

# SHOWERS OF MANNA.

JUST WHY AND HOW SUCH PHENOMENA ARE POSSIBLE.

This Food of the People of Israel in the Wilderness is an Edible Lichen That is Still Found in Parts of Asia and Africa.

"It is manna!" exclaimed the people of Israel as they gathered the food which seemed so miraculously to appear at their very feet in answer to their cry for sustenance, but though they ate and were satisfied, we are told they "wist not what it was."

And during the ages that have passed since its first appearance on that memorable dewy morning in the wilderness of sin men have declared again and again that they "wist not what it was" that thus fed the Israelites in their need, though numberless conjectures have been made and discussions held on the matter.

The chief opinion which had sway for a long time was that manna was the sap of the tamarisk, but now authorities, seeing in the light of widening scientific knowledge, declare that manna was without doubt a certain lichen (*Lecanora esculenta*).

This is borne out by the fact that well authenticated rains of manna, absolutely believed by the inhabitants to be showers from heaven, have been reported at least six times during the past century by reliable travelers in the east, and the descriptions of the deposit given in precise present day language leave no doubt upon the point.

If a piece of manna be examined under the microscope, its peculiar compound structure can be clearly seen. There is a delicate network of interlacing fungal threads glistening in the light, while threads in their meshes are a number of round, bright green cells, each a tiny algal plant. Thus fungus and alga live together in most intimate connection.

It may be asked how fresh manna lichens arise, seeing that it is difficult to imagine a frequent coincident meeting of a particular fungus and a particular green plant. But granted the meeting has once taken place, the rapid reproduction is easy to understand.

At certain times in the year a yellowish dust appears in little green cups growing on the surface of the plant, and each of the grains of dust is a minute bundle containing a few of the white filaments and a few of the green cells wrapped up together, so that wherever this dust may fall each grain can become a new manna lichen.

There is, moreover, a second method of reproduction in which the fungus alone takes part and sends out tiny offspring to take their chance in the wide world of finding a suitable host, as their parent has done, but the details are complicated and at present involved in some obscurity.

Thus, then, *Lecanora esculenta*—manna—is in its very nature one of the most remarkable phenomena in the vegetable world. It is found over great tracts of southwest Asia, near Constantinople, in the Crimea, the deserts of Arabia, in the Sahara and the deserts of Algeria.

It is easy to pass it by unnoticed, for it is grayish yellow in color and grows on gray limestone rocks and fragments of rock in the form of a wrinkled crust which seems to the casual observer part of the very rock itself, and needs care to distinguish it.

Cut through, it is white like corn within, dry and powdery. It is, moreover, extremely light in weight. It is obvious that there is not much nourishment to be obtained from the bare face of the limestone rock, hence all the sustenance of the two plants must be obtained from the atmosphere and the rain by the little green plant, which must thus work doubly hard to be able to pass on sufficient food for its partner's living in addition to providing its own.

By degrees, as it grows older, it becomes loosened or even detached from the rocks, and then, when the sudden whirlwinds and violent storms which affect many of these regions blow, the featherweight pieces of lichen crust are torn up and blown into the air at the mercy of the wind and carried, it may be, for immense distances.

The rains, too, that descend with such sudden vehemence sweep it away into water channels, where it is borne along on the stream and deposited in hollows and left there in heaps when the water subsides.

At times, too, a waterspout will gather it up, carry it along and ultimately deposit it in a place where hitherto it had been practically unknown.—*Sunday Magazine*.

**Impertinent.** It is said that Sarah, duchess of Marlborough, one day remarked to her grandson, Jack Spencer: "Jack, you must marry, and I will give you a list of the ladies you may propose to."

"Very well, grannie," he said, and he proposed to the first on the list. When he came back with his wife from their wedding tour, they went to pay their respects to the old lady.

"Well, now," she said, "I am the root, and you are only the branches, and therefore you must always pay me a great deal of deference."

"That is all very well," said Jack impudently, "but I think the branches would flourish a great deal better if the root was under ground."

**The Primary Planets.** The primary planets are those which are the centers of secondary systems, consisting of small globes revolving round them in the same manner as they revolve round the sun. These are called secondary planets, satellites or moons. The primary planets which are thus attended carry the satellites or secondary planets with them in their orbits round the sun.

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# HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH

It is Bahrein, on the Southwestern Coast of Persia.

The hottest region on the earth's surface is on the southwestern coast of Persia, on the border of the Persian gulf. For 40 consecutive days in the months of July and August the mercury has been known to stand above 100 degrees in the shade night and day and to run up as high as 130 degrees in the middle of the afternoon.

At Bahrein, in the center of the most torrid belt, as though it were nature's intention to make the place as unbearable as possible, water from wells is something unknown. Great shafts have been sunk to a depth of 100, 200, 300 and even 500 feet, but always with the same result—no water. This serious drawback notwithstanding, a comparatively numerous population contrives to live there, thanks to copious springs which burst forth from the bottom of the gulf more than a mile from the shore.

The water from these springs is obtained in a most curious and novel manner. "Machadoores" (divers), whose sole occupation is that of furnishing the people of Bahrein with the life giving fluid, repair to that portion of the gulf where the springs are situated and bring away with them hundreds of bags full of the water each day. The water of the gulf where the springs burst forth is nearly 200 feet deep, but these machadoores manage to fill their goatskin sacks by diving to the bottom and holding the mouths of the bags over the fountain jets—this, too, without allowing the salt water of the gulf to mix with it.

The source of these submarine fountains is thought to be in the hills of Omood 400 and 500 miles away. Being situated at the bottom of the gulf, it is a mystery how they were ever discovered, but the fact remains that they have been known since the dawn of history.

**ANIMAL LIFE.** The army worm is essentially a grass eating insect, though it often feeds upon other plants, and is said to prefer oats to corn.

The malatecurus, a fish only eight inches long, can develop a shock of 200 volts of electricity in the two-thousandth part of a second.

Several pairs of pigeons which a scientist has observed in Paris have raised their young in nests made entirely of hairpins collected on the paths of the Luxembourg.

The largest nest in the world is built by the mound bird, a sort of Australian fowl. It makes mounds sometimes 150 feet in circumference, in which it buries its eggs five feet deep.

The heaviest bird that flies is the great bustard. In size it exceeds the Norwegian blackcock. The old males weigh about 35 pounds, but when food is plentiful the young males may weigh 40 pounds. Great bustards were formerly as plentiful in western Europe as partridges. Now they are rarely found.

**St. Christopher.** The belief was that any one who looked at a representation of St. Christopher was safe for that day from an evil death. The saint was always portrayed of colossal size and is so painted at the entrance of most Spanish cathedrals that all may see him. None of the many carved figures of this saint approaches in size one which was removed from Notre Dame at Paris in 1785.

It was said that St. Christopher's original occupation was to carry people across a stream, and the legend is that once a child presented himself to be conveyed over. At first his weight was what might be expected from his infant years, but presently it began to increase and so went on till the ferryman was like to sink under his burden.

The child then said: "Wonder not, my friend. I am Jesus, and you have the weight of the sins of the whole world on your back." Hence St. Christopher is represented carrying the infant Saviour across a river with the globe in his hand.

St. Christopher has an interesting place in the history of typography in consequence of a wood engraving of his figure, supposed to be of date about 1423, being the earliest known example of that art.

**Unknown Canada.** One-third of the area of Canada is practically unknown. There are more than 1,250,000 square miles of unexplored lands in Canada. The entire area of the Dominion is computed at 3,450,257 square miles; consequently one-third of this country has yet been untraveled by the explorer. Exclusive of the inhospitable detached arctic portions, 954,000 square miles are for all practical purposes entirely unknown.

Most of this unknown area is distributed in the western half of the Dominion in impenetrable blocks of from 25,000 to 100,000 square miles—that is, areas as large as the states of Ohio, Kansas or New England are yet a secret to white man.—*National Geographic Magazine*.

**A Double Runaway.** "They have a new coachman at the Rippenbangers."

"What's the matter with the old one?"

"He let the horses run away."

"Did they run far?"

"Clear out into the suburbs."

"Anybody with him?"

"Yes, Mamie Rippenbanger. She and the coachman haven't got back yet."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

**In a Great Hurry.** Benham—Why did that woman keep you standing at the door for half an hour?

Mrs. Benham—She said she hadn't time to come in.—*Brooklyn Life*.

# HER WAY.

Eyes? Well, no, her eyes ain't much; Guess you seen a lot of such— Sort o' small an' bluey gray.

Tain't her eyes; it's just her way. Hair ain't black, nor even brown; Got no gold upon her crown; Sort o' ashly, I should say.

Tain't her nose; it's just her way. Tain't her mouth—her mouth is wide, Sort o' rummy from side to side. See 'em better ev'ry day.

Tain't her mouth; it's just her way. Nose I reckon's nothin' great; Couldn't even swear it's straight; Fact, I feel I'm free to say.

Tain't her nose; it's just her way. Love her? Well, I guess I do! Love her mighty fond and true; Love her better ev'ry day.

Dunno why; it's just her way. —Elizabeth Sylvester in Century.

# EASY "SURE THINGS."

**Some Propositions That It Is Safe to Bet Against.** There are many things which at first thought appear to be easy enough of accomplishment that it is pretty safe to bet a man he cannot do. Most people know that the human hands are not strong enough to break a new laid egg if the hands are clasped and the egg laid endwise between the palms. It is said that the pressure required to break an egg in this manner amounts to tons.

Among other safe bets is a wager that a man cannot rise from a chair without bending forward or putting his feet under the chair or outside of it.

Many a man will back himself to give another a start of 50 yards in a dash of 100, provided the man having the start hops all the way. But no runner, however swift, can give that amount of start to an ordinary man. For the first five yards they go at practically the same pace. Thereafter the runner, to go 95 yards while the "hopper" goes 45, would have to run more than twice as fast, and it would be a weak man who could not hop 45 yards at a pace equal to 20 seconds for 100 yards, and that would mean that the runner in order to win would have to beat all previous records.

If a man boasts that his penknife is particularly sharp, ask him to cut with one stroke of the blade one of those yellow ribbons, mostly of silk, which come round bundles of cigars. In 999 cases out of 1,000 the knife is not sharp enough to do this. It will cut through all the ribbon but the last strand, and that will pull out long, and the more he tries to cut it the longer it will pull out.

It is safe to bet any one except a blind man that he cannot stand without support of any kind for five minutes at a stretch if he is thoroughly blindfolded without moving his feet. If he does not move his feet he is pretty sure to topple over in about a minute.

**Snails as Window Cleaners.** "An old colored woman selling snails," says the Philadelphia Record, "occasionally makes her appearance in South street, and sometimes she may also be found along Front street or Second street, up in the district that used to be known as the Northern Liberties. She carries an old basket in which the snails repose on freshly sprinkled leaves. These are not sold as food, but for cleaning the outside of window panes—an old practice still in vogue in Kensington. The snail is dampened and placed upon the glass, where it at once moves around and devours all insects and foreign matter, leaving the pane as bright and clear as crystal. There are old established business places in Kensington where the upper windows, when cleaned at all, are always cleaned by snails. There is also a fine market for snails among the owners of aquariums, as they keep the glass clean and bright."

**For Popovers.** The value of a recipe lies partly in its being accurately set down and followed. Harper's Magazine has the following directions for making a breakfast delicacy called popovers, as they were imparted by the Chinese servant to a lady visiting in the family.

"You take him one egg," said the master of the kitchen, "one lit' cup milk. You fix him one cup flour on a sieve, take pinch salt—you not put him in lump. You move him egg lit' bit slow; you put him milk in, all time move fast, so him wa'm, not too hot. Put him in oven. Now you mind you business. No like woman run look at him all time. Him done all same time biscuit."

**Clerical Sore Throat Explained.** Deacon Scripp—Humph! Think you have got to have a vacation, eh?

Struggling Pastor—Yes, the doctor says I must go off until this cough is cured.

Deacon Scripp—Well, I'd like to know why preachers are always getting bad coughs.

Struggling Pastor—Well, you see, we have to visit around a good deal, and we are always asked to hold a little service before leaving, and I think our throats become affected from breathing the dust that flies from the family Bibles.—*New York Weekly*.

**Ingenious.** "I can't help admiring the ingenuity of the landlady at our house."

"In what way?"

"At breakfast time she burns a grain or two of coffee on the kitchen stove, so as to fill the dining room with the odor, and then gives us chicory to drink."

"Oh, mamma," exclaimed four-year-old Bessie, looking up at the stary skies one evening, "what a pretty place heaven must be when it is so beautiful wroon, sid out!"

You rob yourself oftener than others do you.

G. A. Stillman, a merchant of Tampico, Ill., writes: "Foley's Kidney Cure is meeting with wonderful success. It has cured some cases here that physicians pronounced incurable. I myself am able to testify to its merits. My wife to-day is a living picture of health, and Foley's Kidney Cure has made it such." Dr. J. M. Jones.

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# PARTRIDGE EGGS.

**Said to Be More Nutritious Than the Birds Themselves.** "Few persons are aware of the fact," said a well known physician, "but it is true, nevertheless, that the egg of the partridge is one of the most nutritious things in the world. They are not used for eating purposes except in very rare cases, and then it generally happens in remote rural districts. I have known negro families in the state of Louisiana during the laying season to live on the eggs of partridges. And they would flourish handsomely and grow fat on account of the rich properties of the eggs."

"These eggs, of course, never find their way into the market because they are never taken from their nest except by such persons as I have mentioned, and they rob the nests, I suppose, because their principal food supply comes from this source. Quail meat comes pretty high in the market at all times, and the average man will find it more profitable to spare the eggs and wait for the birds when the hunting season rolls around. These men would pass 100 nests in one day without disturbing an egg. The sport of hunting the birds is an additional incentive."

"The average negro does not care so much about this aspect of the case. He figures that the white man, having the best gun and the best dog, will beat him to the bird. So he goes after the egg. One partridge will lay anywhere from 12 to 20 eggs, and a nest is a good find. I know of many families in rural sections who feast on these eggs in the laying season. I have tried the egg myself as an experiment. I found it peculiarly rich. It has a good flavor, is very palatable and in fact is altogether a very fine thing to eat. Really I believe that the egg has more nutrition in it than the fully developed bird, but of course, as one of the men fond of the game in the field, I would like to discourage the robbery of the nests."—*New Orleans Times-Democrat*.

# HUSTLING FOR BUSINESS.

**More or Less of It Done in New York Lawyers' Offices.** "Get a move on! That's the great modern motto," said a New York lawyer who has been practicing in the local courts for the last 25 years.

"When I was admitted to the bar," he went on, "there was a great idea of the dignity of the profession. A lawyer would about as soon have paraded Broadway carrying a sandwich sign calling attention to his legal ability as he would have thought of hustling in any other way for business. The thing to do was to rent an office and sit in it until somebody came and dug you out of the dust and spider webs and asked you to take a case."

"The march of progress has changed all that. Every law firm in this city hustles for business. I don't mean that the big men of the firm chase around after clients. Of course they do. But the firm does a lot of shrewd planning ahead. It schemes in a peculiar fashion of its own to widen its sphere of usefulness—to itself."

"Of late years one of the expedients adopted has been the taking into the firm of young college graduates who can give a reasonable guarantee that they will bring business. College men know of this custom, and many of them shape their life at the university accordingly. They are after friends. They want to be popular. They want to be able to 'swing' as much of the future legal business of their fellow graduates as they can."

"A chap who can bring business of that sort is taken in on a good salary even when he is the veriest tyro at law. He's expected, of course, to do what real work he can and to study hard. But the salary is for the pull he can exert over his fellows."—*New York Sun*.

**Animal Intelligence.** In a circus in Paris a lion was given some meat shut up in a box with a lid to it, and the spectators watched to see whether the lion would open the lid or crack the box. He did the former, much to the gratification of the company.

In the London "Zoo" a large African elephant restores to his would be entertainers all the biscuits, whole or broken, which strike the bars and fall alike out of his reach and theirs in the space between the barrier and his cage. He points his trunk straight at the biscuits and blows them hard along the floor to the feet of the persons who have thrown them. He clearly knows what he is doing, because if the biscuit does not travel well he gives it a harder blow.

**Iron in the Sixteenth Century.** The cost of the railings around St. Paul's cathedral (claimed by several Sussex parishes, but really made at Lamberhurst, a parish partly in Kent) is recorded in the account books of the manufactory as having been £11,202 0s. 6d. The total weight was 200 tons. The amount of employment given may be conjectured from the statement of Richard Woodman, one of the Marian martyrs burned at Lewes in 1557, that he had set a hundred persons to work for the year together.—*London Spectator*.

"I had a running sore on my leg for seven years," writes Mrs. Jas. Forest, of Chippewa, Wis., "and spent hundreds of dollars in trying to get it healed. Two boxes of Banner Salve entirely cured it." Beware of substitutes. Dr. J. M. Jones.

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11:05 pm	10:55 am	Ar. Vaidosa (A. V. & W.)	Ar. St. Louis	5:20 pm	5:35 am
3:50 am	4:10 pm	Ar. Macon (G. S. & F.)	Ar. St. Louis	11:30 am	12:45 am
7:25 am	7:35 pm	Ar. Atlanta (C. of G.)	Ar. St. Louis	8:00 am	9:00 am
1:00 pm	12:30 am	Ar. Chattanooga (W. & A.)	Ar. St. Louis	4:05 am	3:00 pm
5:55 pm	5:35 am	Ar. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	Ar. St. Louis	10:55 pm	9:30 am
3:25 am	7:24 pm	Ar. St. Louis (I. C.)	Ar. St. Louis	8:36 am	10:15 pm
7:25 pm	7:00 am	Ar. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	Ar. St. Louis	8:55 pm	9:05 am
1:47 pm	12:10 pm	Ar. Martin (I. C.)	Ar. St. Louis	2:55 pm	5:15 am
10:50 am	10:50 am	Ar. Chicago (I. C.)	Ar. St. Louis	6:10 pm	6:10 pm
7:30 pm	5:48 am	Ar. Nashville (L. & N.)	Ar. St. Louis	10:42 pm	8:30 am
12:50 am	9:50 am	Ar. Evansville (L. & N.)	Ar. St. Louis	6:35 pm	3:15 am
9:15 am	5:30 pm	Ar. Chicago (C. & E. I.)	Ar. St. Louis	11:05 am	7:00 pm

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