

QUEER BEASTS AT SHELBURNE, ONTARIO.

The Mammoth and the Mastodon—Description of Local Specimens.

18. Behold! now behemoth, the mastodon, which I made with thee; he eateth grass like an ox.
 19. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones (tusks) are like bars of iron.
 20. Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.
 21. He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed and fens.
 22. The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.
 23. Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not; he trusteth he can draw up Jordan through his trunk into his mouth.
 24. He taketh it with his eyes; his nose (trunk) pierceth through snares.
 Such is a description to be found in chap. XL. of the book of Job, which may be rea-

sonably taken as a graphic account of the characteristics of the elephant, or perhaps even of the mastodon, both wonderful and fearsome beasts to those who beheld them for the first time.
 When the writer paid his visit to the above village he truly did not find that many of the villagers of this day keep mammoths or mastodons in their backyards or paddocks, but he was afforded the opportunity of inspecting one of the most complete sets of bones belonging to an extinct monarch of the forests of by-gone years that have ever been unearthed in a good state of preservation. In fact, it may be said to be particularly complete, as scarce anything is wanting to make up a perfect skeleton of the



IDEAL LANDSCAPE OF THE MIOCENE PERIOD.

and convey it to St. Petersburg, where in the Imperial museum the monster skeleton may now be seen, as it was set up in juxtaposition to that of one of the largest specimens of modern elephants, in order that by contrast its gigantic dimensions might be fully realized by the beholder. Existing elephants have short scanty hair over their rough skin. The mammoth had long brown hair, sometimes ten inches in length, with longer black bristles intermingling, and a shaggy mane. The existing species are confined to the tropics; but the Indian elephant sometimes lives, in company with monkeys, near the snows of the Himalaya Mountains. The mammoth, on the other hand, tenanted the temperate and northern parts of both

worlds, its remains having been found in the British Isles, France, Central and Northern Europe, Siberia, Alaska, and different parts of America so far south as the county of Kent in this Province of Canada, as well as in the State of Oregon.
 In size, general form, and principal osteological characteristics, the mastodon resembled the elephants of our day. It is by the teeth alone that the two groups are distinguished by naturalists. The range of the genus in time was from the middle of the Miocene period to the end of the Pliocene in the Old World, when they became extinct; but in America several species, especially the best known, owing to the abundance of its remains, survived quite to a late Pleistocene period. The habitat of the mastodon was very extensive, even being supposed to



THE MASTODON

deceased monster. These interesting remains, which are the property of Mr. John Jelly, may shortly be on exhibition in Ontario, and therefore an extended description will not be deemed inopportune. This, however, is not the first specimen of one of the largest of the extinct animals that has come into that gentleman's possession, for less than two years ago he secured a remarkably good skeleton of a mammoth from a farm in the township of Amaranth, quite close to Shelburne. Most of our readers are tolerably familiar with the appearance of this variety, owing to the representations thereof having been so frequently published in the advertisements of Messrs. Thos. Thompson & Son, the enterprising dry goods firm of Toronto, who have adopted it as a trade mark. This particular specimen

was disposed of by Mr. Jelly, for a large sum of money, to Messrs. Horton and Harrison, of Owen Sound, Ont.
 have reached to Australia, where no Ungulate mammal has ever been proved to exist. The number of the varieties of the mastodon has been variously put down at from 4 to 30, these differences being based upon some slight modifications of the teeth. The whole of the teeth of this monster, owned by Mr. Jelly, eight in number, four in the upper jaw and four in the lower, have been found complete, with this exception that the great conical tuberosities or rounded processes have been worn off. They are composed of dentine and enamel, and the lower parts are as fresh-looking as those of any living animal. They are eight inches long, and rather more than three inches and a half broad. The structure of the teeth indicates that they have served admirably for the grinding and mastication of tough, hard vegetable substances. The bones are of a brownish color like those of a recent human skeleton. A broken piece of one of the tusks measures about nine feet eight inches. In its complete state it must have been from twelve to fourteen feet long. It is slightly curved, and its circumference at the thickest part is 24 inches. It is partly by the tusks, as well as by the teeth, which have enough mammala-



THE BONES OF A MASTODON GIGANTEUS.

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THE MAMMOTH

is a name commonly given to one of the numerous extinct forms of the elephant species, technically known as Proboscideans. The geographical range of this animal was very extensive. There is scarce a county in England in which its remains have not been

found. In point of time the mammoth belongs exclusively to the post-Tertiary or Pleistocene epoch of geologists, and it was undoubtedly contemporaneous with man in France, and probably elsewhere. There is evidence to show that it existed in Britain before, during, and after the glacial period. Remains of the mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*) were frequently found during the last century in various parts of Siberia, and about the close of the century one was discovered frozen in the estuary of the river Lena, with bones, flesh, and shaggy hair complete. It is said that some of the flesh was eaten by the men who dug it out of the ice. The natives, from superstitious feeling, refused to part with it until bears, wolves, and foxes tore it to pieces, and then Adams was permitted to save the wreck

tions on the surface like those of living elephants, that the mastodon is distinguished. Some mastodons have been found with four tusks, two projecting upwards and two downwards, but the lower tusks never reached any great length and were generally shed early in life, those of the female especially so. This one was evidently possessed of only two. These are some of the bone measurements: Hind leg, from the thigh to the knee joint, 47 inches; circumference, 35 inches; two fore leg bones—the humerus—from the shoulder blade to the knee joint, 3 feet 4 inches in length and 3 feet four inches in circumference. The atlas joint upon which the head is set has a breadth of 18 inches. The shoulder blade measures 3 feet 2 inches by two feet 1 inch in the widest part. The longest rib—and nearly all the ribs have been found—is 51 inches long, and has a circumference of 10 inches. The lower jaw, the inferior maxillary bone, which is in a splendid state of preservation, measures 6 feet round from the one condyle process to the other, and the width of the jaw is 22½ inches. One of the nasal bones, which is tolerably well preserved, is 2 feet 1 inch long, and the olfactory channel is 11 inches by 3. The joints of the vertebrae are like the hoofs of a draught horse, and the channel of the spinal column would form a bed for a three-inch water pipe. The length of the animal gauged by the measurements of the bones already found, and allowing for those that have not yet been discovered, is from the point of the nostril to the root of the tail about 22 feet. This is greater than that of the celebrated *mastodon giganteus* discovered near Newburgh, New York, in the summer of 1845, and the skeleton as a whole is larger and more complete than any that has been found in Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, California or Oregon, where the remains have been in greatest abundance. What led to the extinction of the mastodon is one of the unsolved problems of nature. It could hardly have been the climate, for it lived through climatic changes greater than any that now exist, and all that can be said with truth is that it succumbed to some imperceptible hostile influence which first made it rare and then finally exterminated it. The mastodon and the elephant have been known to live through two epochs of the world's history before the mammoth with his hairy, shaggy coat became their contemporary. An American scientist, Mr. J. P. McLean, author of a Manual of the Antiquity of Man, says, in a work relating to the mastodon, that "it lived for untold ages, and it has become extinct. In Europe it ceased to exist long before the historical period—probably 300,000 or 450,000 years. In America it survived until a comparatively recent period." How the elephant tribes found their way to the American continent is not quite certain. They possibly emigrated from Europe or Asia to North America, and thence to South America. The mastodons began somewhat earlier, and probably remained longer in the new world than the elephants, having perhaps found a refuge in marshy regions after the elephants had been exterminated from the forests by big carnivora. The advent of tigers and of man, the most predacious of animals, and the deforesting of many regions, along with alterations of climate, doubtless contributed to secure their extermination. Even the African elephants are now extinct in the southern colonies of that continent, and the Asiatic species is protected only for the purpose of being enslaved by dominant man; but the pursuit of ivory in the one country and the advent of steam machinery in the other promises soon to terminate their existence, until, like the bison of the great plains of North America, they will shortly live but in the memory of the "oldest inhabitant." The slow increase of the race, the smallness of their families, and their conspicuous bulk all combine to ensure their annihilation. They were at one time the lords of the herbwood, continuous, and even dominant over both worlds. Now they have only a few survivors in the battle of life, and these are driven to inaccessible lurking places by that more dominant primate who exterminates every beast which he does not deign to enslave. The bones which are now to be seen at Shelburne were dug out of a farm belonging to Mr. John Reycraft, in the south-easterly part of Lot 8, Con. 6 of the Township of Orford in the county of Highgate and rather over forty miles west of St. Thomas on the Michigan Central Railway. When Mr. Jelly had them on exhibition last year he was offered \$5,000 cash for them by an American showman, but could not part with them without breaking certain engagements already made. It is possible they may be shown at the Industrial Exhibition next fall.

Not Exactly the Same.

"I am delighted to see you, Miss Ticklewell," exclaimed the visitor, warmly. "You haven't changed a particle in ten years."
 "You mistake, Mr. Westerley," said the Boston maiden, wiping her spectacles thoughtfully. "Externally I may appear the same, but science demonstrates irrefragably that the human physical organism, even to its ultimate particles, is entirely reconstructed every seven years."
 She gave him her hand in a slow dreamy, preoccupied kind of way, and a cold chill went up and down his back.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A formidable list of objections to Italian immigration is drawn up by The New York Sun. Nine-tenths of the immigrants are men, and although many of the men are married few bring their wives, children or sisters. The reason is that the Italians, like the Chinese, do not desire to make the United States their permanent home, but to make as much money as they can and then return and spend it in Italy. They do not help to fill up the thinly-settled parts of the country, but crowd into the cities. They come armed with deadly weapons which they are not slow to use. For these reasons The Sun regards them as undesirable immigrants.

The United States Consul at Vancouver has not reaped the glory which he evidently expected as the result of his recent insult to her Majesty. His action is very generally condemned by the press of his own country, which appears to be thoroughly ashamed of him. One paper, which calls him an "unmitigated ass," says that the dignity of the United States is "offended and outraged whenever one of our representatives makes it his business to give us a taste of the days when hob-nailed boots were a necessary accompaniment of democracy, and when the line between independence and cringing was supposed to coincide with the line between courtesy and boorishness." Mr. Ewing's usefulness is gone.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Down in the Money Vaults Amid Almost Countless Wealth.

The automatic bodyguard now shows some animation, says the London Herald. Producing a hand lantern from another mysterious recess he bids us follow. We walk in narrow alleys formed of piles of boxes, where not a ray of light penetrates, and find ourselves making a rapid descent, with the lantern ahead, like some guardian angel. We descend a steeper incline than the others, with the defunct bank notes in their sarcophagi all around us, when a chill air striking us proves that we are well underground.

Then the figure in front turns and announces to us in a tone calculated to strike terror into nervous persons "We are now in the labyrinth." I begin to feel like another Guy Fawkes going to blow up the whole place. But the sudden twists and turns we take always in that bewildering maze of piled-up cases are becoming most trying to the banker, who is not accustomed to dodging a will-o'-the-wisp in a catacomb.

I begin to entertain fears that he is leading us to some dungeon fastness when he turns again and solemnly remarks, with a wave of his hand, "All bank notes." Some idea can be gained of the quantity when it is said that they are 77,745,000 in number, and that they fill 13,400 boxes, which, if placed side by side, would reach two and a half miles. If the notes were placed in a pile they would reach a height of five and a half miles, or if joined end to end would form a ribbon 12,455 miles long. Their superficial extent is a little less than that of Hyde park; their original value was over £1,750,000,000, and their weight over 90 tons.

Along another passage we enter a large room—really a vault—which is surrounded from floor to ceiling by iron doors of safes which at their opening might be five feet high by five feet wide. One of these is opened and shows rows upon rows of gold coins in bags of \$2,000 each.

One is handed to me to hold, and after doing so for a moment I decide I will not carry it home. The dead weight is enormous. Yet these officials handle the slipping, sliding mass as though it were a book. Another door is opened and we observe a stack of bank notes. I remark that I have seen a lot already. For answer the manager takes out a parcel of 1,000 £1,000 notes and says:

"Take hold." I do so, and am told I am holding £1,000,000. I should have wished to hold it longer, but they want it, so I put it back.

"This small safe contains £8,000,000," continued the polite manager, "and you are in the richest vault of the Bank of England and of the world. This small room at present holds £80,000,000."

By this time my appetite for wealth is nearly gone. I am nauseated with the atmosphere of bank notes. My senses are dulled with the oppressing spectacle and I hail with delight the merry plashing fountain in the court-yard. Here are the quarters of the thirty-four guardsmen who nightly patrol the establishment. A double sentry is posted at each gate, and as they load with ball cartridges it is not a safe place for an enterprising burglar to tackle. The officer of the guard has a bedroom in the bank, and is provided with a dinner and a bottle of the finest old port, and I understand that the guards are also liberally treated.

The Island of Malta.

English occupancy of Malta dates from the year 1800. Two years before that, Napoleon, on his way to Egypt, had taken the island and, after a sojourn of a few days, had left masters in charge of Vaubois at Valette, the capital. But the Maltese soon revolted against French tyranny and laid siege to Valette, being aided in their enterprise by Portuguese, Neapolitan, and English allies. After a siege of two years Vaubois surrendered, whereupon the Maltese, having lost 20,000 men in recovering their capital, voluntarily placed themselves under the protection of England, an arrangement afterwards confirmed (in 1814) by the Treaty of Paris. Since then the islands have prospered under British rule. In 1880 the population was 154,892, not including British soldiers or their families. Of this number 24,000 were English and other foreigners. On account of the gaiety of Valette and its attractiveness in other ways, as a winter residence, the alien population has of late been rapidly increasing. The island has a good university, and lower schools modeled after those of England. In the schools until lately Italian was the prevailing language, though the population is rather of Arabic than Italian stock. Lately, however, efforts have been made to extend the use of English, and no doubt the lapse of time will see the Maltese people pretty fluently Anglicized.—[The Chautauquan.]

A Centenarian Snake.

Early in January of the present year a woodsman, engaged in chopping some of the monster oaks in the northern part of the great "Black Forest," Germany, and who had built a fire against a large dead oak preparatory to partaking of his midday meal, was surprised to see a serpent of gigantic proportions crawl from the log as soon as the rotten wood had got well warmed through. The day was bitter cold, and the snake only made a few yards over the frozen ground when his convolutions became smaller and smaller, and he finally ceased to wriggle, and quietly coiled up near a large pile of brush.

The sturdy German chopper, who had been more surprised than scared, waited until the creature had become thoroughly benumbed with the cold, and then approached and dispatched him with an axe. Measurements showed the slimy creature to be twenty-seven feet six inches in length, and nearly fifteen inches through the body in the middle.

Just back of the immense head, which was eleven inches in length and almost as broad, a little gold ring had been put through the skin. It was in the form of two rings rather than one, being shaped not unlike the figure 8. One part of the ring was through the skin, while the other was through a hole in a small copper coin bearing date of 1712.

One side of the coin was perfectly smooth, with the exception of these letters and figures, which had evidently been cut on it with a pocket-knife, the workmanship being very rough. "Louis Krutzer, B. G. O., 1781."

Some of the older inhabitants of the "Black Forest" remember hearing their parents tell of "Krutzer, the serpent charmer," and they all unite in declaring that this gigantic serpent was formerly the property of the old "charmer," and that it was at least 115 years old when killed by the woodchopper on that cold January day of 1891.

BRITAIN ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

Steadily Strengthening all her Strategic Points in the New World.

Quietly but busily and steadily Great Britain is strengthening her strategic points in the New World. Two twelve-inch guns from Woolwich have recently been mounted in one of the new forts at Halifax, and a third is on the way thither. The capacious and admirable harbor that has caused Halifax to be chosen as the principal British naval station in America is now defended by nine forts and batteries, which command the entrances on either side of McNab's Island. At York redbout and Ives Point, as well as elsewhere, are very heavy guns, and from the crest of the hill the citadel can deliver a plunging fire. A good garrison of regulars is kept there, and undoubtedly with its famous dockyard and its coaling facilities it would be the base of any naval operations on the North Atlantic coast.

Looking further south, we find that London and Bermuda can now talk with each other by telegraph. The latter, with its well-defended harbor and fine dockyard for repairing ships, is a valuable naval station, and for a fast cruiser only about two days distant from the Carolina coast. It has a well-equipped marine arsenal, is difficult of approach through tortuous channels, and, being completely fortified with powerful modern ordnance, is considered practically secure from attack. It is at once a basis of supplies for war ships and a refuge for merchant fleets.

Nor will England neglect the Bahamas, within a single day's steaming of Florida, the importance of which was shown by the operations of the Confederate blockade runners. As for Jamaica, with its commanding position in relation to Gulf commerce, at the southern approach to the Windward Passage, we find that Great Britain has been newly trenching Kingston, with a view to the protection of its fine harbor. It must be noted also that Jamaica and Balize are at the extremities of a line stretching across the route between the Gulf and the Caribbean Sea by the Yucatan channel.

To the southeast lies the chain of the Lesser Antilles, with St. Lucia and Barbadoes prominent among them. Port Castries, in the former, is one of the leading British naval stations in the New World, and half a million dollars has lately been laid out on the improvements of its harbor, and the imperial Government has fortified it strongly. Barbadoes is the headquarters of the British forces in the West Indies. Off the South American coast is the island of Trinidad, which, with British Guiana on the other side, dominates the mouth of the Orinoco.

On the Pacific coast Great Britain and the Dominion have jointly expended more than a million dollars on the large graving dock at Esquimaux, where the heaviest vessels may be repaired, and a system of defenses for Esquimaux, Vancouver City, and Victoria has been planned. As the only coaling station of importance for Great Britain on the North Pacific coast, she is amply justified in protecting it.

Indeed, the general conclusion to be reached is that the fortified points of Great Britain in the New World are not looked upon primarily by her as bases for aggressive operations. It is true that the problems of preparation for attack and defence are not very distinctly separated, but England has long since abandoned the idea of any further conquests on this continent, and is only anxious to hold what she has.

The Moving Season.

To move, or not to move; that is the question;
 Whether 'tis best another year to suffer
 The stingy meanness of our grasping landlord,
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
 And by moving end them? To pack; to move
 Once more, and by our moving say we end
 The sewer-gas and thousand vile annoyances
 This place is heir to—'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wished. To pack; to move;
 To move, to a worse place, perchance; aye
 there's the rub;
 For in that move what woes may come
 When we have left this dear old flat,
 Must give us pause; there is the fear
 That makes calamity of so long lease;
 For who would bear the sights and sounds
 and smells,
 The dirty halls, the janitor's contumely,
 The wild tin pan piano just next door,
 The neighbor's children shrieking night and day;
 The trombone player in the room above,
 And all the temper trying nuisances,
 When he might pack his goods and skip
 With a strong drayman. Who would ever live
 In this run-down, dilapidated flat,
 But that the dread of something even worse,
 The undiscovered woes we're sure to find
 After a lease is signed, puzzles us still
 And make us rather keep the flat we have
 Than fly to landlords that we know not of?
 Thus experience does make cowards of us all,
 And thus the mad, rash vows of other times
 Are sickened o'er when moving day arrives,
 And then the perfect home we swore we'd rent
 We quite forget, and in the same old flat
 Remain another year.

Miseries of Wealth.

Mr. Pinchpenny—"I worked and slaved many a long year for my money, only to find at last that wealth does not bring happiness."
 Mr. Slimpurse—"Doesn't it?"
 Mr. Pinchpenny—"No, I can't spend a dollar without putting money into some one else's pocket."

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