

lers in days gone by who used to wait at Stonington in the railway offices for the New York boat remember him well, and owe him gratitude for making the waiting hours short with his childlike experiences. His manner was always calm, he never much raised his voice, or used any emphasis or expletives, but won the hearer to belief by his simple, unexaggerated manner of speech. It was delightful to the habitues to draw Uncle Jim out for the benefit of new-comers. A hundred of his stories are remembered, but the Drawer recalls one at this moment which seems to commend itself by its entire moderation. It happened that one of the Yale professors, who devoted himself to ethnological studies, was interested in the Patagonians, and very much desired information as to the alleged gigantic statue of the race. A scientific friend, who knew the Stonington romancer, told the professor that he could no doubt get valuable information from Uncle Jim, a captain who was familiar with all the region about Cape Horn. And the professor, without any hint of Uncle Jim's real ability, eagerly accompanied his friend to make the visit. Uncle Jim was found in one of his usual haunts, and something like the following ethnological conversation ensued:

Professor.—"They tell me, Captain Pennington, that you have been a good deal in Patagonia."

Uncle Jim.—"Made thirty or forty voyages there, sir."

Professor.—"And I suppose you know something about the Patagonians and their habits?"

Uncle Jim.—"Know all about 'em sir. Know the Patagonians, sir, all of 'em, as well as I know the Stonington folks."

Professor.—"I wanted to ask you, captain, about the size of the Patagonians—whether they are giants, as travellers have reported."

Uncle Jim.—"No, sir," shaking his head slowly, and speaking with the modest tone of indifference—"no, sir, they are not." (It was quite probable that the captain never had heard the suggestion before.) "The height of the Patagonians, sir, is just five feet nine inches and a half."

Professor.—"How did you ascertain this fact, captain?"

Uncle Jim.—"Measured 'em, sir—measured 'em. One day, when the mate and I were ashore down there, I called up a lot of the Patagonians, and the mate and I measured about five hundred of 'em, and every one of 'em measured five feet nine inches and a half; no more, no less. Every man, woman, and child measured five feet nine inches and a half—that's their exact height."

Professor.—"That's very interesting. But, captain, don't you suppose there were giants there long ago, in the former generations? All the travellers say so."

Uncle Jim.—"Not a word of truth in it, sir—not a word. I'd heard that story, and I thought I'd settle it. I satisfied myself there was nothing in it."

Professor.—"But how could you know that they used not to be giants? What evidence could you get? Mightn't the former race have been giants?"

Uncle Jim.—"Impossible, sir—impossible."

Professor.—"How did you satisfy yourself?"

Uncle Jim.—"Dug 'em up, sir—dug 'em up," speaking with more than usual moderation. "I'd heard that yarn. The next voyage, I took the do'sen and went ashore, and we dug up two hundred and seventy-five old Patagonians, and measured 'em. They all measured exactly five feet nine inches and a half; no difference in 'em—men and women, all ages just the same. Five feet nine inches and a half is the natural height of a Patagonian. They've always been just that. Not a word of truth in the stories about giants, sir."—*Editor's Drawer, in Harper's Magazine for March.*

THE ORIGIN OF BRITISH SCENERY.

Mr. Archibald Geikie, LL.D., F.R.S., Director General of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, delivered the second of his course of five lectures at the Royal Institution, "The Origin of the Scenery of the British Isles," to a large and interested audience. He said, in effect, that a true mountain-chain is the result of a local plication of the earth's crust, and its external form, in spite sometimes of stupendous erosion, bears a close relation to the outline impressed on the area of the original uplift. Tried by this standard, hardly any of the heights of Britain deserve the name of mountains. With some important exceptions, as in the south of Ireland, they have been carved by erosion out of upheaved masses of land of unknown form. Their individuality of form has been determined by geological structure and composition. As regards age, the oldest British mountains are those of Archaean rock in the outer Hebrides and north-west of Scotland. The Welsh mountains may be grouped under two types—that of Snowdon, where the prominence of the ground has been produced by the presence of vast masses of durable volcanic rock which have resisted the degradation that has lowered the surrounding regions; and that of the Breconshire Beacons, which are obviously merely the relics of a once extensive tableland. The mountainous area of the Lake District presents some of the most interesting problems in the evolution of topography. The remarkable radiation of its valleys and lakes has been attributed to a system of divergent fractures. But examination shows that no such fracture exists, and that, on the contrary, the valleys run quite independently of the geological structure of the ground. We are forced to the conclusion that their features have been determined when the Lake District lay buried under a deep covering of carboniferous, and perhaps later, rocks. This covering being eventually ridged up into a dome-shaped eminence the earliest drainage diverged from its summit, and the streams just determined have held their course ever since, gradually cutting through the covering, and then eroding deeply into the underlying more ancient rocks. The mantle of carboniferous limestone, coal-measures, etc., has been entirely stripped off, and the rugged contours of the mountains have been gradually sculptured by the agents of erosion out of the exposed mass of underlying rocks. The Scottish Highlands were likewise in large measure buried under later accumulations, and their characteristic outlines have been produced by erosion, guided and

modified by geological structure and composition. The Irish mountains are grouped round the great central plain, and may be attributed to at least three periods. Those of the north-west and south-east are a continuation of the heights of Scotland and Wales. Those of Kerry and Cork are the most typical mountains in Britain, being true local uplifts. They form long, lofty ridges, and have undergone vast denudation, the depth of rock removed from their summits being in some cases probably not less than 12,000 feet. The Mourne Mountains may be classed with the conical heights of Skye and Mull. Of British tablelands, the great central plain of Ireland is the most striking and interesting. It has been formed by the stripping off of some 3,000 or 4,000 feet of carboniferous strata, leaving an undulating eroded surface of the underlying limestone. The moors and wolds of Yorkshire present a fragment of a tableland of nearly horizontal Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks. The Lammernmuirs and Scottish Highlands must also be regarded as tablelands in various stages of destruction. The fate of tablelands is to be cut down into systems of valleys with intervening, gradually diminishing ridges. Some of the earlier stages of this destructive process may be seen in the youngest British tableland—that of the basaltic region that extends from the south of Antrim through the Inner Hebrides.

LIVING WATERS.

Beneath the cross pure waters rise, and she who finds them there
All through the wilderness of life the living stream may bear;
And blessings follow in her steps until where'er she goes
The moral wastes begin to bud and blossom as the rose.

Ho! every one that thirsteth, come to this fountain side;
Drink freely of its waters; drink, and be satisfied!
Yet linger not, but hasten on and bear to all around
Glad tidings of the love and peace and mercy thou hast found.

To Africa's pathless deserts, to China's crowded shore,
Where din of mighty cities' sounds, or savage monsters roar,
Wherever man may wander with his heritage of woe,
To tell of brighter things above, go, sisters, gladly go.

Then, as of old in vision seen before the prophet's eyes,
Broader and deeper on its course, the stream of life shall rise,
And everywhere, as on it flows, shall carry light and love,
Peace and good will to man on earth, glory to God above!

MOLTKE'S DAILY LIFE.

A fine portrait of Count Von Moltke is the frontispiece of the *March Century*, and Miss Helen Zimmern gives an entertaining account of Von Moltke's life. His daily routine is described as follows: "Winter and summer, Moltke enters his study at the stroke of seven a.m. Here he drinks his morning coffee, smokes a cigar, and writes until the stroke of nine, when his business letters are brought to him, which he reads and dispatches. He then exchanges his dressing-gown for his uniform, and is ready at eleven to receive his adjutants, to hear their reports, and issue his orders. While at work he partakes of a simple lunch, and when his adjutants are gone resumes his writing until the stroke of two, when the work is pushed aside. He then receives the higher officers of the staff and listens to their reports. This ended, which may be longer or shorter according to circumstances, Moltke goes for a walk. It is no infrequent thing to encounter him in the busy streets of Berlin, peeping into the shop windows which appear to have an attraction for him. At four he takes a frugal dinner in company with his family, and the hour of dinner is for them the happiest of the day. Then the taciturn man becomes loquacious, and delights his hearers with his charming, cheerful talk. From five to seven he again devotes himself to writing; from seven to eight the newspapers are perused. At eight he once more rejoins his family at the tea-table, after which follows a game of whist, in which the great strategist is naturally a proficient. The game over, the evening is generally ended with music, to which Moltke is devoted. At eleven he retires to rest."

DR. FISCHER, of Trieste, is using cellulose as a dressing for wounds. It is first moistened, and, after application, is covered with any impervious tissue.

A VERY persuasive rascal induced a number of ignorant Illinois women to cut off their hair and intrust it to him to be made up into fashionable forms. They expected to thus achieve a permanent and beautiful style of coiffure; but they never saw the man or the material again.

THE natives of the Chiloe Islands make use of a curious natural barometer. It is the shell of a crab, which is peculiarly sensitive to atmospheric changes. It is nearly white in dry weather, but exhibits small red spots on the approach of moisture, and becomes completely red in the rainy season.

THE question of vivisection came before Oxford Convocation the other day on the vote for giving effect to a grant made last June for a laboratory. The anti-vivisectionists strongly opposed the vote, and an excited debate took place. The Dean of Christchurch and Dr. Acland supported the scheme, and Dr. Freeman, the historian, opposed it. The motion was carried by 188 against 147.

HIGH chimneys for factories are now becoming unnecessary, by reason of the introduction of a new kind of oven. Any manufacturer, it is asserted, can place one of these ovens in his works, and obtain from every ton of slack he uses coke worth \$2, tar and ammonia worth \$1, and 14,000 feet of gas to generate steam. The coke, tar, and ammonia will thus, it is claimed, considerably more than pay for slack, wear and tear, etc.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Society of Friends in Tasmania have been celebrating their fiftieth anniversary in that colony.

ON Sabbath, the day of the great storm in Scotland, the worshippers in Craibie Church numbered six, including the minister.

MENNONITES in Nebraska occupy three whole counties, are good farmers and hard workers, and so economical that their prosperity is remarkable.

IT is asserted that a medical man now residing at Malmesbury, in Victoria, Dr. Davy by name, was the first practical discoverer of the electric telegraph.

AN Anti-Starvation Club is a novelty of Cedar Rapids. The object is to provide for members the best boarding accommodations at the lowest terms.

THE final funeral ceremonies of the "Jeannette" victims took place in New York last week, after which the bodies were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

RESOLUTION by the miners of Alene, Dakota. "Not a Chinaman shall ever enter the diggings unless he climbs a tree, with one end of a lariat over a limb."

LINCOLN'S tomb at Springfield, Ill., is going to ruin. Two of the supporting arches have collapsed, and one corner of the monument has settled several inches.

AT Trenton, N.J., Capt. Whiteside and Lieut. Gibson, of the Salvation Army, have been fined in the Police Court for obstructing the street by a parade and singing.

PROF. PERRY, of Williams College, has made a calculation that a student who was killed recently while coasting was moving when hurt at the rate of three miles a minute.

SALMI MORSE, who endeavoured so perseveringly to produce the Passion Play in New York about a year ago, committed suicide by drowning in the Hudson river last week.

IT is proposed to proceed with the further restoration of Aberdeen cathedral by placing a large window with tracery work in the east end. The cost will be upwards of £700.

NEW ORLEANS has taken up the subject of cremation. A society has several hundred members, embracing most of the physicians and many lawyers, merchants, and other business men.

AT a meeting in London Canon Wilberforce said that the Duchess of Sutherland had told him that since she had worn the blue ribbon she had rescued from drunkenness one she had long desired to save.

A LOG cabin plastered with earth containing gold and silver ore to the amount of \$2,000 to the ton was built in the South Park, Colorado. Its value ascertained, the house was, of course, torn down.

THE complete work of Meissonier consists of 420 pictures. He is now on a canvas that is nearly ten feet long, representing the Chevalier Bayard and Francis I. saluting in a company of brilliantly equipped warriors.

A MICHIGAN father objects to his son taking up the study of physiology, which is in the regular course of the schools. The authorities insist. The parent thinks he can select what studies he chooses for his boy, and will take the matter into court.

THE proprietor of a bar-room was placed on trial in Washington Territory, under indictment for keeping a disorderly resort. Seven women were on the jury, and all were firm for conviction; but the five men stood doggedly for acquittal.

VERY high prices were obtained recently at a sale of a collection of Burns's works. The first (Kilmarnock) edition of poems, chiefly in Scottish dialect (1680), sold for £51. The sum of £40 was recently paid at Glasgow for the MS. of "Holy Willie's Prayer."

FRIENDS of Prince Kraptokine have renewed their appeal to President Grevy to release the prince from prison. The prince, writing from his prison at Clairvaux, says: "My last forces are falling under the surly which I contracted in the St. Paul prison at St. Petersburg. I am so feeble that I can hardly write."

AMONG the curiosities of beggary in Paris is an old man who plies his trade on horseback, because his legs are paralyzed. A woman appears every day in the Rue Montmartre pushing a neat little baby carriage containing a very pretty and well-dressed baby. The mother has a sweet voice, and realizes quite a sum by singing.

THERE are doubters as to the reported discovery of an unpublished work by De Quincey, styled "The Confessions of an English Hashesh Eater," and said to have been written during the last years of the author's life, the manuscript having been discovered upon the backs of the illustrations in a volume possessed by De Quincey.

THE great composer, Felix Mendelssohn, who died in 1847, was the grandson of the celebrated philosopher, Moses Mendelssohn. His father, a Berlin banker, used to say, "I should like to know who I am. When I was young they used to call me the son of Moses Mendelssohn, and now that I am old I'm only called the father of Felix Mendelssohn."

THROUGH the death of M. Gauthier de Rumilly, M. Masson de Morfontaine becomes the father of the French Senate. He was born in 1796, at Bar-sur-Aube. As a volunteer in 1815 he was wounded at Waterloo, and for his services obtained the grade of officer. He was in the campaigns in the Peninsula and Algeria, and he retired from the army in 1850.

A "GENTLEMAN of education and experience" advertises in a Des Moines paper that he wishes employment in writing speeches for members of the Legislature. He will prepare at short notice addresses for or against prohibition, woman suffrage, or any other subject desired. His terms are \$5 for a ten minutes speech and \$2 for each additional five minutes, "satisfaction guaranteed" and "confidence observed."