

Daily Eagle

A WONDERFUL SALT WELL.

One Well That Has Produced 203,184,400 Gallons of Salt Water.

One of the greatest wonders of the world and yet comparatively unknown is the well which for the last sixteen years has been flowing almost pure salt at the rate of over 20,000 gallons per day. It is located in Etina borough, along Pine creek, just opposite the city. The history of the well was related to a reporter by Mr. J. L. Robertson. He said that in the spring of 1872 the firm decided to sink a well to secure natural gas to run their works, and the contract was given to Chalfant & Graf. At a depth of 1,200 feet a salt water vein was struck. Shortly after the tools were lost, and after "fishing" for them for several months they were caught. The well was then drilled to a depth of 2,200 feet, when the tools got lost again, and after spending five months in unsuccessful attempts to recover them it was decided to abandon the well.

A strong vein of gas was found at a depth of 1,900 feet, but there was so much salt water that it could not find its way out. Its pressure was so great, however, that the salt water was forced up nearly sixty feet in the air. For seven years this salt water continued to flow at the rate of sixty barrels per hour, sometimes more and sometimes less, but never falling short of fifty barrels. It swelled the little brook at its side to a good sized creek and thence poured into the Allegheny river. It was so strong in chloride of sodium that it killed all the fish that came within certain limits of the place where it entered the river. The idea of utilizing the water seems not to have entered any one's mind until about five years after the well began to flow. Several capitalists then conceived the plan of extracting the chloride of sodium from the water and manufacturing salt. For some reason the scheme fell through then, but two years later a company was formed which established the second largest saltworks in the United States, making about 150 barrels of salt daily.

After all the salt has been taken from the water it goes through a process which extracts the valuable chloride of sodium, leaving a portion of the character of the water from the well. This is a very valuable medicinal product.

When the water leaves the latter works it would be perfectly pure and tasteless were it not for the chloride of sodium, which is used in extracting the salt and bicarbonate.

The amount of water coming from the well to-day is as great as when it was struck sixteen years ago. A peculiar feature is that on some days, for a period of about an hour, the well becomes unusually agitated and the pressure simply terrific, requiring the strongest kind of joints and casing to hold the water.

It is almost impossible to comprehend the amount of water this well draws from the bowels of the earth. In sixteen years, at the rate of 20,000 gallons per day, it would have thrown off 282,624,000 gallons of water.—Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

Samplings Literary Wares.

The late James T. Fields, while he was an active partner in the publishing firm of Ticknor & Fields, was waited upon one morning by a young gentleman—a sugar merchant, who had poetic aspirations. The young man complained that his manuscript poems had been rejected by the firm, and he desired to know the reason why, inasmuch as all of his friends had heard the verses read and declared them to be an invaluable acquisition to American literature.

"Our reader decides that," said Mr. Fields in his bluntest tones.

"Then I would like to see the reader."

Always the personification of amiability himself, the publisher conducted the young sugar merchant upstairs to the reader. That personage sat at a table, surrounded by his manuscripts. He carefully read a few pages of each manuscript and then dropped them into a basket at his feet. Occasionally he became more than ordinarily interested, and in that case placed the package inside his desk.

"Why, he passed through them just as I sample sugar," exclaimed the poet in great amazement.

"That is because he is so familiar with literary wares as you are with sugar," rejoined Mr. Fields.

"I am satisfied," said the merchant. "Let us go."

The young bard gave up the writing of verses, but he acquired a large fortune in sugar.—Will M. Clements, in Detroit Free Press.

Fashions in Tombstones.

There are fashions in tombstones, but they change slowly. The styles of the present do not differ much from those of twenty years ago, but a difference is noticed in those set up fifty or more years ago. There were never columns in those days. Above the obelisks were plain slabs. One of the expensive shapes, which always marked a distinguished grave, was a marble slab laid horizontally on four marble columns, making a sort of a table. The inscription was carved on the top, which allowed plenty of space for verses, which no well-regulated gravestone of the first part of the century could do without. These verses, which read so quaintly now, were always written by the pastor. It was his duty when one of his parishioners died to compose a suitable stanza, and the rainstones were always paid for from a thing that few periodicals even of those days would have done. In olden times nothing but brownstone and sandstone was used. The carving was crude, and one of the requirements of fashion was that every slab should have a human face carved over the inscription. The stylish gravestones to have now is a monument.—New York Mail and Express.

AMERICANS' GIFT OF ORATORY.

Awkwardness of Englishmen as Speakers.

A peculiarity of our own people. Every American who has attended the regular or occasional sittings of civic bodies, or participated in formal dinners in Great Britain, must have been struck with the difficulty and awkwardness with which the speakers convey their ideas, or the absence thereof. Through sympathy he must have felt at times that he would gladly have allowed them to stop, or have volunteered to help them out of their dilemma.

How very different is all this over here! When Americans come to argue or discuss any question, or to be merely entertaining, they as a rule acquit themselves well. It is not necessary that they should be regularly educated or trained; that they should be professional men, or that they should have had experience in thinking on their feet, as it is called. They may be occupied in business, they may be unaccustomed to the sound of their own voices in any sort of assembly; they may be without suspicion of their lingual talents; but the moment they are requested to say something, they rise, and, opening their mouths, appropriate words flow thence. Hundreds of Americans are surprised every year to find that they can speak without preparation or premeditation. Speaking is unquestionably natural to them; while with nearly every other nation it is the result of culture.

All Europeans observe and comment on this peculiarity of ours, and are at a loss to account for it. It may be in a measure attributable to the richness of our mother tongue, which enables us, if we wish to talk an hour without putting forward anything in particular. Our great language is excellently qualified for conveying glittering generalities, and many of our politicians employ it for that purpose. The character of our institutions, the constant intercommunication between sections and states, the electric nature of the atmosphere, the variety of climate, causing a high degree of nervousness and cerebral sensibility, have doubtless their share

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THE CRAZE OF "CARPET BEDDING."

Lawn planting is a new craze, and is known as "carpet bedding." The ornamentation is accomplished by the use of a low growing class of plants, which, when planted, grow no higher than the lawn. Designs are made in every conceivable pattern. There is great variety in shading, many possessing a rich metallic luster, so that there is no difficulty in forming beds resembling carpets spread on the green lawn and having tints more beautiful than art can give.—Chicago Times.

Novel Test for a Preacher.

It is said that a Hebrew congregation of St. Paul has adopted a heroic method for testing the sermonizing qualities of a candidate for its pulpit. He is not permitted to fire his very best sermon at the congregation, but a secreted set apart for the worship of God, given him a text, and he is expected to preach from it without further notice.—New York Sun.

A Scrupulous Counterfeiter.

It remained for a Bostonian to leave the words "In God we trust" scrupulously off the counterfeit silver dollars which he was quietly circulating in the city of culture.

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