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#### THE POLAR REGIONS

Last Sunday reference was made to the legends and myths which are explainable on the supposition that the origin of human life was at the North Pole and that there was situated the fabled Mountain of the Gods, who in all probability were only a race of men, whose progress in civilization had been much in advance of what had been accomplished in warmer regions further south. The unexplored north polar area contains upwards of 3,000,000 square miles even allowing for the recent dashes to the Pole itself. Dr. Cook claims to have observed an area of about 25,000 square miles but this is only a mere trifle compared with the enormous extent of what is absolutely unknown. There seem to be what are called two "poles of cold." One of these is in North America and the other in Siberia. Between these are regions of milder winters, which correspond with the longitude of Behring Strait and Spitzbergen. These two localities are on the same great circle, that is one is on 170 west longitude and the other in 10 east longitude. The milder winters seem to be due to the fact that the ice moves somewhat freely and this in its turn is probably due in the one case to a branch of the Japan current and in. the other to the Gulf Stream.

The presence of perennial ice over so great a portion of the land area of the polar regions necessarily restricts geological examination, even if the men, who have visited the far north, had been equipped for such work, and as a rule they were not. It is also to be remembered that apparently a very large part of the region appears to have sunk between the ocean in a recent geological period. Coal has been discovered in 81 deg. 45 min. north in Lady Franklin Bay, which is north of Baffin Land. The country here is slowly rising from the sea. The existence of coal establishes the prior existence of vast masses of vegetation. In an article on coal published in this department some months ago it was shown that microscopic investigation proved coal to be the product of seeds, seed coverings and the smaller vegetable substances, and hence that the vegetation necessary for its formation must have been at least as great as anything now found in the world. It must have been at least equal to the "Sudd," which chokes the rivers of equatorial Africa. In addition to coal, fossils of pines, birch, poplar, elm and hazel have been found on the shores of Lady Franklin Bay. These seem to be the growth of a more recent period than that in which the coal was formed, showing that the temperature had become lowered. Further south in Greenland fossil grape-vines and other subtropical vegetation have been found. We have here a demonstration of the progress of the lowering of the temperature. The plants out of which the coal was formed, represent the age when the temperature was equatorial, just as at one time it was equatorial here on Vancouver Island. Then came a time when the climate was such as it now is in Florida and the southern part of China. Then came such temperature as we have here, when pines, elms and such trees flourished. Here then we have climatic conditions in high northern latitudes suitable in every respect for the highest development of human life, and as we find such life extending to all parts of the globe suitable for it at the present day, we are surely justified in assuming that it may have existed ages ago in all parts of the globe that were then suited for it. The burden of proof seems to rest upon those who assert the contrary. As no one can undertake to say when and where man first appeared, so no one can undertake to say that it was not at the North Pole; and as we know that men have in historic times lived in places fit for their habitation, so we may conclude that they were always found in such places, and geology shows that the north polar regions were once eminently fitted for that purpose.

There was animal life there in the days of a milder temperature. The limestones show that the sea teemed with life. The remains of a huge saurian have been found on Bathurst Island, not more than twelve degrees from the Pole. In what are known as the New Siberia Islands there are remarkable fossil remains. These islands lie considerably north of the Siberian coast and about fifty degrees west of Behring Strait. They are noted for two things. One is the "wood hills" as they are called. These consist of alternate layers of sandstone and bituminous tree trunks piled on each other. They appear to prove that the islands have been subject to repeated elevations and depressions in a long period when the temperature was substantially unchanged. Here also are the greatest deposits of fossil ivory. Sir Charles Lyell said "whole islands are built up of the crowded bones" of the Arctic mammoths. These mammoths were huge hairy creatures, and the remains of some of them have been found intact in the Siberian tundras. Except in respect to their being haired and their size they were not distinguishable from the elephants of equatorial Africa. Possibly the hairy covering was developed as the climate grew colder, and it is reasonable to assume that the Siberian specimens were representative of a later period than those, whose remains are found in the New Siberian archipelago. The existence of vast herds of these huge creatures shows that there must have been a

prolific vegetation to sustain them. There is no direct evidence that men lived in the north contemporaneously with the mammoths, but we have proof that they inhabited Europe when the mastodons and mammoths roamed over that part of the world. Thus we know that man has been contemporary a steamer, and is therefore well worthy of a

records go, for the rude sketch of a mastodon in the walls of a cave is as much a record as a written book. It is therefore a gratuitous assumption that mankind was not contemporany with these animals, when they inhabited circum-polar areas. Indeed if it were not for the purely mythical and wholly undemonstrable claim that the early home of mankind was at some place in Central Asia, no one would think of raising a question as to the probability that men first appeared in that part of the world that was first fit for their habitation, and that is the region around the Poles.

The distribution of vegetation over the Northern Hemisphere indicates a northern origin, and the same is true, although perhaps in a less degree of animal life. That is to say the vegetation of the equatorial world can be traced in its progress over seventy or more degrees of latitude from the North. The case is not one where vegetation originated at the Equator and pushed its way to the north, for the plants of the northern areas are not offshots from those of the Equator. 'On the other hand, the tropical vegetation of the north was steadily forced southward by the lowering of the temperature, new forms replacing those no longer fitted for a cold climate. In their turn these were forced south until only the lichens and mosses were left. There are even yet 1687 varieties of plant life within the Arctic Circle, of which 762 are flowering. Among these are poppies. The primeval forests of the far north are now represented by a weeping

The population of the Arctic regions presents a problem that has not yet been solved. The Laps, the Samoyeds, the Tchuktches, and the Eskimos are the names given to the several races. Recently what may be a distinct race has been reported, the members of which never saw a white man until this year. Nothing definite is known of the history of these people, and if any reason exists for supposing them to have been of southern origin, we are not aware of it. Most writers on the subject suggest that these tribes were driven north by more powerful tribes from the south, but this is only a surmise. One of the most strenuous advocates of this theory says that the period of northern migration was at least a thousand years ago, which simply means that he is making a wild guess. Moreover, on no such theory can the existence of Eskimo tribes across an area measuring 3,200 miles east and west be explained. Stress is laid upon the resemblance between some of the Northwest Coast Indians and the Eskimos, but this is explainable quite as readily on the supposition that the Indians came south as that the Eskimos went north. Examination of numberless graves found in Western Siberia shows that at one time a race of people lived there who understood the making of bronze utensils and implements. These people prosecuted agriculture and carried on extensive systems of irrigation, the remains of the canals being many). The remains of horses, sheep and goats have also been found. They also were proficient in mining. Some writers suggest that this civilization was overthrown in the Fifth Century by the Turkish invasion of Siberia, but if we grant it to have been of such recent occurrence, it does not explain the origin of the people in the first instance. If, as has been advanced, these people, hard, as we shall see later, and although Hudwho now make weapons of stone, once understood mining and working in metals, and if to the Orient by way of the north, this seemed they were fourteen hundred years ago very only to convince merchants that such a way numerous, the explanation of their present condition by the fact that it is due to a Turkish invasion, which of itself is only guessed at, presupposes something that is absolutely without historical parallel. The writer, whose views have just been mentioned, says the Samoyeds are fierce and warlike. Retrogression in civilization by a fierce and warlike people, who were skilled in agriculture, is a much more violent hypothesis than the theory that this race is indigenous to the North, and brought from the farther North the remains of a civilization once existent there. Irrigation and working in metals are the results only of centuries of civilization. Surely it seems not unreasonable to suggest that the inhabitants of Siberia, who at one time had reached a stage of advancement far higher than has yet been attained in many of the so-called civilized parts of the world, and since have lost it, learned their industrial arts in the North and brought them south as they were driven before the increasing cold, which made their prosection impossible. The Greek myths assign the discovery of the art of working in metals to the gods. Hebrew mythology tells us that Tubal Cain, who was sixth in descent from Cain and the wife he took out of the Land of Nod, was "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron." This is not inconsistent with the Greek myth, and both are quite consistent with the theory of the great World Mountain at the North, the primeval home of man and the birthplace of civilization.

### HENRY HUDSON

Elsewhere in today's Supplement are some pictures illustrative of the discovery of the Hudson River and the first experiment in steam navigation thereon. Accompanying them is a picture of the Lusitania, and this affords some means of comparing the progress in navigation during the last three centuries. We have already dealt with the invention of the steamboat, and shown that Robert Fulton was not entitled to the whole credit of it, as is frequently claimed by writers in the United States. He was, however, the first person to inaugurate successfully a passenger service by

with the elephant tribe as far back as human high place among the pioneers of industrial

Henry Hudson's part in the exploration of

America was a notable one, and he has been more fortunate than some of his contemporaries in having his name preserved in connection with his achievements. The name of Columbus is only borne in more or less altered form by regions that he never saw, whereas Hudson's is attached to the scene of his gallant labors. He was an Englishman by birth, although it is not known in what year he was He was first heard of in May, 1607, born. when he was sent by the Muscovy Company to seek a northeast passage to the coast of China. The way around Africa was already known, but the merchants trading in Northern Europe hoped to discover a shorter passage around the north of Asia. Hudson pushed boldly north and passed the eighty-second parallel; that is to say, he came within six hundred miles of the Pole. Then he returned to England, but in the following year he renewed his effort, passing around North Cape and going as far as Nova Zembla, where his further progress was stopped by the ice, and he went home again. That he was an explorer of more than usual courage is shown by the fact that, when defeated in finding a passage to the eastward, he endeavored to sail around the north of Greenland, where he believed there was a "furious overfall," whatever that may mean, by which he could make his way around the north of North America. The only tangible result of these voyages was the inauguration of the whaling industry in the waters adjacent to Spitzbergen. In 1608 his fame as a venturesome navigator led to his employment by the Dutch East India Company to find a passage to China "by the east or by the west." On April 5 he left the Texel in the Half Moon, and sailed for Nova Zembla, but his crew being mutinous and the season being too early for navigation in northern waters, he retraced his course, and after consulting his men, sailed southward for Virginia. He himself wished to make another effort to pass around the north of Greenland, but he was overruled by his crew. He reached America in due course and, after coasting for a few weeks, he reached what is now New York Harbor, and on September 12th began his celebrated voyage up the river to which his name has been given. He went altogether a distance of 150 miles from the sea. He hoped that he had found a way to the China Sea, but the Indians convinced him of his error. It is notable that while he was exploring the Hudson in the hope of reaching the Orient, Champlain was exploring the Lake, which bears his name, in the hope that it would lead to the mysterious South Sea. The explorers were at one time within sixty miles of each other, but so far as is known neither learned of the presence of the other. Apart from making known the existence of the great river, the chief result of Hudson's voyage was that it eradicated the error entertained almost universally in Europe, that this Continent north of latitude 40 narrowed to an isthmus, similar to that of Panama, and that a short land journey would lead to the shore of the Pacific Ocean, if indeed there was not a waterway in that latitude uniting the two oceans.

But beliefs in geographical propositions die son had failed in three efforts to find a way existed. Accordingly a strong joint stock company was organized and Hudson was despatched in the ship Discoverie, a vessel of 70 tons, to find the Northwest Passage. On a previous voyage he thought he had acquired information that seemed to warrant the belief that a passage could be found west of Greenland to the desired destination. He found the entrance to the Strait and sailed through it into the great Inland Sea known now as Hudson Bay. This was in 1610. He wintered at the southern extremity of the Bay, and the following spring he set out to explore its wesern shore in the hope of finding a passage that would lead to the west. But his men were alarmed for the future. They were surrounded by the terrors of the unknown, and on Midsummer Day they mutinied and, placing him and his son with five men, who had remained loyal to him, in a small sailing craft, sent them adrift. The mutineers afterwards suffered terribly, and only a few of them were alive when the Discoverie was finally brought home to London. Of the fate of Hudson and his companions absolutely nothing is known. With very little food, if any, and in a stormy sea, five of the men being almost dead with scurvy, there is no likelihood that Hudson long survived the day when he was set adrift. He is one of the most interesting of all explorers. He came upon the stage without any record being preserved as to his parentage. Four years later he disappeared somewhere in the vast waters of the Bay, which has been styled "at once his monument and his grave." He left one son, and the records of the East India Company show that in 1614 the lad was recommended for a post on one of the company's ships, and £5 was spent in buying him

It has been said above that belief in geographical notions dies hard, and although explorers subsequent to its discovery examined the shores of Hudson Bay, it was not until Vancouver had chartered the Northwest Coast of the Continent that the idea of the existence of a passage from the Bay to the Pacific Ocean was abandoned. A staunch upholder of this theory was Captain Meares, who explored the western coast of Vancouver Island in 1789. He sailed up the Strait of Juan de reserved and frankly proud of his talented son. own clients."

Fuca as far at least as Race Rocks, for he tells of seeing a great passage opening before him to the northeast and extending as far as the eye could reach. He was obliged to return to Nootka, and trouble with the Spaniards prevented him from returning to complete his explorations. He was absolutely convinced that a passage existed through the Continent and was connected at the northeast with Chesterfield Inlet, that arm of Hudson Bay, which extends westward from its northwestern extremity. His views were set forth in a pamphlet, and among the reasons given by him for maintaining his opinion was the existence of floating ice in the more northerly channels along this coast. This he said could not possibly have been formed in this "almost tropical" climate. Another reason was that there were whales here, and he was certain that these creatures must have come from the Atlantic by way of the alleged channel. To us nowadays this may seem very absurd; but let us put ourselves in Meares' position. He knew of the claim of Juan de Fuca, who said that he sailed up the Strait bearing his name and come out into the Atlantic, and had offered merchants of Genoa to repeat the voyage if any of them would accompany him and bear the expense: He knew of Chesterfield Inlet extending an uncertain distance to the west. He saw the fine sheet of water that lies before Victoria, and he doubtless heard from Indians that it reached far away to the northeast, as indeed it does, for it terminates at the head of Bute Inlet, which is between two hundred and three hundred miles from the ocean. Geographers had very little idea of the width of America and that Bute Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet might be united was not wholly an un-

reasonable suggestion. It is well occasionally to look at historical events as though they were presented to us in a picture, and in this sense let us take a brief glance at the place which Hudson holds in American exploration. He discovered the Hudson and it was to the control of that highway that the struggles of the War of Independence were chiefly directed, for it was felt that to be master of the Hudson was to be master of the rebellious colonies. It was by the valley of the Hudson that later De Witt Clinton planned to develop what was then the West, and it was the expansion of commerce along it that made New York the commercial metropolis of the United States. By his discovery of Hudson Bay the explorer opened a field for the enterprise of British adventurers, and the formation of the Hudson Bay Company followed in due course, and thus the northern half of the Continent was secured to England. And as in the case of the river he opened a highway for the commerce of the world, so in the case of the Bay he showed the way to a passage into the heart of the Continent, and three centuries after he died, a victim to the treachery of his sailors, it is likely to become one of the great avenues of trade. The Northwest Passage, which he sought, was not to be his to find; but he nevertheless discovered what will in a short time be the shortest route from England to the Orient. And this was the object of the voyage which ended in his death.

# The Great Novelist

(N. de Bertrand Lugrin)

### George Meredith

There is probably no modern novelist who has been subjected to such a diversity of criticism as the recently deceased George Meredith. That he was a man possessing a most extraordinary individuality is conceded by all of his critics, and one of the foremost traits of his character was the obstinate taciturnity he preserved in regard to his early life and the life of his parents. As an instance of this we are told that during March, '91, when the census was being taken he refused to answer definitely any questions that were put "Where were you born?" was into him. quired. "Is that necessary?" "Yes." "Well, put Hampshire." "Oh, that's too vague, you'll have the paper returned for a more definite "Well, say near Petersfield," and that was the extent of the information he would furnish, declining even to admit that writing was his occupation. He could seldom be induced to mention his parents. "My father," he is quoted as saying, "lived to be seventy-five. He was a muddler and a fool." Of his mother he spoke more respectfully. She was of Irish origin, he said, and handsome, refined and witty. "I think," he expressed himself, "that there must have been some Saxon strain in the ancestry to account for a virility of temperament which corrected the Celtic in me, although the feminine rules in so far as my portraiture of womanhood is faithful. Practically left alone in boyhood, I was placed by the trustee of my mother's small property at school, my chief remembrance of which is three dreary services on Sundays, the giving out of the texts being the signal to me for inventing tales of the Saint George and Dragon

If we are to believe those who knew his father, Meredith's terse description of his marriage salary limit is really a matter of polparental relative is in no sense a fair one. He icy. Bank clerks are exposed to a good dea as heing a man of fine presence, dignified and means of safeguarding their clerks and their

Mr. Chesterton describes Meredith as a Pagan or at least as a man who came nearer than any other of our times to clean and wellpoised Paganism, as he possessed that "great and central sacramental idea which is the one thing marking religion from all imitations of religion or false definitions of it." In short, that he possessed "the element which can only be called the materialization of the true

mystic.' "Women," wrote Meredith, "will be the last thing civilized by man." This bare-faced statement looks insolently superior, and yet in all of the great novelist's writings he seems to place woman above reason rather than below it, and makes her appear more of a Pagan than man in her kinship to the elements of the Universe, and for this reason superior to the physically stronger sex.

Most of Meredith's admirers place him as a philosopher far above the average and class him as a poet as well. There is no doubt whatever about the genius of the man, and most of us can forgive him his occasional depressing cleverness for the sake of the charming simplicity of some of his passages and the eloquent rhetorical outbursts when he allows his imagination, his love of nature and his reverence for women have full sway.

Meredith was twice married. Of his first experience in matrimony he had little to say. On one occasion he remarked: "No sun warmed my roof-tree; the marriage was a blunder; she was nine years my senior." "How slender were the novelist's means up to the prime of life is shown," writes Mr. Clodd, a personal friend of Meredith's, "in his gladly supplementing them by reading at times to a blind old lady and by welcome acceptance of the inadequately paid post of reader to Chapman and Hall on the death of John Forster in 1876." Legacies came to him later, however, which placed him in more comfortable circumstances.

Among Meredith's earliest works may be mentioned, "The Shaving of Shagpat," and 'Farina," both of which show the splendor of his imagination. Later books to be produced and which have been considered by many as the best he has written are "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel," and "Evan Harrington," but the ripeness of his genius is displayed in the books which followed these, "Diana of the Crossways," and "The Egoist." Later still he produced "The Amazing Marriage," which created much talk in literary circles, and which remains very popular among those who like to take their novels very seriously, and who have the time and the inclination to study an author's obscurities.

One of the greatest, if not the greatest, of the writer's books is "Diana of the Crossways." In this novel the central figure is a splendid type of woman, about whom the rest of the people in the story revolve like satellites about a planet. Diana is an Irish gentlewoman, strong and beautiful, pure and passionate. She marries when very young a man who seems blind to the beauty of her nature, though he is very much enamoured of her many personal charms. He suspects her of an intrigue with a nobleman, and sues for divorce. When the husband and wife separate the story of Diana really begins, for it is then her strength of character displays itself. Her career is always honorable and picturesque, and the story though long in the reading is worth the time spent upon it. Diana is one of the characters in fiction that will live long.

The following is a specimen of Meredith's poetry, and reminds one in the obscurity of its meaning of Robert Browning: Evening

We saw the swallows gathering in the sky, And in the osier-aisle we heard their noise. We had not to look back on summer joys, Or forward to a summer of bright dye; But in the largeness of the evening earth Our spirits grew as we went side by side. The hour became her husband and my bride. Love that had robbed us so, thus blessed our dearth.

The pilgrims of the year waxed very loud In multitudinous chatterings as the flood Full brown came from the West, and like pale

Expanded to the upper crimson cloud. Love that had robbed us of immortal things, This little moment mercifully gave, Where I have seen across the twilight wave The swan sail with her young beneath her wings.

## MARRIAGE WAGE FOR BANK CLERKS

Molson's Bank, Ottawa, has raised to £240 per annum the limit of the salary on which its clerks are allowed to marry. Few banking firms permit their clerks to marry until their income has reached a certain figure.

"The usual limit," says a banker, "is £150 or £160 in London, and in the country it is generally rather less. It is based, of course, on the cost of living, and while in many banks the limit is strictly defined, in some it is merely an unwritten rule. In either case, however, the clerk cannot afford to disregard it, for such a course has often spelled instant dismissal. The rule, I think, is a very salutary one, taken all round. A man is generally from twenty-seven to thirty by the time his income has reached the limit imposed—a good marriageable age. and cases of real hardship are not many. The described in a contemporary's reminiscences of temptation, and their employers take this

Conservative Leaders cided as to Issue

PARTIES PREPARING

LONDON, Sept. 24.-The both political parties are vinced that a general ele take place either in Dec uary, the date depending up the House of Lords shall budget outright or take a

orizing course.

The House of Common clude its discussion of the besend it to the House of Lo October 21st. Meantime the campaign which is proceeding out the country is approach dimensions of a general electric paign. The Conservatives organized, and claim to be

with four hundred new both sides appear equally but it is evident that the the Conservatives are far for as to the best course to Should the House of Lords budget it would be extremed that the Liberals might we double issue of reform in of Lords and the budget.
reason the shrewd modera
the Conservative side are
make the election issue a
four recently laid it down form versus Socialism, ke question of the House of L background, and it is be Mr. Balfour and Lord Lan-in favor of the House of cepting the budget on the ing that the government vately dissolve parliament to the country.

# FORCIBLE FEED

Effort to End Suffragettes Strike" Causes Wild S in Prison

LONDON, Sept. 24.—Wil are reported to have taker the prison at Birmingham a sult of the forcible feedir stomach pump of the suffra are on a "hunger strike." men resisted the efforts of ers, smashing windows and the wardresses, and finally handcuffed and placed in so finement. The leaders of gettes here are indignant of tempt to feed the womentend that forcible feeding and intend to bring actic medical authorities of the received in it.

# FAST CUNARDE

Passe Lusitania's Her Leave Cruiser ible Astern

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. gers on the steamer Lusit arrived today from Live Queenstown were treated ting sight yesterday after at 4 o'clock the ocean lin the British battleship cruble, the flagship of the I sels here to take part in the traiting celebration.

sels here to take part in Fulton celebration.
The war vessel manned and the band played the American national anthen Lusitania's passengers che The Lusitania left thastern, after one hour siby side, and arrived at lightship at 9:57 last night VIOLENCE IN O

Strike Rioting Gives Police to do—Hope of Settle Entertained

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. been a busy day today in Riot calls have come from parts of the city, there specials within an hour to specials within an hour the Not over half a dozen arrewere made, although dowere stoned, and several their crews more or President Waters, of the company, had a conferer mayors of Omaha, Con South Omaha, Florence, and also with the direcompany, and expressed that meetings to be held ton thing towards a settleme velon. Car service was velop. Car service was seven o'clock to avoid trouble.

Trail's Water Su TRAIL, B. C., Sept. 24 authorizing the city of the sum of \$25,000 for t acquiring or install owned water system The vote at the clo highly gratifying of a municipally steps will be take an ample supply of and fire purposes, taken from Cambr mountain stream southwest of the cit

VANCOUVER, Se ver opera house and by the C. P. R. to G. S. Harrison for