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ANOTHER YEAR.

Another year! Another year!
Oh! who shall see another year?
Shalt thou, old man of hoary head,
Of eyesight dim and feeble tread?
Expect it not! Time, pain, and grief
Have made thee like the autumn leaf—
Ready, by blast or self-decay,
From its slight hold to drop away;
And some sad morn may gild thy bier
Long, long before another year.

Another year! Another year!
Oh! who shall live another year?
Shall you, the young? or you, the fair?
Ah! the presumptuous thought forbear!
Within the churchyard's peaceful bounds
Come, pause and ponder o'er the mounds:
Here Beauty sleeps. That verdant length
Of grave contains what once was Strength.
The child—the boy—the man are here;—
You may not see another year.

Another year! Another year!
Oh! who shall see another year?
Shall I, whose burning thirst for fame
No earthly power can quench or tame?
Alas! that burning thirst may soon
Be o'er, and all beneath the moon—
All my fine visions, fancy wrought,
And all this vortex-whirl of thought—
Forever cease and disappear
Ere dawns on earth another year!

SOMEHOW OR OTHER.

Life has a burden for every man's shoulder,
Some may escape from its trouble and care:
Miss it in youth and 'twill come when we're older,
And fit us as close as the garments we wear.

Sorrow comes into our lives uninvited,
Robbing our hearts of their treasures of song;
Lovers grow cold and friendships are slighted,
Yet somehow or other we worry along.

Every-day toil is an every-day blessing,
Though poverty's cottage and crust we may share;
Weak is the back on which burdens are pressing,
But stout is the heart that is strengthened by prayer.

Somehow or other the pathway grows brighter
Just when we mourn there were none to befriend,
Hope in the heart makes the burden seem lighter,
And somehow or other we get to the end.

ELISHA KENT KANE.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE GREAT ARCTIC EXPLORER.

Dr. Elisha Kent Kane was born in Philadelphia on the third day of February, 1820. He was a slight, frail child, quick, bold, impatient of restraint, and greatly averse to regular studies. There was nothing remarkable in his boyhood, and his parents, it seems, did not anticipate any greatness for their eldest child. He soon manifested a love of enterprise, and delighted in accomplishing feats of difficulty and danger for the mere pleasure of accomplishing them. His biographer says he earned the character of "a bad boy," because he was a brave one, and would not pocket an affront from any body. His first notable exploit, which seemed to indicate his future achievements, was a successful attempt to make the ascent of a tall kitchen-chimney, which arose temptingly above the roof sixteen feet high. He had made up his mind that he would seat himself upon the top of this towering pile, and, in order to accomplish his purpose, he persuaded his younger brother, Tom, to assist him. After the family were a-bed and asleep, he got out upon the roof, and by the aid of a clothes-line, which he had secreted for the purpose, he succeeded in accomplishing the aim of his ambition, at the imminent risk of breaking his neck; and having seated himself on the chimney-top, he went back to bed. He was then ten years old, and, like the similar feat related of Lord Nelson, it indicated only a boldness of character which might in time ripen into a hero—or a burglar. Up to his thirteenth year, he was an unpromising school-boy, and, according to the testimony of the family physician, "he manifested no extraordinary love of learning." He had an extraordinary love for learning, however, although it was not noticed, because it was manifested in a direction different from what his teachers desired; and he was called "refractory," because he would not seem to consent when he did not mean to obey. He would only study according to his own inclinations; and refused to be driven where he did not wish to go. He was fond of chemistry, geology, and geographical explorations, and delighted in all kinds of field-sports; he had a partiality for sketching and whittling, and was fascinated by dogs and horses. But he hated classical studies, and took genially and fondly to *Robinson Crusoe* and *Pilgrim's Progress*. At the age of sixteen he began to be sensible of his deficiencies in study, and set himself resolutely to make amends for his neglect of the classics; his father intended him for a civil engineer, and he had given more attention to mathematics than to his other studies, so that when he was taken to New Haven for the purpose of being entered at Yale, he was found not to be sufficiently prepared for college, and it was thought that he would be compelled to devote himself to another year of preparatory study. So it was determined that he should enter at the University of Virginia, where a greater freedom was permitted. He remained here a year-and-a-half, and distinguished himself by his proficiency in chemistry, having also made considerable progress in Latin and Greek. But the symptoms of the disease which at last proved fatal, and which at first manifested itself at New Haven, now assumed so alarming a form that his father had to carry him home in a blanket. For a long time his life was despaired of by his family, and when he recovered, it was only to be informed that he might at any moment fall as suddenly as from a musket-shot. He was now in his eighteenth year, and about to commence the serious business of life with the knowledge that he had in his system a fatal disease, which might suddenly terminate his earthly career, at a moment's warning, and which was sure to be always a source of pain and suffering. His father said to him, 'Elisha, if you must die, die in the harness;' and he resolved to act in conformity with the advice, which was, in reality, a matter of necessity, for inaction was more injurious to him than constant exposure to dangers, and he found that the only way to combat with his enemy was to keep himself incessantly employed. There is the best authority for the opinion, according to his biographer, that his ailments had always in them a preponderating character of neuropathic disturbance. Even when he was comparatively free from the acute form of rheumatic disorder, his nerves were tingling and rioting with irritation. But in the midst of this nervous rioting he was always heroically calm, sedate, serious, and thoughtful. His friends, believing that his disease rendered him unfit for the profession of an engineer, he yielded to their suggestions, and began the study of medicine. In his twenty-first year he was elected Resident Physician in the Pennsylvania Hospital at Philadelphia. He attended strictly to his duties for six months, while he was laboring under so severe an attack of cardiac disease as to be unable to sleep in a horizontal position; and he never closed his eyes at night without the feeling that the chances were against his ever opening them again in this world. The consciousness of his physical condition must have weighed heavily upon his ardent nature, but it never interfered in the least degree with the performance of his duties.

His father, being satisfied that the routine of a physician's life would be fatal to his son's constitution, obtained for him, without his knowledge, an appointment as a Surgeon in the Navy. He was greatly indisposed to the place, and the position he held on ship-board was always odious to him. His aversion to a sea life amounted to detestation; but he again yielded to his father's wishes, and after his examination prepared himself cheerfully for his new duties.

Now commences the actual career of this remarkable man; and henceforth his life is a succession of wild and romantic adventures, which sound more like the creations of some highly imaginative fictionist than the actual exploits of a slight youth, who, with a mortal disease in his system, has quietly schooled himself to the determination to "die in harness." His first appointment to active service was as physician to our Chinese Embassy, when Mr. Cushing was sent out as Commissioner to China. The Commissioner went out over-land, with the design of meeting the frigate at Bombay that was to carry him to Canton, and Doctor Kane embarked in the "Brandywine," expecting to join him at that port. He sailed in May, 1843, and had the advantage of stopping at Madeira and Rio de Janeiro. At the latter place he improved his time by making an ascent of the Eastern Andes, which rear their fantastic forms on the Coast of Brazil. The notes which he made of this exploration were unhappily lost while he was travelling on the Nile. On the voyage from Rio to Bombay he employed himself assiduously in the study of navigation and modern languages, and Mr. Cushing not having arrived when the "Brandywine" reached the latter port, he directly began to visit the caves of Elephanta, and every other object of interest in the neighborhood, and then started on an elephant hunt in the island of Ceylon. The frigate, with the Commissioner and his suite, arrived at Canton in July, 1844: and impatient at the tedious progress of Chinese diplomacy, he obtained leave of absence from Mr. Cushing, and started to make an exploration of the Philippine Islands. He traversed the largest of the group, Luconia, from Manila across to its Pacific coast, and, at great hazards and imminent perils, he made the descent of the crater of the Tael; a feat which but one European had ever attempted, and he without success. This feat very nearly cost him his life: first, by the poisonous gases he inhaled; and secondly, from the attacks of the wild natives, who were outraged by his sacrilegious invasion of the residence of their Deity. After the departure of the embassy, he remained at Canton to establish himself as a physician; but, at the end of six months, he was struck down with the rice-fever, and came near dying; but recovered after a long illness, and took Whampoa for Singapore, in company with a young Englishman, intending to make the overland journey for Europe; and while *en route*, he visited Borneo and Sumatra, and crossing over to the Indian Peninsula, he made the ascent of the Himalaya Mountains. Arriving in Calcutta about the time the great Dwakanoth Tagore was preparing to start on his visit to England, he joined the *suite* of the princely East Indian, and having visited Persia and Syria, parted from him at Alexandria, whence he visited Thebes and the Pyramids, and, in the course of his wanderings, formed the acquaintance of Professor Lepsius. Here again he twice narrowly escaped with his life; once in a skirmish with the Bedouins, in which he was wounded in the leg, and then from an attack of the plague. After six months of travel, he determined to return to Manila, and establish himself as a physician; but failing to obtain permission from the Spanish authorities, he bent his steps homeward through Italy, France, and England. At home once more, in 1846 he hired a house, and made preparations for settling down in his native city as a physician. He had never been commissioned as a Surgeon in the Navy, and thoroughly detesting the rules of the service, he would have resigned his post, but the country was on the verge of war with Mexico, and he could not, in honor, abandon it just as there was a chance of his services being needed.

Three weeks before war was declared, he was ordered to the frigate "United States," bound for the coast of Africa. He cheerfully obeyed the summons; and after visiting the King of Dahomey, he was attacked with the coast-fever, and was again brought to Death's door; being completely prostrated, he returned home "invalided," and never wholly recovered from this disease. But the Mexican war was not at an end, and he panted for an opportunity to distinguish himself in his country's service, still determined to "die in harness." He applied to the President for an appointment as an Army-Surgeon, and was dispatched to Mexico with orders for the Commander-in-chief. On his passage to Vera Cruz, he narrowly escaped a watery grave on board the rickety little steamer "Fashion," which was afterwards rendered famous by the fillibuster Walker; and after landing at his port of destination, he started immediately for the capital, with an escort, composed of a company of contra-guerillas, commanded by the infamous Dominguez; and while on his journey, he distinguished himself by his valor, and chivalric conduct in the encounter between his escort and the Mexican guerillas, among whom were Gen. Gaona and his son, whose lives, together with those of four other officers, he was the means of saving; and, on his return, received the complimentary present of a sword from his fellow-townsmen. He suffered terribly while in Mexico, from fever, exposure, and the effects of a lance-wound which he received in the affair with the guerillas.

On his return home, after the war was ended, he was sent to the Mediterranean in the store-ship "Supply," and, while on this voyage, was seized with an attack of tetanus, the most terrible of all disorders, when, to use his own expressions, his body felt as though it were composed of fiddle-strings, and a host of devils were turning him up. He had not the faintest hope of recovering from this disorder, but he did, and returned to Norfolk, not quite dead, in September, 1849. After a brief rest at home, he was again ordered on duty on the Coast Survey; and in the Spring succeeding he was luxuriating among Cherokee roses and blooming magnolias in the perfume-laden atmosphere of Florida; and on the twelfth day of May, while bathing in the tepid waters of the Gulf of Mexico, he was suddenly startled by a brief missive from Washington, ordering him to proceed at once to New York to join the Arctic Expedition in search of the long lost Franklin. In seven and a half days from that date he had left the port of New York, and was proceeding on the voyage which has given immortality to his name. The rest of his story is too well-known to need recapitulation.

The commander of the expedition, Lieutenant De Haven, had never even heard of Doctor Kane until they met for the first time in the Navy Yard at Brooklyn, the day before they set sail; and he confesses that when he took the measure of the man upon whom the health of himself and crew must depend, he felt a misgiving that he was not the right man for the place; and if there had been time he would have requested the Department to exchange him for some more promising person. But there was not time, and he made up his mind to send the feeble-looking little Doctor back as soon as he got to Greenland, if he should hold out so long. The Doctor was, as usual, sea-sick, and when they touched at Whale-fish Island, after having been thirty-one days at sea, an English transport-ship was found there, and Captain De Haven benevolently proposed to send the Doctor home as an invalid. The Doctor looked at the commanding officer in blank dismay, and firmly said "I won't go," and De Haven soon learned the mistake he had made in estimating the character of his physician.

He returned from this memorable expedition in May, 1851, after an absence of sixteen months, nine of which he had been ice-locked in the Arctic Ocean. Yet the hardest and most difficult part of the expedition he had to accomplish, after his return, in writing the history of it. As Dr. Livingstone has said, he would rather make another journey across the Continent of Africa than write another book of travels, so did Dr. Kane feel when he sat down to his literary labor. There was nothing in it to brace up his nerves, and test his powers of endurance and that indomitable faculty of overcoming difficulties which seemed essential to his existence. His book completed, he at once set himself to work to organize the second expedition, which he was so eager to command, and all his energies were bent upon raising the requisite funds to pay for the necessary equipments. The labors and anxieties he underwent while making his preparations for his second Arctic voyage were hardly less trying to him than the dangers he encountered while absent on that perilous expedition; but his plans were at last completed, and, though he was still suffering from debilitating illness, he was as full of eagerness and enthusiasm when he left, on the thirty-first of May, 1853, on that ever-memorable voyage, as a young boy going on an excursion for pleasure. We can give no word to his exploits while on his expedition; he returned to New York on the eleventh of October, 1855, after an absence of thirty months, and the news of his arrival caused a pulsation of delight throughout the civilized world. Honors and greetings awaited him on both sides of the Atlantic, but his health was fast failing him; and when he left New York for England, hoping to be strengthened by the journey, he said to Mrs. Grinnell, on taking leave of her, that he was not sure of soon returning to her again. He grew worse in England, and on the seventeenth of November, 1856, left there for Havana, where he arrived on the twenty fifth of the following month, growing all the time weaker, and on the sixteenth of February his earthly career was closed.

He was five feet six inches in height, and in his best health, weighed about one hundred and thirty-five pounds. His complexion was fair, and his hair soft and silken, of a dark chestnut color. His eyes were dark gray, but lustrous, with a wild light, when his feelings were excited, and when he was in the torrent-tide of enraptured action, "the light beamed from them like flashing scimetars, and in an impassioned moment they gleamed frightfully," In company, when the talk ran glib, and every body would be heard, he was silent, but terse and elastic as a steel-spring under pressure. He had a way of looking attentive, docile, and as interested as a child's fresh wonder; but no one would mistake the expression for the admiration of inexperience or incapacity; yet it cheated many a talker into a self-complaisance that lost him the opportunity of learning something of the man he wanted to know. Idle curiosity never made any thing of him, and he did nothing at gossip; but inquiry with an aim was never disappointed. His biographer asked him once, after his return from his last Arctic expedition, "for the best proved instance that he knew of the soul's power over the body; an instance that might push the hard-baked philosophy of materialism to he consciousness of its own idlocy." He paused a moment, and then said, with a spring: 'The soul can lift the body out of its boots, Sir. When our Captain was dying—I say dying, for I have seen scurvy enough to know—every oldscar in his body was a running ulcer. If conscience festers under its wounds correspondingly, hell is not hard to understand. I never saw a case so bad that either lived or died. Men die of it usually long before they are so ill as he was. There was trouble aboard, there might be mutiny. So soon as the breath was out of his body we might be at each other's throats. I felt that he owed even the repose of dying to the service. I went down to his bunk, and shouted in his ear: 'Munity, Captain, munity!' He shook off the cadaveric stupor: 'Set me up,' he said; 'and order these fellows before me.' He heard the complaint, ordered punishment, and from that hour convalesced. Keep that man awake with danger, and he wouldn't die of any thing until his duty was done."—*Dr. Elder's Biography of Kane.*

—Lord Carnarvon, in his address at the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, last month, said, during his own four years of office he was not aware that one unfriendly word has passed between Britain and America. That was due to the right intention of each Government, to the mutual good will of the two peoples, and the tact and good feeling of Lord Dufferin.

—It is said that $500,000 is spent yearly upon the teaching of music in the elementary schools of England.

THE EGYPTIAN OBELISKS.

The recent successful removal of the so-called Cleopatra's Needle from Alexandria to London, has awakened renewed interest in those remarkable monoliths. The skill of Mr. John Dixon, the engineer of the work, will excite admiration, but not wonder. While the undertaking was in every respect a novelty for an Englishman, he has accomplished no more than did the Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the Byzantines of old, as well as the French of the present century. Although it was the writer's privilege to witness the operations on the Thames embankment, at intervals, from the arrival of the "Cleopatra" until the obelisk was placed in position, it is no part of the purpose of this article to offer a description of the machinery there employed.

The intent of this paper is to present an outline review of the subject of Egyptian obelisks, comprising a mention of at least all prominently known to the reading public. The scope of the theme implies sufficient material for a volume, thereby necessitating the onerous work of extreme condensation, to preserve the limited compass suited to a daily journal.

The term *obelisk* is of Greek, and not of Egyptian origin. It is derived from the word *obelos*, the import of which is a *spit*, a *needle* or *something sharp pointed*. The ancient Egyptian presents no equivalent for the present designation of these monoliths, unless it be the word *pyramid*. In Arabic it becomes *messellen*, a *packing needle*, and in Latin *obeliscus*. The French write it *obelisque*, and finally, it is *obelisco* in Spanish and Italian. The popular appellation of *Cleopatra's Needle* cannot be satisfactorily traced. Its origin is most plausibly attributed to the supposition of certain Egyptologists that Cleopatra erected a temple at Alexandria, which was called the Cæsarium, in honor of the birth of her son by Julius Cæsar, and before which she set up two obelisks, brought from Heliopolis. Of these two shafts, one still remains erect at Alexandria, and the other has lately completed its memorable voyage to the Victoria Embankment. Unfortunately for this comfortable theory of derivation, we have it upon the authority of Pliny—which Sharpe adopts in his history—that the Sebaste, or Cæsar's temple, was finished by the Alexandrians only as early as the reign of Tiberius. The "two ancient obelisks, which had been made by Thothmes III., and carved by Rameses II.," were, according to this authority, then placed in position. Burton's "Excerpta Hieroglyphica" is also in the same connection, thereby accumulating most potent testimony to unsettle the former specious solution. The antiquity of the obelisk is but second to the pyramids. Like those stupendous sepulchres, its creation is shrouded in the mists which yet obscure early Egyptian history. Pliny states they were dedicated to Ra, the sun god; and in support of the idea, he urges that their form is in imitation of a ray of the sun. Certain it is that the giant monoliths stand to-day alike a wonder and an unpracticed, if not a lost art. The most ancient of all these monuments extant and intact is that upon the site of dead Heliopolis, or Re-ei, in the land of Goshen, a drive of less than two hours from Cairo, through a country yet "the best of the land of Egypt." (Gen. xlvii., 6.) If other obelisks existed previous to that at Heliopolis, all trace of them has disappeared. If the presence of the *cartouche* of the Theban king, Osirtasen I., the leader of the Twelth Dynasty, can be relied upon to determine its age, the obelisk in question dates from 3100 to 1500 B. C. Sir Gardner Wilkinson fixes the reign at B. C. 2020; Sharpe between 1700 and 1550 B. C.; Chevalier Bunsen at B. C. 2781, and Mariette Bey, the latest authority of high repute, at B. C. 3064. The last is probably the most reliable, it being based on studies of the New Tablet at Abydos, a chronological table of kings, which the conservator of Egyptian remains discovered in 1865. Unfortunately, after thus laboring to establish the age of the obelisk by its inscription, it must be remembered that the Pharaohs not unfrequently erected or inscribed monuments in honor of their predecessors. Those at Alexandria we have already observed were quarried by Thothmes III., carved by Rameses II., and transported to the border of the Mediterranean upwards of a thousand years later. Again, to increase the doubt, there is no record of other obelisks previous to the period of Thothmes I., excepting one irregularly-shaped needle at the Lake of Mœris, in the Fycom. The interval, according to Mariette, embraces a period of about fourteen centuries. Such is the uncertainty of Egyptian chronology preceding the arrival of the first Greek settlers, or the reign of Psammetichus, B. C. 665.

The form of the obelisk has remained substantially unaltered. Ages of experiment have demonstrated it as unsusceptible of improvement. Comparison with solitary shafts of every other design also confirms its superiority in producing imposing unity, massive effect, absence of heaviness, and symmetry of lines. A monument of the Corinthian or other kindred order, is both burdened and dwarfed by its spreading capital; while the pyramidal finish of the obelisk lends to its graceful simplicity, and assists the optical conviction of elevation. With rare exceptions, the obelisks of Egypt are tapering monolithic quadrilaterals crowned with a sharp pyramid. The proportions of the pyramidal apex vary to a greater degree than any other feature. In the older models the base of this top is said to generally exceed the perpendicular height. Those of later origin—notably the magnificent specimens at Karnak—have this member perceptibly elongated; thereby enhancing the beauty and harmony of the massive shaft. The most effective result appears to be attained when the top forms a perfect pyramid; that is, when the height is equal to the width of the base.

Accurate measurements of many obelisks display the fact that the four sides are rarely of equal horizontal breadth. Commonly the two opposite surfaces measure alike, thereby making the face of the base a rectangle. The difference in the pairs ranges from one to twelve inches, according to the summary of the principal shafts. A remarkable characteristic of the remaining obelisk at Luxor or Thebes—the mate to the one in Paris—is that its sides are slightly convex. The deviation amounts to about three degrees. The construction of this convexity is attributed to a scientific knowledge which prompted the artisan "to obviate the shadow thrown by the sun, even when on a line with a plane surface."

The Egyptians almost invariably employed obelisks in pairs. One was thus placed on each side of the propylæ, or chief entrance to a temple. Generally a single block of stone constituted the base. Gateways within the temples were also occasionally flanked in a similar manner. It is true the single inscribed granite shaft on the shore of the Lake of Mœris suggests itself as an exception to this disposition in pairs, but the irregularity of the taper of its sides, as well as the rounded, notched top, indicates that it was employed in handling the sluice gate of that artificial lake, and therefore served chiefly as a mechanical contrivance. The purpose of the obelisk, as it stood in connection with the temple, was threefold. It was at once an imposing ornament, a chronological tablet, and an imperishable medium for egotistic royalty to perpetuate its triumphs in architecture, dominion and war.

The material composing the Egyptian obelisks is the beautiful rose-colored granite of Syene, which is large-grained and of exceeding hardness. The main quarries are located a short distance inland from the present town of Assouan, close to the First Cataract, on the border between Egypt and Nubia. Biggeh, Elephantine and Philæ—all in the same neighborhood—also present evidences of the stone-cutter's work. In fact, the entire country thereabout is rich in granite, syenite and porphyry. The cutting of the immense blocks was most probably accomplished by driving wedges of wood into a line of holes, and then saturating them with water. The uniform pressure forced the desired partition. The Syene granite, as proved by innumerable specimens, is susceptible of a fine and enduring polish. What process the Egyptians employed to produce this polish can only be surmised, but its perfection is such that modern art can suggest little improvement.

The creation, transportation and erection of the obelisks excite unlimited wonder and admiration. The detaching of a monolith from fifty to a hundred feet in length is to-day rarely attempted. Although such results have been accomplished in the quarries of New England by the wedging process, the blocks were not worked and transported in their entirety. Monoliths of marble and granite, measuring respectively eighty and ninety feet in length, have been wholly severed from the virgin rock in this country, but never removed from the quarries. With the ancient Egyptians similar and greater feats of engineering were frequent and successful. Captives of war furnished unlimited labor, and time was rendered subservient to the purpose. Pliny recites an instance in which 20,000 workmen were engaged in the erection of a single obelisk. Those at Karnak are reputed to have been completed in seven months, and as each is 92 feet in height, and 8 feet square at the base, the force employed can be surmised. Immense stones for the temples and colossal statues were likewise dragged over the oiled ground by the absolute accumulation of physical force directly applied. The renowned monolithic sitting statue of the Vocal Memnon, on the plain of Thebes, as well as its mate, measures nearly fifty feet in height, and is proportionately thick. Again, the broken colossus of Rameses, near the Memnonium, was originally a single block of granite, which Wilkinson estimates to have weighed no less than 887 tons. So gigantic was it that it becomes a matter of speculation regarding the means employed by the minions of Cambyses to attain its mere destruction.

Within the quarries at Syene there can be seen an obelisk which has been severed from the original mass, excepting on the lower side. If completed, its dimensions would have been 95 feet long and 11 feet 1½ inches in thickness. Other shafts have evidently been quarried immediately adjoining; and such is the nature of their surroundings that they must have been *lifted* from the hollow to accomplish their removal. Upon being dragged to the river's edge, Pliny states a trench was dug beneath the stone to admit two heavily-laden boats. The weight being removed, the craft rose and floated the obelisk. When again landed at the appointed place, the shaft was transported on rollers over the oiled soil to its prepared base. There, according to Diodorus and other conjecturers, the stone was placed in a perpendicular position by employing mounds of earth and inclined planes. Such a mechanical process is unfortunately nowhere represented among the pictorial sculptures on the temples, and hence all is mere speculation. The penetration of a Champollion, or the genius of a Mariette may yet unravel the mystery of these mighty deeds in the old House of Bondage.—*J. M.ª Jr., in Philadelphia Bulletin.*

—A letter from Iceland avers that an earthquake was felt in Reikjavik, and the same time "large fires" were observed in the distance in the sea, supposed to have been a volcanic submarine eruption. The weather has been very bad, a number of vessels have been lost, and large flocks of sheep have been killed by the heavy snow storms, or literally blown from the cliffs into the sea.

—Strike from mankind the principle of faith, and men would have no more history than a flock of sheep.

WANTED TO BE AN EDITOR.

"Have you had any experience in the business?" we asked of a verdant looking youth who applied for an editorial position the other day.

"Havn't I though?" he replied, as he shoved one foot under his chair to hide the unskillful patching of a back-wood cobbler. "I should say I'd had some experience; havn't I corresponded with the Pumpkinville *Screamer* for six weeks? Haint that enough experience?"

"That will do very well," we replied, "but when we take young men on our editorial staff, we generally put them through an examination. How much is twelve times one?"

"Twelve! Why any little boy ought to an"——

"Hold on please; don't be too fast. Who discovered America?"

"Klumbus. Pshaw! Them questions are just as easy as"——

"Who was the first man?"

"Adam. Why, Mister, I knew all"——

"What was his other name?"

"His other name! Why, he didn't have none."

"Yes, he did. You see that's where we've got you. His other name was Ebenezer—Ebenezer Adam, Esq., late of Paradise. Nobody knows this but editors, and see to it that you do not tell any one."

He said he wouldn't.

"How many bones are there in the human body?"

"Well, I forget now; but I did know wunst."

"What! don't you know that? Why there are 7,482,654 921,444 bones in an ordinary man. A man that snores has one more bone than other people."

"What bone is that?"

"The trombone. It is situated somewhere in the nose. You won't forget that, will you?"

He said he wouldn't.

"How long would it take a mud turtle to cross the desert of Sahara, with a small orphan boy behind, with a red hot poker?"

"Well! look here, mister, if I had a slate and pencil I could figure that out, but dog my skins, if I'm much on mental 'rithmetic."

"Slate and pencil! Did you ever see a slate and pencil about a sanctum? Nonsense. Well, we'll let that question slip. Have you got a good constitution?"

"Putty tolerable good."

"How long do you suppose you could live on raw corn and faith, and do the work of a domesticated elephant?"

"Lord, I don't believe I could live more'n a week."

"Well, that's about as long as you'd want to live if you got an editorial position on this paper. You appear to be pretty well posted; we shall ask you one more question, and if you prove equal to it, you can take off your coat and sail in."

"Let's have 'er, 'squire. I didn't correspond with the Pumpkinville *Screamer* six weeks for nothin'. Let her come! I'm on deck, I am."

"Well, sir, if two diametrical circles with octagonal peripheries, should collide with a centrifugal idiosyncrasy, or, to put it plainer, we say a disenfranchised nonentity—what effect would the catastrophe exert on a crystalized codfish, suspended by the tail, from the homogeneous rafters of the empyrean?"

As the full force of this ponderous problem broke upon his bewildered brain, he slowly dragged his inartistically cobbled shoe from under his chair, and started from the room. We heard him descend the stairs, go out, and close the door. We then placidly resumed our duties, regretting that so promising a youth should have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

THE ARMY OF INDIA.

The Pall Mall *Gazette* says that the 15,000 men who are to be added to the native army in India will bring up its total strength to about 140,000. The present force consists of 900 artillery, 18,700 cavalry, 3200 sappers and miners, 102,000 infantry, and some 200 body guard, or a total of 125,000 men. The strength of the European troops upon the Indian establishment, exclusive of those temporarily detained in India, is about 62,600, consisting of 4300 cavalry, 12,500 artillery (horse, field and garrison) and engineers, and 45,800 infantry. The total force will thus number for the future over 202,000. The Indian army charges, according to the estimates for the current year, amount to $79,000,000. The augmentation of 15,000 men to the native force, which it has been roughly estimated will cost about $110,000 or $115,000 a month will add some $1,350,000 to the annual charge, making it about $80,350,000. The small number of European officers that are attached to the native regiments has been much commented upon of late, and when the proportion is considered there seems good ground for the apprehensions that have been expressed. It appears that of the present native army of 125,000 men the European officers and non-commissioned officers only number 1640, or 1.3 per cent.

—The long tunnel through solid rock to carry water to Baltimore is being cut in nineteen sections, the plan adopted being to sink shafts to the proper level, and then work in both directions. The calculations must be very exact in order to make the headings meet precisely. Thus far the engineers have been remarkably successful, five sections being joined without a foot's deviation from straightness.

—Mr. L. A. Daggett, of Farmington, Me., recently picked up a rare specimen of petrified fish, which he found on his intervale, 100 rods from the river, where the water in the late freshet backed up and overflowed at this point, leaving this relic. The fish is two feet in length, and is supposed to be one of the salmon which made their trips up and down the Sandy river before the days of mill dams.

Varieties.

—The population of Metz has fallen off nearly one-quarter since 1871—from 51,332 to 30,000.

—The Atlantic cable is being "duplexed," a process which will increase its working capacity 70 per cent.

—While combing his hair at Trufaut, Mich., a young man pricked a hole in his scalp with a tooth of the comb and nearly bled to death.

—An "electrophote" it is proposed to call an electric light, while the science and practice of lighting by electricity will be called "electrophoty."

—The Marquis of Bath has abated from ten to fifteen per cent. from the rent of tenants on his estate in consequence of the "hardness of the times."

—There is an association in Boston called "The Young Men's Congress, which is making preparations for a public memorial gathering in Tremont Temple, in honor of the late Bayard Taylor.

—In a court at Bennington, Vt., the defendant asked permission to pray before opening his case. The Judge said that it was not customary, but as the plaintiff did not object the prayer was made.

—A brown Wallachian mare, belonging to a lieutenant of the Prussian Guard, has trotted from Nassau to Potsdam, twenty-four miles, in an hour and twenty minutes, carrying a weight of 209 pounds.

—Roast monkey is the Liberian dish on Thanksgiving and Christmas day." A resident of the African Republic says that "it's mighty dry eating and needs lard, but that can't be got for love or money."

—The arms and banners of the Earl of Beaconstield and the Marquis of Salisbury have been hung in the choir of St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. The Premier's insignia were hung on the right or Sovereign's side of the chapel.

—In an advertisement offering the Woolchester Park estate, Worcestershire, England, for sale, the auctioneer announces, in a line of capital letters, as one of the tempting inducements to purchasers, "Political influence over 1,200 honest yeomen!"

—By eating old straw of barley or wheat grown over with bunt and green clover with rust, a peculiar disease in cattle was developed recently in Bavaria. The effected animals were, however, entirely cured by taking from them the nbove named substances.

—The growing sentiment in favor of recognizing woman's ability to practice medicine successfully is attested in the action of Cincinnati Academy of Medicine, which has just admitted Mrs. Dr. Julia Carpenter to full membership.—She is the first of her sex to receive this mark of appreciation.

—While guarding a gang of negro convicts employed on a job of railroad construction near Natchitoches, a young man was killed by the falling upon him of a tree. The prisoners picked him up and when they found that he was dead carried him to the camp, none of them attempting to escape.

—A Kentuckian, believing that cave life is conducive of longevity, has fitted up a cave for his residence. The ground is floored over, and comfortable furniture has been put in, but the rock walls and roof have not been covered, the occupant's idea being that they impart a good influence on his health.

—A Justice of the Peace at New Hartford married a couple the other day, and the groom asked him his terms after the knot was tied. "Well," said the justice, "the code allows me two dollars." "Then," said the young man, "here's a dollar; that will make you three."—*Cedar Falls Gazette.*

—The value of land in Melbourne, Australia, has increased somewhat since the city was founded. A lot 68 feet wide and 320 feet deep, which was bought from the Crown in the early days of the colony, for $80 by Mr. Michael Pander, and remained in his possession until his death, was recently sold by his heirs for $165,000.

—A Mrs. Ross threatened to shoot Judge Moyer, in Clearfield, Penna., last week, because the Overseers of the Poor bound one of her children to a farmer. Her husband had deserted her, and the poor creature's reason had fled. She set in Court with a loaded revolver in her lap, waiting for the judge, but was disarmed by the Sheriff before she had done any damage.

—A quiet-looking man, with a pleasant face, iron-gray whiskers and hair, and the plainest attire—that is Mr. James G. Fair, of Nevada, the possessor of an agreeable income of $500,000 a month. He superintends the working of the three Bonanza mines, while his partners, Flood and Mackey, attend to finance. He has just been taking a month's vacation in the East—the first time in seventeen years that he has stayed away from the mines so long.

—M. de Lesseps has just returned from a trip to Tunis, whither he went to investigate the possibility and advisability of letting the waters of the Mediterranean into the desert of Sahara, so as to convert a great portion of that desolate expanse into an inland sea. M. de Lesseps says that the Arab chieftans of the south of the Aures keep up the tradition of there having existed in former times a sea in that neighborhood from five to six hundred leagues in circumference. He also has been enabled to disprove the idea that the formation of a new lake would do away with the oases, for he has discovered that these are all from fifteen to forty metres above the level of the sea, whereas the desert itself is below that level. Traces of Roman civilization have been found in the desert, and among them the remains of an amphitheatre like that in Rome.

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