

MOON IS A LIFELESS WORLD.

Covered With Vast Mountains, but Without Atmosphere or Vegetation. Children and grown folk, too, like to think of the disc the moon presents to the earth as the smiling face of an old man.

Before Galileo's invention of the telescope it was not known what caused the mottled appearance of the moon's surface. We now know that the surface of the moon is diversified with hills and valleys and mountains and plains, just as the earth is, and that it is the shadows cast by the elevated portions of the surface that cause some parts to appear darker than others.

The lunar mountains are vastly higher in proportion than those of the earth. Though the moon is only about one-fiftieth the size of the earth, its mountains are nearly as high, one, at least, being about four and a half miles high. Another peculiarity of these mountains is that many of them have the form of volcanic craters, which no doubt they really are. So far as can be seen all are extinct, however. Near the center of the level floor of these craters, often thousands of feet below the top of the rim, is a curious peak resembling a little mountain within a mountain.

The moon is a dead world, a fossil among the heavenly bodies. There is apparently no vegetation, no atmosphere, no life of any kind. Could we stand on her surface, everything would, in consequence, appear strange and odd. Even at midday the sky would be studded with stars, but the sky itself would be black. There would be no dawn or twilight, for the sun would rise and set suddenly and sharply, its two weeks' intolerable glare giving way to another two weeks of intense cold. Everything would be somber, colorless, silent; there would be only sharp outlines of light and shade, softened by no gradations such as make the earth pleasant and beautiful.

ANCIENT ILLINOIS JAIL WHERE MOB KILLED JOSEPH SMITH

An interesting landmark, the scene of a tragedy, has been sold to the Mormons. This is the old jail at Carthage, Ill., in which the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith and his brother Hiram



HISTORIC OLD LANDMARK.

were killed by a mob in June, 1844. It is built of sandstone and is well preserved. It was then the Sheriff's residence, one room being used for a jail, and it has always been occupied as a residence. It stands on an acre of ground well improved. The property was recently sold to the Mormons for \$4,000—\$1,000 under its real value. It is reported that the building will be removed to Salt Lake City, to be set up there as a memorial.

HER FAITH BADLY SHAKEN.

Prophets Will Have No More Patronage from This Family. A good woman whose only apparent mental weakness was a blind faith in palmistry recently went to a professional to have her hand deciphered. She was told of a number of things she already knew and posted about a lot of others she had never suspected. But the one thing that troubled her the most was the information that her hus-

band would die of a terrible disease within two years. The matter preyed upon her mind. A friend of whom she made a confidant endeavored to persuade her out of her faith in the palmist. Her answer was: "She told me many things I know to be true. Why not this one?" But she had the good judgment to say nothing to her husband about it. "Let him be happy while he may," she said.

Finally her friend made a suggestion and she acted upon it. She asked her husband to have his hand read, as a joke. He demurred, but finally consented, and was steered into the same prophetic shop. The diagnosis was satisfactory. He was to live a long and healthful life and die at 82. There is now one family that has no faith in palm reading.

A Dangerous Nose.

An ex-Congressman tells a story in the New York Tribune of a time when he once got into grave peril on account of his nose. He was going to Leadville in the early days on a stage coach which was held up by highwaymen. The passengers were ranged in a row outside with their hands up, an attitude which was enforced by a gun in the hands of one of the brigands, while the other went rapidly through the various pockets.

In the midst of this ceremony the ex-Congressman's nose began to itch with that maddening persistency calculated to drive the owner to insanity if not relieved. Involuntarily his right hand began to lower itself to the seat of trouble.

"Hands up, there!" called the man behind the gun.

His hand shot back into place, but in a moment began to lower itself again.

"What's the matter with you?" inquired the thief. "Are you anxious to become a lead mine?"

"My nose itches so I can't stand it any longer," was the response. "I've simply got to scratch it."

"No, you hain't," replied the bandit, "because I'll do it for you."

Thereupon he proceeded to scratch the congressional nose with the muzzle of his shotgun.

Not for Fashion's Sake.

The criminal law of England was formerly marked by indiscriminating severity. Theft of an article valued above ten shillings was punished with death. In writing about "Sweet Hampstead and Its Associations," Mrs. White records a pleasant thing of Lord Mansfield, who, as a rule, leaned to the side of mercy.

It was Lord Mansfield who directed a jury to find a stolen trinket less in value than ten shillings in order that the thief might escape capital punishment. To this the jeweler who prosecuted demurred, asserting that the fashion of the thing had cost him twice that money.

"Gentlemen," replied the judge, with grave solemnity, "we ourselves stand in need of mercy; let us not hang a man for the fashion's sake!"

Secret of Married Bliss.

"They seem to live very happily together."

"Yes. Neither understands the other, but both think they do."—San Francisco Bulletin.

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