

THE GREAT LAKES

Romance and Tragedy of These Unsalted Inland Seas.

A VAST MARINE GRAVEYARD.

No Equal Area of Ocean Waters Has Proved So Great a Glutton For Human Life and Ships and Rich Carcasses—Mysteries of Missing Vessels.

Some day the great lakes are going to contribute a glorious share to the literature of America. Until now they have been honored and unsung, except in some limerick cases, where the poet or the romancer has sought his audience in vain.

This audience talked quietly among themselves for a few minutes, and then one of them got up and said, "No, God has not killed you, but we will!" And they did without the slightest compunction.—London Standard

The Circus Business. The people who are in the circus game are there because of the primitive, wandering call of their blood, a call that dates back for generations.

What chronicle contains a more fascinating record than the narrative of the voyage of exploration made by Rene Cavalier de la Salle in his good ship the Griffin, the first sailing vessel to venture forth on the great lakes?

It is interesting to note that no similar area of any ocean, if suddenly stripped of its volume of water, would expose to human gaze a larger number of sunken ships or more valuable cargoes than lie at the bottom of these inland waters.

Some of these vessels disappeared almost as mysteriously as did the Griffin in the brave old days of exploration. No wreckage floated to the shore. The great lakes hid well their secrets.

Like the sailors of the salt seas, the men who navigate the inland waters are a superstitious lot. Almost every wreck that marks the history of the lakes is the inspiration of some weird, fantastic story that by frequent repetition assumes the dignity of truth in the sailor's ready mind.

She was a big, powerful freighter, carrying a crew of twenty-two men. She cleared Duluth on a day in the late fall. What happened to her will never be known.

According to the queer twist given the story by the sailors of the inland seas, the Bannockburn is supposed to be the Flying Dutchman of the great lakes. Sometimes at night, when the chill north wind sweeps across the swollen bosom of Lake Superior and the stinging "ice devils" fill the air, the lookout on some lonely point calls loudly to his companion and points to where he imagines the Bannockburn, all white with ice and ghostly in the darkness, is slipping through the black mystery of the lake.

The history of the great lakes is punctuated with thrilling narratives such as this. There are brighter chapters that tell of heroic rescues made by dint of dauntless courage and superhuman effort.—George W. Stark in Outlook.

Decorated With Plates. One of the important apartments at the palace of Fontainebleau, in France, is called the Galerie des Assiettes, for the reason that its decoration consists of vertical rows of plates set in the paneling of the walls.

The way to choose between actions is to choose between aims.—Youth's Companion.

A Glimpse of the Russian Peasant.

Russians are a very methodical people even in their crimes. They do not get excited when anticipating an act against the law; they just make up their minds quietly and freely, as the following story will show:

A man arrived one day at a village where he commenced to lecture that all men were equal and that no government had the right to exercise any authority. Thinking to add more power to his views, he decided to begin by disproving the existence of God.

Taking a holy ikon, or sacred picture, he said: "There is no God. I will prove it immediately. I will spit upon this ikon and break it. If there is a God he will send fire from heaven and slay me; if there is not, nothing will happen;" whereupon he took the picture and carried out his threat, saying when he had done so, "You see, God has not killed me."

The explanation was ample and sufficient, and the bonds for which he had subscribed were duly registered in his rightful name, but the government clerk who recorded the transaction read his record over several times and breathed a sigh of relief when he was quite sure he had it unmistakably correct.

Treating Electric Shock. How to treat a person who has received a severe electric shock is best described by quoting from the Scientific American, in the account of how one man did it to a workman who had touched a wire carrying a current of 2,300 volts and was apparently killed.

A line man immediately took hold of the ankles of the limp body, lifting it until the whole weight rested on the neck and letting it fall. He then took a pair of net-shears and hammers the soles of the injured man's feet without removing his shoes.

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MYSTIFYING MILLIONS.

Puzzling at First, but it Was Really a Very Simple Matter.

A number of years ago, when the names of subscribers, to the then recently issued 3 per-cent bonds were being sent in to Washington, one subscription was received from Oregon, which the authorities supposed to be signed with an assumed name, Ten Million.

A prompt reply came from Mr. Million, written upon paper bearing the letterhead of the firm of Million & Million. He explained that he was born a Million and was the tenth and youngest child of the family.

Some of the brothers and sisters, as they grew up, had modified the too arithmetical simplicity of their names a little. He himself was commonly known as Ten instead of Ten, and his sisters, the Misses One and Three, had become, certainly to advantage, One and Trio.

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Rifles at West Point.

The average recruit who starts in at West Point knows as much about the fine points of rifle firing as a longshoreman about flying.

Among the rifle kicks, for instance, is the smoking of the glass rifle sights for work in the sun. By simply holding the sights over the flame of a match—or, better, over an alcohol flame—a light layer of lampblack is spread over the sight, which enables the soldier to fire, even when he is directly facing the sun.

Another trick is the doubling up of the ordinary rifle strap in order to use it to obtain a sling grip. By making the sling short enough it is possible to use the left hand to obtain a viselike grip on the rifle.

The head waiter must always be able to tell at a glance how much money you are going to spend so that he will be able to smear at you accordingly.

When a restaurant proprietor hires a new head waiter he expects to be greatly humiliated. To make a favorable impression the head waiter must be able to give the proprietor a look that will make him feel pretty cheap.

A knowledge of English is widespread among the educated classes of Russia. There is not a notable party or novel produced in London which is not acted or read in Russia.

This crumb recipe makes 302 peanut cookies at a cost of 40 cents. A cupful of skimmed milk, half a cupful of butter or oleomargarine, half a cupful of peanut butter, four cupfuls of fine sifted dry crumbs, two eggs, two cupfuls of sugar, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, four teaspoonfuls of salt and enough flour to make a stiff dough.

Men accustomed to working in mines cannot stand great heights. It is almost an invariable rule that a miner will get dizzy and uneasy if you take him to a high place, such as a monument or the top of a house, and will try to get back to earth as soon as possible.

The prophet Jeremiah was confined in the pillory (Jeremiah xxix, 26), which appears to have been a common mode of punishment in his time.

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Yellow was originally adopted by the woman suffragists as their color because of the suffrage victory in Kansas in 1887. That victory was regarded as of immense importance, and yellow, in the eyes of the leaders of the movement, was inseparably associated with the Sunflower State.

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CRUSHING A LANGUAGE.

Under the Russian Empire No One Dared to Speak Ukrainian.

Ukrainian differs from Great Russian fully as much as Dutch does from German.—In fact, the highest learned body in the Russian empire, the Petrograd Imperial academy, admitted a few years ago that the Ukrainians possessed a distinct language and culture of their own.

There never has been, is not and never will be a Ukrainian language or nationality," declared a Russian minister of state in 1863, and this was merely the formal expression of what generations of Russian bureaucrats had already considered as axiomatic.

Two Safe Ways by Which Typhoid Germs May Be Destroyed. One cannot judge the purity of water by its looks. Things visible to the naked eye are usually harmless.

Most people feel that drinking water is safe to use if it is cool, clear, sparkling and free from color or odor. Such is not the case. Even the sparkle may be due to decomposition products.

The safest method of destroying disease germs in water is by a natural boiling. Boiling the water for five minutes will kill the germs of typhoid and all related diseases.

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It is difficult to remove all the oil that adheres to the sides of the tank, and the evaporation of the oil film left in them after they have been pumped out takes place with great rapidity.

And still people talk about-born singers, artists, inventors and mechanics. The theory is illogical, and the truth of it has never been demonstrated. It is true that there are a few individuals who are born into the world with an unusual amount of latent ability, and people call them-talented.

One thing in which Baltimore is a pioneer is its system of municipal markets. In 1751, when there were only twenty-five houses in what was then known as Baltimore Town, a public market was established, and by the time the city was incorporated in 1796 three such markets had already been established within its corporate limits.

Today eleven municipal markets all owned by the city, are within easy reach of 700,000 people of Baltimore and vicinity.

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COFFEE AND THE POETS.

Why Has the Muse So Shamefully Neglected the Morning-Cup?

If the ancients had known it there would have been a tumultuous cult of the goddess Coffee, and the choruses of Enchirides would have been sung by Coffeantes. Coffee has the romance of wine and affines it far less maledictum than alcohol.

The coffee bean is indeed less beautiful than the grape clusters, and the coffee grinder is less romantic than the wine press, but there all inferiority ceases. The odor of coffee is as noble as the bouquet of Chateau Yquem; its color—dark am I, but comely!—is less glorious than the ruby of Burgundy, but it betokens innocence with exhilaration.

Poets have neglected coffee, partly because poets are greatly under the influence of tradition, partly because coffee is a hard word to find a rhyme for. One had hoped that vers libres would give scope to coffee lovers.

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