

VANDERBILT'S TERSE REPLY

His Contempt for Invention to "Stop Trains with Wind" Shown by His Words.

One day many years ago George Westinghouse happened to see a collision between two freight trains that was caused by the ineffectiveness of the hand brakes then in use.

He wondered how the hand brakes could be stopped more quickly, says a writer in the World's Work, and he set to work to invent a device to do it.

He decided that the brake must be worked from the engine, since the engineer is the first to see any danger.

He tried chains, but they would not do. Reading of the use of compressed air for driving drills in the Mount Cenis tunnel, he experimented with this form of power.

His planning and designing were begun all over again, because compressed air required new apparatus.

He made drawings of an air pump and a brake cylinder and valves and from these drawings he constructed an apparatus which he felt worthy of a practical test.

With this he went to the superintendent of the New York Central railroad and asked him to try it.

The superintendent declined. But this disappointment was merely part of the severe schooling through which Mr. Westinghouse passed in his remarkable career.

For, undeterred, he went on urging the merits of his brake. There was no railroad in the country whose managers and superintendents did not know him directly or indirectly.

At last he got permission to explain the brake to Commodore Vanderbilt, the greatest living railroad man of the period.

He was himself so thoroughly convinced of the merits of his invention that he felt that if he had the opportunity of explaining it Commodore Vanderbilt would immediately order every car of the New York Central railroad to be equipped with it.

The interview took place in Commodore Vanderbilt's New York office. Mr. Westinghouse spoke and Commodore Vanderbilt listened.

At last the old man asked: "Do you mean to tell me that you can stop a railroad train by wind?"

IS THE PRINCE OF PLANTS

Every Part of the Coconut Palm Tree Is Put to Use by Man, Even the Roots.

The coconut palm is well named the "prince of the vegetable kingdom," declares the New York Herald. It has a tall, slender, columnar stem, 80 or 100 feet high, with rich pale yellow-green leaves 30 to 40 feet high, which rustle with every breath of wind.

It grows only near the shore, where its roots, penetrating the sandy soil, may drink freely of the underground springs.

The place of its first home is uncertain. It was believed by the younger Candolle to have first appeared on some of the islands of the Indian archipelago, whence it was carried by ocean currents or the hand of man to the southern coast of Asia, east tropical Africa and to the islands and shores of the Pacific tropical America.

It was undoubtedly taken by the hand of man to the West Indies and Brazil after the discovery of America by Europeans, although it has now spread to such an extent that it has the appearance of being indigenous to tropical America.

Of all the trees it is the most useful to man, furnishing food, shelter and employment to thousands of the human race.

In tropical countries, especially in India and Malaya, the coconut supplies the chief necessities of life to the inhabitants.

Every part is useful. The roots are considered a remedy against fevers; from the trunk houses, boats and furniture are made; the leaves furnish the thatch for houses and the material from which baskets, hats, mats and innumerable articles are made.

The net-work of fibers at their base is used for sieves and is woven into cloth; from the young flower stalks a palm wine called toddy is obtained from which arrack, a fiery alcoholic drink, is distilled.

The value of the fruit is well-known. From the husk which is called coir commercially, cordage, bedding, mats, brushes and other articles are manufactured.

In the tropics lamps, drinking vessels and spoons are made from the shells.

The albumen of the seed contains large quantities of oil, used in the east for cooking and in illuminating.

In Europe and the United States it is often made into soap and candles, yielding, after the oil is extracted, a refuse valuable as food for cattle or as fertilizer.

In some parts of the tropics the kernel of the seed forms the chief food of the inhabitants.

The cool, milky fluid which fills the cavity of the nut when it is young affords an agreeable beverage, and the albumen of the young nut, soft and jellylike, is nutritious and of an agreeable flavor.

As might be expected in the case of a plant of such value, it is carefully and extensively cultivated in many countries, and numerous varieties, differing in size, shape and color of the fruit, are known.

The nuts are sown in nursery beds.

AZTECS A STRONG RACE.

Agave Plant Supplies Them with Drink, Food, Clothing and Utensils.

The Aztecs of old were not only great soldiers, but also diligent cultivators of the soil, and had acquired considerable proficiency in agriculture, although they had no horses, oxen or other animals of draft.

To this day the men earn their living chiefly as laborers in the fields now owned by the Mexicans, says the Southern Workman.

The staple product now, as of yore, is the maize, and the next to it the maguoy or agave, the sweet sap of which is the principal material of the famous Mexican pulque.

Some species are cultivated as vegetables, others for the sake of their leaves, which yield a strong fiber that can be woven into fabrics.

Hence the saying that the agave supplies the people with drink, food and clothing. The men have little ambition to excel in handicraft.

Ferriery and carpentry are about the only trades they care to take up. In the cities they work as porters, carriers or peddlers in a small way.

Like all southern Indians their complexion is of a ruddy chocolate brown and they are not particularly good-looking.

Most of the women now have large hands and feet, probably the inheritance of generations of hard workers.

And they are strong. In the warehouse of a wine merchant an Aztec porter was seen to take a cask of claret on his back and carry it quite a distance.

The load certainly weighed not less than 400 pounds and no white man would have thought of lifting it.

The law requires the people in the cities to forsake the Indian breechcloth and poncho and assume the regulation garb of the poor working class of Mexico—the wide, loose trousers of cotton cloth or manta, with jacket to match—but the breechcloth is worn outside of the trousers and thereby replaces the civilized suspenders.

The church of San Francisco, the original one built by the order of Cortez, is in good preservation, having been well cared for.

On the pulpit in the chapel is found this unique inscription: "Aqui tubo principio el Santo Evangelio en este nuevo mundo."

"(Here the Holy Gospel had a beginning in the New World.)" Like the interior of all Mexican churches, this chapel is highly decorated, being especially rich in elaborate statures.

OLDEST ALTAR IN AMERICA

"Beginning of the Holy Gospel in the New World" on Its Pulpit.

Many Americans with the historical dates of 1607 and 1620 firmly fixed in their minds may be surprised to learn that for nearly a century before the days of Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, Christian altars had been standing on this side of the great waters, says the Pilgrim.

The daring Spaniards followed close after the great discoverer and braved the seas in search of treasure.

So it was that the intrepid Cortez marched upon Montezuma's capital after burning his ships behind him at Vera Cruz.

Here at Tlascalala, 20 miles north of Puebla and less than 50 miles east of Mexico City, Cortez found staunch allies. Their four chiefs he baptized from a huge black lava fount.

Each of these rulers had a key to the great treasure chest, which can still be seen, an enormous affair having four locks.

Here is also shown the banner Cortez carried in his conquest, and afterward presented the Tlascalans for their loyalty.

It is about ten feet long and forked at the end; its fine and heavy silk was once a beautiful crimson.

The Tlascalans have again and again refused almost fabulous sums offered for it on behalf of Spain.

These natives throughout the country cling with a wonderful tenacity to any such relic, for in their eyes it is supremely sacred.

At the time of Cortez, Tlascalala was an important city. Charles V. of Spain signed the grant of arms to the city, while Philip II. affixed his signature to the city charter at Barcelona, May 10, 1585.

The church of San Francisco, the original one built by the order of Cortez, is in good preservation, having been well cared for.

On the pulpit in the chapel is found this unique inscription: "Aqui tubo principio el Santo Evangelio en este nuevo mundo."

"(Here the Holy Gospel had a beginning in the New World.)" Like the interior of all Mexican churches, this chapel is highly decorated, being especially rich in elaborate statures.

Tlascalala is the capital of the state of the same name, which happens to be the smallest commonwealth in the Mexican union.

The city now numbers barely 4,000 inhabitants, while the greater part of its public buildings show there is no progress and but very little repair.

"HE SITS DOWN TO WALK" So Said Sioux Indian Braves of White Man Who Rode a Bicycle.

Hamlin Garland knows the Indians as few white men know them. He likes and honors them, and nearly all his experiences among them have been such as to redound to their credit.

Now and then, however, Mr. Garland will tell a story at the Indians' expense.

Missouri-Pacific-Lexington Branch

Table with columns for WEST-BOUND TRAINS, EAST-BOUND TRAINS, and SANTA FE ROUTE. Includes train numbers, destinations, and times.

SANTA FE ROUTE

Table for SANTA FE ROUTE showing train arrivals and departures for various destinations like Lexington, Northrup, Dover, etc.

C. & A. Time Table—Higginsville

Table for C. & A. Time Table—Higginsville showing WEST BOUND and EAST BOUND train schedules.

W. S. CARTER LUMBER

Advertisement for W. S. CARTER LUMBER, located at NINTH STREET NEAR MAIN.

MUSGROVE & DRYSDALE...

Advertisement for MUSGROVE & DRYSDALE, offering Fresh Groceries, Fresh and Salt Meats.

MUSGROVE & DRYSDALE...

Advertisement for H. M. Lissack, M. D. Homoeopath, located at Corner 16th St. and Franklin Avenue.

Are You Looking Ahead?

Advertisement for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, offering investment opportunities in the Southwest.

Quick and Pleasant

Advertisement for the Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida route, highlighting excellent service.

WORLD'S FAIR

Advertisement for the World's Fair, featuring the Missouri Pacific Railroad logo and promotional text.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Advertisement for PATENTS, offering scientific and mechanical services.

PARKER'S HAIR BALM

Advertisement for PARKER'S HAIR BALM, a hair care product.

Dr. J. W. Meng

Advertisement for Dr. J. W. Meng, Surgeon Dentist, located in the Meng Building, Lexington, Missouri.

OLDEST STRIKING CLOCK.

Timepiece Constructed About 1320 Is to Be Seen in Wells Cathedral, England.

Words Which Francis Likes.

The number of English words absorbed into the French language during recent years without any employment of italic type or quotation marks, is considerable.

Snowy Wings.

It was in Sunday school and the teacher of the class was drawing some lessons from the beautiful snow.

Only Blooms.

The flower of the family is usually a blooming nuisance.—Chicago Daily News.