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dec 28, 28

Uncharted Rocks

It was poring over an old atlas one evening in the captain's cabin. Presently he strode in from the bridge, and we showed each other some of our pet plates—the one, for instance, which the United States was represented merely by Lower California and a strip of the southeast coast. There is not a place-name clear across from San Francisco to Montreal, says Bassett Digby in the Master Guardian.

"If the seas were drained off for a few weeks and the findings were mapped we should get some eye-openers," said the captain. "Our modern charts would look as queer sights as these old atlases. The high seas of the sea have been pretty accurately charted, but precious little else. And ugly things are being found every now and then even on the high roads. Look at Lamb Rock, for instance, that was found about thirty years ago, coming up out of a couple of hundred feet of water. It is a cathedral of rock, in the middle of the Canadian-liner lane in the St. Lawrence River. The Lord knows how many good ships it may have sent to the bottom. In calm weather its tip lay 33 feet below the surface, which gave a slight safety margin, but in time of storm or heavy swell—"

A phlegmatic fisherman named Pat Lamb, knew all about it, but, as he said, his mate found it a good fishing ground that they wanted to keep to keep to themselves. It was for many years before the astonished harbor authorities at St. John's got wind of an indiscreet remark overheard in a pub-house, and promptly slammed Lamb Rock on the chart.

"Avocat Rock, down at the southern end of the Red Sea, right in the middle of our road to India, was another case. Queerer still, the Avocat is it and went down. The crew damaged to get away in the boats. The officials at the Board of Trade inquiry didn't believe that the captain had correctly reported the ship's position. H.M.S. Flying Fish was sent there to verify it. She reported 104 fathoms of water at the spot, so things began to look black for the

Avocat's captain. Then the Teddington struck and went down at the same spot. H.M.S. Griffon was sent to have another look. She nosed about for a while without finding anything. She was relieved by H.M.S. Sylvia, who nosed about for six weeks. Then she was recalled, and H.M.S. Stork prowled along that way. The Stork found that lurking rock at a point 300 yards from where the Sylvia had recently anchored. It had only 15 feet of water over it at low tide."

No chart, of course, pretends to be final, as a map may lay claim to be. It is only approximate. The captains who sail the seven seas report what they see and hear. So do the port authorities. No rock is ever put on to a chart on mere hearsay in these days. First a warship, or hydrographic survey vessel, is sent to investigate. Unsuspected by those who ask what the Navy does to justify its keep in times of peace, a routine part of a naval vessel's work, on foreign station, is the taking of large numbers of soundings for the verification and improvement of marine charts. This applies to every navy in the world, and I was even told by a commander on the China station that when the last Chinese cruiser visited England she assiduously took soundings all the way up mid-channel, from off Alderney to Dover.

Not so much care was taken in the old days, however, and "false alarms" used to get on to even the British Admiralty charts. The famous Rurick Rock, 30 miles off Hobart, got on to the chart in 1822 and stayed there more than half a century, until H.M.S. Dart went in search of it—and found that it didn't exist. Nor did the Minnie Carmichael Rock, 12 miles from the east coast of Flinders Island, in Bass Strait. One after another, five British warships tried to find Constance Rock, not far away, which had been charted since 1804. Then Constance was expunged and the chart knew her no more.

Trees, barks of timber, and almost submerged derelict vessels, seen with the white waters foaming over them—now a smother of bubbly boll, now an ominous black matt—defy distinction from a real reef when seen

from the heeled deck of a passing merchantman scudding under all but bare poles before a gale. It was mainly "rocks" of this kind that used to get on to the chart.

There have been cases of a whole island getting on to the chart—and off again almost before the ink was dry. There was Grahame's Island, for instance. In July, 1851, a submarine volcano got busy under the Mediterranean, 50 miles from Sicily. In next to no time passing mariners were confronted by a brand-new island, a mile and a quarter round, the middle of which was a hill 170 feet above water level. It was mainly dust, sand, and lava, and there was no ginsaying but that it was an island. Seamen landed on it and provided about and played concertinas and swigged rum. Indubitably it was a new island. Some dirty weather ensued. Then just as Grahame's Island got on to a new edition of the chart, it slithered gracefully down to the bottom of the Mediterranean. And that was that.

It is in the vicinities of volcanic coasts that uncharted rocks flourish and put forth green leaves, for there the seabed is in a state of flux. You have to walk your ship warily off Iceland and Sicily and through the Straits of Magellan and the inshore waters of Japan, but when the day's work takes you in and out of the ports of Java you stick as carefully to the steamer lane as a tram to a city tram-route. The most disconcerting rocks in the world are those which dwell across the coasts of Java, which have been aptly described as a mob of volcanoes in a coffee plantation. Here soundings rarely "stay out" for a couple of successive decades. The shallow-draught Malay proas can look after themselves and keep clear of breaking water, but "it fairly turns a skipper's hair white," the steamship officers will tell you, "when he has got to be guessing all the time about what lies a fathom or two under the surface."

Still, at all events, a volcanic coast is a volcanic coast, and one knows that danger is lurking. The hidden "pinnacle rock" is a much worse menace where the tip of its steeples lies a few fathoms deep. Random soundings do not locate it. It is a needle in a bundle of hay. Only a marine disaster puts it on the chart. I sometimes wonder that Kipling never included in "The Seven Seas" a grim song of the seamen who have perished through their ships hitting sunken pinnacle rocks, and, perishing, have revealed the deadly lurking fang and saved all of us who will pass that way until the trump of doom from a similar fate. Perhaps he will give us that poem yet. It is the sacrifice of British ships and British seamen, in the main, that peopled the charts of the world with hidden rocks. —Toronto Saturday Night.

Heroine at the Piano

PLAYED THROUGH PANIC AND STAGE IN FLAMES.

Until flames enveloped her piano and destroyed it, the girl pianist of a travelling theatrical company, Miss Ella Field, continued to play through a fire panic in the Congregational School of Felstead, in Essex. The whole stage was in flames as she played, and terrified men, women, and children struggled for life at the exits, but Miss Field played on as calmly as if the fire had been merely a scene in a stage drama. The fire broke out before the performance was half over, and was caused by the overturning of one of the three oil lamps which served as footlights. Mr. Harry Cloughton, a farmer, attempted to smother the flames by throwing his coat over the burning lamp. Then the panic broke out. The exit doors were near the stage, and the audience of more than 200 men, women, and children surged in to great waves from the back of the hall, endeavouring frantically to reach safety. The two remaining oil lamps were knocked over in the struggle. The oil burst into flames, and in a moment a stream of liquid fire ran from the stage to the floor of the schoolroom. A number of women became wedged in both doorways, and it was not till the men used force that the exits were cleared and the whole audience escaped to the churchyard adjoining the school. Some of these who had been sitting in the rear of the hall smashed the windows with bricks and jumped through them. Five women were injured, but they were able to go home after treatment by the village doctor. The company lost all their personal belongings and stage property.

Household Notes.

Serve cottage pudding with caramel sauce instead of the usual lemon sauce. Toast is particularly attractive and dainty when the bread is cut in rounds. Lettuce sandwiches are nice served with shrimp chorizo for luncheon. Steamed brown rice served with cream makes a most wholesome breakfast cereal.

WINARD'S LINIMENT
FOR RHEUMATISM.

Cornerstone for Famous Cathedral

LAID 81 YEARS AGO.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 (A. P.)—The uncompleted cathedral of St. John the Divine, which occupies a commanding position on Cathedral Heights, at 110th Street, will celebrate next Thursday the fifteenth anniversary of its inception, and the thirty-first of the beginning of actual construction.

When the structure is finished its area will be 109,082 square feet, the largest in the English-speaking world. Its site will be exceeded only by St. Peter's in Rome and the Cathedral of Seville in Spain. To-day, however, only the great choir stands, with radiating chapels and a section of the crossing.

A clause in the state charter provides that seats in the cathedral shall always be free, and although it is the administrative center of the Diocese of New York, persons of many creeds and many races have gathered under its roof to worship in their own way.

Besides the Bishop, the Right Rev. William T. Manning, the speakers at the celebration will be the Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, pastor of Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, and George W. Wickersham, former attorney general of the United States and one of the Cathedral trustees. Services in the cathedral are held at times in foreign languages, as varied ethnic groups from New York City's mixed peoples gather there. Many services are conducted in Italian and Spanish; occasionally in Armenian, Japanese, Chinese, Swedish and Welsh. On Kosovo Day a Serbian Archimandrite celebrated the liturgy of the Holy Orthodox Church at the high altar of the cathedral, and a choir composed of Russians and Jugoslavs made the responses. On such occasions as the memorial service for President Harding, thousands filled the cathedral and stood about the doors.

The portion of the building now standing might be the end of an enormous loaf. It is faced over temporarily on the end that will be joined to the nave, and on the sides that will be continued as the transepts. Around the circular end at the east, opposite the structure under construction, are seven chapels of tongue.

This standing portion, the choir, is late Romanesque in style, with a Byzantine influence. A feature of its construction is the great granite pillars, which weigh 130 tons apiece. The dome is 129 feet above the floor of the crossing.

Construction was halted by the war, but the diocese intends soon to resume building and to complete the structure much more speedily than the choir was erected.

Youth of Seventeen Takes the Helm of \$2,000,000 Business

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (A. P.)—His boy chums call him plain "Luke," but wealthy art connoisseurs, bankers of several national and business associations address him more respectfully, for to them he is Lucien J. Demotte, 17-year-old president of the House of Demotte, a \$2,000,000 art concern located in this city.

Young Demotte is a dark-haired, soft-spoken, aesthetic-looking son of France, with more the air of a student than of a successful man of affairs. Fate cut short his boyhood and shouldered him with a man's responsibilities.

Last summer, when life to this boy meant nothing more than pleasure days with a tutor in his ancestral home near Paris, his father, George Joseph Demotte, founder of the New York house of art, was accidentally shot and killed in a boar hunt in France. As is the French custom, the youth had been trained to tread his father's footsteps. He had been reared on art, in the old Demotte mansion on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of ancient furniture and statuary his ancestors had accumulated from the medieval castles of France. "My father always talked to me of art," says Lucien. "Then, too, I had access to his library on Gothic art. We often went on tours of France together, visiting old churches and hunting through remote places for sculptures, wood carvings and other antiques with which to build up our collection."

The death of the elder Demotte ended the carefree existence of his son. A month ago Lucien came to America. He was elected president of his father's corporation and given full authority to manage the business.

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"It is my plan to conduct our affairs just as my father did," he said. "I shall return to France each year and bring to America those beautiful works of Gothic art which your collectors have always so greatly admired."

Delves Uncover Popular Building Site of Ancients

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23 (A. P.)—A cross section of history from the flat age to the Crusades, has been revealed by excavations conducted by the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

um's expedition in Palestine, according to Dr. Clarence S. Fisher, leader of the enterprise, who returned recently to this city.

Excavations were made, Dr. Fisher reported, on a steep hill in Bear Shean, where the inhabitants built their fortresses in various ages. "The top layer of ruins are those of a fortress begun by the Crusaders in the eleventh century," Dr. Fisher said. "Just below are the ruins of an Arab town of about 632 A.D., and beneath that the remains of a magnificent circular Byzantine church of about the sixth century."

"Two other buildings were found beneath the Byzantine church,"

upper one was a square church with beautiful mosaic floors from which the Byzantine builders took the marble to build the structure above. Beneath the same church was a Roman temple with magnificent masonry. It had apparently been dedicated to Bacchus, the god of wine."

Dr. Fisher said below the Roman temple were found ruins built, he believed, by the Egyptians who invaded the Holy Land on their way to Egypt before 150 B. C. Below the ruins a fifty foot shaft was sunk, he added, and layers of civilization dating back to the flint period were encountered. In Egypt near the Valley of the Kings, where Howard Carter is uncovering Tutankhamun, Dr. Fisher

said the tomb of the commander-in-chief of the arm of Sati, who set his soldiers as masters over the Israelites, has been found. The concession on which the University Museum expedition is working contains the tombs of the nobles and the generals of the court of Tutankhamun and others of that dynasty. The tombs of 30 nobles have thus far been located, Dr. Fisher said.

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