

THE DEEPER OF PATAGONIA.

LEAST-KNOWN REGION OF AMERICA EXAMINED BY SCIENTISTS.

Strange Savages About Cape Horn, Who Go Almost Naked in a Frigid Climate—Some of Them Are Frigid, While Others Live in Boats.

Prof. J. B. Hatcher, of Princeton university, has newly returned from a remarkable trip of exploration in a hitherto unvisited region of South Patagonia.

He visited Washington this week for the purpose of depositing with the bureau of ethnology a rich collection of ethnographic material.

The natives are among the strangest and most picturesque of any of the world.

Some of them being described as representing almost the lowest stage in the scale of human development.

Their country, too, is more than ordinarily interesting, being associated since the earliest times with rumors of gigantic human inhabitants and a astonishing fauna.

Quite recently some skeletons of birds that had heads as big as those of horses have been dug up.

They stood at least nine feet high, and had short wings, claws like an eagle and a head like a condor.

It is likely that they attacked with success the largest mammals contemporary with them, being the biggest fowls of prey that ever lived.

They were not only long-lived, and so there was no opportunity for Prof. Hatcher to secure a living specimen.

The professor made a long trip, during one of which—through the desert—interference did not see a human being for over four months.

John R. Spears, who recently published work on Cape Horn the writer is much of the time in the region.

He has as good an apology for a home as can be found anywhere in the world.

A successful hollow, big enough for a bed for all the family, is scooped in the ground.

Some poles and brush are placed about it, and over the weather side is thrown a skin or two.

To protect themselves from cold, the natives of this temperate zone lie down on the ground.

With the children in the midst of the huddle, and then call their dogs to come and lie over their heads.

For making a fire the natives carry bits of iron ore, which come from islands to the west of Tierra del Fuego.

A scrap of flint, with the ore and a little dry fern, always kept wrapped in a piece of hide or a bladder, enable the natives to light a fire even in a rain storm.

Whiskey bottles drifted ashore from ships supply the natives with glass tips for food stoves.

The natives, when captured by white men, are in distress, cut long, deep gashes in their chests with anything sharp that may be at hand.

When white prospectors have disappeared in the country, only their bones have been found usually, and these always bore marks of fire and human teeth.

The climate is extremely cold, and there are storms and constantly raging.

These strange people, living in wrapping themselves in furs, go almost naked.

Some of them are clad in scraps of cheap calico, obtained by barter from the merchants.

Others are fastened into rudimentary costumes, the costume of the women being a loose skirt suspended from the shoulders and falling below the knees.

Others, however, are clad in a narrow strip of material, which is made of animal skins, and is so readily shifted to any desired position as a protection against the wind.

For shelter on land, notwithstanding the severe weather that prevails most of the time, these aborigines erect structures made of brush and mud, consisting of a few branches of trees, the lower ends of which are stuck in the ground in a circle.

While the upper ends are bent over toward the middle and carefully fastened together.

Such a house, together with a canoe, a couple of paddles, one or two spears or harpoons of bone for the capture of seals, and one or two baskets made of rushes for use in gathering mollusks, fulfill all the domestic requirements of a family.

From the great accumulations of shells seen in the region, it is evident that the people described have inhabited the region for a long period.

During the summer months, the natives and customs have undergone little change.

Of very different character are the tribes to the east of the Cordillera.

They belong to the group of the Tehuelches, as they call themselves.

Eastern Patagonia are the people whose unusual feature is the habit of wearing early days to the effect that the natives of this region were giants, averaging nine or ten feet in height.

It is a fact that they are the tallest human beings in the world, the men averaging but slightly less than six feet, while individuals of four to six feet above them are not uncommon.

They are almost unacquainted with the use of iron, and their weapons consist of spears and arrows, and bows and arrows.

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SAVING ROUND UP TO 300 YARDS.

heavy round being up to 300 yards. The reason for this is the fact that the Yaguas are always at hand.

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ONE OF THE YORKTOWN'S CREW DEAD IN THE BAY.

He Left the Ship Without Permission, Swam Ashore and His Body Was Found in a Shallow Place, Showing Many Marks of Violence.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 23.—Commander C. M. Stockton, U. S. N., who commanded the Yorktown at the time when two sailors were killed in the harbor, has just returned to his home here.

Commander Stockton said to an Associated Press reporter that Montgomery was a landsman on the Yorktown and was a berth-deck cooper who had been ordered to the ship on account of drunkenness.

Commander Stockton from memory then recited these incidents of Montgomery's death, as follows:

Last August Montgomery, in company with a marine, left the Yorktown without permission while the ship was in the harbor.

They were seen to be in the harbor, and the police authorities on the island were notified.

From this investigation of the case and from all evidence obtainable, the officers came to the conclusion that Montgomery had died of drowning.

The evidence given by the marine who accompanied Montgomery showed that the latter had not drunk to excess, and was seen about 11 o'clock on the night of the accident with Japanese money in his hand.

The vessel was, on September 15 last, under orders to sail for home.

When a sailor was found in a shallow part of the harbor and the circumstances showed that he was knocked on the head and thrown overboard.

S. A. C. TRUSTEES MEET.

Secretary and Treasurer Elect—New Instructors in View.

The new board of trustees of the Seattle Athletic Club held its first meeting Wednesday evening.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Goldsmith, who made a few pleasant remarks.

Mr. Bean was introduced as the new president. Mr. Bean made a short talk on the state of affairs of the club.

Among other matters of importance on which the board took action was the election of a new secretary.

Mr. Wagner has endeavored to secure the services of the prima donna, Geneva Johnston-Bishop, of the Del Conte Italian Grand Opera Company.

The employees of the Pacific Navigation Company will be granted a holiday on Christmas.

The steamer State of Washington and Fairhaven will not leave here tonight on their regular schedule.

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as real grand opera is a rare treat for Seattle theatergoers.

Thalia Masquerade.

A large number of tickets have been sold for the Thalia Masquerade ball at the Armory.

An Equal Suffrage Club.

The women of the Ninth ward organized an equal suffrage club Wednesday afternoon at Fremont.

Interested Only as an Agent.

The name of Frank H. Adams was mentioned in an article published Thursday morning as one of those interested in a patent.

Holiday Novelties.

Only one of the kind in the city. R. Ramsaker, corner Pike and Fifth.

LA ROCHE'S Klondike Guide, Fifty Illustrations, mailed any address for \$1. F. La Roche, Seattle.

Sprayers of an Ancient Race.

Among the natives of Mexico there are, according to Humboldt, about 150,000 survivors of the Aztec race.

FREE TO ALL WOMEN.

I wish all ladies to know that I am manager of a branch office for the sale of the famous Balm of Figs, a remedy which will positively relieve all ailments of the female system.

FREDRICK & CO., WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELERS.

We have on hand a very large stock of articles such as usually are selected for Christmas gifts.

HELP For You

Yes, there is help for you. You need not suffer unless you choose to do so.

AMUSEMENTS.

A Sunday Concert Feature.

With his characteristic energy, Mr. Wagner has endeavored to secure the services of the prima donna, Geneva Johnston-Bishop, of the Del Conte Italian Grand Opera Company.

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