

Wonderful Texas Mirages.

"You don't have to go to the Desert of Sahara in order to see mirages," said Lee Buchanan to the corridor man at the Laclede. "In Texas these phenomena can be witnessed in as wonderful forms as are ever produced in any part of the world. In that portion of the State marked upon the maps of the olden time as a desert where no plant can grow or breathing thing can live, but which is now cut up into immense wheat or grazing fields, I have experienced the most life like and natural optical delusions of which the mind can conceive. For that matter, the entire prairie appears to be a delusion. The air is so rare that no odor is perceptible, even from carrion. As a man rides along he sees before him beautiful groves of majestic trees, which, when reached, prove to be mesquite bushes three or four feet in height. Over the plain are what appear to be stakes six or eight feet high, which in reality are Spanish daggers about a foot in height, the entire plain being called 'Staked Plain,' from the effect produced by this plant. The best mirage or cloud pictures are to be seen about Amarillo, where beautiful lakes appear to be, but a mile or two away, and strangers almost invariably ask if they contain fish. Views of the gulf are occasionally had, and once a steamer in distress was seen, and it was learned that a steamer had been lost at sea at that time."—St. Louis Globe.

He Measured 80 Inches.

In the resting place of the old kings of Denmark, the Cathedral of Roskilde, a recent visitor notes that there is a column against which a number of monarchs have been measured and upon which their different heights are recorded. One of them is Peter the Great, and we learn by this means that the shipwright czar measured no less than eighty Danish inches, equivalent to something like six feet ten inches in our measurement. Only one other of the sovereigns was taller, and that was Christian I., of Denmark, who, according to this authority, was just a trifle over seven feet English. The czar, Alexander III., is about six feet one inch and is about a couple of inches taller than Christian IX. of Denmark and about four inches taller than King George of Greece, neither of whom, nevertheless, is what would be called a short man. It is worth nothing that in the same ancient cathedral where this column is to be seen Saxo Grammaticus, the Danish historian from whom Shakespeare borrowed practically the entire plot of "Hamlet," lies buried.

A Good Story of Browning.

Lord Coleridge's lecture on "Education and Instruction," delivered last June in the Salt Schools, Shipley, Yorkshire, is published in the Contemporary Review. Included in the article is Lord Coleridge's story of Browning: "He once rebuked me in a way which I relate for the comfort of those small, striving souls who watch his flights and try to follow his course in vain, till he disappears from them in the clouds. He was so kind as to give me many of his volumes, and he knew I honestly read them. Soon after one had thus been given me he asked me how I liked it. I replied that what I could understand I heartily admired and that parts of it I thought ought to be immortal; but that as to much of it I really could not tell whether I admired it or not, as I could not understand it. 'Ah, well,' he said, 'if a reader of your calibre understands 10 per cent. of what I write I think he ought to be content.'"

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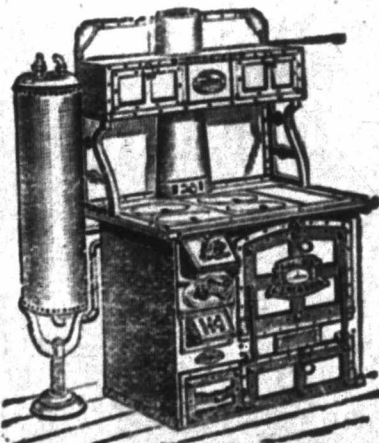
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