

LONDON'S BLACK FOG.

A Choking Atmosphere, Filled With Soot.

London is greatly celebrated for its fogs. I was here last spring during the stormy months of March and April, and during that time I thought the atmosphere became thick enough to be considered foggy, but I was told that there was no real fog during that time. The month which has just passed, November, is the worst month for fogs. Fortunate American visitors in London at this time have been able to see what a real London fog is. The fog, made up of smoke, cloud and gloom, which has swept down upon London two or three times during the past month, certainly could not be matched in any other city in the world. What is known as black fog generally follows a sharp hoar frost. Intense cold is the basis of the fogs. The air becomes in the first place excessively damp and then there sweeps down upon the town a great cloud, mingling with the sooty smoke until it chokes the streets, enters houses, attacks the throat and eyes, and in some cases causes a suspension of traffic entirely in the streets. The fogs of this month have been very peculiar. They would begin black and then would change to light. The sun every now and then would seek to break through the cold mass of fog, soot and grime, but it never succeeded. The wind alone is able to carry off the fog, but the yellow light of the sun, shimmering through the fog, produces at times a strange effect. The sun would seem to be standing in some sort of floating mixture, and then the sun would disappear and the fog would change almost as soon as it could be told into a black, cold dense mass of solid cloud and smoke. Twice during the month this black fog became so dense, so dark and so thick that you could not see a foot before you in looking out of the window. Of course gas would be lighted all over the town. Out in the streets you could not see half way across and great care had to be exercised in going about. In the direction of the underground railway the fog was the thickest and the worst. In addition to the darkness and inconvenience of not being able to see where you are going, having to exercise extraordinary precautions against being run over, there was also a constant choking feeling, occasioned by the difficulty in breathing the horrible atmosphere of soot and smoke.—London Correspondent New York World.

The Number Seven.

On the 7th of the 7th month a holy observance was ordained to the children of Israel, who fasted 7 days and remained 7 days in tents; the 7th year was directed to be a Sabbath of rest for all things; and at the end of 7 times 7 years commenced the grand jubilee; every 7th year the land lay fallow; every 7th year there was a grand release from all debts, and bondmen were set free. From this law might have originated the custom of binding young men to 7 years' apprenticeship, and of punishing the corrigible offenders by transportation for 7, twice 7 or three times 7 years. Anciently a child was not named before 7 days, not being accounted fully to have life before that day; the teeth spring out in the 7th month, and are shed in the 7th year, when infancy is changed into childhood. At three 7 years the faculties are developed, manhood commences, and a man becomes legally competent to perform all civil acts; at four times 7 man is in full possession of his strength; at five times 7 he is fit for the business of the world; at six times 7 he becomes grave and wise, or never; at seven times 7 he is in apogee, and from that day decays; at eight times 7 he is in his first climacteric; at nine times 7, or sixty-three, he is in his grand climacteric, or year of danger; and ten times 7, or three-score years and ten, has by the Royal Prophet been pronounced the natural period of human life.

A Man of His Word.

A horse hitched to an ash wagon, and driven by a colored man, was slipping and sliding along Grand River avenue yesterday, when a pedestrian halted the rig and said: "Don't you know what ash that horse?" "I reckon I do, sah." "He hasn't any ash on his hind feet." "I know it." "And he is in danger of falling down." "Yes, sah." "Why don't you get him shod?" "Look heah, sah, I had new shoes on dis horse last September. Took all de money I could make in two weeks to get in shod. I ann told him dat dem shoes had got to last him till April, and if he's bin 'stravagant an' wore 'em out an' lost 'em dat's his own bizness. When Ize dan passed my word, Ize gwine to keep it."—Detroit Free Press.

It has been estimated that not far from 25,000 women attend the New York matinees Saturdays.

The Warfare of the Future.

The time is coming, probably, when a man can sit in a watch tower in a city and by simply closing an electric current by a common telegraphic instrument in front of him, kill an entire army approaching from any direction. It will not be necessary for many approaching armies to be killed in this way before we will become so unpopular everywhere that it will be discontinued by common consent.—New York World.

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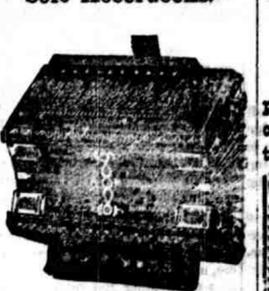
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