

so and gives one the sensation of being in a ship that has heeled over through the action of an ebb tide. The effect upon the low side, so to speak, looking over from the gallery and seeing the shaft recede to its base, is very startling, and I saw a nervous traveler hold on to the tower involuntarily after glancing down, as if he had some idea of propping it up."

When we reach the summit, we must not forget that this was where the great astronomer Galileo watched the stars, experimented on the fall of bodies and studied the law of gravitation. Here, too, in the upper story, hang the six bells, the largest of which weighs more than 13,000 pounds. The bell founders of Pisa had a wide reputation for casting bells of beautiful tone, sonorous and harmonious. They lavished on them all their art and their talent.

The Pasquarea (the Paschal bell), the most famous of the Pisan bells, the one which was tolled when criminals were taken to execution, is ornamented with a figure of the Virgin and the devices of Pisa and has a rich, full tone.

The Laziest People on Earth.

The laziest and dirtiest people in the world have recently been discovered in the Caucasus. They live in an inaccessible mountain range between the Black sea and the Caspian sea, and as they were 2,500 years ago as they are today. Seen from without, there is a certain picturesqueness about a Svanctian village, although it merely consists of miserable stone hovels without any attempt at form or adornment. Within the houses are inconceivably filthy. They are filled with rags, vermin and dirt of every description. They possess no fireplace or chimney. All the cooking, in fact, is done over a hole scooped out in the middle of the floor. In these houses men and women and children are huddled together. During the long winter months they are shut in for days at a time, the cattle often sharing their quarters. Every aperture has to be closed on account of the cold. This long imprisonment is perhaps the cause of the degradation of the people. Horrible diseases result from it, which are aggravated by an abnormal consumption of arrack, the strong distilled drink of the Asiatics. Besides this, it is an invariable rule to make four days a week holidays, with saints' days as extras. Since they have adopted the holidays of every other country with which they have been in contact, it is not surprising that the men find little time for work. Farming, bee culture and cattle breeding are the only industries of these people, while throughout their territory there is not a single manufactured article.—New York Ledger.

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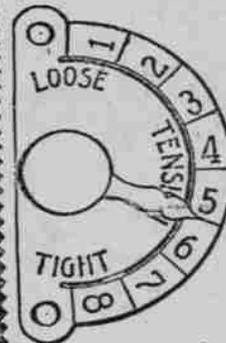
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