hotels and a ticket office surrounded by a well-kept park. Signs galore: "Pay no drink money to the custodians"—"If you followed the instruction you would miss half the sights"—"From all who quit the ruins and re-enter gate money will be exacted a second time," and for the benefit of Americans, I suppose, "Keep your tickets; they must be shown on demand."

We entered through Porta Della Marina, so another flock of American girls may set out to explore the ruins of St. Pierre a thousand, or more, years from now. This, then, was the Street of Fortunes that vanished from the face of the earth to sleep "long and deep" under a coat of ashes and lava. Let it be said beforehand, that Pompeii is a town of unfinished houses rather than of ruins. As to her streets, no city in Europe, let alone America, has thoroughfares equally well-kept and clean. The lava pavements are still as good as new, they certainly look no worse for wear than a freshly-opened New York street after three or four days' traffic. But how narrow they are; how small, with very few exceptions, the houses. Most of the latter seem to have been one storied; thirty per cent. show traces of a second story; few of the ancient proprietors appear to have aspired higher.

I measured the street with my umbrella. The wax figures used in display windows. She learned the process of making the various parts and finds profitable employment in repairing articles of all kinds. Mrs. Eugenia Wheeler Goff, also of Minneapolis, is probably the only woman who makes historical maps. Her work requires a thorough education, great technical ability and infinite patience. Her maps are used in books of history, and also as wall charts for schoolrooms and offices. She has access to government records and frequently visits Washington in order to complete or verify some complicated or mooted point. Her maps have won for her a national reputation.

Mrs. Ida Belmer Camp, of Caro, Mich., has the largest private collection of cacti in this country. She produces many new varieties by grafting and has collectors in nearly all the cacti-producing regions. She is looked upon as an authority by botanists, and her specimens are sought only throughout this country, but abroad. Miss Estelle Reel has won the distinction of being the highest salaried woman in the government employ. She is superintendent of Indian schools and travels several thousand miles each year visiting the different agencies and tribes, studying their needs and bringing improved methods to bear upon their training.

Mrs. Clara L. Kellogg has raised modern embroidery to an art. She furnishes entire homes in embroidery textiles, producing harmonious effects throughout. She travels abroad every year, studying embroidery and design. All her designs are original, and are founded upon suggestions received from old paintings, mosaics, furniture, anything, in fact, which may offer a suggestion. Her latest work is in selecting the colors and shades to be employed, and then sends it out to some chosen worker to complete. By this means she gives employment to a large force of special workers scattered all over the country.

Mrs. A. H. Wade, of Chicago, has had patented a style of corset which is so radical a departure from the old lines that it has been endorsed by leading physicians and teachers of physical culture, and is likely to bring a fortune to its inventor. Mrs. Bessie Shuey Southard, of Chicago, is well known throughout the libraries of the country through her efficient work in cataloguing the books of the libraries. There are comparatively few cataloguers, and among these few Mrs. Southard has won a reputation by means of the rapidity with which she reduces a comparatively useless accumulation of books, into a well-regulated library where every volume can be found at a moment's notice. She is not only rapid, but systematic and accurate to a degree.

Mrs. C. Z. Rhodes, of Minneapolis, makes a business of providing artistic light shades for parties and receptions. She also takes entire charge of the decorations of a house for such affairs, and has shown herself particularly fitted for her work. Her shades are, however, the special feature of her work, and these are most artistic in effect.

Stories of Cecil Rhodes.

Leslie's Weekly. While the late Cecil Rhodes, diamond king and empire builder, did not pose as a philosopher, nor even as a man of learning, he had far more than ordinary insight and shrewdness, as his career showed, and some of the sentences uttered that fell from his lips are well worth a quotation. "Life is too short, after all," he used to say, "to worry about previous lives. From the cradle to the grave—what is it? Three days at the seaside. Just that and nothing more. But although it is only three days we must be doing something. I cannot spend my time throwing stones into the water. But what is worth while doing? When asked how he proposed to carry his Cape-to-Cairo telegraph across the Sudan, which was then under the dominion of the Khalfis, he replied: "Oh leave it to me. I never met men yet that I could not come to an agreement with, and I shall be able to fix things up with them. This is the germ of the fiction that credited Mr. Rhodes with having declared that he never met a man he could not buy. "I say that the day will come when the wars of the world will be tariff wars; that is going to be the future policy of the world." "It is no use for us to have big ideas if we have not got the money to carry them out." Rhodes once remarked to General Gordon.

And with true woman's instinct I explored the kitchen. Ah, the cooking uten-

AT THE CHINESE COURT

DIPLOMATIC VIEW OF THE NEW SOCIAL RELATIONS THERE.

Defense of the Action of Mrs. Conger and Others in Receiving Favors from Empress Dowager.

WOMEN'S OCCUPATIONS.

SOME IMMEDIATE RESULTS

PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDLINESS ACCEPTED AS SINCERE.

Reasons Why the Masses Should Not Yet Learn that the Imperial Power is Fallible.

Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal. PEKING, May 10.—Optical terms concerning the social relations lately cultivated in official life here have so far proceeded from widely different points of view. Of course, the diplomatic view has been sensitive to criticism of its conduct in this respect. It would be useless to pretend that the shafts aimed at it have made no wounds. Diplomats and other foreign officials who have joined in promoting a seeming cordiality toward the court have never before, do not feel that they have sought or received aims, or that the native mind will be permanently so impressed. It is immaterial to them whether the rings of the Imperial Empress Dowager stripped her fingers for the adornment of the wife of the American minister may have been chosen from her treasure box or from some job lot at the palace, or whether emeralds or onyxes may have indicated the position of the force back into the treadmill the ragged tollers. Something must be said to them to explain why they are expected to produce for the official purpose more than they gave to it before.

A GOVERNMENT PREDICAMENT. It is set forth that the needs of the Emperor have increased, and along with that explanation come whisperings that the Emperor is grinding his teeth closer to want in order that he may extend his bounty to foreign supplicants, it can hardly be expected that native masses will be content to starve themselves that foreigners may fatten. On the other hand, confession to them that the court, always a recipient of tribute, must now pay it as the price of defeat and humiliation, must so reverse all conventional notions of honor and glory as to make it difficult to see how the new relation is that since the Chinese have made full acknowledgment of their wrong, and have met, so far as in their power, foreign demands for redress, with professions also of a wish to be friendly and avoid all risk of future discord, common fairness calls for decent treatment of them. Certainly, those professions would be in danger of coming to nothing if treated as insincere. From all appearances, Chinese officials seem most willing to meet foreigners on the friendliest basis. The policy of social exclusion that prevailed in the past has ceased, and while those living in other lands and who have never seen in touch with the one, may consider that the native officials here, after what has occurred, should be begging for social recognition rather than extending it, the status now reached appears to the Chinese mind a most gracious concession; or, at least, that foreign advance toward Chinese standards has at last proceeded far enough to entitle it to recognition. A foreigner may now gain admittance to the residence of a native official with no other formality than sending in his card, as he would at the residence of a foreigner; a custom never before existing, and which has already lessened infinitely the delays and misunderstandings concomitant with intercourse with natives of rank. Exchanges of this kind are not all official. The removal of restraints upon personal acquaintance, according to the diplomatic view, the new relation may lead to such confidences as to avert misunderstandings by inculcating a disposition to deal with differences at their primary stages instead of waiting until they have become incumbered with aggravations. It has been seen that the new relations of friendliness will be rapidly developed. Native officials seem too much at stake to carry that sort of relation to its proper fruiting at once. Probably the only hope at present for the official system is from foreign tolerance. But while polite on that account to cultivate the foreigner, it is essential to save space with the natives and to make it clearly appear at all times that the officials, as compared with all other accessible mortals, holds his place as the superior man.

INDEMNITY MUST BE PAID. Official opportunity would seem to lie in training the common mind in directions Chinese rather than to leave that task of enlightenment to foreigners or to the hard school of events. The indemnity must be paid. Talk that foreign customs will probably discharge all of it betrays a cynicism in relation to the ability of the provincial revenues, or the imperial revenues apart from customs, to meet it. No one supposes that the foreigners will satisfy all their demands by passing their money from one pocket to another. Extension of trade, internal development, which foreign capital would promote and the growth of native markets for foreign goods would all be attended with such increase of industry as to make it possible for the people to contribute toward payment of the indemnity, without really pinching them more than at present. Instruction along such lines would be appreciated by the practical sense of the people, and it would impress them that their own officials were providing for their welfare and might safely be entrusted with its guardianship. With the assurance of provision for their wants, the masses would doubtless be willing to accept official counsels and utterances as law and gospel, as they have always done. Official work would hardly be so slow to account for the increase of friendliness toward foreigners, while of course it would sacrifice none of its influence over native affairs. There need be no present expectation that the

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train-in which there had been covered two stages comfortably a distance which, by ordinary means of travel, would have filled at least ten days with discomfort—a far will have been administered to native complacency which will make impossible again the repute that it has heretofore enjoyed. Having traveled on the railway and liked it, and having since met the foreigners socially, the court has no doubt taken a long step toward disillusionizing the common mind as to the mysticism of royalty. Accustomed to the deification of the Emperor, the people will naturally be slow to reduce him to a human plane. Roundabout as may seem the course of reflection concerning the attitude which native and foreign officials occupy toward each other socially, it must be followed to reach a correct understanding of that relation. Although the average native is an animal of peace rather than of combat, the indifference to the fate of Peking in 1900 may well be believed to have been in no sense real. The anti-foreign sentiment that charged the atmosphere two years ago need perhaps not be doubted, although there were provinces singularly free from it, but peace along the Yangtze and the Boxer riot was the north may alike be credited to the initiative of local or provincial assuming to act for imperial will, and chargeable to the credit or discredit of Peking in the smallest degree.

Imperial shoulders are sufficiently burdened with responsibilities in the north to lighten them of the Boxer initiative by accepting at nearly face value the disavowal on that account of the Boxer riot. The fact that nature will veil the imperial disposition, for the two viceroys whose wisdom and prudence repressed disorder there are said to wish for nothing so devoutly as that age and decay, now overtaking them, may relieve them of temporary accountability before the imperial hand may feel itself strong enough to fall heavily upon them in punishment for the aid they withheld when foreign intervention was to be resisted. In one section, as in the other, the people may not have dreamed that imperial wish looked to them for any other course than that which they followed. It would seem that official incapacity could never again mold the common impulse so completely as before the local ends, or keep it so densely ignorant of events of general concern, as in other sections. A government that is imposed to meet the war charges which the allies piled up against China, already riddled, needing the attention of imperial forces in large numbers, has engaged and thrown into disorder various parts of interior provinces, where tax oppression had almost reached the limit of endurance before fresh weight was added to it. It has been necessary to force back into the treadmill the ragged tollers. Something must be said to them to explain why they are expected to produce for the official purpose more than they gave to it before.

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official class will seek to broaden the mental horizon of the masses. When that is accomplished it will have been by other means, native or foreign or both. It seems reasonable to expect that pending its accomplishment the common mind will absorb material for the groundwork for some change from the prevailing low level of intelligence. So when real education may come buffers will thus have been provided to soften such shock as would at present convulse the empire were proclamations to be immediately possible of the real relation of China toward the other governments. Diplomatic movements have relegated the Emperor, in foreign estimation and treatment, to the place to which the powers at his own court have assigned him. Those who persisted most strenuously before the return of the court, in extending to him formal recognition as the head of the government ignore him now as completely as if that line of conduct were to be expected in official life. There is no means, except by inference, of getting at the emotions undergone by him while the foreigners, passing him by, made their condolences to the Empress Dowager. One of the missions, with telegraphic gifts, says that he kept muttering to himself, as the knowing procession moved on: "And now you, too, whom alone I befriended, are deserting me!" Neither telephonic nor the imagination, however, needs to be invoked to judge of his feelings when, appearing at the entrance of the reception hall for the purpose of paying respects to the foreign guests, the ladies, mistaking him for an attendant, elbowed him aside and brushed by without bestowing upon him other than contemptuous notice. This also is a missionary tale, for no guest will admit having so treated the Emperor, little as they respect him.

From all that has been written for the Empress Dowager, it will be taken for granted that when she undertakes anything, she puts her heart into it. The latest tale concerning her is that, warned by the prospect of the new social alliance, she made requisition upon one of her foreign secretaries for a female instructor in English and that there has been assigned to her service a young woman, daughter of the secretary of the Chinese minister of Germany. This woman is a native of Soochow, where the best style of plain reveals in high social position. According to report, she has been installed in one of the palaces, and devotes some time daily in explaining to the Empress Dowager such phrases as "looksee," "topside," "no can," "what thing," "whatfor," "maskee," "no likee" and "no watchee." The diplomatic ladies are said to be hoping soon to be able to have tea with her Majesty without the aid and embarrassing presence of an interpreter. FREDERICK W. EDDY.

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