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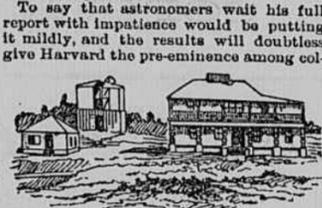
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PEEPS AT A PLANET.

HOW ASTRONOMERS ARE TRYING TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH MARS.

The Best Results Are Expected from the Station Established at Arequipa, Peru, by Harvard University—Some of the Facts Thought to Be Established.

Venus is nearest to us of any of the primary planets, but Mars is by far the most interesting. The problems connected with the last were so numerous that there was a general disappointment when the recent reports came in from observatories in the northern hemisphere. But it now appears that discoveries of the greatest importance have been made in the southern hemisphere, and the most satisfactory observations in the whole list have been by Professor William Henry Pickering, of Harvard college, at Arequipa, Peru.



THE AREQUIPA OBSERVATORY.

leges and Professor Pickering a high place among the world's great astronomers. He is a very young man, born in 1858, a native of Boston, and brother of Professor Henry C. Pickering, director of the Harvard observatory and projector of the Peruvian enterprise. Six years ago he was made assistant professor of astronomy at Harvard and made such rapid advances in the details of practical work that he was selected for the South American station.

In December, 1890, he went to Peru and has since remained there. Professor S. I. Bailey had previously selected the Arequipa station, which is 8,000 feet above sea level, 100 miles from the coast and two miles from the city of Arequipa, which has 30,000 inhabitants. Professor Bailey was at work fitting up the observatory during the civil war in Peru, and looked down from his station on some of the battles below. In that latitude Mars passes almost directly overhead during the time of his closest approach to the earth, and what is of far more importance, the atmosphere is phenomenally clear. Hence the truly gratifying results.

Venus at her nearest approach is but little over 24,000,000 miles from the earth, but as her orbit is within that of the earth she is at that time in line with the sun, or nearly so, and cannot be closely studied. Mars goes around the sun in a fraction less than 687 days, and the earth in a little over 365, from which it follows that they must often be in proximity on the same side of the sun, but as both have eccentric orbits there is a great variation in their distance, their nearest being about 35,000,000 and their greatest about 61,000,000. As the conditions for observation are most favorable when Mars is farthest from the sun, it follows that the favorable periods of opposition are quite rare, and in apellion the chances for a good view are estimated to be 4 1/2 times as good as when both are in perihelion.

The British astronomers labor under peculiar difficulties, as they see Mars so far to the south of them when he is nearest the earth that his image is distorted by the vision through so much air as the setting sun is. Nevertheless both they and the French have secured some very fine views, and Flammarion's views of Mars are held in high repute. Three of them are presented herewith. The central one shows the appearance of the planet at his average distance from the earth, that on the right at his nearest and the other at the greatest distance at which he is visible.

Observe that it is the south pole of Mars that is toward us at the nearest approach, as owing to the planet's inclination to the plane of his orbit he is, as it were, tilted away from us. Around the south pole is a veritable antarctic region, and as in our own polar regions the snow line moves southward and retedes according to the changes of the seasons. But here is the important difference: As the earth's inclination to her orbit is but 23 1/2 degs, and that of Mars is 28 degs., it results that the seasons advance and recede much more rapidly in Mars. Thus if any people live on the latitude of Mars corresponding to



COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS OF MARS.

that of New York city (the sun giving much less heat than on the earth) they must have the climate of Labrador till their March, and then advance to mid-summer heat by the 1st of June.

The Martians have some advantages, however. As the planet has a diameter of but 4,400 miles and is not so dense as the earth, gravity is very much less, and so a man of our ordinary strength could there easily jump sixteen feet high and crack his heels together a dozen times before coming down. But the greatest curiosities of Mars are the canals of Schiaparelli—so called from the Italian astronomer who discovered and mapped them. If the dark parts of Mars are water, as he thinks, then the land lies chiefly in a broad equatorial belt around the planet. In short, only the torrid zone contains any land of consequence, and this is as it should be, humanly speaking, for only in that zone of so cold a planet could life at all like ours be carried on.

London's Big Smoker. A Mr. Goodman, of London, made a wager that he could smoke eighty-six cigars down to an inch in less than twelve hours. He did it with forty-two minutes to spare.

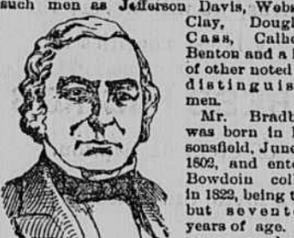
Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

WAS A SENATOR LONG AGO.

A Still Vigorous Maine Man Now Ninety Years of Age.

The Hon. James W. Bradbury, of Augusta, Me., celebrated his ninetyeth birthday recently, and those who called on him were astonished at his erect form and manly vigor. The present generation knows little of him, but he once occupied a seat in the United States senate with such men as Jefferson Davis, Webster, Clay, Douglass, Cass, Calhoun, Benton and a host of other noted and distinguished men.



J. W. BRADBURY. In his class were Hawthorne, Longfellow, Cillay, Abbott, Little, Cheever and several other distinguished men. Of his children but one, a son, survives.

In 1830 he located in Augusta as a lawyer, editing for some time a Democratic paper called the Maine Patriot. In 1835 he was elected county attorney, which office he held four years. He was a delegate to the Baltimore convention in 1844 and afterwards took the stump for Mr. Polk, doing effective work throughout the campaign. He was elected a United States senator in 1846.

While in the United States senate his seat was next to that of Jefferson Davis. Mr. Bradbury speaks of him as a remarkable man, and while there they were fast friends.

In 1853 Mr. Davis was making a tour of the north for his health, and was the guest of Mr. Bradbury for several days. "I little thought what would happen in a few years," says Mr. Bradbury. "The State Agricultural society was holding a fair in this city at the time, and by request of many of the members Mr. Davis delivered an address at the statehouse. It was a masterly production, full of patriotic sentiment, and Mr. Davis received the thanks of the whole society."

Of the great men in the senate with Mr. Bradbury only four, Alpheus Felch, of Michigan; George W. Jones, of Iowa; Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, and Hamilton Fish, of New York, are alive today. Felch was a native of Maine, and he and Mr. Bradbury began the study of Virgil together at the Limerick academy in 1819, and both entered the senate at the same time.

TWO WYOMING WOMEN.

Both Are in Politics, and One Came Near a Nomination.

Mrs. I. N. Bard recently had a narrow escape from being the Democratic candidate for governor of Wyoming, and Mrs. Hamilton, of Uinta, received the complimentary vote of her own county. Mrs. Hamilton has not taken an active part in politics, though always voting, but Mrs. Bard started in with the first women voters in 1879 and has stuck to it at the polls, in caucus and convention.

She is a native of Utica, N. Y., and went to Wyoming with her husband in 1868, when they "took up land and set up a ranch" about thirty miles north of Cheyenne, on the old Deadwood and Black Hills route. Her husband has always been a stalwart Republican and she an unwavering Democrat.



MRS. BARD. MRS. HAMILTON.

She has been a school trustee for many years in her district, but has never held political office. At the Laramie county convention, to which she was a delegate, she was unanimously elected a delegate to the state convention at Rock Springs, the remainder of the delegation consisting of fifteen men. There was a triangular contest in the convention, and thirty-nine ballots were cast before a candidate for governor was named. On the thirty-sixth ballot, to vary the monotony, a gallant delegate nominated Mrs. Bard for governor. There was great applause, and county after county cast solid votes for her. Forty-eight votes only were required to elect, and it was suddenly discovered that of this number Mrs. Bard had thirty-six. There was a hurried consultation, and the rest of the delegates united on a man, much to the relief of Mrs. Bard.

A Cold, Steely Fact.

A particularly novel theory is advanced by a writer who expresses the opinion that steel is liable to be changed by the action of time, unaided by any external, mechanical or chemical influence, and in support of his view that time alone appears to be sufficient to produce these changes he cites several examples of failures which have occurred within his own experience, some flat steel plates cracking spontaneously and others on being tested by dropping. Mention is made of numerous boiler plates that cracked after the boilers had been at work for years, and weeks after the steam pressure had been reduced and the water run out, and this, too, in face of the fact of every boiler being tested to double its working pressure when new.

When a child dies in Greenland the native parents bury a living dog with it, the dog to be used by the child as a guide to the other world.

In south Greenland the color of the hair ribbon which a woman ties around her head denotes the social condition of the wearer—whether she be maid or wife or widow.

LITTLE HOMER'S SLATE.

After dear old grandma died, Hunting through an oaken chest In the attic we espied What repaid our childish quest— 'Twas a homely little slate, Seemingly of ancient date.

On its quaint and battered face Was the picture of a cart, Drawn with all that awkward grace Which betokens childish art; But what meant this legend, pray, "Homer drew this yesterday?"

Mother recollected then What the years were fain to hide, She was but a baby when Little Homer lived and died; Forty years, so mother said, Little Homer had been dead.

This one secret through those years Grandma kept from all apart, Hallowed by her lonely tears And the breaking of her heart, While each year that sped away Seemed to her but yesterday.

So the homely little slate Grandma's baby's fingers pressed, To memory consecrated, Leth in the oaken chest, Where, unwilling we should know, Grandma put it years ago.

—Eugene Field in Chicago News-Record.

Big Oxen.

The largest ox in this country that we have seen any record of was what was known as the centennial ox. He was exhibited at the centennial in Philadelphia in 1876. He was bred by Samuel Barkley, of Somerset county, Pa., and was the largest specimen of the bovine world has ever seen. He weighed 4,900 pounds the day he arrived in Philadelphia. He was of mixed stock, being Shorthorn, native, scrub and Ayrshire, the Shorthorn predominating. After the close of the exhibition the giant ox was butchered and exhibited as show beef at Philadelphia during the holidays of 1876.

A Shorthorn steer weighing 4,100 pounds was slaughtered at Detroit in 1874. A. N. Meal, of Moberly, Mo., formerly owned the largest cow in the world. Mr. Meal disposed of her in 1883, the Cole Circus company being the purchaser. She weighed the day of sale 3,250 pounds. Mr. John Pratt, of Chase county, Kan., was the owner of a cow weighing 3,200 pounds. She was of the common scrub stock and stood nineteen hands high.—Brooklyn Eagle.

A Lawyer Humorist.

The late Mr. Edward Kent Karslake was an admirable lawyer, and might have made a great name if he had taken to his work seriously. But this was just what he was unable to do. His love of humor was almost greater than his desire to achieve a forensic victory. This failing somewhat irritated the judges, who also grew impatient at his classical allusions, which he introduced into the dullest and most technical cases with a cleverness which even they were wont to acknowledge. In opening a case before the late Vice Chancellor Hall he said:

"This, my lord, is a short cause," which the judge fully appreciated at the end of Mr. Karslake's two days' speech. Like his brother, Sir John Karslake, he was a very tall man, and related how a reporter, describing the attorney general's appearance, innocently wrote, "Sir John Karslake then rose at great length to reply."—London Tit-bits.

Antiquity of Death Masks.

Although there is no mention of death masks in the works of Homer, or in any of the later classics, recent explorers have satisfied themselves that in the early burials of all nations it was the custom to cover the heads and bodies of the dead with sheets of gold so pliable that they took the impress of the form, and not infrequently, when in the course of centuries the embalmed flesh had shriveled or fallen away, the gold retained the exact cast of the features. Schliemann found a number of bodies "covered with large masks of gold plate in repousse work," several of which have been reproduced by means of engraving in his "Myceen," and he asserts that there can be no doubt whatever that each one of these represents the likeness of the deceased person whose face it covered.—Laurence Hutton in Harper's.

The Way to Catch a Porcupine.

The porcupine climbs the tree as readily as a squirrel would, provided you don't slip up and cut his tail off while he is going up. Somehow or other he can't climb the tree without his tail, nor he won't come down without it. If you catch one of these porcupines climbing a tree and chop his tail off he will stay there until he starves to death, unless he is taken away.—Philadelphia Times.

The Phonograph in a Hencoop.

M. du Haundry, following the method of Professor Garnier's studies of the Sinitan language, has carried his phonograph into the hencoop. He places it in one henhouse where the "family" are at home, and when the receiver has been cackled into for half an hour it is taken away and made to repeat all the gossip in a neighboring hencoop. The results of the experiments are said to be marvelous.—New York Journal.

Fuel in Furnace Ashes.

The want of a ready method of dealing with ashes obtained from boiler fires or other source of heating power so as to extract the unconsumed fuel called "breeze," so that it could be used over again, has long been felt. Thousands of tons of good fuel are daily thrown away for want of a ready method of cleansing it from the ashes with which it leaves the furnaces.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

A Thin Querer.

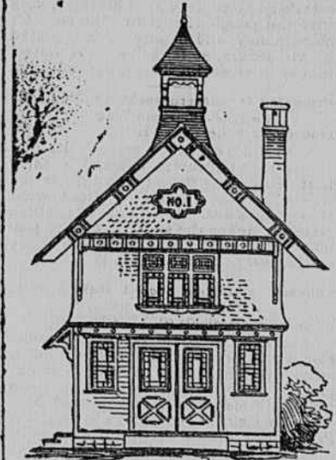
Sunday School Superintendent—Tommy, can you tell me why the lions didn't eat David when he was in their den? Tommy—I guess it must er ben, mister, 'cause he was like you an hadn't any meat on him.—Boston Courier.

John McDarby, of Salmon Falls, Mass., has double teeth all around and a stomach which doesn't rebel when he chews and swallows glass, stones and other indigestibles.

A VILLAGE HOSEHOUSE.

Pretty and Picturesque in Appearance and W 11 Cost About \$1,500. [Copyright, 1892, by American Press Association.]

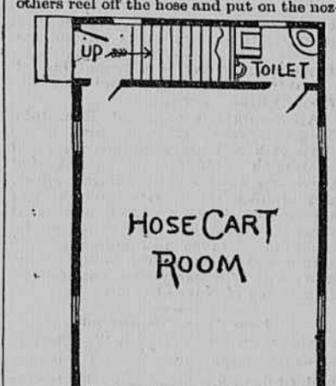
The enormous losses of life and property which occur yearly by fire, especially in large cities, have resulted in the organization of fully equipped local fire departments, with all the latest improvements in the way of fire engines, trucks, trained horses, hooks and ladders, reels and hose carts. The firemen are paid a regular salary, and the cost of maintaining the system becomes a part of the municipal expenses of each city. The methods of electric alarms and the speed with which these professional firemen reach a fire and the effective work they do are too familiar for description here.



FRONT ELEVATION.

The good results of such departments have extended beyond the limits of cities until nearly every town and village in the country has made some attempt in the direction of organizing a fire department. In small towns and villages these organizations are usually the results of individual enterprise on the part of some one who starts a subscription among the business men for the purpose of raising money to purchase the necessary apparatus and paraphernalia. On account of expense, in a small village a steam fire engine is out of the question, but it is always possible to purchase 500 feet of hose and a handpump, hose cart and reel.

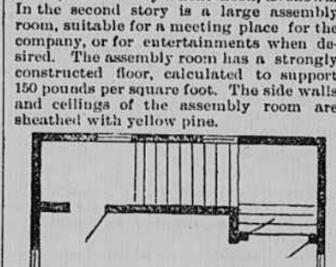
When there is a system of waterworks, with sufficient head to force the water to the tops of the buildings, very efficient work can be done in extinguishing fires by means of the hose. Upon the sound of the alarm of fire the active members of the hose company immediately assemble at the hosehouse, and haul the hose and cart to the scene of the fire, and while two men are attaching the hose to the hydrant the others reel off the hose and put on the nozzle.



HOSE CART ROOM

zle, ready for work by the time the water is turned on. After being used at a fire the hose should be suspended upon hooks along the side of the house in order that it may dry out and prevent it from rotting. An engine or hosehouse should be centrally located and easily accessible from all directions, and should be a substantially constructed building, although they are too often mere sheds, with inefficient accommodation and totally devoid of comfort.

Here is a hosehouse which was erected in a village of 2,000 inhabitants. It is of good size, with a pretty front, and would become an ornament to any rural village. In the first story is ample room for two hose carts, with plenty of wall space for drying out the hose when required. A side staircase in the rear leads to the assembly room above, with an entrance on the side street, sheltered by a neat hood, as shown. In the second story is a large assembly room, suitable for a meeting place for the company, or for entertainments when desired. The assembly room has a strongly constructed floor, calculated to support 150 pounds per square foot. The side walls and ceilings of the assembly room are sheathed with yellow pine.



ASSEMBLY ROOM

The exterior of the building is sheathed and clapboarded in the first story and shingled in the second story and roof. The triple windows in the gables, together with the bell tower and other neat features, give the building a very pretty and picturesque appearance. The building can be erected for about \$1,500. D. W. KING.

The mistake of thinking an artistic fabric is necessarily expensive is fast dying out, thanks to the more general study of the canons of art.—Decorator and Furnisher.

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