

THE HOUSE OF KERDON, UNEARTHED AT DELOS.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT DELOS.

Some Remarkable Ones Made at This Greek Pompeii Through the Munificence of an American Duke.

Paris, February 16.

The archaeological excavations made by the French School of Athens under the direction of M. Théophile Homolle, Member of the Institute, in the island of Delos, are advancing so satisfactorily as to justify the prediction that the ancient commercial town of Delos will, after a few months labor, become a Greek Pompeii. Already four ancient Greek houses have been discovered, together with their remarkable mural decorations, mosaics, statues, domestic implements and relics of the daily life of well to do Greek families during the second century B. C., at the period when Delos was the central commercial mart of the Ægean. Hitherto the aspect of the ancient Greek dwelling house was known only by descriptions and allusions of authors, but owing to the brilliantly successful excavations made during the last twelve-month, house after house has been brought to light under such favorable conditions as to enable its complete reconstitution with an accuracy of detail that has aroused the keenest interest in scientific circles of Paris. The dwelling house of Kerdon, a prosperous merchant, who was drowned during a storm at sea, is regarded, in its way, one of the most valuable archaeological finds since the unearthing of the Roman dwelling houses at Pompeii many years ago.

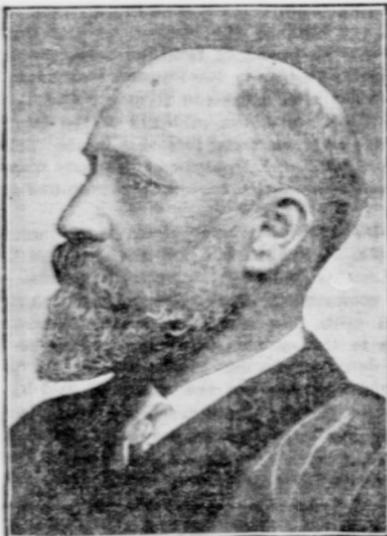
Delos, according to the official report to the French Institute made by Professor Dürbach, who is at present on the spot making further excavations, is the only ancient Greek city that remains almost intact, having been protected by piles of granite and marble from the ravages of time and of pirates. The upper stories only of the houses have fallen, and the walls remain standing to a height of three or four metres. The streets, the sewers and the gardens of the ancient city may all be distinctly traced. There are upward of a hundred ancient houses, varying from the sumptuous residences of the prosperous merchants, to the modest huts of the workmen. The great warehouse in the southern part of the city has just been unearthed, and its central court, surrounded by twelve tall granite columns, is found to be in an excellent state of preservation. This vast establishment of two stories is one of the finest specimens of architecture of the period. Besides being the principal commercial town of the Eastern Mediterranean in the first and second centuries before the Christian era, Delos was also the birthplace of Apollo and Diana, children of Jupiter and Letona, and by virtue of this mythological tradition was a sacred city. During the Athenian domination temples were erected and the famous Delian festivities were held there in the month of May at intervals of four years. These ancient shrines and places of Apollo worship have now been discovered by the researches and scientific excavations of M. Homolle. These sanctuaries contain hundreds of exvotos, of stele and inscriptions engraved on bronze or marble, recording in minute detail the accounts of the high priests, with catalogues of the offerings brought by pilgrims to the shrines of the Delphian Apollo.

Last June a well six metres deep was found filled with tablets of bronze and marble upon which were found twenty ancient inscriptions deemed of great value. A whole street along the ancient quays has been brought to light. Fronting upon this street and arranged with precision and taste are seven large houses of wealthy merchants, with spacious courtyards, superb windows, magnificent columns, and provided with a sewage canalization worthy of a modern up-to-date sanitary municipality. Ninety-two inscriptions have been discovered, and some of these are long and complete.

The French School of Athens is naturally proud of the rich scientific harvest reaped by M. Homolle, and Americans have a legitimate share in this result, because the works of excavation are carried on through the intelligent munificence of a prominent New-York citizen,

the Duke of Loubat, who two years ago placed at the disposal of M. Homolle an annual sum of \$10,000, to continue until the excavations of Delos are terminated.

M. Homolle, Director of the French School of Athens, who has passed the most active portion of his life conducting excavations at Delphi and at Delos, has been called by the French government to Paris, and appointed by President Loubet Director of the Louvre Mu-



M. THEOPHILE HOMOLLE, Director of the Louvre Museum, Paris, under whose direction Delos is being excavated.

seum. M. Homolle, however, returns to Delos, and will not take charge of the Louvre until next May. These remarkable excavations, which throw a flood of light upon ancient Greek life in all its details, are being actively pursued by Professor Dürbach, who has under his orders in Delos 100 men, including skilled artisans, black-

smiths, marble cutters, mule drivers and boatmen.

Four small Decauville railways have been constructed, varying in length from a quarter to half a mile, and fifty cars are run on these rails, carrying each day from seven hundred to eight hundred cubic metres of refuse and dumping it into the sea. There are two miles of railway altogether of a gauge of half a metre. In twenty-one weeks 279,000 cubic feet of excavated earth have been taken away from the ancient city and emptied into the sea. The railway and rolling stock were supplied by the French government, and are the same as were employed by M. Homolle in his excavations at Delphi. Several antique statues have been discovered. The houses of Delos have the advantage over those of Pompeii in that they were built of hard Delos granite and marble, with beautiful marble floors and columns, instead of having been constructed of volcanic lava. This rich archaeological find in Delos has already made the island, which, according to mythological tradition, was struck from the bed of the sea by Neptune's trident and drifted deviously through the Ægean till moored by Jupiter as a refuge for his persecuted Letona, a fashionable stopping place for French yachts, and according to present intentions may be visited in the course of the coming spring and summer by the Countess de Béarn, M. Ménier and Baron de Rothschild. The Duke of Loubat follows the new and extended development of the excavations with keen interest.

C. I. B.

ALACK, A YAK!

'Mid pathless deserts I groan and grieve,  
In weariest solitudes I leave  
My track;  
Bemoaning the fate that has christened me,  
In spite of my whiskered dignity,  
A Yak!  
Oh, happy child, with the epithet  
Of Abe or Ike or Eliphalet  
Or Jack—  
You little wot of the blush of shame  
That dyes my cheek when I hear the name  
Of Yak!  
Better a bok or a slithy sloe,  
Or a mythical beast in the starry so-  
Diac—  
A polypod or a pelican,  
An auk or an ichthyosaurus, than  
A Yak!  
And so, through the valleys hereabout  
I sob this plea, and the echoes shout  
It back:—  
For the sake of art, and my pride as well,  
When you write my name, will you kindly spell  
It Yacque!  
—(Burgess Johnson, in Harper's.

SHE WANTED TO KNOW.

And Incidentally Told Her Matrimonial Experiences.

A woman clad from head to foot in what Mrs. Partington called the "garbage of woe" came into a Maine railroad train and seated herself in front of a tall, angular and sallow feminine native of the soil with eager curiosity apparent in her look and manner. Hardly had the woman in black disposed of her hand luggage and seated herself when the woman behind her leaned forward, touched the long crêpe veil of her neighbor and asked in a voice of the two-edged sword variety:

"Was it recent?"  
"I—I—beg your pardon, madam," replied the other woman, coldly.  
"I asked was it recent—your affliction, I mean?"

"Yes."  
"Husband, I take it."  
"Yes."

"Was it sudden, or did he linger?"  
"Excuse me, madam, but"—

"There's advantages in havin' 'em go both ways. I've had three, an' one of 'em had drapsy an' other things, an' lingered, an' the others went sudden—one got kicked by a mewl an' never said nothin' but to break it easy to me. Of course, when they go sudden it saves doctor's bills, an' if they've got to go in the end it saves in a good many ways. Still, it's some comfort to be able to do fer 'em long as you kin. What ailed him?"  
"Typhoid."

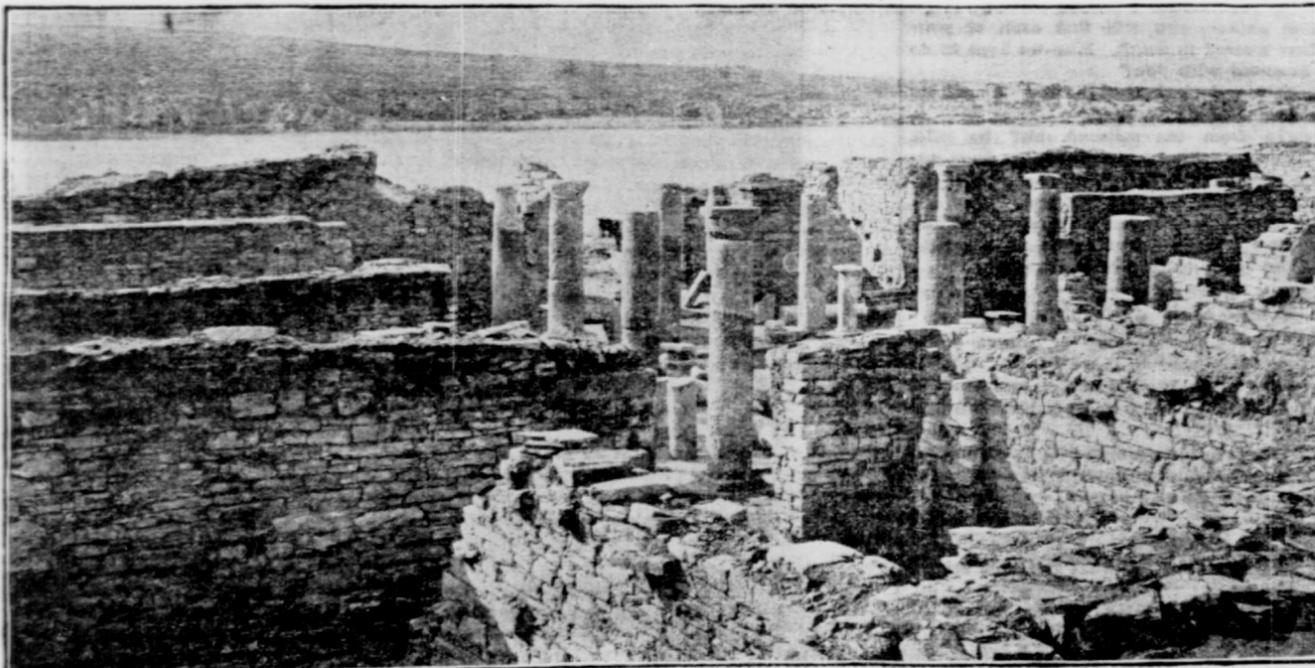
"Yaas. Well, that's a nasty disease to tackle. One o' mine had it once, an' the doctor said it was my good nussin' much as anything else that carried him through. Two doctors give him up, an' I give him up myself to the extent of sendin' to a sister o' mine an' borrowin' her mournin' things. But he pulled through, only to git kicked out o' the world by a pesky mewl. Some folks thought it strange that I should be willin' to keep the mewl after it had cut up such a caper as that, but it was an extry fine mewl, an' it wa'n't wholly to blame, for he was twistin' its tail in fun when it kicked him, an' when a man goes to twistin' a mewl's tail just to jolly it he's runnin' his own reesk an' must take what comes. He allus was one o' the darin' kind, an' them kind gits their come-upance sooner or later, don't you think?"

If the lady "thunk," she did not say so, and the relict of the man who had unwisely "jollied" the "mewl" again gave free rein to her tongue.

"I hope you got your thirds outright, I had to put up a fight to get mine when Job Skinner died—he was my first an' I was his second an' there was some children by his first, an' they tried to bamboozle me out o' my full thirds, but I got 'em. I'm a female suffragist to the extent o' thinkin' that a woman should have half the prop'ty outright, an' if there ain't no children she ort to git it all. You got children?"

"Two."  
"Was they under age? But I kin see that you ain't old enough to have children of lawful age unless you married mighty early. I'd guess you to be anywhere from thirty-four to thirty-seven years old, and of course at that age an' with only two children an' you real good lookin' your chances of marryin' ag'in are"—

"Madam!"  
"Oh, of course you think you won't now. I felt just so fer mebbe a full month after I lost my first, but time is a 'healin' ba'm,' as the poet says, an' you'll find it so same as I did. Of course all marryin' is like twistin' a mewl's tail—it's a reesk. I've reesked it three times an' I know. Still, it's as much of a reesk fer him as fer her, an' it's my opinion that the things that make marriage sich a failure are about equally divided among men and women. Mebbe I ort to stand up more for my own sect, but take it by an' large, an' it's six o' one an' half



ANCIENT WAREHOUSE UNEARTHED AT DELOS.