

BIG GUESSING CONTEST.

WHO Will Be Elected President of the United States at the Coming Election? HOW MANY VOTES WILL HE GET?

The West Virginian Proposes to Give the Best Guessers Some Liberal Prizes.

HERE IS THE PLAN:

We will give to our Patrons and Subscribers **\$250.00 IN GOLD**

on the following conditions:

To the person estimating the exact number, or the nearest the exact number of votes cast for the winner in the Presidential contest, we will give \$100.00 in gold.

To the person guessing the next nearest number, \$50.00 in gold.

To the third nearest guesses, \$25.00 in gold.

To the five next nearest, each \$10.00.

To the five next nearest, each \$5.00 in gold.

The thirteen people in this case will be the lucky ones.

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST:

1. Each person who is a regular subscriber to the Daily West Virginian on July 6, is entitled to one guess.
2. Each person paying one dollar for a three months' subscription to the West Virginian beginning after July 6 will be entitled to one guess.
3. Any person paying in advance for one year will be entitled to four estimates, or for any part of a year in the same manner, each one dollar paid on subscription entitling the subscriber to a guess.
4. Any person securing two subscribers for three months and paying us two dollars, will be entitled to one guess, or additional guesses in the same proportion, one guess for each two dollars, sent in. The person securing the subscription will be entitled to guess and the persons subscribing will also be entitled to guesses.

TO AID IN MAKING THE ESTIMATE:

In 1892,
Grover Cleveland received 5,552,351 votes.
Benjamin Harrison received 5,176,336 votes.

In 1896,
William McKinley received 7,111,607 votes.
William J. Bryan received 6,509,052 votes.

In 1900,
William McKinley received 7,263,266 votes.
William J. Bryan received 6,415,387 votes.

The guess or guesses of each individual will be kept secret. Who will be the first to record his guess? Remember it begins on Wednesday, July 6. Some one will get first prize, why not you?

THE HUE OF THE SKY

WHY THE "DOME OF THE HEAVENS" HAS A BLUISH TINT.

The Beautiful Coloring is Wrought by the Reflection of the Sunlight Upon the Myriads of Minute Particles That Float in the Air.

Every one notices the blue color of the sky. It has grown familiar to all by daily observation from childhood, yet few persons realize the great scientific and artistic interest attaching to this beautiful color.

Sir Isaac Newton tried to explain the color in the year 1675 by referring it to the blue colors seen in the soap bubbles used in his experiments. He thought the air was filled with small particles of water which reflect the blue portions of the sun's light falling upon our earth and thus produce the blue tints of the firmament.

Sir John Herschel explained the color of the sky by Newton's theory, but later writers have proved that in some important respects his theory was wrong.

In 1869 Professor John Tyndall, the famous British physicist, found that he could produce "sky blue" by experiments in the laboratory. For this purpose he filled a glass tube about a yard long and three inches in diameter with air of one-tenth the ordinary density mixed with minute particles of butyl vapor, which is extremely volatile. Then, on passing through the mixture a powerful beam of electric light in a room otherwise dark, the mixture precipitated a beautiful blue cloud which in color rivaled the finest Italian sky. Further experiments proved to Tyndall that he had at last discovered the secret of the blue color of the sky, which had puzzled the greatest philosophers of all ages.

Lord Rayleigh, the famous professor of experimental physics at Cambridge, England, and one of King Edward's original twelve members of the new order of merit, investigated Tyndall's theory of the color of the sky by profound mathematical researches extending over many years. He confirmed Tyndall's theory that the blue arises from the reflection of sunlight from small particles in the air less than one one-hundred thousandth of an inch in diameter.

These atomic particles fill the atmosphere, and by reflecting the blue part of the sun's light give the dome of the heavens a bluish tint.

Some of these particles are water, but most of them are composed of the oxygen and nitrogen of the air.

Professor T. J. J. See of the United States navy is one of the American scientists who studied the subject in another aspect. He observed the color of the sky in various altitudes, in high mountains and in dry and moist countries, such as Egypt and Greece and Arizona and the Mississippi valley. His conclusion is that the beautiful red colors of sunsets and sunrises so much spoken of by Greek and Roman writers and so often illustrated in landscape painting arises from water vapor in the lower regions of the atmosphere absorbing the blue and transmitting the red light. According to Dr. See, the reddish colors come from that part of our air within five miles of the earth's surface, while the deep blue of the sky arises from reflections of minute particles in the higher parts of our atmosphere.

The water vapor does not extend very high, clouds never rising higher than ten miles above the earth. The blue streaks cast by clouds at sunset show that the red arises near the earth, while the blue has its seat very high up. Above the atmosphere the sky has all the blackness of the darkest night.

Professor See watched the duration of the blue sky after dark and found it to continue for about an hour and fifteen minutes, and from this he shows that the atmosphere extends to a height of fully 130 miles. Astronomers have usually found the height of the atmosphere by computing the height of meteors, but none ever made the height of the atmosphere over 100 miles.

The study of the blue color of the sky thus proves also that our atmosphere extends considerably higher than scientists have heretofore supposed.

On dark days the blue color of the sky is shut out by means and combinations of colors due to reflecting clouds, and countless myriads of particles in the ethereal regions high above the earth give the bright light which is so much relished in daily life—Brooklyn Eagle.

When an Elephant is Crazy.

When we present the elephant in possession of such intellectual gifts as may be his, there has to be considered the case of the elephant that, being "must"—a disease akin to frenzy—is for a time bereft of its senses. It is only the male that suffers from this affliction of insanity, but every male is liable to it some time or other and unfortunately may be attacked by it without warning of any kind.

Some men of long experience of elephant keeping say that the "must" condition is preceded by premonitory symptoms and, if taken in time, may, by diet and treatment, be averted. But, without presuming to contradict those better informed people, I can aver that I have known some of them to be taken by surprise by the sudden "musting" of elephants under their own immediate supervision.

Some elephants become demons of cruelty when "must," as, for example, a commissariat elephant that, during my time in Oudh, broke away from the Lucknow lines and went over a considerable tract of country, killing men, women and children wherever it found an opportunity of doing so.—Blackwood's Magazine.

R. Table Furniture at Fairmont Furniture Co.

STORMS OF WIND.

Cyclones and Tornadoes on Land and Hurricanes at Sea.

The ordinary land cyclone is usually quite harmless, and it is only by a mistaken use of the term that it has become associated with those terrifying storms peculiar to our country known as tornadoes. Cyclones have a bad reputation because they are commonly associated with other more harmful storms. Instead of being dangerous and destructive they are the chief source of rain in spring and autumn and supply the snow which adds so much more to the pleasure of our northern winter. They cover a large extent of territory at one time and on an average follow one another across the country from west to east at intervals of about three days.

A tornado often does great damage. It is known by its funnel shaped cloud, which bounds and bounces along, now high in the air and again touching the ground. Where it skirts along the ground the havoc is greatest. Here the mightiest structures of man are crushed in an instant before the avalanches of wind let loose from every direction. The air seems to have an explosive force, buildings falling outward instead of inward, as one might think. In such a storm no place is safe, but the southwest corner of a cellar affords the best protection obtainable. If in the open, lie flat on the ground. During a tornado, which lasts but a few minutes, the sky is covered by clouds of inky blackness, which here and there take on a livid greenish hue. The surface winds rush spirally upward into the funnel shaped cloud, carrying with them many articles which are afterward dropped some distance beyond. The danger zone is confined to a path less than half a mile in width and 100 miles in length. These storms occur only on land.

The true hurricane is ocean born. On the high seas of the tropics it marshals its forces of wind and wave, before which the stoutest ship is helpless and the fairest islands are laid waste. Even the sturdy mainland trembles under its awful castigation. These ocean storms last much longer than tornadoes, cover more territory and cause more damage. The hurricane which overwhelmed Galveston destroyed several thousand lives and millions of dollars' worth of property. The West India Islands are frequently scourged by these awful visitations and our own Atlantic coast sometimes feels the lash of these dreaded storms.

But the hurricane and the tornado are rare. The former seldom extends far inland and usually occurs in the late summer or fall. Tornadoes are products of the south and west and are mostly confined to the spring and early summer months. The cyclone is a universal storm which travels over land and sea, in season and out of season, in spring or in fall, in summer or in winter. It is an old friend, but one much abused.—St. Nicholas.

The Cause of Waterspouts.

A waterspout is a meteorological phenomenon of peculiar character, which is occasionally observed on land but usually occurs at sea. It consists of a cone shaped pillar of condensed vapor which descends, with the apex downward, from a dense cloud and at sea attracts a somewhat similar cone in a reversed position from the surface of the water. The two may not inaptly be compared to a gigantic hour glass. The cause of this phenomenon is supposed to be the gyrotory movement of the air with such swiftness as to produce a vacuum in the axis of rotation, and the contact of the lower extremity of such an axis with water would effect the elevation of a column of the latter to a considerable height. The most probable solution of the phenomenon is that waterspouts originate in adjacent strata of air of different temperatures running in opposite directions in the upper regions of the atmosphere. They condense the vapor and give it a whirling motion so that it descends tapering to the sea below and causes the surface of the water to ascend in a pointed spiral till it joins that from above.

A Pertinent Question.

He was ten years old, and when he slipped out of the house at daylight he left a note for his mother, saying he was going west to fight Indians. A discouraging combination of circumstances, in which hunger, weariness and fear all played a part, made him think better of it and he returned to the parental roof at 9:30 p. m.

He was not received with open arms. Indeed, the family met him with coldness. The clock ticked, his father's newspaper rattled, his big sister studied obtrusively, even his mother didn't seem to care whether he came back or not.

Nicodemus, the cat, not being in the secret, rose and rubbed his soft side caressingly against the culprit's leg. He stooped to pat him and then, with a last desperate attempt to start the ball of conversation, he demanded homesickly:

"Is this the same old cat you had when I went away?"

The Joke Was on the Baron.

Baron Alphonse Rothschild, the most patriotic of Frenchmen, issued a notice during the Franco-Prussian war that he would present a handsome sum of money to any Jewish soldier in the French army who might capture a German flag. Such a capture was made, and in due course the soldier came up for the promised reward. After he had received it Baron Alphonse invited the soldier into his private room and asked him to relate in detail the glorious episode. "Well, Mgr. le Baron, it was this way," said the hero; "the German soldier who carried the flag was also one of us, so we did it on the joint account."—Argonaut.

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SEASON TICKETS, good to return until December 15, 1904, to be sold daily at the rate of \$26.60 round trip.

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