

FREAKS OF CLOUDBURSTS.

The Trick One Played on a Railroad in Colorado.

Cloudbursts are sometimes very destructive of life as well as of property. They come up so suddenly that it is almost impossible to escape if the wayfarer is caught in the bed of the creek. Campers in the mountain regions usually select the high ground above the creek rather than pitch their tents close beside the gently rippling water which may become a roaring torrent while they sleep, sweeping them to destruction before they know that danger is near. It was from neglect of this precaution that many lives were lost in a cloudburst near Morrison, Colo., in the spring of 1897. Some people were camping along the borders of the stream, and, as it was just after dark and had been raining heavily, they had sought the shelter of their tents. Suddenly they heard the awful and peculiar roar of the approaching cloudburst. It grew louder every second. Realizing what had happened, the unfortunate campers—men, women and children—rushed from their tents and tried to reach the higher ground. In the confusion and darkness some turned the wrong way and were soon struggling in mad torrents, battling with tree trunks and wrecks of cabins and immense masses of moving stone in the bosom of the flood. Thirteen lives went out in that dire night. The bodies found later showed the marks of buffeting with the debris in the flood of waters, and it is believed that few if any of the unfortunates lost their lives by actual drowning.

Occasionally the sudden downpour of rain will be precipitated on a soft, yielding soil, and instead of taking the form of a cloudburst with a wave of water carrying everything before it the whole surface of the ground will take on the consistency of molasses and roll slowly but irresistibly down the water courses. This happened in Chalk canyon, near Mount Princeton, in Colorado, some years ago. Chalk cliffs are a peculiar formation at the head of the canyon, the so-called "chalk" being of a lime nature, which, after being dissolved in water, quickly hardens again like cement.

A cloudburst began high up on the sides of the mountain, washed away tons of material from the cliffs and rolled the mass slowly over the railroad tracks like the pour of lava from Vesuvius. The tracks were covered to a depth of six feet. A gang of workmen was put to work on the deposit, but it oozed in on the tracks as fast as the men shoveled it out. Finally all work was suspended, and that a track was built over it. Within six hours of the breaking of the storm trains were running over the deposit. So hard did the chalk become that the railroad has never penetrated to the old tracks, and in the excavating that was done in relaying the tracks permanently dynamite had to be used.—Ainslee's Magazine.

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OUR IRISH LEAVEN.

They Range From Street Sweepers to Millionaires.

Industrially the foreign element in America has been very important. More than 90 per cent of the immigrants who have come and are coming to this country are industrious and sober. They come to better their fortunes, and they set about doing it with great energy. The railroads and great public works in this country used to be built by Irish laborers. I am speaking in general terms. Without them we would not have been able to make the great progress which justifies us in believing that our growth in wealth during the past 30 years is more marvelous than anything the world has previously seen.

But the Irish have found other occupations, in which they can gratify their gregarious instincts, develop their wonderful talent for political organization and in large and small ways enjoy the independence to spend and to accumulate which was denied to them for so long at home. They have therefore settled in great measure in the cities and taken up the occupations that in such places are open to them. These occupations range all the way from street sweeping to millionaire financing and include cab driving, car driving, being porters, barkeepers, clerks, merchants, doctors, lawyers and editors. As professional politicians they have had no peers in the history of the world. They may be said to have a genius for politics.

And the Irish who have not flocked to the towns are doing remarkably well. They are farmers all over the country, and their success in the north Atlantic division of the country, on farms that were no longer profitable under native management, has been most notable. As husbandmen they are frugal without being niggardly. Their remarkable political strength is due to the fact that they have kept together when it came to voting more consistently than any other people. Thackeray says somewhere, his observation being of the Irish in London, that there never was an Irishman who looked to him for employment and support. This was a tribute to their loyalty, their friendliness and generosity.—Ainslee's Magazine.

IN THE FACE OF DANGER.

How Sudden Frights or Shocks Affect Different Natures.

"Sudden frights, shocks or the presence of physical danger," said a close observer, "have curiously divergent effects on different natures. The presence of danger will render some men as cool as ice, others—and equally brave—will tremble violently and break into a perspiration. 'I remember once hearing of a chap who, coming uninjured out of a railroad wreck, worked like a demon to assist his less fortunate fellow passengers. All the time he was at work, however, he held one hand to his collar, and when it was over one of his companions discovered that he was holding tight to his necktie, which he had been in the act of tying when the collision occurred.'"

"At the time of the Chicago fire the wife of one of the great millionaires of that day owned the most valuable laces in America, possibly in the world. She had a box made for them of just sufficient depth for the handle to prevent its going under the wardrobe. This was done to insure her maid or herself seeing and not forgetting it in case of fire. She saved her jewels, but her laces went up in the flames, as neither maid nor mistress remembered in their fright the laces they had taken such precautions to insure the safety of."

"I know a young girl who had learned to swim quite well, and one day she essayed the feat of swimming across a bathing pool on a wager. There were plenty of people about, and the distance was not great, but when she was half way across some one called out, 'How deep is it?' She let her foot down to find no friendly resting place beneath. Instantly she lost her nerve and sank. She came up once, tried to scream, but the water choked her, and down she went again. A man who was lounging in the gallery surrounding the pool, realizing that something was wrong, jumped in. He was none too soon, for she was unconscious when he pulled her up. It was the sheer fright of knowing that she was out of her depth that caused it all, as otherwise there wasn't the slightest danger."—New York Tribune.

LAUGHING GAS.

An Unshaken Believer.

They're tearing down the castles we've erected in the air. They claim that Brother Damon never flourished anywhere. They tell us that the story of his friendship with a myth. But I believe in Damon, and I've faith in Brother Pyth. They cite us facts and figures, claiming it's a fairy tale. Of the residence of Jonah in the inside of the whale. And they say that Billy Tell did not take snap shots at his son. But I believe the stories, I believe 'em every one. They try to prove that Sheridan could not have "saved the day." They say he didn't ride like mad from "twenty miles away." But I put my trust in it—I'm content to go it blind. I've just as firm belief in it as if I rode behind. I pin my faith to every one of all the good old tales; I've confidence in all the men, the horses and the whales. They cannot break my idols, they cannot spoil my fun. For I believe the stories, I believe 'em every one.

A Comforting Imagination.

"Charlie, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "do you hear the baby crying?" "I haven't heard anything else for the last 20 minutes," was the not very amiable answer. "Isn't it lovely?" "What do you mean?" "The way the baby sobs, I can shut my eyes and imagine that she is at a ball game when our side has just scored a home run."

A Symptom.

"Clementine, that man likes me a good deal, or else he doesn't like me at all." "How do you know, Josephine?" "Why, I never can make him mad."

LET OF THE WILD STATES.

What the wild states doing. As they break on the world's back? "Beware the baron lands, he grabs everything he sees."—Philadelphia Record.

IN THE HOME GARDEN.

Irrigation Especially as Applied to the Strawberry Crop.

There are few locations where strawberries are not each year more or less injured by lack of moisture in the soil, and where water can be readily secured for irrigating purposes the expense of applying it will be well repaid. Oftentimes a single application made when the fruit is about one-half grown will double the yield, and occasionally a crop will be saved which would otherwise be lost. Although its use is of less value during the first season's growth, it will often be found desirable when the weather is dry to make an application in order to promote the growth of the plants.

Some growers have received good returns where water has been pumped by windmills, steam or gasoline engines, but few would care to go to that expense. However, there are some locations where water can be taken from a stream and turned upon the land, and there will be no question but that irrigating can be made to pay. The water should be carried in furrows between the rows and applied in sufficient quantities to cover the surface to a depth of one inch, which will require about 800 barrels per acre.

It is in the home garden, however, that irrigation can be used to the best advantage, as the water supply for the house or barn can generally be used for irrigating. If sufficient pressure can be secured, it will be best to make use of lawn sprinklers, which can be moved over the beds so as to thoroughly wet down the soil. If the land is thoroughly mulched, a single watering will last for several days and perhaps will be all that will be required. If the needed pressure cannot be secured and particularly if the water supply is limited, it will be advisable to make use of subirrigation. By placing a line of drain tile below the surface a strip from 10 to 20 feet can be watered. If to be left permanently, the line should at least be below the reach of the plow, and in case the land requires underdraining the tile may be so arranged as to answer for both purposes. The depth should then be not less than 2½ feet, and the tile should be laid as nearly level as possible and yet give a fall toward the outlet. When required for irrigating, the lower end of the tile can be closed and the drains flooded from the highest point.

If merely needed for the strawberry crop, a temporary system of tiles may be laid. If put in before the plants are set, they should be covered at least four or five inches, to be below the reach of the cultivator, but oftentimes the necessity is not recognized until about the time the fruit is ripening, and then it will be sufficient if the tiles are barely covered. Care should be taken to have the lines of tile practically level for lengths of less than 100 feet, and beyond this the slope should be very slight. Where the tiles have a greater slope the water rushes to the lower end and breaks through to the surface. When properly arranged, the water should enter the tile only as fast as it soaks through the joints. In this way the tiles will be kept full and the water will be very equally distributed throughout the length of the tile. While smaller or larger sizes might be used, a three inch common drain tile will give the best results.

As most tiles are slightly curved in burning, by placing them with their rounded sides uppermost a small crack will be left on the underside of each joint, and if care is taken that these openings are of about the same size, the water will be very evenly distributed. When the plants are set in narrow beds, a single line of tile along the center will suffice, but the best results will be secured if the water is not required to spread more than six or eight feet each way, although upon some soil a much wider distribution can be obtained.—L. R. Taft.

Kitchen Garden Notes.

As soon as I can work the ground I plant the peas, and I prefer to sow the early, medium and late peas at the same time, writes a gardener in Vick's. Next I sow lettuce, radish, spinach and onion seed, and plant a few sets for early onions. When warmer weather comes, I plant the sweet corn, and like the peas, plant the early, medium and late kinds at the same time. Next, with increasing warmth, will come the tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, squashes, eggplants, etc., not neglecting the parsnips and salsify, which can be sown any time in the spring when the ground is in condition to work.

The asparagus, rhubarb and horse radish should be on one side of the garden, or in some place where the permanent beds will not be in the way when plowing. Use wire netting for a support for the peas and lima beans, and be sure to have a plot of limas ready for use when the peas are gone. Save some of the brush when trimming the fruit trees and place it between the rows of tomato plants. These are better than a trellis for supporting the vines.

Permanent Eastern Pastures.

The easiest way that we know of, says American Cultivator, to keep a permanent pasture in good condition is to stock it hard enough so that the grass will be eaten before it throws up a seed stock or becomes hard and woody and then give extra feed at the barn so that the animals will return at least as much fertility to the soil as the grass takes from it. Of course manure or fertilizer may be carried out and spread on the pasture, but that costs money, and eastern farmers are often at a loss to obtain fertilizing elements enough for their mowing lands and cultivated pastures.



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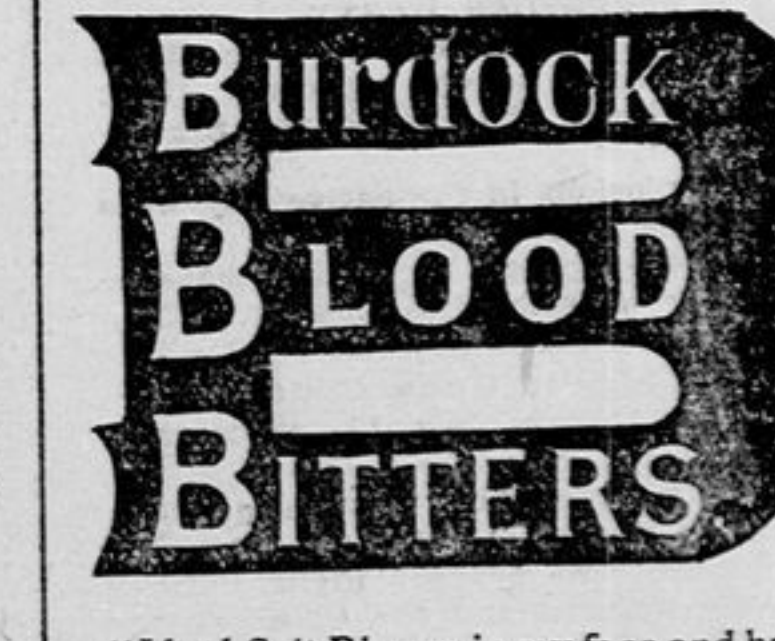
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