

TALK TO MARS AT \$10,000,000 A CHAT

Only 35,000,000 Miles Away and Communication Can Be Established by Mirrors

PLANET WILL BE CLOSE SHORTLY

Martians Tall, Thin, Furry and Have Big Heads—Columbia's Astronomers Admit This Much, but Are Not Sure They Would Know Our Signal

Boston Men on earth may be able to communicate with the inhabitants of Mars soon, said Professor William Henry Pickering of Harvard. This will be possible by flash messages when that planet approaches to within 35,000,000 miles of the earth or 5,000,000 miles closer than ever before.

"If there are inhabitants on Mars who have advanced as far as man has and who are provided with telescopes as powerful as we today possess they could easily perceive our signals and undoubtedly could recognize and answer them."

"My plan of communication would require the use of a series of mirrors so arranged as to present a reflecting surface toward the planet. As the surface necessary for reflecting the sun's light 35,000,000 miles would have to be more than a quarter of a mile long, a single mirror would not be practicable. We would have to use many of them."

"These mirrors would all have to be attached to one great axis parallel to the axis of the earth, run by motors and so timed as to make a complete revolution every twenty-four hours, thus carrying the reflecting surface



A Martian According to Dr. Mitchell's Description.

ground with the axis once a day and adjusting the necessity of continually readjusting it to allow for the movement of the planets.

"As far as the people of Mars are concerned, this reflector would, of course, be apparent to the naked eye, but through lenses of such magnitude as we have today the reflection would be easily discernible and would undoubtedly attract attention at once."

"The best time for transmitting such a reflection would be in the morning, a little after sunrise. The cost of such an undertaking would be about \$10,000,000."

New York City.—When a reporter inquired the astronomical sanctorum of Columbia University to learn how star-gazers there regarded Prof. William Henry Pickering's plan for communicating with Mars, Prof. Howard Jacoby, head of the department, and Dr. S. A. Mitchell, his associate, were just bowing out a venerable gentleman who had inquired as to the weight of holes in cheese.

"His problem was little less obtuse than some propounded to us concerning Mars," smiled Prof. Jacoby, "but we are always glad to answer questions, as discussion stimulates interest in astronomy. Now, you ask if we might signal to Mars by projecting a reflected ray of light from a mirror or series of mirrors a quarter of a mile in area. This is scientifically possible, but impractical. Why not wait for the Martians, if there be any, to signal us? Would it not then be time enough to rig up an answering apparatus?"

"Quite the correct idea," agreed Dr. Mitchell.

The professors were asked what a Martian ought to look like.

"Well, to begin with he would be tall and spindle-shaped," replied Dr. Mitchell. "It is a certainty that there are no fat men on Mars. The attraction of gravity is two-thirds less than here, hence he would grow upward instead of sideways. He would make a great Marathon runner, as the resistance is less. His head would be immense when compared to the diameter of his body and his eyes might be as big as saucers. As I'm waiting this Martian I'm going to have him to my own liking."

"Having exceedingly brainy he has probably discovered a way to get outside his kind through the incubation process. I don't believe the martians are web-footed, but they probably use a few oars of feet."

LEAVES CURE SNAKEBITES

Authority on Rattlesnakes Says Professor is Far Behind Times—Discovery Turned Town Temperance.

Port Jervis, N. Y.—Science may not know how to cure the bite of a rattlesnake, but if Doc Marshall will hunt up the *Greeding boys* in Pike County, Pennsylvania, they will tell him how to do it. Or he can find out from John C. Geer, of Fremont Centre, Sullivan County, New York, that the leaves of the arrow leaf violet (*Viola sagittalis*) never fail to cure.

This was the statement of William Nearpass, perpetual supervisor from Deerpark township, editor, trout sharp and authority on the rattlesnakes of the upper Delaware river. His remarks were addressed to Eric Conductor "Bill" Baxter regarding the Philadelphia dispatch telling how Dr. John Marshall, chemistry and toxicology professor of the University of Pennsylvania had informed a bunch of medical men that there was no known cure for snakebite.

No one has from snakebites along the Delaware continued the deacon, not since John Geer some thirty years ago found out that if he had a few violet leaves of a certain kind handy he could defy the venom of all the rattlers of Pike and Sullivan counties combined. Just had to chew a few leaves, green or dried, and get about his business.

"Geer," said the deacon, "was the savior in the snake industry. He knew more about rattlesnakes and their habits than you are ever likely to learn about original sin."

Geer was always getting bit by the serpents and kept a whisky flask handy. One day the bites came so fast that the flask went dry, and he went to a tavern in twenty miles.

"Geer always drew a veil of silence over what happened the rest of the day, but he never drank whisky for snakebite or anything else after that and in place of the flask carried a leather tobacco pouch with a lot of queer-looking dried leaves in it."

"He would not tell what it was for some time, though everybody in four counties soon learned that John Geer had a cure for snakebite and that wasn't whisky. People drove for miles across country to reach Geer and his cure. Always saved them too."

WILD BEASTS GETTING BOLD

Mountain Lions and Wildcat Attack Ing Men and Horses.

Dayton, Wash.—Not for many years have mountain lions and wildcats been so numerous in the Blue Mountains as they are this season. Hanged horses have been killed and even men are attacked.

Ben Magill, on his return from a trip to the Tukanon, reports the killing of a valuable saddle horse belonging to R. W. Magill. The lion sprang from a tree under which the horse had sought shelter from a storm less than a month ago. Frank Lotzen, a Tukanon farmer, was attacked by a cat at the entrance of his cabin, and saved his life only by beating off his assailant with an axe. It is not uncommon to find cats and even lions prowling about barnyards along the roads. More cat bounties have been paid than for twenty years.

Trappers and hunters attribute the boldness of the animals to a scarcity of small game and the protracted winter with an unusual depth of snow.

HAND GROWS TO ARM.

Michigan Surgeons Successful in Unusual Operation.

Kalamazoo Mich.—The hand that was severed from the wrist of Charles Miller at a paper factory here recently has been successfully rejoined to his arm, and it is said that the young man will shortly be discharged from Bronson Hospital, with the prospect of regaining full use of his hand. Only a small piece of flesh held the hand and arm together when the accident occurred, but doctors quickly bound them together and the wound has rapidly healed.

Doctors here say that few such operations have resulted successfully.

SAYS MEAT MAKES DRUNKARDS.

Doctor Urges Vegetarian Diet to Cure Alcoholism.

Washington.—"If you have a strong appetite for King Alcohol and tobacco and want to be cured of the habit, just eat a vegetable diet for six months."

This was the advice given by Dr. D. H. Kress of this city in an address entitled "Dyspepsia and Its Relation to Inebriety," before the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Other Drug Narcotics. He discussed the evil effects of an excessive diet and declared that overeating leads to drunkenness. "If you would not become a drunkard," said Dr. Kress, "then quit eating meat."

Rides in Auto at 100 to Vote.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Peter Keck, of Berwick, celebrated his one hundredth birthday by being taken to the polls in an automobile to vote. It was his first ride in an automobile, and he enjoyed it. He has seven living children, the eldest being eighty years, twenty-four grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Oklahoma Tribute to Art.

Chickasha, Okla.—The west gallery in the Chickasha Opera House sagged eight inches in a minstrel performance, but the show was so good that somebody ran out and got a few nails, propped up the gallery and the performance continued.

PRING BUSHES APPLE BRANDY.

Farmer Strikes Underground Lake in Pocket of Rock in Missouri—Regarded as "Unusual."

Springfield, Mo.—What chance has a State-wide prohibition in Missouri when applejack, pure, undiluted apple brandy, mellow with age bubbles up from the ground like a spring? When a do it. Or he can find out from John C. Geer, of Fremont Centre, Sullivan County, New York, that the leaves of the arrow leaf violet (*Viola sagittalis*) never fail to cure.

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COUNT LEO TOLSTOY



Great age does not stifle the imaginative qualities of the distinguished Russian philosopher and writer. His latest book on the subject of the regeneration of the Czar's empire is considered the most powerful appeal he has ever made in favor of an oppressed people.

SCARED BY BATTLE IN CLOUDS

Sham Sight of Troops, Reproduced in Mirage, Frightened Villagers.

Heidelberg A terrifying phenomenon in the heavens recently alarmed the superstitious villagers of Horzbach and Oberbach on the frontier of Baden and Wurtemberg. In the clouds, just before 10 o'clock in the forenoon, there appeared a bright red streak on which could be plainly seen a landscape with fields, streams and woods, among which two bodies of troops in battle formation were advancing toward each other, firing volleys. The puffs of smoke were clearly visible.

Half an hour later the picture suddenly disappeared, but the excitement and fear aroused among the villagers lasted until next morning, when the explanation appeared in the newspapers of the district that a sham fight had been held by the garrison of Merzheim, some twenty miles distant, and had caused the mirage.

No Snow, No Pay, for Zeb's Sleigh.

Winsted, Conn.—Zeb Holley, of Brushy Hill, near Woodbury, has bought a new sleigh on the installment plan. Every time it snows he is to make a payment on it. There have been two snowfalls since he bought the sleigh, costing \$20, and as he pays only \$1 for a snow storm he figures he will be able to draw at least seven months' interest on the other fellow's money.

Monkeys Apt Pupils at College.

Washington.—That a monkey can learn something new every day, although the only people with whom it comes in contact are college professors, is said to have been demonstrated by the Department of Psychology in George Washington University. Experiments have been conducted upon twenty monkeys, and interesting data are being arranged for publication.

The Highest Quality of Babies.

Washington, Mrs. Bolva A. Lockwood says that when Prof. Max O. Schapp told the Colony Club, of New York, that woman suffrage would lead to a race suicide, he must have had sheep in his head.

"Suffrage means no babies!" she said. "On the contrary, it means the highest quality of babies."

BIG EAGLE FOUGHT BAND OF FARMERS

America's Great Bird Had Been Caught Trying to Carry Off a 35-Pound Boy

BOLDLY SWOOPS DOWN ON CHILD

Battle Royal Ensnared Between Farmers Armed with Pitchforks and the Magnificent Eagle—Men Won but the Bird Carried Off Honors of War.

St. Charles, Ill. In a battle royal between a collection of farmers armed with pitchforks, sticks and stones on one side, and a huge eagle of magnificent size, on the other, the men finally won although the fighting honors rightfully belonged to the bird, which had been interfered with in its attempts to carry off the three-year-old son of Peter Johnson.

Fully a score of persons participated in the conflict with the eagle and pitchforks, clubs and stones were brought into service before the bird, exhausted from its efforts, gave up the fight. Johnson was terribly scratched in the encounter although his son was unharmed.

The Johnson boy was playing on his father's farm near St. Charles when the eagle was first observed.

The great bird circled about the vicinity at a great height for several minutes. Suddenly with the speed of a lightning flash, it darted down, and its steel-like talons had caught the child's dress.

The child's surprise for a second struck him dumb and the eagle, with a very ounce of its strength, gave way upward. Surprise gave way to alarm. The child screamed for aid and struggled vigorously to free himself from the eagle's clutches.

The boy is a stocky, built and weighing about 35 pounds, and the bird was unable to make great progress.

The father heard the screams of his child and hurried from his home. He saw the boy in the bird's clutches and ran toward the scene of the struggle.

With all his strength he threw himself on the eagle and bore it to the ground. The child was saved and ran shrieking for assistance for his father. The man and the bird were locked in a death grip, the eagle using its claws, while Johnson struck out with his free hand as he held the bird with the other.

Neighbors were soon on the scene. From the start they were determined if possible, to capture the eagle alive. Sticks and stones fell on its body, while both wings were immediately crippled.

The breaking of the wings made escape of the eagle impossible, but for two hours it fluttered along the ground, fiercely repelling every attack until, completely exhausted, it was pinned to the earth by two pitchforks.

The eagle when measured proved to be twelve feet from tip to tip of its wings and a perfect specimen of its kind. It is believed it will speedily recover from the injuries received in its struggle with the men, and Johnson plans to present it to some zoological garden.

Although Johnson is suffering in some pain as a result of the scratches received in the fight, none of his hurts is regarded as dangerous, the worst wound being an immense gash torn in his left shoulder. He was greatly weakened from loss of blood.

The boy is none the worse for his experience and takes the greatest delight in watching the imprisoned bird.

A STRANGE NEW PERIL

Travelers Tell of Cactus That Jumped at Them.

Torreon, Mexico.—Travelers returning here from the mountains have discovered a new species of cactus which they have named "catcuss" because they say it springs upon travelers like a cat and makes them "cuss." The paper says that the "catcuss" grows upon a stalk and is shaped like a small ball and covered with spines. Travelers claim that it is attracted by the warmth of a human or animal body and that it springs from its stem onto the passerby, the spines piercing the flesh and holding on like a cactus spine.

BROTHERS KILLED SAME WAY.

Interval Exactly Four Years—Both Run Over by Trains.

Redding, Cal.—At the same spot and in the same way in which, four years ago to a day his brother was killed, Daniel McKenzie, a farmer living near Lamone, was killed by a train.

McKenzie lay down and went to sleep on the track half a mile north of Lamone. Train No. 228 struck him and cut his body in twain. The engineer saw McKenzie as the train came around the curve, but not in time to come to a stop.

Has an Albino Pheasant.

Albany, Ore.—On the farm of Peter Byrne, three miles east of Halsey, is a pure white China pheasant. It was captured last fall and so far as can be learned is the only albino China pheasant in existence. It has all of the characteristics of an ordinary China pheasant except that its feathers are pure white.

NEVER HEARD OF ROOSEVELT

Startling Ignorance Displayed by Albert Courtney, Who Comes in from American Deserts.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Albert Courtney, a mining prospector and British subject, heard a few days ago for the first time that Queen Victoria had died. He refused to believe the report and is looking for an English paper to confirm the news.

The name of Theodore Roosevelt was a strange one to him. Vague rumors came to him along in 1898 and 1899 that Spain and the United States were at war. Not an echo of the Boer war reached him.

Naturally ping pong, diabolo, the plays of George Bernard Shaw, the defeat of "Bill" Squires, the suffragist



movement the result of election and all the other great facts and occurrences of recent years were matters of which he was ignorant.

This hiatus in the life of Courtney comes from the fact that in the last fifteen years he has been lost to the world on the desert of Nevada and Arizona. He was a recluse and did not see a book or newspaper during the entire period.

And now is the Queen?" was one of his first questions.

Roosevelt? Roosevelt?" he said on a query. "Never heard the name before. And who is e—"

Courtney is seventy years of age and is well preserved physically and mentally.

INDIAN RUNS DOWN WOLVES.

On Overtaking His Hired Quarry Uses Club to Kill Him.

Superior, Wis.—At Solon Springs, near here lives Charley Taylor, a half-breed Indian who might be a good man to enter in some of the big Marathon races.

Taylor is in the wolf hunting business for the bounty there is in it and catches his wolves by running them down. He hit the hot trail of one of the timber beasts recently and overtook the exhausted animal three days later. He killed it with a stout club which he carries when "hunting."

Taylor says that there is nothing remarkable about hunting wolves in this manner. With snow shoes a man can run down a wolf, whose pace is slower in snow than in firm ground, and a half to two days but Taylor was without snowshoes. All one needs is endurance, patience and the ability to follow the trail of the wolf after dark. The Indians usually hunt in pairs.

SWALLOWED HIS SAVINGS.

Gold Coin Found in Grave When Body Was Moved.

Paris, France.—"Gold from the grave" might be the caption over a curious incident that has happened at Thion, near Epinal. Twelve years ago a workman died there, and his relatives could find none of his savings, although he was known to have accumulated a small sum in gold.

Recently his body was moved by the parish authorities to another grave, his son being present at the transference. When the remains were exposed he was astonished to see a little pile of gold coins lying among the bones. They were the dead man's savings, amounting to \$185, which he had swallowed to prevent his family with whom he was on bad terms, getting hold of them.

Unravel Mystery of "Ghost" Smokers.

Bangor, Me.—The mystery of the tobacco-consuming ghost at Benton has been unravelled. Old Silas Toothacher every night smokes his pipe in the kitchen and then carefully places it in a tin box nailed to the chimney behind the stove. Although he often left the pipe half full of tobacco there never was anything but ashes in it the next morning.

Toothacher decided to stay awake and watch for the "ghost." He put the pipe in the box as usual. Through a hole in the chimney a strong current of air blew, the pipe's mouthpiece was within half an inch of the hole, the draught was strong enough to keep the tobacco burning until entirely consumed.

Water Sprouts One-Fourth Mile High.

San Diego, Cal.—Following a severe hail and rain storm here two gigantic watersprouts were sighted of Point Loma, travelling northward at a rapid rate. Wireless operators state that the sprouts were three miles off shore and one-fourth of a mile high.

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