

A PECULIAR PEOPLE

WITH VERY CURIOUS IDEAS OF A FUTURE STATE.

Superstitions and Legends of the Natives of Greenland—Beliefs Regarding Creation—Manners and Ways That Were Held Objectionable by the Creator.

Besides Ewafki, of South Greenland, the natives of that section have another evil spirit whom they designate Tivigtuk. This Tivigtuk appears to correspond closely with the devils spoken of in the Scriptures who entered the herd of swine and sent them plunging into the sea. Every now and then a native, when he has a more than usually serious altercation with family or friends, instead of fighting runs away to the mountains, where he lives a hermit life and sulks. Then those at the settlement mourn and declare that the man has Tivigtuk in him. Then they hunt him up, and if they find the recluse, force him home, where he is watched over until the bad humor passes away, on which his friends rejoice, and say that the Tivigtuk has become Senepa or dead in him.

In some of their superstitions the South Greenland natives are quite poetical in thought; as, for example, in regard to the aurora borealis, in which they claim that the waving shafts of light are the spirits of the dead Eskimos engaged in kicking phantom walrus skulls across the heavens in a spiritual football.

It is curious that these far northern people, both in South and North Greenland, have the same idea of a future state as the American Indians, founded, doubtless, on the same character of their struggle for animal existence. Like the Indian, the Eskimos believe the spirits of their deceased friends and relatives go to a great place of hunting; but instead of to a vast prairie over which buffalo and deer range in vast herds, as held by the former, the "huskies" spirit hies him to a broad sea in which are countless seals, walrus and Polar bears, and in the shores of which are tuctu, or reindeer, in quality beyond extermination.

Besides these legends, the Peary party came across one in the north regarding creation, which should afford special food for thought for the anthropologists. According to this legend the first man fashioned was white, and while not exactly peblotcu, or crazy, his mental balance was of such a low order and his manners and ways so objectionable that his creator was disgusted with his first attempt, and made another, which gave satisfaction in every way. This other and perfect specimen of manhood was an Eskimo. If the belief of some anthropologists that the Eskimos are the remains of the cave dwellers of the stone age, this legend is remarkable as perhaps being the possible origin of similar legends of other nations. If, on the other hand, as seems more reasonable, from their color, facial outlines, and peculiar shape and set of their eyes, that this strange people are of mongolian origin, the story is still remarkable as having been retained through all their wanderings from Asia through America to their present ice-bound home, the tale losing only the intermediate race creations.—V. A. E. Neenan, in Independent.

Monday More Unlucky Than Friday.

Many years ago, when sailing ships were the only means of communication between the different countries, superstition was more rife among sailors than at the present time. These absurd ideas were not confined to Jack alone. Harper's Young People says they were shared in to a greater or less extent by shipmasters and owners. Friday was considered a day of evil, and the most malignant results were supposed to attend a voyage commenced on this day of the week. In those times he would have indeed been a reckless skipper who would have attempted to sail on this ill-omened day, for the crew would have broken out in open rebellion rather than lift the anchor from the bottom or cast off shore moorings. Since the advent of steam many of these prejudices have become as derelict as the ships on which they were once entertained.

A true story is told of a skeptical Massachusetts captain who, away back in the early years of the republic, determined to exhibit the fallacy of this particular superstition. He contracted on a certain Friday for the building of a ship, and it was arranged that the keel of this vessel was laid on Friday, that she was launched on a Friday, named Friday, commenced loading on a Friday, and hauled into the stream on the same day of the week. To add to the possibilities of disaster, a negro cook named Friday was engaged; and thus fully freighted with the sinister name, the Friday sailed on a Friday, bound to a port in the West Indies. From that day to this no tidings of the ill-conditioned craft have been received. But those of us who like Friday for various reasons, but chiefly because it leads up to Saturday, upon which days schools are closed, will be pleased to hear that it is not half so unlucky a day as Monday, the day schools open again. A German statistician, feeling that Friday had been a much-maligned day, determined to make a scientific investigation of the matter, and has found that it is not Friday, but Monday, that is the most unfortunate of the week-days. According to his investigations 16.74 per cent. of all accidents occur on Monday, 15.51 per cent. on Tuesday, 16.31 per cent. on Wednesday, 15.47 per cent. on Thursday, 16.38 per cent. on Friday, 16.38 per cent. on Saturday, and only 2.69 per cent. on Sunday.

Female Sanitary Engineer.

A woman sanitary engineer has been chosen to represent the English women at the congress of hygiene. She is a woman of versatile genius, a possessor of certificates for art, music, hygiene, divinity, physiology and sanitary science. She visits professionally slaughter-houses, workshops and dairies, and understands all about the laying of drains, water mains, connections and so forth.

An Engineering Feat.

A Scotch engineer is said to have solved the problem of making the mill run with the water that has passed. It is reported by a Glasgow paper that a resident engineer has devised an arrangement by which all the steam used by an engine is returned to the boiler. As a result it is said that as much energy can be gotten out of one ton of coal as is now secured by the consumption of seven tons.

COPPER CAN BE TEMPERED.

A Canadian Blacksmith Rediscovered a Lost Art.

A poor French-Canadian blacksmith named Ferdinand Allard, of Levis, opposite Quebec, has discovered the secret of the lost art of hardening copper so that edged tools of that metal will equal the best steel, and copper plates will turn any ball. The announcement of the discovery, though involving results of the greatest economic importance, attracted, as often happens in such cases, little or no local notice, but outside of his own country Allard's invention promises to be eagerly seized upon. It was brought to the attention of Major-General Herbert, the commander of the Canadian militia, and the cutting tools made by Allard were submitted to his inspection and to that of engineers named by him. All of the examiners expressed their surprise at the wonderful edge and hardness that had been attained. It was the general suggestion, made with an eye to the possibility of the discovery's being utilized for the arming of British war vessels, that the inventor prepare a sheet of his hardened copper, 1 1/2 of a line in thickness, to be tested under the direction of the lords of the admiralty. Private reports from England state that the experiments in the royal dockyards have proved eminently successful, though nothing official upon the subject has yet been communicated to Allard. At a preliminary trial of similar sheets at the rifle ranges, the bullet, fired from a distance of forty yards, was shattered into a thousand fragments by its first impact with the hardened copper. On the second more fairly, was completely flattened, but remained embedded in the plate, which it merely dented slightly, without cracking it in any way. Allard's friends declare that all the tests so far made have proved most satisfactory, and that the inventor, among other things, has made by his process a copper razor equal in edge and temper to the best article of the famous Rodgers manufacture.

The story of how Allard came to rediscover the art which was known to the ancients, and especially to the old pyramid-builders of Egypt, reads like a romance. Thirty-three years ago, when working at his trade in the United States, he heard a comrade in the same shop say that the man who could rediscover the lost secret of tempering copper would make a fortune. Ever afterward this saying haunted his mind, and for over thirty years he sought the secret in vain. He made thousands of experiments which ended only in failure and disappointment. A hundred times he vowed that if the next trial failed he would abandon the search, which was wasting his limited means and proving seemingly a veritable will-o'-the-wisp for him. At last he fully decided to make one more trial, and if that failed to give the whole thing up forever. A new combination had occurred to his mind and success crowned his efforts.

One-Piece Barrels.

A German has patented a process for making barrels without staves. The trunk of a tree is sawed into lengths to the size of the barrel required, and the chunks are placed in a boiler and boiled for a few hours. It is believed that if a current of electricity be passed through the boiler a chemical action is generated that softens the wood for working. After the boiling the bark is stripped from the chunks. In front of a cutting tool the chunks are held by forks in a manner similar to that in which a piece of wood is held in a lathe. The chunk revolves rapidly against the edge of a fixed broad blade that cuts a continuous sheet of soft wood of any desired thickness. The strip passes to a flat table, where it is cut transversely into lengths of the required size. One machine cuts grooves for the head and the bottom, and another cuts V-shaped slots out of the edges. Then the pieces are bent into cylinders and hooped. Moisture is extracted by a drying apparatus.

Wonder Workers.

An English mint possesses an electrically operated machine for counting coins. There is a tree in Jamaica known as the life tree on account of its leaves growing even after being severed from the plant; only by fire can it be entirely destroyed.

The Russian physician who proposes to cure neuralgic pains by throwing a beam of electric light from an arc lamp on the part affected is entitled to a respectful hearing. It will be a long time before we exhaust the uses of this mystic agent.

A French manufacturer makes minute electric lamps about the size of a pea for the use of photographers in the dark room. They are intended to be mounted in the middle of a pair of spectacles or on the frame without the glasses, the lamp being shielded by a reflector. The battery is made up of accumulator cells.

A Substitute for Asbestos.

A new material, not unlike asbestos in its properties, has been discovered in immense deposits in the United States of Columbia. It is stated to be the color of amber, perfectly transparent, and incombustible. Experiments made at Bogota indicate that it will be of great value for the manufacture of bank note paper, for fireproof and waterproof roofing tiles, and for suits for firemen. A white varnish can be extracted from it. The substance has been named but-cara manquina, and it is expected to prove of greater importance than asbestos.

The Earth's Population.

The latest estimates make the total population of the earth 1,440,000,000. It is also set down that the languages spoken now number 3,000. The Lutheran Kirchenzeitung states that the Bible is now accessible to fully two-thirds of the human race. It is true that the Scriptures have been translated into not more than 187 languages, but those are the dominating tongues of the world, and through them Christianity reaches the bulk of mankind—or may do so. England and America are immeasurably ahead in the production of translators and translations.

Cloth from Wood.

A German chemist has patented a method for the isolation of the fibers of wood so that they can be spun and made into yarns capable of being woven. The wood is first cut into thin strips, which are repeatedly passed between roughened rollers, so that they are bent and cracked in many places. After thorough treatment in this manner the mass is finally changed into a fibrous substance, the fibres being very delicate and soft, and yet strong. It is said that the material can be spun like cotton, and takes colors very well.

GLASGOW HOUSE

Stock-Taking

Bargains !

McLAUGHLIN & CO.

P. S.—Produce Taken.

A Happy New Years to all.
N. McLAUGHLIN,
Druggist, Gorrie.

Gorrie Tin Store.

STOVES

For the Kitchen.
For the Dining Room.
For the Hall.
For the Parlor.
For the Sick Room.
For the Rich.
For the Poor.

PRICES DOWN TO BED-ROCK.

See Me about Getting a Furnace.

Lamp Goods,

Cutlery.

Tinware, etc.,
In endless abundance and Variety.

Repairing

Done to Order and in First-Class Style

JAMES SUTHERLAND,
Tinsmith, Gorrie.

Sheep Skins Wanted.

Don't burn your fingers making toast. Get a Toaster, for only 15c. A SUTHERLAND'S.

Get an adjustable cover for boiling kettles. It fits any size.

Lovely things in Fancy Lamps and Shades AT SUTHERLAND'S.

Cutlery of all styles. Something nobby in this line, SUTHERLAND'S.

Does that mouse in the pantry bother you? You can get any style of mouse or rat traps. AT SUTHERLAND'S.

You'll be surprised at the number and variety of beautiful and useful articles, just suitable for X-mas presents, AT SUTHERLAND'S.

Lanterns, granite iron tea pots, flat-irons, cutlery holders, trays, scoops, skates or anything, AT SUTHERLAND'S.

Write Us

FOR—
Club Terms

FOR 1898

AND VALUABLE PRIZE LIST.

IT WILL PAY YOU

The Finest List of Premiums ever offered by a Canadian Paper.

DAILY GLOBE, Morning Ed. \$6.00
" " Second " 4.00
" " Saturday " 1.50

WEEKLY GLOBE

From now to end 1898, Only One Dollar.

ANYONE CAN GET UP A CLUB AND SECURE A HANDSOME PRIZE.

Write early, '98.

THE GLOBE, Toronto.

J. H. TAMA N
TAILOR

Has Removed

To the Sharpin Building, opposite Albion Hotel, Gorrie, where he will be pleased to meet his friends and customers.