

A SAD STORY OF LOSS

OF LIFE AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE MISSISSIPPI FLOODS.

Towns Will Have to be Rebuilt, and Planters Will be Unable to make crops.

The following table contains an estimate, brought up to date, of the loss of life and property occasioned by the present great flood in the Mississippi River:

Total number of lives lost..... 200
Total number of people made homeless..... 150,000
Total number of refugees reported..... 50,000
Unaccounted for, but probably rescued..... 100,000
Total number of farm animals drowned..... 10,000
Total square miles of land submerged..... 10,000
Total damage to property..... \$100,000,000
Number of men fighting the flood..... 20,000

St. Louis, Mo., April 5.—Ten thousand square miles of flooded farm lands, 200 lives lost and \$100,000,000 worth of property destroyed.

This the record of the huge yellow monster that coils its length like the slow spreading tentacle of an octopus from the British line to the Mexican Gulf.

It is the record of the insatiate Mississippi.

Seven States are wailing and wallowing and floundering in the muddy torrent, and thousands of people have gone sailing over their farms and into the flooded forests on logs, on rafts, on the roofs of their houses. On the small knolls that yet rise above the deluged lands in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, little groups of half-starved men are gathered with their families and farm animals, waiting for the respite that comes so slowly.

And still the tide rises and swells and widens and sings its long song of death and disaster through the broken levees, and still the six-foot snows of Minnesota and the Dakotas melt and pour their vast volume into the already unprecedented current.

Levees from St. Louis to Vicksburg are broken and destroyed. Crevassees are everywhere. Twenty thousand men have fought night and day, and are still fighting the roaring waters.

In the backwoods and isolated lowlands of Arkansas and Mississippi thousands of poor settlers have been deluged and are cut off from communication or rescue.

Thousands of farm animals have been drowned. Culverts and bridges have been washed away and railroad traffic impeded. Relief is slow and inadequate, and the end is not yet.

CAR LOADS OF RELIEF AND MORE NEEDED.

At the same time the appeals of the sufferers for help have not gone unnoticed. The Governors of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi have sent car load after car load of provisions to the various distributing committees appointed. Expedition after expedition by steamer and railroad are carrying on the work of rescue. Even the United States Senate, which sometimes arises to an occasion, has appropriated \$250,000 for the sufferers.

But the worst of the suffering is that of which the public

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a curable disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address:

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knows nothing. Thousands of persons, men, women and children, are slowly starving in the tree tops and on the submerged hillocks of Arkansas and Mississippi. Should relief fail to reach them their skeletons will be found later on when the grass grows green in the torrent beds and when the floods and sufferings caused by them are forgotten.

The chief danger at present and the worst one along the entire length of the Mississippi is that which confronts Greenville, Miss. The town, which has 15,000 inhabitants, lies back of the levee and under the level of the present current of the river.

If the levee should break there is no human power that can avert another Johnstown disaster. Then the American people may awaken to the real extent of the present suffering in the Mississippi Valley.

Among the Sad Refugees.

Go into one of the refugee camps on the Tennessee bluffs or on the Arkansas side, and the heart sickens at the sight of the people. Many of them of the best, who are living on charity, people, who escaped from their homes in skiffs at night, carrying nothing with them. The most pitiable sights seen since the yellow fever of 1878 are in these river towns, where dozens of families are huddled on the floor of one big building.

In one ginhouse, at Rosedale, Miss., I saw seventy-five negroes. They were fed from the relief boats because they did not wish to leave, but finally had to. I asked the president of a bank at Greenville, who has large interests both in Mississippi and Arkansas, how much he thought the damage would be from the flood.

"The flood is not over yet," said he. "Any estimate would be silly, so far as laying a claim to accuracy. A million dollars would not replace the live stock that has been drowned, nor that amount the loss of personal effects and ruined houses. But the worst of it is a half million busy people are idle. They are poor; most of them have lost what little they had."

"Will the flood subside in time for them to make crops?"

"Yes, but their crops will be short."

A Million a Day Lost.

Every day of this flood is costing the people in loss of farming operations a million dollars. Cotton should be planted, corn should be growing; not a fence will be standing around a farm; not a mule to plough; not a mouthful will the people have when they return to their naked ones. All of these supplies have got to come, and come on credit. The land is rich, but the masses are poor, and they are going to have a hard time of it."

Bloodhound's Keen Scent.

A remarkable exhibition of the keenness of the scent of the bloodhound was given at the little town of Bronson, in Allen county, Missouri, the other day. The town recently appropriated \$100 out of the city treasury for the purchase of one of these animals, the purpose being detection and capture of thieves who were operating in the neighborhood, and a test of the hound was considered desirable. At noon three men started out on foot and walked four miles into the country. Then they mounted horses and by a circuitous route returned to the town. Six hours later the hound was

permitted to smell a glove which had been worn by one of the men, and the next instant with a deep howl he caught up the trail and followed it on the run. At one point the men had walked for 30 yards on a fence, and when the hound came to this point he carried his nose along the rail with hardly any reduction of speed. Coming to the place where the men had mounted, he took up the trail of the horses and followed it into town, where in a crowd of more than 100 men, he picked out the one whose glove had been given him to smell.

ORB OF DAY.

How it Looks to the People of the Different Planets.

The people of Neptune are often in doubt as to whether or not the sun is shining. They are so far away from the great central orb that it is a mere speck in the sky which only men with good eyesight can see. Plenty of the planets that are swinging about in the heavens look bigger than the sun to the people of Neptune. Those on Uranus are little better off.

Upon Mercury, on the other hand, the sun comes up like an immense new moon, and it burns with an intense glare, and is so hot that the people there can cook their breakfast by the light of the morning sun. When the sun sets on Mercury it is like a large part of the heavens dropping out of sight, and a cold breeze immediately springs up. Even on Venus the sun looks so big as to scare an inhabitant of the earth, could he be transported to that planet.

From Mars it looks a good deal smaller than it does from the earth, but a year on Mars is equal to two years on the earth. Another curious thing about Mars is that it has two moons, revolving in different directions. One of these little moons is hardly bigger than a good-sized cheese, but it flies through space with the speed of a cannon ball. This little moon goes skimming close to the surface of Mars, and the people there, with their long-distance guns, could easily shoot up and hit it.

They have to look sharp on Mars to see this little moon, which comes noiselessly from one direction and disappears around the corner in another, regardless of movements the regular moon.

Hood's Pills

Are gaining favor rapidly. Business men and travelers carry them in vest pockets, ladies carry them in purses, housekeepers keep them in medicine closets, friends recommend them to friends. 25c.

One Fare for the Round Trip.

The Southern Railway will sell tickets for one fare for the round trip from all points on its lines and connection, on the occasion of the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Wilmington, N. C., on the 6—10 of May.

Mrs. A. Inveen, residing at 720 Henry St., Alton, Ill., suffered with sciatic rheumatism for over eight months. She doctored for it nearly the whole of this time, using various remedies recommended by friends, and was treated by the physicians, but received no relief. She then used one and a half bottles of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which effected a complete cure. This is published at her request, as she wants others similarly afflicted to know what cured her. The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by J. F. Mackey & Co. and B. C. Hough & Co., Lancaster, S. C.

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Octave Thanet is preparing for the MAGAZINE a series of short stories which the same characters will appear, although each will be complete itself.

Anthony Hope Frank R. Stockton Bret Harte Stanley Werman Robert Barr Clark Russell

will all have stories in McCLURE'S for the coming year. These are only a small fraction of the great and important features of McCLURE'S MAGAZINE for 1897, the subscription price of which is only

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