# Oldest City in the World.

Its Lean and Holy Man With a Record-Breaking Name-Benares and Its Odd Surroundings-The Temple of the Venerated Monkeys.

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A Benares, India, correspondent | the water through baskets in search writes: These words are written in of jewels or money that perchance a city that is supposed by many historians to be the oldest known habita- religious devotee, the fakir, the beggar, tion of man on earth. Five and twenty centuries ago, when Rome was not yet | money grabber (who is always and evon the records of the world, and when in the holy city on the sacred river. Mathens was it its infant splendor, Benares, on the noble Ganges, exerted a mighty power, and her fame was likinds of bloodshed, and destruction, les afterward, during a powerful religious and political upheaval, Buddhism succumbed to Brahmanism, leav, temple are hosts of monkeys, who ing behind only the ruins of its tones

The city is located along the crest of a hill, over 100 feet above the sacred Ganges. For three miles on the sloping west bank, palaces, temples, and mosques, surmounted by domes, pinnacles, and minarets, rear their irregular tops. Giant flights of stone stairs, interrupted by wide platforms, on human fashlon, and during the per-which are built shrines of every des- formance she was making the most uncription, reach to the water, and on hely faces at me because of my in-the edges of the bank are bathing feriority. ghats, which are crowded with pil-grims from every part of India, and cow and bull are to Siva. To slaughter from other countries, in every stage these animals is a horrible crime, and of dress and undress, whose supreme in every part of India can be found desire is to plunge into these holy wa- temples dedicated to their honor, where ters before death overtakes them. they are kept with the greatest care. These pilgrims are not all firom the lower or middle classes, but include is the "Holy Man of Benares," whom have taken up the same idea, and every rank of Indian society, from the I visited last evening. His long conthey cheer the Carpenter of Nazelaborately dressed rajahs, followed by tinued acts of penance have worn his long retinues of attendants, to the un- body to skin and bones. He is thought sightly looking ashes-covered fakir and the miserable deformed beggar, and from the little boys and girls to the aged grandfathers, lifted by bearers aged grandfathers, lifted by bearers aged grandfathers, lifted by bearers aged grandfathers. to the stream, all bent upon dipping to indicate that he possesses a serenity In the mother Ganges for the remis- in life that is enjoyed by few. sion of their sins.

a covered canopy, which extended to view as they went through their re-

ligious ablutions. I noticed that many of the women yellow flowers into the river, and as whispered their prayers, the garlands ed upon the rivers. Hundreds of these and other vessels, in which they carry the holy water, and employes of the thinner every day.

temples, from Central and Southern To those who enjoy examining curitemples, from Central and Southern India, were there with their leather water bags, which were to be filled bazars of Benares will prove to be trians for scores of miles to their ous for its beautifully engraved brass-

what may be his religious predilections, has no disposition to sneer at other utensils, engraved most exquisthese worshippers, who freely and itely, can be purchased for remarkquietly give their time and money to ably cheap prices. Rich brocade what they sincerely believe to be true, wrought with figures of animals in which fact presents a striking contrast gold and variegated colors, the oldest to the loud professions and selfish, survival of ancient loomwork extant

goers in Christian lands. Along the river bank there are not less than 50 of these ghats, which by experts who receive about three have for their background magnificent or four dollars a week. When a piece flights of stone steps leading up to imposing castles and palaces, great white mosques, and soaring minarets. The created the masterpiece lives and dies Pauchganga ghat, where five rivers are in poverty, while some merchant in supposed to meet underground, leads to the noble mosque which the icomo- in gold." clast, Aurangzeb, built on the site of the noted Krishna temple which he de-

stroyed. This is the finest mosque in Benares, the foundations of which rises | No Proof That Sports Make a Nation from the bed of the river in huge stone breastworks, which support the four walls and domes of the mosque, and springing lightly in the air are two graceful minarets, lifting the whole structure 300 feet above the swarm of bathers at the water's edge. In gailing up the river I passed the ghat Vishnu dug his famous well, where Brahma made his celebrated sacrifice of ten horses, the Golden Temple, and many other spots that have made the city known the world

ship is located the Burning Ghat, where bodies are brought from all over India to be bathed in the Ganges, and then cremated on its banks. Smoke from four pyres was seen as we approached the ghat, and several corpses wrapped in white cloth and lashed between two stout sticks were being washed in the sacred stream, while the relatives of the dead were preparing the wood near by for the cremation. Bedecked with flowers, and sometimes wearing jewelry, the bodies are lain between layers of wood, the ashes are cast into the water, and we saw a number of men at work, who make a regular business of searching the shore and filtering

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might have dropped from the dead. What a comment on humanity-the the mourner, the stiff corpse, and the say.-The Spectator.

established among men. Here the and while I watched the worshippers great Buddha proclaimed his doctrines a man approached the blood-bedabbled first, sending forth missionaries from altar in front of the shrine and, having placed a number of coins in the hands this center to Ceylon, China, Japan, Burmah, and Thibet, bringing in time privilege of having a little kid that he held under his arm beheaded, and after the sharp blade had descended influence of his teachings. But centur-he made an offering of the head and carried the body away to his home. In the yards and trees about the

spring into your pathway, peer around and temples. And today, what Mecca the walls, snatch at your clothes, and is to the Mohammedan, Jerusalem to make the most comical grimaces at the Christian, Benares is to the Hin- you on the least provocation; but it doo. are gods and goddesses, held in the highest veneration. I could hardly suppress an irreligious laugh as I watched one of these goddesses, holding a baby god under her left arm, while she held a nut in her right hand, on which she was nibbling in the most human fashion, and during the per-

One of the curiosities of humanity

On leaving him he presented me The private boat of a rich rajah with a book containing his favorite was anchored at one of the ghats, and studies. As I have not yet finished pronouncing the author's name on the the bank, htd him and his wife from first page, I am not prepared to pass an opinion on the merits of the work. It is written by Matparamahausaparin rajakacharyaswamibhaskaranaudasar and girls carried wreaths of white and aswati! I am doubtful whether peaance or pronunciation caused the thinthey most devoutly turned their faces ness of the "holy man of Benares," for toward the rising sun, and inaulibly after my frantic efforts to pronounce the name of this distinguished author were broken into pieces and scatter- I feel that I weigh less. Perhaps the celebrated anti-fat preparation is an devotees were seen with brass jars extract from this tiresome name, whose owner died of exhaustion, and whose eway to their distant homes some of owner's disciple is growing thinner and

ous and artistic manufactures, the and borne on the backs of the pedes- especially attractive. The city is fam-The thoughtful man, it matters not lotas dishes, candlesticks, lamps, fancy boxes, bells, spoons, and scores of cevetous lives of not a few church- and the finest of its kind in the world, are found in the tiny shops in the bazars, and this beautiful work is done

is finished is is "worth its weight in gold," but the poor fellow whose genius Europe or America gets the "weight

ATHLETICS AND CHARACTER.

Heroes.

One would like to know, if it were possible to find out, what the precise effect of their devotion to gymnastics was upon the Hellenic people. It may be reasonably doubted whether it enlarged their mental powers, for all Greece shared in this passion, and the triumphs of Greek thought and art are almost confined to Attica. One does not even owe intellectual gratitude to Spartans or Boeotians. It did not make cedonians, who conquered them and the world, were not specially devoted to sport, and were, we fancy, till the time of Philip at all events, excluded from the contests at Olympia. It did not save the nation, for Greece was utterly subdued by the Romans, who gained their physical prowess in another way; and it did not keep them alive, for although the Greek may fairly be held to have survived the Roman, whom he indeed in a way absorbed, the Jew, who abhorred and still abhors gymnastic training, survived both Roman and Greek. Except an extraordinary feeling for form, we cannot trace any result from the games upon the Greek character, and it is doubtful whether this was universal or confined to a few rich citizens in Greece generally, and the 40,000 slaveholders of Attica, who for most purposes, are to modern Europeans, "the Greeks."

That question of the influence of these games on character has some importance for the modern world, for the passion for competitive athletics prosperous times being two gallons has caught hold of it, and everywhere, a day per man. especially in England, France, the United States, and the great colonies, they begin to play a more important be sent with them. But the condenser, part in life. Fifty thousand English at that time, had been out of order men go at a time to see a football fully as statesmen, and an internathe interest of a battle. The papers washing are everywhere crammed with the reports of athletics, and a man who canmake a "record" is as much honored among the younger generation as ever he was in Greece. It is probable, as prosperity increases, and the workers gain more leisure, that the passion will develop further, and we shall be curious to see what influence it has upon the national sentiment. It need not be a bad one, for we suspect that a certain barbaricism—we want that barbarism-is essential to the vitality and fighting prowess of any race, that dwells in cities, but we can see no reason for believing that it will be specially good. One can hardly affirm that the games preserved the manliness of the Greeks, and they certainly did not preserve them from incessant internal war. International athletics.

"new bonds to bind together the nations"; but if they only are bound as the Greek states were, the advantage will not be conspicuous. The probability is that Olympic games, ancient and modern, had and will have the effect of games merely, that is, of dis-tractions, innocent or otherwise ac-

cording to circumstances, from the peremptory work of the world. They are not worse than other amusement and being enjoyed in the open air and under thousands of eyes, they are probably better than some of them. Rather a population of football players than a population devoted, like the Chinese, to cards, or like the Bengalese, to gossip, but that is about as much as it is as yet justifiable to

## False Christs of Today.

In an editorial on the various false conceptions of Christ which obtain among men at the present time, the Watchman (Boston) reverts to the fact brought out by the four evangelists that men were constantly attracted to Christ during His life on use Him in some way for their own ends. Some hoped that He would lead to the realization of some of their social theories; others cherished the idea that Jesus might prove to the foundations of the modest cottunes; and others still saw in His evident to any of these followers that the mission of Christ was not what they had conceived it to be, they left Him. Continuing from considerations like these the Watchman

"It is strange how the spiritual phenomena of the first century repeat themselves in the nineteenth. If we were required to place a finger upon a marked feature of the Christianity of our day, we should touch the almost universal attempt to form a conception based on the phases of His teaching and life which happen to be congenial to a class. Desmoulins spoke of Christ as 'le ton sans-culotte Jesus.' The labor agitators of America and England areth,' or 'the Galilean peasant.' We could cite a dozen books written in the interests of socialism which assume that Christ's chief mission was to denounce the rich and espouse the cause of democracy. A Christ who will raise wages, or shorten working hours, or help on a strike, as a recent writer has said, 'is the man for us. Careful thinkers are by no means free from the tendency to frame, out of the materials furnished in the Gospels, an ideal Christ that accords with their notions, while they summarily discard all the does not fit into the mosaic they fashion from parts of the Gospel narrative. Even a writer of such charm and insight as Rev. John Watson-Maclaren-in his brilliant arti-'Jesus, Our Supreme Teacher,' indispensable to the thought of Jesus.

the New Testament gives us a portraiture of Jesus which it is our not equaled by any principal business to seek to understand and follow. The moment we say, 'I will follow "the Carpenter of Nazareth," or 'I will follow the "Christ of the Mountain Instrucwe are not following Christ at all, but our own notions corroborated by certain aspects of the divine life. The revealed life is not authoritative with us. If we are at liberty to pick and choose out of the materials furnished us by the evangelist, and fashions a Christ who denounces the rich, but who did not rebuke the poor; who deals gently with a sinful woman, but who does not reveal the exceeding sinfulness of to it is by the cross-let us, at least, have the common honesty not to seek to transfer the authority of Jesus to our maimed caricatures of what He was. Let us frankly say: 'I have derived these ideas which I accept from Jesus, but I am not a disciple of the Christ of the New Testament; I consider myself at liberty to reject any aspect of His teaching that does not commend itself to That, at least, is an intelligible It puts our individual preferences above the authority of Son of Man and the Son of God."

## Where Water Is Water.

Morning Oregonian. A. B. Ellis, while on a visit to Ascension Island, met an old friend, who shook hands, reached down a coat from a peg and put it on, saying: "Excuse my not putting on a shirt,

ourse, of course." replied Mr. "Take off more of your clothes if you'll feel more comfortable." 'N-no; it's not that; but the fact is I haven't a shirt clean enough to put

Mr. EMis could only murmur his sur prise at this strange circumstance, and endeavored to look sympathetic. The friend continued: "I dare say you think it odd that I don't have them

Mr. Ellis, hardly knowing what to say, inquired: "Why don't you?" The friend unfolded a horrible tale to the effect that the water supply of the island consisted principally of what was distilled by a condenser, a small quantity being obtained from Dampier's drips and Brandreth wells; that water was always so scarce that it was served out like a ration of rum, only more sparingly, the allowance in

When clothes were sent to the wash the water for washing them had to for some nine or ten days, and everymatch, cricketers are watched as care- body on the island had been put on short allowance, so that they had not tional running match excites almost enough for drinking, much less for washing either themselves or their

DEATH FROM DELAY.

A Life Lest by Heart Disease When Prompt Measures Would Have Saved It.

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## Among the Clouds.

Pretty Home Nests on the Roofs of Twenty-Story Buildings.

patch.

on Broadway.

They are inhabited by the janitors be the maker of their political for-tunes; and others still saw in His of Manhattan Island has grown so leadership a promise of wealth and enormously in value that even the earthly preferment. When it became roofs of twenty-story buildings cannot be allowed to go to waste. The architecture in many of the small homesteads follows the style of the eighteen or twenty-story foundations on which they rest. In many cases the cottages have been constructed at a cost of many thousands of dol-

Some of them are built entirely of stone, or terra cotta, or other valuable materials, and are elaborately decorated. The most picturesque of them all is located in the tower of the produce exchange building. Viewed from the street, this tower looks more like a dovecot than a human habitation. But it is two and a half stories high, and contains a dozen comfortable rooms which shelter the janitor and his family, not counting the dog. A parapet keeps the house-hold gods from dropping to death while viewing the passing show on sea and shore far below. These high homes have their ad-

vantages. Few homes here can boast of so large a front yard as the one enjoyed by the tenants of the produce exchange roof top. It is nearly a block in length, and quite as bright in summer as any city or suburban yard can be, barring natural effects. He has fresh air to burn at all seasons, both of the land and sea breeze sort. Housekeeping goes on up near the sky much the same as or knowledge we have of Him which the solid earth nearly 200 feet below. The front yard is well supplied with clothes lines, on which the wash is

The roof is covered with sand, giving it a ground effect. There are no trees or grass growing there to be appears to assume that the Sermon sure, but in season three are several on the Mount contains all that is flower beds arranged in boxes, which add a pleasant touch of color to the And we know of men, to be classed as theologians more distinctively, who have magnified one aspect of Christ's teaching out of all propertunity to exercise his jaw on tramps tion to other teachings which are or burglars. The children who live equally prominent in the inspired record.

"The truth of the matter is that other toys up with them and have a

child's playground in the city. In the winter season they run their sleds to enjoy the sledding in their airy playground on lower Broadway. The interiors of these Broadway. lofty habitations are cozy as well as quiet and secure, providing the occuis a physical impossibility. After the express elevators stop visits necessarily cease. It would consume an hour's time to reach a neighbor living within speaking distance, as stair climbing is both hard and slow, especially sin; who teaches social emancipa-tion, but does not teach that the way "lifts." But the high-life population be hugging Harlem.

> A DRAWBACK. Susie-Wouldn't you like to be as happy as a lark?
>
> Johnnie—Naw! Think of the time they have to get up.

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High life on lower Broadway differs somewhat from high life on Fifth avenue, of course. But both are picturesque. High life down town is confined to the roofs of the skyscrapers, and the colony is growing. These curious little homes are well worth inspection. Some of them are set exactly on a line with the pavements of Broadway, while others have been built a few feet behind neat little front gardens, which bloom in season. Many of these quiet home nests rest on foundations some fifteen or twenty stories in height, and are consequently free from damp cellars and similar causes of complaint. These departments, the highest in the metropolis, rent for a few dollars a earth by the notion that they might month, which is very reasonable, cosidering the value of real estate

regularly hung out to dry.

pants do not dream of fire, cyclone or earthquake. The occupants of these high homes are as a rule not very neighborly, as calling after nightfall 'lifts." But the high-life population is increasing, and the outskirts of the settlement now extend as far north as Central Park and will soon

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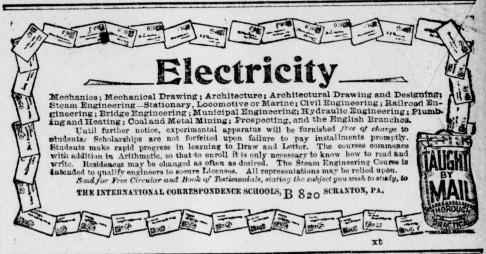
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