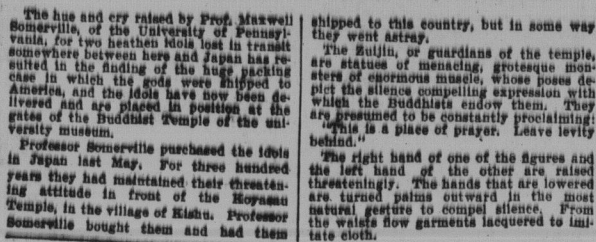


JAPANESE LOST GODS OF SILENCE.

[illegible]

A black and white photograph showing a large, dark, textured tree trunk in the foreground. The background is filled with many bare, thin trees, suggesting a winter or late autumn scene. The lighting is low, creating a somber and atmospheric mood. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

A unique tree on Living Island is about six feet high and about two feet in diameter at the base. It is nearly straight, with only a few small branches near the top. The hollow is in its about one-third of the way up at the bottom, and runs up to the height of about six feet. The hollow is about three inches in foot wide. Seventeen or eighteen feet up on the opposite side, there is a small hole, about one inch in diameter, through which the wind blows.

You make mince of the idea of plants digesting their food! but they do it, and wise men have discovered that every part of our elaborate and complex digestive system is doing very detailed in the stomachs of our vegetable friends. The distinguished authorities than Professor Marshall Ford and Pentland Smith have discovered that the same detailed digestive process in the grains of the familiar maize and the tubers of the lovely potato, is going on as the root or shoot begins to develop in the soil. The starch attacks the starch of the mass and changes it to sugar for absorption by its cells.

Not only can the plant cells do this, but even what our salivary glands and pancreas strain themselves red in the face over, but cannot do, the plant cells can do. Our elaborate human digestive apparatus is not indispensable of that dissolving or "reptilian" action of the plant food.

The starch needed by the plant for conversion is enclosed in cells with firm walls

BIGGEST
What is said to be the biggest log pile in the world is the mountain of spruce at MILLBUCKET, Me., waiting to be ground into news paper, the most of which already contracted for by big New York dailies.
This pile of logs contains 21,000,000 feet of

A black and white photograph showing a large, multi-story building with a flat roof in the foreground. In the background, there is a dark, wooded area and a small, light-colored building on a hillside.

In Athens there was a curious sight recently. Fifty young women, wearing the picturesque costumes of nurses on march, in procession through the principal streets and finally went to the government palace, where they asked for an audience with the mayor. They were the nurses employed in the founding hospital, and they had gone on strike because they had not received any salary since the beginning of the year. The mayor received them and told him they had sent a formal petition to the manager of the hospital, but that he had paid no attention to it. The mayor, in reply, assured them that if they would return to work their salary would be paid without further delay. They took his advice and returned. They received the money due to them. The incident caused a great sensation in Athens, and an immense crowd gathered to watch the nurses during their march through the city.

In Turkestan, on the right bank of the Amu Darya, is a cave of rock hills near the Bokharan town. In the cave, a number of large caves, which, upon examination of a long time ago, were found to lead to an underground city, built apparently long before the Christian era. According to legends, inscriptions and designs upon the gold and silver money unearthed from among the ruins, the ruins of the town date back to some two centuries before the birth of Christ.

The underground city of the rock hills is about two versts long, and is completely an enormous labyrinth of corridors, streets and passages, all of which are now completely overgrown by houses and other buildings two or three stories high. The edifices contain all kinds of domestic utensils, pots, stoves, yasses and so forth.

At the entrance to the cave, the earth and rock have obstructed the passages, but generally the visitor can walk about freely.

One of the most beautiful turtles in the world is found in Africa, and a few fine specimens were recently captured there and taken to Europe. That they will thrive in our climate is not at all doubtful, although a few naturalists, who have spent some months in German East Africa and who have carefully studied these turtles are confident that they will quickly become acclimated.

The beauty of these turtles and rather unguaranteed is in the shell, which covers and protects almost the entire body. Unlike that of the ordinary turtle, which is almost entirely lacking in richness and variety of color, this shell attracts the eye at once by the beautiful gold and brown stripes which run down the center of each scute, and the spots which are found here and there,

Some workmen, while recently excavating at Pompeii, suddenly came across a beautiful tablet, which, when examined, was found to contain a graphic representation of the ceremony which was customary whenever a sacrifice was made to Aphrodite.

was photographed, and from this photograph the accompanying picture was taken. In the picture the place of honor is occupied by the goddess Aphrodite, and standing before her as suppliants for her favor are those who have come to offer her sacrifice.



regarded as a work of the greatest interest; indeed, it is asserted that it is one of the most valuable relics which have yet been found at Pompelli, one reason being because it throws much light on the manner in which a sacrifice was made to a deity in ancient times.

A black and white photograph of a large, arched steel truss bridge spanning a deep, dark canyon. The bridge is silhouetted against a lighter sky. The canyon walls are steep and rocky, with a river or stream visible at the bottom.

In the accompanying picture is shown a bridge which has been erected in the South of Italy and which has attracted a good deal of attention. It spans a narrow valley at a great height from the ground and, viewed from below, is apparently very light and fragile. As a matter of fact it is very strong and competent foreign bridge builders who have examined it say that it will serve its purpose admirably for many years.

Even those who know nothing about the construction of such works can see from the accompanying picture that this is not an ordinary bridge and experts will have little difficulty in discovering why it is, in a sense, unique.

A Frenchman, M. Verneuil, has succeeded in manufacturing artificial rubies by the new process of fusing aluminum. He read a paper describing his experiments at a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, in Paris. The largest rubies he made weighed more than fifteen carats, but when the process is finished these stones split in two, forming half spheres, which he says may be worked by lapidaries and cut like natural stones.

Experts to whom he submitted the product of his laboratory pronounced them to be of the same hardness and as capable of fine polish as the real gems. The only fly in the ointment is their color, which, perhaps, for the inexperienced purchaser of gems, is not so good as the drawl of internal discolorations, or the shades of blue, particularly in the larger stones. However, M. Verneuil is not so over-optimistic; he thinks that with time and further experimentation this difficulty will be obviated.

Verneuil's method of producing artificial rubies uses the "chippings" from real stones for the purpose, grinding the bits into fine powder, then fusing them by chemical processes into a mass which is then slowly cooled, annealed and treated, present so exact a counterpart of the real gems that even experts can hardly tell the difference. The stones are a very clear, translucent ruby in this manner, which may be purchased for about \$50, while a real pigeon blood of the same size would cost \$1,000.

These make believes are more expensive and also much truer to nature than the ordinary synthetic rubies, which are made out of a kind of composition having not even the faint claim of a ruby chip to make them more convincing. They may be bought for a few dollars per carat.

In Kyoto, Japan, in the home and factory—or rather workshops, for he employs only a few laborers—of Naniwaka, the maker of the finest lacquerware in the world. Each one of his products is a work of art. Its weight is gold: They are so tiny, some of them that one wonders how human hands could have fashioned the exquisite work upon the smallest of objects. The lacquer is so fine it is worth more than fifteen inches high, but it is no more than a thousand dollars, while the smallest is worth \$25.

Large factories in Japan are almost unknown, the greatest masterpieces of this delicate work being made in some humble little home. Here one finds the artist working less and lovingly, week after week, month after month and often for years, on a single object. He is like a painter, he is like a jeweler, he is like a designer, he is like a carver and tracing the design, then wiring it carefully like fine etching upon the copper plate, then coloring it with water or gold or silver, then filling in the tiny interstices with lacquer, then a pin prick, with enamel in the color of nature: spring, enameling again, and still again, for many long weeks; and he labors for days at a time, till the beautiful and colored thing stands complete, a master's work.

After the last firing the vase is rough and uneven and must be ground with pumice stones. The worker for perhaps a month reduces the surface to the desired smoothness and polish.

Naniwaka shops each artist is permitted to come and go as he pleases, when he pleases, for the master is keenly alive to the fact that a man can do more when he is free than when he is bound. It is when the inspiration and creating mood is upon him. He needs a famous Japanese proverb: "When the mood is upon you, you can do best."

For many years it has been the custom in Bremen to give a splendid banquet in honor of the distinguished seamen and officials of that city, and on such occasions the beautiful work of art shown in the accompanying picture serves to decorate the center of the table.

resents a ship. The work of a skilled artist, it is said by those who have carefully examined it to be faultless in every respect. Only on banquet days is it seen by the public, and, though several years have elapsed since it was first placed on exhibition, the admiration of the citizens has not lessened in the slightest degree.