

DID NOT INVENT TELESCOPE

But Galileo Was the First to Perceive Its Possibilities in the Study of Astronomy.

The name of the man who first framed and used a telescope for the observation of the heavenly bodies is Galileo Galilei, though little known in that form. It was this scientist, who died January 8, 1642, who, it may be said, first gave stability and force to the theory which places the sun in the center of the planetary system.

CRUSADERS WON AND LOST

In the End Nothing Was Gained by Attempted Conquest of the Holy Land.

During the four centuries from the Moslem conquest of Palestine until the crusades Christian, Jew and Moslem lived together in peace. Then along came Peter the Hermit and the Crusaders.

Peter the Hermit prevailed upon Pope Urban II to sanction the first crusade. It proved a successful venture, for Jerusalem was captured July 15, 1099, and Godfrey of Bouillon elected king of Jerusalem.

Saladin became master of Egypt and Syria toward the end of the twelfth century, after defeating the Crusaders at the battle of Hattin in 1187, capturing the most treasured of relics, a piece of the true Cross. This prompted the third crusade, led by Richard Coeur de Lion and commemorated in Scott's novel, "The Talisman."

Are You a Barometer?

Undoubtedly there is a great relation between the elements and certain complaints in the same way that some seasons of the year render certain people liable to illness more than others. The lower we investigate in the animal world the more prone are its subjects to be affected by the weather.

Wilson Not the Only One.

One other president than Wilson traced his line to Carlisle, England; for Zachary Taylor was fifth in descent from James Taylor of Carlisle, who emigrated to this country in 1658.

Rumor.

The character of that sort of information that is generally known as news is changing with vertiginous rapidity. Once news was generally supposed to be a narration of something that had happened or was possibly going to happen, with, of course, due allowances for errors and mistaken judgments.

NOT STRONG ON NAVIGATION

Records Show Weakness of the Spanish Sailor in That Highly Important Matter.

The Spaniards of early days were most adventurous explorers, but, for all their discoveries of distant lands, very poor navigators. After coming upon the Solomon islands in the western Pacific, they could not find them again, and they were lost for 150 years.

The water supply of their ship was kept in big earthen jars. As it was impossible to provide in this way enough to drink for a long voyage, they took to sea many large mats, which when it rained were spread to catch the drops.

Probably it was no fault of Columbus, but his first voyage to America, which occupied two months' time, was mainly a drift. When he landed in Cuba he thought he had reached Asia, and sent an expedition inland to treat with the great khan of Tartary.

Less than 100 years ago Spain still claimed ownership of the whole Pacific ocean, declaring it a Spanish lake on the strength of Balboa's discovery in 1513. Acting upon this idea, the Spanish government ordered the comandante of San Francisco to seize the Columbia, the first vessel that carried the American flag around Cape Horn.

JUDGED BY SKILL AT POKER

Business Man Estimated Another's Qualifications by His Actions at the Card Table.

After all, there is something to be learned from cards, even if the average gambler, who plays for the passion of the game and for the money he expects, does not always learn it. A Los Angeles business man recently asked an acquaintance, "What do you think about Smith? Do you think he would be a good man to take into our firm?"

Familiar Quotations.

The quotation worthy of the high title of "familiar" must have stood the test of time and passed unhurt through the shifting tastes and fashions of centuries. In its lofty or in its humble way it must show that, like Shakespeare, it "was not for an age, but for all time."

Neutral Nations in War Time.

James Mill, the English economist, as early as 1821, almost a century before ruthless submarine warfare was introduced by Germany, advocated a commercial world traffic under free tariff rules, so far as concerns the property of individuals in time of war.

Spitzbergen's Mineral Wealth.

The enormous coal and iron beds in Spitzbergen belonging to the British company, the Northern Exploration company, Ltd., have been investigated by experts who declare that the iron beds are without exception the largest in Europe.

OBSERVE STARS IN DAYTIME

If One Is Sufficiently Interested They Can Be Seen From Bottom of Well.

Not only have the astronomers devised a means whereby they may observe the stars in the daytime, but anyone may, if he choose, see them at such time if he will go to the trouble to do so. At the bottom of a deep well an observer on looking up will see the stars if the sky is clear and the sun does not happen to be shining directly into the well.

Why cannot the stars be seen from the surface of the ground in the daytime? They certainly give forth their usual amount of light, and it will be remembered that the moon is frequently seen during the day.

The question resolves itself into the capacity of the human eye. During the day the sun shines on particles suspended in the atmosphere itself, and its rays are reflected in every direction from the different particles.

If it were not for this diffusion of light, or irregular refraction, as it is called we could not possibly see anything not in the direct sunlight. Now, these rays irregularly reflected enter the eye in enormous numbers, so the intensity is comparatively great with starlight.

But to a person in a deep well or mine shaft only the perpendicularly reflected rays enter the eye, and from only those particles directly over the mouth of the shaft. Thus comparatively little light enters the eye, and any starlight that comes down at that time is easily perceived and the presence of the star is recognized.

DON'T LIFT RABBITS BY EARS

Expert Condemns Practice Which Has Always Been More or Less in General Use.

Some people seem to think that because rabbits' ears are so long it is a good reason to use them as handles. They have told me that "the mother rabbit carries her young around by the ears."

I have had a pretty good opportunity to observe such a feat, but I have never seen such a performance. It is all right to hold them by the ears, but I always put my hand or arm under their hind legs to lift them up, and then I know I am not hurting them.

One peculiarity I have always noticed about rabbits is their apparent lack of clear vision. If you will notice their eyes you will see that they squint, if ever, move the eyeball to look up or down or at either side, as a cat does. You can't tell when they are looking directly at you, as you can with a cat.

If you throw a carrot to them they will not sight it and go directly to it, but will smell about with nose to the ground till they find it, and they may go six inches past it a few times before they strike it.

Put a rabbit on a chair, table or box, and he will go carefully to the edge, leaning his head over and seemingly wondering how far he is from the ground, whereas a cat would think nothing of springing down from such a height.—Boys' Life.

Towns and Their Trades.

Some towns are famous for the industries they carry on, either because they are favorably situated for their work, or else because some leader of the industry has started a model factory which has grown larger with the lapse of time. Perth with its climate especially suited for dyeing, and Belfast, with its linen manufacture, are examples of the former, while Port Sunlight, famous the world over for soap, and Saltaire, with its manufacture of mohair and alpaca, owe their prosperity in each case to one man.

Animal Faces.

The likeness of certain human types to familiar animals is a matter of common observation. Caricaturists from the days of the Greeks and Romans down have made use of its suggestions. In our daily speech we naturally describe men as rat-faced, hog-like or fox in appearance, or say of a noble looking old man that he possesses a leonine head.

Still other persons we pronounce simian, and although few of us would care to merit a personal application of that adjective, it need not be wholly uncomplimentary, as one would imagine. The dignified and venerable Charles Darwin accepted it as applied to himself with no resentment.

Many Films in Preparation.

Films are also being prepared as part of the campaign which the forest service is making in co-operation with the fuel administration for increased wood fuel production and the substitution of cordwood for coal in regions where coal will be scarce during the winter.

Many features of the department's work which received little or no emphasis during the war, such as game preservation and the development of recreation on national forests, will also be featured in new films to be released during the winter months.

FAMOUS ROCK OF GIBRALTAR

Great Britain Has So Strongly Fortified It That It Is Rightly Considered Impregnable.

Since the day, more than 200 years ago, when the flag of Great Britain was flung out over Gibraltar, the strongest fortress in the world, that country has won many triumphs in commerce and has become mistress of the sea.

The rock of Gibraltar is 1,400 feet high and across the narrow bay may be seen the coast of Africa only nine miles away. The rock is nearly three miles long and about half a mile broad. On the eastern side the cliff is so steep that nothing but a monkey can scale it, and there is a colony of monkeys living there, the only animals of their kind living wild in Europe.

The only possible approach to the rock is by land from the north, or from the sea on the western side. As viewed from the ocean the Rock of Gibraltar is impressive, strong, gloomy and forbidding. But flowers grow about the steep walls. The great Victoria batteries, occasionally fired, are screened and sheltered by acacia blossoms. Here are concealed 100-ton guns, sinister, threatening. The north and northwest sides are honeycombed by fortifications. There is a town and harbor on the west, protected by batteries and forts rising from the base to the summit of the rock. Modern guns of the most formidable pattern frown from the heights. The town is inhabited by a British colony of about 25,000 people. Everything is under strict military regulation.

JEWS NOT EASILY CONVERTED

Sermon to Which They Were Annually Forced to Listen Failed of Its Purpose.

In John Evelyn's diary of January 7, 1645, there is a notation of a peculiar ceremony which seems to have been of annual occurrence at Rome. It was a sermon preached to a compulsory congregation of Jews, with a view to their conversion. Mr. Evelyn says "they are constrained to sit till the hour is done, but it is with so much malice in their countenances, spitting, humming, coughing and motion, that it is almost impossible they should hear a word from the preacher. A conversion is very rare."

The Zionist movement, which has gone on for years and received a new impetus by the changes made in middle Europe as a result of the world war, was outlined in a poem written by Robert Browning during his residence in Italy, probably about the middle of the nineteenth century. He calls it "Holy Cross Day."

"Father of the Short Story."

The father of the short story was Giovanni Boccaccio, an Italian novelist and poet, who died at Certaldo 543 years ago. His "Decameron," a collection of short tales, each complete in itself, practically marked the beginning of the short story. Boccaccio was born about 1313, and his words reflect the immoral—or unmoral—spirit of the times in which he lived, and a majority of his tales are of a character which would now land the author in jail, if he could find a publisher to offer his works for sale. Despite their immorality—possibly because of it—the "Decameron" has been translated into nearly every language and is still widely read.

Duty.

It has been asked what is at the present day the Duty of which we have spoken so much? A complete reply would require a volume, but I may suggest it in a few words. Duty consists of that love of God and man which renders the life of the individual the representation and expression of all that he believes to be the truth, absolute or relative. Duty is progressive, as the evolution of truth; it is modified and enlarged with the ages; it changes its manifestations according to the requirement of times and circumstances. . . . One period claims the pen of the sage, another requires the sword of the hero. But here, and everywhere, the source of this is God and his law—its object, humanity—its guarantee, the mutual responsibility of men—its measure, the intellect of the individual and the demands of the period—its limits, power.—Maxim.

To North Pole by Airplane.

An expedition to be led by Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, explorer and navigator of Peary's ship Roosevelt, will be sent to the polar regions next June to survey the North pole by airplane. The plan was conceived by Rear Admiral Peary, discoverer of the pole.

Bartlett is a Newfoundland, forty-three years of age. He began explorations 22 years ago, wintering with Peary in the Kane basin in 1897. He commanded the Roosevelt in its famous trip of 1905-9, reaching the eighty-eighth parallel. He was with the Canadian government arctic expedition in 1912-14; his vessel was crushed by the ice, and Bartlett, with 17 others, reached Wrasig Island. He left 15 there, and with one Eskimo crossed to Siberia on the ice and returned with a regular party.

NOW WE MAY KNOW BOSWELL

Description of Biographer, Written by Himself, Reveals Him as Very Human.

How pleasant it is to know that Boswell, who we have always thought was merely a kind of animated notebook, was a droll, vain, bibulous, warm-hearted creature, a good deal of a Peppy, in fact, says Collier's Weekly. A. Edward Newton's entertaining "Amenities of Book Collecting," a volume of essays which shows that a business man can write better literature than a hundred professors mullied into one, makes Boswell very human! How jolly to hear that Boswell wrote press notices about himself! Here is one of his own blurbs, which we quote from Mr. Newton's book:

"Boswell, the author, is a most excellent man; he is of an ancient family in the west of Scotland, upon which he values himself not a little. At his nativity there appeared omens of his future greatness. His parts are bright, and his education has been good. He has traveled in post chaises miles without number. He is fond of seeing much of the world. He eats of every good dish, especially apple pie. He drinks old hock. He has a very fine temper. He is somewhat of a humorist and a little tickled with pride. He has a good, manly countenance, and he owns himself to be amorous. He has infinite vivacity, yet is observed at times to have a melancholy cast. He is rather fat than lean, rather short than tall, rather young than old. His shoes are neatly made, and he never wears spectacles."

This brings the excellent Boswell very close to us indeed; he might almost be a member of the Authors' league. Especially apple pie, bless his heart.

WORRY "CONDIMENT OF LIFE"

A Little of It Excellent, but It Must Not Be Enduring or Excessive.

Unless a man has a little worry apathy, indifference and the mechanical physical disinclination to do your utmost without stint will be lacking. Without this condiment of life, this salt of the human cosmos, "we see to what absurd yet tragic physical lengths he is driven by the whip of that still vigorous tyrant, his self-instinct to fight." This thrilling force, which one time had been used squarely and successfully against the real world enemy, is now absorbed in trivial and self-debasing skirmishes with the grotesque bolshevik of his imagination.

In other words, if a man has a variety of anxious explosive outlets via his muscles and intellect, such as driving, tennis, swimming, dancing, competition, golf and the like, these act as safety valves for the multitude of impulses and reactions which habit and custom have compressed out of his external activities.

Worry is one of these, if not enduring or excessive. For the average man set in society, in work and in his family circle it takes the place of larger and better outlets for his destroyed initiative.

Chinese Woman Encoffined Alive.

An unusual case of filial ingratitude is reported from Huchow, China, in the Tokyo (Japan) Advertiser. A very aged woman lived with her son's family, who were so poor that they did not have necessary food. To reduce expenses, the son, forgetting his country's traditions regarding filial piety, conceived of disposing of his aged mother. He secured a coffin, placed his mother therein, without protest on her part, nailed on the cover and deposited the coffin in a vacant lot. Neighbors informed the police, and the coffin was taken to the station house, where it was opened. The woman was still breathing, and when removed asked: "Why did you disturb me? I am a burden to my son and do not want to live. Please put me back in the box and let me die." The request was refused, and officials are detaining both mother and son in the yamen awaiting a judicial disposition of the case.

Algerian Grain Production.

Methods of grain production used in Algeria are very similar to those used in Utah, Idaho and eastern Washington. Owing to the light rainfall much of the land is cropped only alternate years, a clean fallow being maintained during the summer preceding the sowing of the crop. In more favorable situations it is often customary to produce two or three grain crops in successive years, allowing the land to lie fallow one year in four or one year in five.

Speaking generally, the soils of the grain-growing regions are rather heavy and are very productive when the rainfall is adequate. Some of the lands are underlain by calcareous hardpan, which it is sometimes necessary to break up by an occasional deep plowing in order to secure maximum production.

Making Arrangements.

A stray but friendly cat wandered to the front door of a home where lived Charles, an only child. The little fellow was pleased with his new visitor, and was endeavoring to welcome him by bringing him into the house, when the mother appeared on the scene. She told the child that the cat was not allowed in the house. Immediately after the cautioning and while the cat was on the front porch Charles went to the door and said: "Say, kitty, you come around to the back door, and I'll meet you there."

WENT COLONEL ONE BETTER

Occasion When Talkative Old Bore Met More Than His Match at the Club.

Several and various were the uncomplimentary exclamations heard when the talkative Col. Cholmondeley Fitz-Fulke strolled into the Back-to-Nature club one evening just in time to hear a discussion going on about the crows in the cornfields and their part in the winning of the war.

"How!" laughed the colonel remonstratingly. "Speaking of crows reminds me of the time my father made a scarecrow out of me, egad!"

"Was it your father that did it, colonel?" asked Charlie Smithers, smilingly, followed by a snicker among the members.

"Er—ah—yes. You see, the crows in our cornfield became so used to our regular scarecrow that they grew quite fond of him. And they used to bring him grains of corn and deposit them in his pockets and cornob pipe. It was quite a beautiful and heart-melting sight, gentlemen," and the colonel flicked a sentimental tear from his eyes.

"Well, I conceived the idea of making a scarecrow that would smite the crows and chase them away, doncheknow. So father decided to dress me up in some old tattered rags and have me smite them. And, bah Jove, I frightened them so badly that they didn't return for a year, and then it was after they had seen me go abroad!" concluded the colonel, picking up Charlie Smithers' glass and emptying its contents.

"Hub! That's nothing," said Charlie. "My father made a scarecrow so fierce looking that seven of our crows that had stolen ten bushels of corn came back the next day and put every one back!"

It was several minutes before the colonel could control himself sufficiently to walk out amid the roar that arose.

CORTEZ' HOUR OF TRIUMPH

Impressive Scene When the Spanish Adventurer Met Emperor Montezuma of Mexico.

On the morning of November 8, 1519, the Spaniards were on the causeway which was one of the three to connect Tezcochtitlan with the mainland, and so wide that eight of the Spanish cavalry could ride abreast on it. On all sides, in the road and in canoes on the lake, a crowd of Aztecs gazed at the descendants of the god who had at last, as they believed, carried out his promise. At the entrance to the city they were greeted by 1,000 principal citizens with salutations and kissing of hands to the bare earth; and then, after crossing a drawbridge, they saw approaching in a gorgeous litter none other than the great Montezuma, escorted by 200 of his courtiers.

Never has there been a more impressive scene in the history of the American continent than this meeting between the emperor of all Mexico and the Spanish adventurer. The picturesque surroundings, the silver-towered city rising from the gleaming lake, the countless hosts of gayly dressed subjects watching in awed silence, the magnificence of Montezuma and his train, the bronze, war-worn yet fiery appearance of the Spaniards—all these seem like a page from the "Arabian Nights" rather than sober history. The Spaniards, we may be sure, realized they were living a romance of the first order, and their hearts beat high with triumph, as with swords clanking and horses prancing they advanced into this city of legend.—From "Mexico," by Louise S. Hasbrouck.

Helpful Home Library.

"I like to pass my books on," said the friendly woman. "When I get a new book I begin a 'roster' of readers on the flyleaf. If the book proves to be a good and helpful one, it is a delight to multiply its usefulness by passing it on. The penalty assessed is that the reader sign the roster. I have one book that has been loaned to 23 different readers, and another that almost as many have read. The flyleaf bears a request that the book be returned."

"In time the books get broken backs, of course, but you learn to love books, as you love people, that get crippled in a good cause. The plan enables me to encourage my friends to read good books, and the list of readers is interesting to others to whom the book is offered."

A Little Tree.

I never see a little tree peeping coarsely up among the withered leaves without wondering what trials and triumphs it will have. I hope it will live with rapture in the flower opening days of spring; that it will be a home for birds; and that it will find life worth living and live long to better and to beautify the earth. If it is cut down may it become the ridge log of a cabin where love will abide, or if it must be burned, I hope it will blaze on the hearthstone of a home where children play in the firelight on the floor.—Enos A. Mills.

Plenty of Pine.

Deliveries of southern pine to the government from July 1, 1917, to May 28, 1918, were 2,600,000,000 feet, which, it is estimated, would require a solid train of cars extending from the gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, and would make a board walk three feet wide extending six times around the world, or build a solid board fence 59 feet high that would circle the geographical borders of the United States.