

PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES.

An English writer directs attention to the fact that the first known photographs were produced by lightning, and cites the following illustrations, derived from a late French work:

In 1849, the lightning having struck the steeple of the church of St. Sauveur de Logny, there was found impressed on the cloth of the altar the text of the consecration prayer, contained in an open book which lay close by.

In 1847, at Lugano, a woman who had been near a place struck by lightning, had impressed on her face the image of a flower growing close by.

In the Bay of Zante, while sleeping on the side of a ship, a man, whose left breast the metal close to the hand engraved a picture.

In 1853, on the body of a man, United States of a tree shattered by lightning, the writer contends that it may yet be possible to arrest and fix the lightning, and proceeds:

During a sail in the Mediterranean a majestic thunder storm surprised a party of amateurs, on a fine summer night, when between Sicily and Malta, being probably at a distance of a hundred miles from any land—when, therefore, the flashes of lightning arose through a uniform medium, the air and the sea, being on deck, I was at once struck with the beauty and sublimity of the phenomena before me, and finding that these flashes had such a variety of form, whenever one had passed away I went down into the cabin to make a slight temporary sketch. When these sketches were, a few days afterwards, recopied, I began to have a better insight into and to classify them.

Imagining that part of the horizon where the lightning took place, as on a theatrical curtain of a dark color, the simplest form of electric meteor that appeared thereon was sort of light corrugation, or a glare illumining that vast portion of the horizon which was dark before. I think that, at times, the entire horizon was not thus illuminated, but there remained a circular segment on the top of the atmosphere in its original darkness. Almost all the species of real flashes did not begin from the upper part of the atmosphere, but all seemed to come from the surface of the sea.

Our observations were made during the night, and exclude, therefore, the seizing images by present photography. But in reference to day-lightning, it becomes a question whether this could or can be seized. I think it may, under the following circumstances: Lightning never takes place in glaring sunshine; and in an atmosphere the least dimmed, the electric light is so vivid, that it strikingly shows; and then, certainly, it could or can be seized. The difficulties may be overcome in the following way:

The cases where lightning takes place in several parts of the compass are rare, and even then the most interesting could be selected. The new panoramic lens includes an angle of one hundred and twenty degrees—in fact, an enormous field of view. Thus, the first difficulty of embracing a sufficient area of electric activity will be obviated. The next may seem more serious, namely to move the slide of the camera contemporaneously with the electric flash, which may occupy, perhaps, less than a second.

An observation, however, made by Goethe on Vesuvius, may smoothen the difficulty. The German philosopher observed that during the eruption of the volcano which he witnessed, there was a certain well-measurable interval between the single explosions of the crater and the ejection of stones and scoria. In the interval between two such volcanic febrile paroxysms, Goethe went quite close to the brim of the crater. We should be much mistaken, if in the generality of cases, a similar rhythm of electric meteoricity shall not take place as well.

THE SUN PHOTOGRAPHED BY A WOMAN. Miss Beckly, daughter of the mechanical assistant at the Kew Observatory in England, has taken some admirable photographs of the sun. A local paper says: "During the day she watches for opportunities for photographing the sun with the patience for which her sex is distinguished, and she never lets an opportunity escape her." Careful examinations of these photographs have led the astronomers to the following conclusions: 1. When Venus is to the left, there is most atmospheric effect to the right. 2. When she is in conjunction or opposition, there is tendency to equality. 3. When she is considerably to the right, there is most atmospheric effect to the left.

Dr. Craven, attending physician on Mr. Davis, at Fortress Monroe, has written a book, from which is extracted the following: "As Mr. Davis was speaking of the Senate, I asked him his opinion of President Johnson, to which, for some moments, he made no reply, apparently hesitating whether to speak on the subject or not. At length he said, that of President Johnson he knew no more than the papers told every one; but that of Mr. Johnson, when in the Senate, he would as freely speak as of any other member. There were, of course, differences between them, more especially just previous to the retirement of the Southern representatives from Congress. The position of Mr. Johnson with his associates of the South had never been pleasant, not from any fault or superciliousness on their side, but solely due to the intense, almost morbidly sensitive pride of Mr. Johnson. Sitting with associates, many of whom he knew pretended to aristocracy, Mr. Johnson seemed to set up before his mind, and keep ever present with him his democratic or plebeian origin as a bar to warm social relations. This pride—for it was the pride of having no pride—his associates long struggled to overcome, but without success. They respected Mr. Johnson's abilities, integrity and greatly original force of character; but nothing could make him feel at home in their society. Some casual word dropped in debate, though uttered without a thought of his existence, would seem to wound him to the quick, and again he would shrink back into the self-imposed isolation of his earlier and humble life, as if to gain strength from touching his mother earth.

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In a word, while other members of the Senate were Democratic in theory, or as is their political ally, Mr. Johnson was a Democrat of conviction and self-assertion—a man of the people, who not only desired, but could not be forced into its acceptance or retention when friendly access were made to that end. He was an immense worker and student, but always in the practicalities of life; little in the graces of literature. His habits were marked by temperance, industry, courage and unswerving perseverance; also, by intemperate prejudices or preconceptions on certain points, and these no arguments could shake. His faith in the judgment of the people was unlimited, and to their decision he was always ready to submit. One of the people by birth, he remained so by conviction, continually recurring to his origin, though he was by no means the only Senator of the South in like circumstances. Mr. Davis mentioned Aaron V. Brown, of Mississippi, who had been the Postmaster-General under President Buchanan, and several others, who were of like Democratic education with Mr. Johnson, but who seemed to forget, and in regard to whom it was forgotten by their associates, that they had ever held less social rank than that to which their talents and industry had raised them. Of Mr. Johnson's character, justice was an eminent feature, though not unclouded—as true justice rarely fails to be with kindness and generosity. He was eminently faithful to his word, and possessed a courage which took the form of angry resistance if urged to do, or not to do, anything which might clash with his convictions of duty. He was indifferent to money, and careless of praise or censure when satisfied of the necessity of any line of action. But for his decided action against secession, he would probably have been given the place of A. H. Stephens on the Presidential ticket of the Confederacy. Mr. Stephens, indeed, held the same attitude up to the last moment; but on the secession of his State, had two alternatives of State or Federal treason, as it was called, presented, and chose the latter.

Cyrus W. Field. Mr. Field was born in Stockbridge, Mass. November 30, 1819. At an early age he came to New York, and commenced his business life as a clerk in a counting-house down town. So ambitious a youth could not long remain in such a position, and in a few years he became the head of a large and prosperous house of business. As a mercantile man he was eminently successful, so much so that in 1853 he was enabled to retire from active business pursuits. After spending six months in South America, he turned his attention to the subject of oceanic telegraphs. This became his hobby, and the plan of laying a cable across the broad Atlantic his pet idea. In 1854, he succeeded in procuring a charter from the Legislature of Newfoundland, granting him an exclusive right for 50 years to establish a telegraph from the Continent of America to that colony, and thence to Europe.

After this Mr. Field's whole time was taken up and given to the furtherance of this undertaking. In 1855 and 1856 he visited England for the further prosecution of his schemes, which were so far successful that in 1857 an attempt was made to lay a cable across the Atlantic ocean, which failed through the antagonism of the elements.

In 1858, after an experimental trip in the Bay of Biscay, a second attempt was made, which was also unsuccessful, as was a third. The fourth was triumphant, and America and England were neighbors. Messages were sent to and from Queen Victoria congratulated the President, and the President congratulated Queen Victoria. But, alas! this did not last; news came that continuity was destroyed, and to all intents and purposes the cable was useless.

Even this did not deter Mr. Field from making another attempt, but it was after a lapse of seven years. During the whole of this time he had been working energetically for this object, which was so far crowned with success that in the summer of 1865 the laying of the cable was again attempted, but resulted disastrously.

After all these misfortunes, Mr. Field, who is apparently unacquainted with the word "fail," has been successful. America and Europe are now joined. And the stupendous undertaking of laying the Atlantic cable will forever remain a monument to the fame and honor of Mr. Cyrus West Field.—New York Tribune.

THE ANCIENT MINES OF MICHIGAN.—WHO WORKED THEM.—An address was recently delivered by Father Jaeger before the Highton Co. Historical Society and Mining Institute, on the Ancient Mines which have worked in Michigan, in pre-historic times, from which we gather that the Reverend Father has made diligent inquiry among his Indian acquaintances, respecting traditions of these mines; but all professed ignorance on the matter, except John Metakosigo, ("the smoker of pure tobacco,") who assured him that they were Goto Wemitoigo jiwag. These words really mean the "people possessed of wooden boats," but it is applied to the French and Canadians. That it can be either of these is utterly disproved by the growth of the timber and the accumulation of humus in and around the "old pits," and from certain known facts I do not believe, said Father Jaeger, that the Ojibwa tribe, the present occupiers of this district, date to a more distant period than the discovery of America. But those "Ancient Mines," who dislodged and transported unwieldy masses, which probably were not removable in the bark canoes our present Indians, may have been either race of "possessed of wooden boats" with whom the ancestors of our present Indians were acquainted. All I feel confident in asserting is this: that if they were expelled more than four hundred years ago, it is in vain to look for well founded traditions among the present Indian residents.—Mining Journal.

BUILDING THE TEMPLE.—The Salt Lake Telegraph says work has been resumed on the great Mormon Temple, and teams are hauling immense blocks of granite for it from the Little Cottonwood. The Temple is designed to be one of the most magnificent buildings of the west.

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