

A GLIMPSE OF MARS.

Is the Planet a Miniature Earth With an Atmosphere, Seas and Rivers?

This planet, although revolving comparatively just outside the path of the earth, is not much more than half the size of our globe, says William J. S. Lockyer, F. R. S. A., in the London Magazine. Being discarded from the original central mass—from which all the planets have been formed—a little time previous to the earth, it should approximate the same, or perhaps a little later stage of evolution as our world. Mars should present to us the appearance of a solid crust, with or without water or water-vapor, and therefore with or without an atmosphere. Fortunately for us, Mars is a little farther from the sun than we are, consequently when its disc is large, the whole of the illuminated portion is turned towards the earth. It also happens that at these times, under favorable conditions, these two planets—the earth and Mars—approach each other closer than ordinarily, and it is at these points, technically known as "opposition," that Mars' surface can be best studied. What, therefore, does a study of this planet's surface disclose? Is Mars a miniature earth, with an atmosphere, seas, rivers and mountains? Does it exhibit seasonal changes as it should do in consequence of the inclination of its axis?

A minute examination of Mars' surface reveals the fact that we are here dealing with a planet which has really a solid surface, and one that we can see; this point is proved by the fact that many of the markings are strictly permanent, and can be easily recognized after long periods of time. Perhaps the most striking features of the planet's surface are the white markings or caps, situated at the poles. These are sometimes seen simultaneously, but very rarely, owing to the tilt of the planet's axis. When, however, one pole is turned towards the earth, the brilliant polar cap becomes most prominent; further, the sizes of these caps do not remain the same. During the winter of the hemisphere to which the cap belongs, the cap is found to be very large; with the advent of the planet's spring it is noticed to shrink gradually, and to become small, until a month or two after midsummer has passed there is very little of it left at all. In fact, it is found to vary with the Martian seasons. These polar caps behave, therefore, precisely the same as our polar snow and ice, and as they would appear at different times could they be seen from Mars. That they are really masses of snow and ice cannot be said for certain, but when other evidence is taken into account the probabilities seem to favor the view that we are really seeing these forms of water.

Turning now to other parts of the planet's disc, these are found to be diversified by dark and light markings, the former having a grey or greenish tint, and the latter an orange hue. The lighter portions, much in excess, and are generally considered to represent land, while the dark markings, usually termed "seas," may be water; the word "may" is here used, since, although some of the dark markings are most probably due to water, others possibly represent vegetation of some sort or another. About the center of the planet the dark markings take the form of very long, dusky, narrow streaks intersecting each other, their points of intersection being very conspicuous as dark spots; the former are the channels or "canals" of Schiaparelli, while the latter are termed "oases." These channels are of great length, many of them measuring several hundreds of miles; the larger of them are permanent features of the planet's surface, and have been very carefully mapped. The wonderful network of canals is rendered more mysterious by the fact that at times they appear as doubled, that is to say, in place of one canal two parallel ones side by side are observed, lasting for a time and then giving place again to a single canal. These are the chief features of the surface of the planet Mars. Other markings which are sometimes seen tend to show that Mars is a miniature earth. Thus, light clouds, which conclusively prove that there is an atmosphere, are observed to obliterate for a time regions of the Martian landscape; very bright spots are noticed to flash out and disappear again, and are caused, it is conceded, by the reflection of sunlight from the sides of snowy or rocky mountains; while projections are apparent on the edge of the planet's disc, indicating land above the ordinary level of the surface.

AMERICAN EARTHQUAKES.

Besides the Charleston earthquake of 1886, in which 41 lives were lost and about \$5,000,000 worth of property was destroyed, says the New York Sun, there have been two notable earthquakes in the United States within historic times—one near the head of the Mississippi delta, in 1811-12, and one in the Inyo Valley, Cal., in 1873.

The former, known as the New Madrid earthquake, was remarkable for the length of time which its phenomena covered. There were several shocks at short intervals for several months, and the whole series of shocks lasted about two years.

The country was sparsely settled, and no scientific records of the disturbance were made, but it is related that the alluvial land of the river bottoms was traversed by visible waves, which rocked the trees to and fro and uprooted many. Huge fissures were opened, and lakes were drained by the escape of their waters into them. The largest sunken area is said to have been 50 to 60 miles long and nearly half as broad.

The Inyo Valley earthquake was caused by a renewed movement along the great fault plain at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada. The chief shock lasted only a few minutes, but others of less violence continued for two or three months.

A tremendous fissure was formed along the base of the mountain range for about 40 miles. The land west of the fissure rose, and the land east of it fell several feet.

Owens river was temporarily swallowed up. In the village of Inyo all the houses were thrown down and one-tenth of the inhabitants were killed.

AWFUL BOARDER LOVED HER.

A Wilkie Collins Murder Tale From New York.

(New York Sun.) Miss Elizabeth Hall, who keeps a little boarding house in a flat at 373 Eighth avenue, had her star boarder, Joseph Hahl, arrested yesterday afternoon and told the police a real Wilkie Collins story.

Miss Hall said that Hahl had lived in her flat for some time and that he had attempted to make love to her. She gave him to understand that his attentions were wasted. At that, according to Miss Hall, Hahl threatened all sorts of dire things to her and intimated that her life was in danger. Miss Hall said that last Sunday morning she awoke with a choking sensation in her throat. Between her teeth was a tube from which gas was flowing. The tube, she said, led through the partition into Hahl's room and she thought he had put it there. How the tube got in her mouth she did not know. Anyone who has read Wilkie Collins diligently could give her a hint about murder through a partition wall.

Yesterday afternoon Hahl returned to the house in the absence of the proprietress. He had been drinking and had an axe, with which he proceeded to wreck Miss Hall's room. He had smashed all the pictures and a good deal of the furniture when Miss Hall came in.

"Threw me down, did you?" said Hahl. "Now I'll throw you down for fair."

He made a rush at her, struck her several times and threw her against the wall. Miss Hall ran screaming into the street, where she found a policeman who arrested Hahl.

At the police station Miss Hall told her story and showed a number of bruises and a torn waist to prove it. Hahl heard the story, and when she was through remarked:

"Yes, and I'll get you yet when I get out. I'll fix you if it takes ten years." He was locked up.

MERCURY IN LOAF.

Discovered Body of a Boy Drowned Two Weeks Before.

(New York Herald.) Filled with mercury a loaf of bread did in Coney Island Creek Tuesday what the police and many other persons had failed to do. It located the body of Abraham Cohen, five years old, son of Julius Cohen, of West Twelfth street and Surf avenue, who was drowned by the capsizing of his father's boat in the creek on May 7 last.

The boy Abraham was one of a party that Mrs. Cohen took fishing on the afternoon of May 7. The boat capsized off the foot of West Twelfth street, and the boy was drowned. The police and the benevolent father made every effort to locate the body. Their efforts were unavailing. The body could not be found.

Mr. Cohen, some few days ago, was told that a loaf of bread filled with mercury and cast into the water near the site of the boy's death would float about until it reached a spot directly above the corpse. He was inclined to regard the suggestion with no serious regard until Tuesday, when he was prevailed upon by his friends to make his last effort to find his son's body.

Accordingly, he obtained the necessary bread, which he filled with mercury, and then went with two friends to the creek. He cast the bread into the water. It floated about for fully five minutes until it had been carried a block by the tide. It stopped moving for a second, was twirled about and then sank. With grapping irons Mr. Cohen and his friends searched for the body, and after a few minutes' work brought it to the surface. Stuck in the little fellow's clothing was a mercury filled loaf of bread. The body was removed to Havron's undertaking establishment and later to the home of Mr. Cohen, from which it will be buried this afternoon.

HELICS OF POTHERINGHAY.

(Westminster Gazette.)

Seldom has a famous castle so completely disappeared off the face of the earth as Potheringhay, the last remaining stone of which Lord Wantage, who owns the lordship, has given permission to the Peterborough Archaeological Society to protect. A couple of miles out of the town of Oundle, on the banks of the Nene, a green mound rises where the great keep once stood, covering a few fragments of the foundations of the fetterlock tower built by Edmund of Langley, son of Edward III., afterwards crowned Duke of York. By the waterside a weather-worn stone or two of a ruined wall—and that is all. The hall within which the historic scene was enacted was bought by Sir Robert Cotton, the antiquary, and removed by him to Conington, in Huntingdonshire, but the remaining fabric has been dissipated in the construction of dikes and fences for the river and the building of a neighboring chapel.

THIS BEATS THE GRELLEY STORY.

(From Tit-Bits.)

The copy of a certain novelist is a fearsome sight. On more than one occasion the arrival of a batch of MS. from this gentleman has led to trouble in the composing department.

Quite recently the novelist in question fairly eclipsed himself. His copy was, indeed, a puzzle.

"Confound the fellow!" growled one of the comps. "He's enough to drive a man to drink."

"Have you never heard how he writes?" solemnly demanded a fellow sufferer.

"No," was the reply.

"Oh," continued the other, "it's simple enough. Mr. Z. (the novelist) owns a rough haired terrier. When he feels like writing a story he whistles to the dog, dips the tail in the ink and plants him down on a sheet of paper. Then the novelist begins to think and tells the story to the dog. The brute wags his tail—and there you are!"

CARPETS, CARPETS, CARPETS.

Will you let us dust or renovate your carpets this year? We will satisfy you. UNGAR LAUNDRY, DYEING AND CARPET CLEANING WORK. Telephone 58.

Cor. Charlotte and Duke Streets.

PATTERSONS, SHIRT WAIST SALE

Store Open Friday Night Till 11.

THE SHIRT WAIST SALE.

Showy and Swell.

Smart and stylish, are the Ladies' Oxfords we are now showing. You know this store's offerings are just a little newer, just a little nicer than seen elsewhere — and ever so much cheaper:

Women's Dongola Kid Oxfords, Goodyear welted, stylish last, handsome and durable, \$2.00.

Women's Box Calf Oxfords, a very natty and popular shoe, selling at \$1.75.

Women's Dongola Kid Oxfords, heavy sole, an excellent street Oxford, at \$1.75.

Women's Kid Oxfords at \$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.

☞ This store will be closed Saturday, May 24th. Open Friday evening.

SAVAGE, Cor. King and Charlotte Sts.

SHIPPING NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived.
Sch. R. P. S., 74, Hatfield, from Calais; P. and L. Tuffin, Calais.

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games as third base on the Houston team. He is a slight, wiry built chap, and comes with a reputation for speed, twist and good judgment, in which the management of the team place unbounded faith.

Yesterday's National League Games.

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