

## CAROLINES' LOST RACE.

RUINS OF NAN-MATAL ARE THAT IN LEFT OF IT.

Excavation of Tradition of its Disappearance—Walls 40 Feet High and 185 Feet Long With Blocks Carried Thirty Miles—Chau-te-Leur's Tomb.

An exploration of the strange Cyclopean ruins in the Nan-Matal islets off the coast of Ponape, in the eastern Carolines, was made by Mr. F. W. Christian in 1896. He has just given an account of his discoveries to the Royal Geographical Society in London, and what he had to say about the ruins is here reprinted from the Times. Mr. Christian went from Sydney to Ponape and from the harbor of Metalanum, on the east coast, explored the Nan-Matal ruins:

'The area occupied by the islets of Nan-Matal is about nine square miles. For the most part they are deserted, and altogether there are not above twenty people living on the three or four inhabited ones. Some of them are planted with coconuts and bread fruit, and are visited occasionally by fishing parties. The King's island of Tomun and the shores of Metalanum harbor are fairly thickly populated, but the folk as a rule give Nan-Matal a pretty wide berth. They say the place is haunted, and on certain of the islets, such as Pan-Katara and Pei-Kap nothing will induce them to set foot. All the enormous quantity of basalt which the ancient builders used must have been brought in canoes or rafted down the coast, a distance of twenty to thirty miles. These pillars and blocks were carried down to the sea from the dales below the precipices of U and the great perpendicular scarp of Chokach, where the columnar basalt formation is very strikingly marked. Here were grand natural quarries, whence the builders might select all the shafts and pillars required lying around ready shaped to their hand.

'The first of the islets visited from Uchentan was Nan-Tauch, the most remarkable of all the Metalanum ruins. The waterfront is faced with a solid terrace of massive stonework, about six feet wide, standing over six feet above the shallow waterway. Above is a striking example of immensely solid Cyclopean masonry. A great wall between twenty and thirty feet high and about ten feet in thickness, formed of basaltic prisms laid alternately lengthwise and crosswise, incloses an oblong space, which can be entered only by the great gateway in the middle of the west face, and by a small portal in the northwest corner. The right side of the gateway is overshadowed and all but hidden from view by the dense leafage of a huge lkoik tree. In olden times the walls must have been considerably greater in height, but much of the masonry has now fallen into ruin.

'A series of huge rude steps lead into a spacious courtyard, strewn with fragments of fallen pillars. This encircles a second terraced inclosure topped by a remarkable projecting frieze or cornice of stonework. The outer inclosures were 185 feet to 115 feet the wall varying in height from 20 feet to nearly 40 feet; the inner, which forms a second conforming parallelogram, measuring 83 feet by 75 feet. Height of the wall, 15 feet to 18 feet; average thickness, 8 feet. Another rude flight of steps leads up to the great central vault or treasure chamber, said to be the grave of an ancient monarch, who bore the dynastic title of Chau-te-Leur.

'It was difficult to gain much information about the old traditions at first. The natives certainly know something about the history of these ruins, but do not care to talk of them to strangers. This reticence was overcome little by little and consequently bit by bit a tolerably explicit little chapter of history was built up. It appeared that in olden days Ponape was much more populous than at present. All the tribes in the days of the builders were united under a powerful line of kings. The last of this dynasty met his death facing a great invasion of barbarians from Pati-Air, the barren lands of the south, probably some portion of New Guinea, the New Hebrides or some neighboring portion of Melanesian area. They arrived in a great fleet of canoes under the command of a fierce and terrible warrior, Icho-Kalakal. The savage invaders poured in upon the peaceful settlers and blotted out the ancient civilization after a great battle, in which numbers were slain on both sides. Part of the walls were thrown down and the defenders were either slain in battle or offered up in solemn sacrifice to the war gods of their conquerors. King Chau-te-Leur himself in his flight perished in the Chapalap River, to the head of Metalanum harbor. The Ani changed him in blue river fish, which the folk of Metalanum to this day will not eat.

'The underground chamber or vault which bears King Chau-te-Leur's name lies right in the centre of the inner precinct,

facing the great gateway. It is about eight feet in depth, roofed in with six enormous slabs of basalt. The flooring was paved by some heavy basalt blocks, which they had great trouble in lifting away. Below this was a layer of soft vegetable mould, thickly matted with a tough roof growth that made excavation somewhat troublesome. The side nearest the entrance threatened soon to fall into ruins and they had to pursue digging operations very cautiously in this corner for fear of being crushed by the collapsing of the mighty masses of masonry.

'There are three other tombs or vaults besides the large central one, situated on the southwest, east and northwest respectively. They are smaller in size, and gave up rather scanty results to their excavations. The one on the east side is very narrow and some twelve feet in depth. Paul, the King of the Metalanum tribe, sometimes used them as dungeons to confine those who offended him—a punishment greatly dreaded by the natives, in their childlike horror of the dark and of the viewless spirit forms with which their fancy peoples these lonesome places. 'The eyes of the spirits are watching everything you do,' said Keroun, one of the workmen, as he tendered his resignation. 'I know they are angry; they will not injure you because you are a white man, but they will punish us. I am very much afraid; I cannot sleep at night, and I would like to go home.'

'Standing on the southwest angle, where the wall is nearly forty feet in height, one looked down upon a green abyss of nodding woodland, with never a glimpse of the network of canals rippling below. The northeast angle is occupied by an enormous banyan tree, towering full fifty feet above the masonry in which it stands firmly rooted, thrusting its bunches of thread-like root fibres into every crevice. These, as they swell, exercise a constant and gradually increasing force, wrenching the blocks out of place. When a high wind blows the structure is racked through and through in every joint and keystone. Sooner or later, if nothing is done to remove the tree this side of the wall will settle down into ruins. A tangle of weeds, grasses and creepers thickly carpets the precinct. Beyond the two small cross walls on the inner side of the great outer wall on the southwest side is a remarkable slab, inclining to a crescent shape, balanced on two solid shafts projecting out of the masonry. This when tapped gives a clear ringing sound, and was probably used for an alarm or for a sort of a bell in sacred ceremonies. The northwest angle gives a happy impression of the style of architecture, the two walls at their junction running up high and bluff like the bows of a Japanese junk. Beneath the terrace fronting the waterway

is overgrown by a belt of young coconuts of recent growth.

'None of the excavations and of the havoc being made in the jungle in clearing operations finally reached the ears of King Paul, who at once put a stop to the work. Most unfortunately, his superstitious terrors were confirmed by a very severe epidemic of influenza that broke out in the tribe shortly after their departure and carried off many of the Metalanum people. The result of the excavations in the central vault was distinctly encouraging, and it was a great pity more time could not have been spent at it. Thoroughly to explore and clear the labyrinth of this Microdesian Venice and to make thorough excavations would take several months' hard work. It was very difficult to get the natives to work here, owing to their dread of the vengeance of the ancestral spirits and heroes hovering around these holy places, ready to let loose some terrible judgment upon the head of rash intruders. Another great drawback to exploration likely to continue during the reign of King Paul is a deep-seated hostility to the white man felt by many of the Metalanum tribesmen.'

## GUN CHWING.

A Russian Traveller Who Will Go Home and Tell About It.

S. Hanblum, 50 years of age, blonde gray, whiskered, volatile, and all the way from St. Petersburg, Russia, has been visiting Denver To the surprise of a caller, who had never seen the gentleman before, Mr. Hanblum turned and with an expression of delight upon his face, exclaimed:

'Ach, my friend! I am fill wis deelight. You are ze zhentleman from Melbourne vich I meet on ze high mountain, ze peak of Pike. Eet ees wis ze greatest pleaser I see you.'

When gently told that he was mistaken he could hardly believe it.

'Ees eet pooseeb? Vell, eet ees remarkable ze raysamblance.'

His accent and vernacular were peculiar. Sometimes he talked like a German, sometimes like a Frenchman. His manner was wholly French.

'Yes, sair,' said he in answer to a question. 'I am a resident of St. Petirebayrg. I was born in Warsaw, Poland, but I leev in R-russia tairty yairce. My name ees Jairman. Deedy you notece zat name? Hanf, you see, meence hemp, and blum ees flower; zat ees preety, eet eet not?'

It was, and his visitor admitted it.

'I haf been in America some weeks, and haf noteceed many tings to pleoce me and some vich do not. Now, zat seengular custom of eating gom. Zat ees ze most remarkable. Eet ees not fairer me to oonderstand. All ze time time zey bite, bite, bite, chewing zis gom. So many, too! And Mr. Hanblum held up both

**BIAS VELVETEEN S.H. & M. SKIRT BINDING** Binding Wear and Art-Quality

The Redfern Brand of "S. H. & M." wears—no other binding has its durability—it outwears the skirt of strongest fabric—to this superlative durability is given the highest art of deep soft richness, costing but a few cents more than the commonest binding—it adds 25 per cent to the dress of the skirt.

S. H. & M. stamped on back of every yard. If your dealer will not supply you, we will. THE S. H. & M. CO., 24 Front Street W., Toronto, Ont.



## The Work In Our Departments

Is characterized by a greater degree of variety, has more interesting features and less monotony and schoolroom drudgery, than ordinary courses of study and those qualities inevitably inspire interest and often enthusiasm in young men and women who have become completely discouraged in regard to their education. It is useless to continue a boy or girl in a school that seems more to him or her like prison life than a course of preparation for the future.

Send for Catalogue.

**The Currie Business University,** Cor. Charlotte and Princess Streets, St. John, N. B.

Telephone 991. P. O. Box 90.

hands and arms like a pair of exclamation points.

'On ze car from Boofalo to Neeackeers zair was a young ledy seeting in front of me ating zis gom—wisout stop, sink of it! all ze time! I ask: 'Vst ees zis zat ze peeple all eating? I was told. I pair-chase some of ze leedle stoff and put in my mouce—Pa-ah! shpat heem out. Eet ees like medecoon and worse. And ees ees so ugly! I wonder so much as zis mees-oor-able habect, and eet seemes to be ze nabest deesteekeet, nayceanol—ees eet so?'

The impeachment was admitted with grief.

'And ees zair no r-raymedee, no cure for zees ter-raible sing? No? Zat ees sad.'—Denver Post.

## At the Queens Expense.

The prince of Wales occasionally enjoys a joke over the queen's propensity for giving away Indian shawls. At one Henly regatta he was on a steam launch with a merry party, engaged in scrutinizing the other craft on the river. Their attention was especially drawn to a boat containing a pleasure party, one member of which was an elderly lady bearing a remarkable

resemblance to the queen, and she seemed bent upon doing all in her power to heighten the resemblance. One of the company on board the launch approached the prince and ventured to draw his attention to the lady in question, jocularly suggesting that it was the queen viewing the regatta inog. Just as his royal highness was leveling his field glass upon her, she rose, and taking the shawl upon which she had been sitting, threw it about the shoulders of the young girl who was with her. 'It is undoubtedly the queen,' replied the prince quietly; 'I see that she has just presented one of her Indian shawls.'

## To Our Readers.

Jan 14.—The editor desires to inform his readers that he is authorized, through the courtesy of N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., to offer each one suffering from catarrh, fetid breath, bronchitis, &c., a sample outfit of Catarrhoxone. Catarrhoxone is a liquid which, when inhaled reaches every diseased spot, cleansing and invariably curing catarrh and all nasal and throat diseases. For a short time these samples will be given free. It never fails to cure. So write at once to the above address.

Scene: A Railway Carriage.—First Artist: 'Children don't seem to me to sell now as they used.'

Second Artist (in a horrace whisper): 'Well, I was at Stodge's yesterday; he had just knocked off three little girls' heads, horrid raw things, when a dealer came in, sir; bought 'em directly, took 'em away; wet as they were, on the stretcher; and wanted Stodge to let him have some more next week.'

Old Lady (putting her head out of the window and shrieking): 'Guard, stop the train and let me out, or I'll be murdered!'

## CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

**AGENTS AND OTHERS** EITHER SEX. "Dew of Eden." Something new—just out. Do you want money to burn? Send 25 cents in silver for sample. "Dew of Eden." The Eden Parfums Co., Box 79, Parrboro, N. S.

**\$3.50 SHOES** FOR 15c. Send 15c. for a book of five tickets. Sell the five tickets at 15c. each, to five people who will return each ticket to us with 15c. for a book of five tickets as you have done. When the tickets are so returned to us we will send a pair of Ladies' or Gents' \$3.50 shoes. The CO-OPERATIVE MERCHANTILE CO., 131 Union street, St. John, N. B.

**AN HONEST** ENTERPRISING MAN or woman wanted in every locality in Canada to represent us; our line of goods sell in every house; we give larger commission than any other firm; particulars and sample list. The F. E. KARN COMPANY, 128 Wellington street, Toronto.

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS** WE will start you in business in your own home at once. You can make \$25 a week. Money will be coming in every day. First answer will get this fine start. EDNA PARFUMS CO., Box 79, Parrboro, N. S.

**STAMPS** COLLECTIONS and old stamps bought for cash. State size of collection or send list. For particulars address Box 868 St. John, N. B.

**RESIDENCE** at Rothsay for sale or to rent for the summer months. Best pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Rothsay Station and within two minutes walk of the Kentville Casino. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fenty, Barrister-at-Law, Fugatey Building. 24-4-1.

**Our System** OF BUSINESS PRACTICE is the latest development in scientific methods, and gives the student the actual handling of almost every conceivable kind of business paper.

Our students make their entries directly from these papers, and observe in all respects just the same routine as is practiced in an up-to-date business office.

Send for samples of these papers, also for our Business and Short-hand Catalogues. S. KERR & SON.

We Will Make You This Offer for a Short Time Only.

Munsey, McClure

.....AND THE.....

Cosmopolitan Magazines

TOGETHER WITH

PROGRESS

All for one year at the low price of \$4.00—There is one condition only, viz—the three magazines must be sent to one address.

"Progress" Printing and Publishing Co., Limited.

P. S. This privilege is extended to old subscribers also on the payment of 50 cents extra.