

A VISIT TO ST. BERNARD.

THE HOSPITALITY AND CHARITY OF THE FAMOUS MONKS.

Visit to a Monastery 4,300 Feet Above the Sea—Where Frost-bitten Travelers are Cared For and Restored and Tourists Given a Kindly Welcome.

The Napoleonic pass of the great St. Bernard, between Switzerland and Italy, does not present the difficulties to-day that beset the little corporal and his brave army when they journeyed from Martigny to St. Kemy in 1804. The widened pathway made by his troops has given place in the last three years to a narrow international road. The ride from Martigny to St. Bernard is a long one. We started early in the morning and did not reach the monastery until the sun had set. The distance is not great, however, for the road is a constant ascent, except for a short distance from Martigny, and our horses walked all the way. I must confess that my expectations of the hospice, since I had read nothing of it lately, consisted of hazy childish visions of monks and dogs. I expected to meet but few visitors at the monastery and had no idea that the gentle monks entertain from sixty to eighty tourists a day during the summer. I suppose each visitor feels that it is inconsiderate of the others to be there; at least I did, for the setting of a commonplace, hustling crowd destroys illusions. The hospice consists of two long stone buildings, set almost at right angles. In one the monks and well-to-do tourists are lodged. The other is for the poor, who are given food only, and allowed to remain but three days. Over this pass one goes directly from Switzerland into Italy, and as any other way is roundabout, nearly all poor travelers walk over the St. Bernard. Most of the travelers in winter are poor workmen carrying home to Italy or Switzerland the scant savings of their season's work. An average of ten persons pass daily in winter. Before the invention of the telephone there were many fatalities, but now the monks are notified of the approach of travelers and go out to meet them. They are almost always picked up from the snow, overcome by cold.

RESTORING VICTIMS OF FROST.

A courteous monk informed me that the usual method of restoring circulation was to beat half-frozen wayfarers with heavy sticks. "The sufferers generally beg to let them die," he said. "If their limbs are frozen we first rub them with snow for some moments, and then carry the patient to the hospice by putting sticks under their arms and resting these on our shoulders. Then the limbs are treated with a solution of salt and vinegar. All flesh that has been frozen hard decays and is cut away. We kept one man from November till June, and sent him away cured. Our treatment is very successful. Once we sent a man whose feet were frozen to a hospital at Aosta, on the Italian side, thinking he would be better cared for there, but the physicians were not as successful as we are and the patient lost both feet.

It is perhaps too well known to repeat that the hospitality of the St. Bernard is free, and that visitors leave what they desire to give in a box in the chapel, marked "offerings for the poor." Strangely enough, the only hotel in the world, if it could be called such, that allows guests to name their own rates must be supported by charitable contributions, for the offerings dropped in the box form only a small part of the necessary expenses of the place, and the hospice depends for its existence on donations from various Swiss cities. The accommodations for travelers are disappointing, like those in most Swiss hotels. But a tourist's desire for the unusual is satisfied by long, dark, cold, vaulted corridors. Only one monk is visible—the one who receives guests at the door. The sleeping chambers are plainly furnished. In the dining-room are a number of beautiful paintings, given by various celebrities. The Prince of Wales donated the piano. The sleeping-rooms are long and narrow, some of them with three white canopied beds in a line, end to end. Sometimes they are wide enough for two rows of three beds. There is a small window at one end of the room and a door at the other, opening into the corridor.

The chapel is richly decorated and has a sweet-toned pipe organ. The construction of this chapel at the precipitous height of nearly 8,200 feet above the sea was the result of much patient, weary labor. Large space is given to it, for it is the pride of the hospice. It contains a monument raised by Napoleon to the memory of Desaix, killed in the battle of Marengo.

THE MORNING MASS.

Most of the visitors appear at morning mass, which lasts from 5 to 8. For one morning it is curious and entertaining, but after shivering in the cold the warmest day of the year, I was ready to give the monks credit for unusual zeal in attending services in midwinter. A sack-clothed attendant told me that monks who say mass are not allowed to rub their hands, and, it frequently happens that their fingers are frozen stiff during the services. No attempt is made to heat the chapel. Wood is expensive there. It must be brought up the mountain on mules, backs. The monks console themselves by saying that heat would create a dampness more unhealthy than cold.

The average term of service of a St. Bernard monk is twelve years. At the expiration they are sent to another monastery, generally to Martigny, to die. Their health is always broken, and few of them recover from the severity of their life in the hospice.

The morgue is one of the most curious sights of the place. It is a small stone building with barred windows at each end. Within these walls are placed all the bodies of unknown travelers found frozen in the snow. A more gruesome collection it would be difficult to find. There are at least a dozen ghastly figures, standing erect, leaning against the opposite wall, all wrapped in coarse cloth. They go through a slow process of mummification, and do not decay, owing to the peculiar atmospheric conditions. Several of the bodies have fallen forward and are propped up by

sticks. The custom of the bodies and the head are perfectly preserved, also the hair. The skin is brown and hardened, yet the figures have a distressing resemblance to

THE HUMAN BODY IN LIFE.

Monks who die at St. Bernard are buried under the floor of the chapel, in a standing position, dressed in the garb they wear at high mass.

Owing to their great number, visitors are allowed to remain at the hospice but one day. An addition is soon to be made to the buildings, to accommodate those who want to stay more than one day. The monks are charmingly hospitable. Even shorn of the halo of romance that surrounds them, they are more than ordinary men. Certainly they meet their duty bravely and go out in the coldest habitable climate of Europe to do a noble work for poor and perishing travelers.

It is only a step from the hospice to the Italian frontier, marked by two boulders with the coat of arms of Switzerland and Italy rudely carved upon them. The path lies along a clear little lake, that sadly reflects the gaunt granite slopes rising from its surface. The first rays of a morning sun were just peeping over the mountain as we approached the lake, a miserable, misshapen man, kneeling on the rocks, was dipping a crucifix into the waters and wildly praying for rain.

"He lost his mind worrying over the failure of his crops," one of the monks explained.

Just across the boundary line are evidences of an old Roman road. Napoleon crossed the pass in 1804 and stopped three hours at the hospice. The canon of Valais put a tablet in the hall four years later in his honor. There is a flask in the library where he left it.

THE CHEESE TRADE.

The Yankees Think It Impossible That the Canadians Can Get Ahead of Them in Cheesemaking.

The New York Sun reproachfully calls the attention of the New York farmers to the progress of dairying in Quebec, which, of course, they could not prevent, but which it thinks they might emulate. The announcement that Quebec has nearly fifteen hundred cheese and butter factories should, the Sun supposes, sink deeply into the minds of the farmers in its State, and make them try to become dairymen of some account. "It cannot be," our contemporary objurgates, "that American farmers will let Canadians get ahead of them in this profitable business." But it can be, has got to be, even now is, and keeps getting more so all the time. United States cheese had a tremendous lead in the British market before Canadian cheese was produced for export. That lead has been lost for quite a long time now, and it becomes farther lost each year. For the year ending the 30th of April, 1894, the United Kingdom imported 52,806 tons of Canadian cheese, and 31,520 tons of United States cheese.

THESE FIGURES TELL A STORY

of progress and decline, Canadian exports having made a phenomenal increase and United States exports have fallen off. The difference in the fortunes of the two classes of cheese is due to the fact that the Canadian is incomparably better than the United States article. That has been admitted more than once in the course of the struggle between the Canadian and American for the British market, and the admission took the discreditable form of marking New York cheese as Canadian, and shipping it from a Canadian port. As we are sensitive to very broad compliments, we put a stop to this practice. It is as well that our cheesemakers should lose none of the pride they have so far taken in upholding the national trade mark that we thus protect by law. There have been rumors that some of our shippers have not so nice a sense of the honor and value of the name "Canadian" as they used to have. We are glad to hear that these rumors are emphatically contradicted by the Montreal Butter and Cheese Association, and that that body has forwarded a copy of its denial to Sir Charles Tupper, in London, with the request that he assist in endeavoring to place the responsibility for the damaging statement that Canadian summer cheese was in one case sold as September make on the London market. The statement is credited,

RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY,

to a shifty London buyer who bought on a rise that suddenly changed into a fall, and naturally rueing his bargain, he tried to get out of it by making out something to be wrong with the cheese. It would never do to let such an accusation pass unnoticed. The Butter and Cheese Association of Montreal, did wisely in promptly taking it up. If true, the blame could be traced to where it belongs, and the offender dealt with by the association in a way to discourage the repetition of such bad business. If false, as there seems every reason to believe it was, the association is the proper champion to undertake its refutation. We have come by a grand trade, thanks to our cows and our cheese-makers, a trade that at this moment it would be easy to lose if we became too secure of the market and less careful about quality, for not only New York and other States of the American Union covet it, but also New Zealand and some of the Australian colonies are making it a study to produce good cheese for Great Britain. These same colonies have great natural advantages in their favor, and it behooves our cheese-makers to be on their guard against carelessness and our shippers to avoid wrong business methods.

Not a Sunday Month.

It is only possible for February to have five Sundays three times in each century, unless, through some chronological freak the century comes in with a leap year, with the first day of February a Sunday. The five Sunday Februaries of this century have been those of 1824, 1852, and 1880. The next time this oddity will occur will be in the year 1920.

Professor Ghost says that if we reckon the average depth of the oceans at three miles there would be a layer of salt 200 feet thick in their basins should the waters of all suddenly evaporate.

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Snapshots of Recent Date.

A Presbyterian church is to be built at Baden.

Sardou draws \$150,000 a year from royalties on his plays.

Physicians' carriages have the right of way in the streets of Berlin.

One-seventh of the land surface of the globe is controlled by Russia.

Miss Balfour, sister of the English Conservative leader, is travelling in Africa.

Lady Marie Forrester, who recently died in England, selected Florence Nightingale for hospital work in the Crimea.

A deaconess hospital in connection with the Church of Scotland has been opened at Edinburgh.

Six veterans of Waterloo are still living in France, fourteen in England, and three in the United States.

Charged with drunkenness 338 times before a single police judge is the record of a Liverpool woman.

It is estimated that the recent coal strike in Scotland cost \$40,000,000, or \$10 per head of population.

In England, Scotland and Wales last year \$3,500,000 was spent on technical education, nearly a million more than the year before.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward is said to have made \$80,000 from "David Grieve," \$80,000 from "Marcella," and \$40,000 from "Robert Elmore."

Amulets are now worn by royal noble families in India that are believed to have been handed down from father to son for nearly 2,000 years.

Several sacrificial knives have been recovered from the Mexican pyramids. They are pieces of flint, fashioned into the shape of a butcher-knife.

A black basalt statue covered with fine inscriptions has been found on the site of the great palace of the kings of Babylon where Belshazzar held his feast.

One of the London newspapers is advertising for a journalist who can telegraph promptly the latest political and non-political news "founded on fact."

The Turkish Government is considering a project for the extension of potato cultivation in Angora. Land devoted to this object is to be exempt from taxation for five years.

The Wesleyan Methodists of Great Britain have 1,154 temperance societies, with a membership of 68,798. Their Bands of Hope number 4,222, with a membership of 435,411.

A black Canada shilling stamp, damaged, brought \$150 at a recent sale in London. A double Geneva \$125, an 1861 Madrid two reals \$85, and a Transvaal shilling, red and green, \$100.

Approaches are being made to leading persons in the world of art, literature and statesmanship to secure their co-operation in the establishment of a Dante Alighieri Society in London.

Patti has just discovered a new tenor near her Welsh estate and will have him sing at her next London concert. He is a tinner, named John Williams, but his local nickname is Eryr Afon.

Sir John Rigby, England's Attorney-General, has just been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal, to fill a vacancy made by the promotion of Lord Davey as Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

At a recent examination for the Indian civil service six natives, the largest number on record, were successful. Two of them were Mohammedans, one a Parsee, and the other three Hindus.

Mrs. Gray, of Bowersville, Perthshire, Scotland, the mother of Lady Millais, has just died at the age of 84 years. It was from Mrs. Gray's garden that Sir John Millais painted "The Vale of Rest."

Dr. Y. May Kin was the first Chinese lady to receive a medical degree in America. She has now a large practice in Kobe, Japan, and was the first scientifically educated female practitioner in that country.

A white panther from the Pamirs has been presented to the Jardin des Plantes by the Governor of Turkestan and Prince Gargarine. It is an animal which has never been seen in any zoological collection of western Europe.

J. P. Wallis, editor of the state trials and reader of constitutional law to the ins of court, is now writing the constitutional history of the British colonies, from the date of the earliest settlements in America to the present time.

Herr Cramer, who for forty-five years was Paris correspondent of the Koelnische Zeitung, has just died at the age of 70. It was he who in July, 1870, first sent to Germany the despatch, "Der kreig ist erklart." War is declared.

On a single Saturday the football accidents in England included the assistant master of one school killed, and the head master of another laid up with a compound fracture of a leg, and five other persons seriously injured.

Twenty-five miles of the Congo Railroad, forming the first section between Mantanga and Keetge, are completed at a cost of \$100,000 per mile. The line will be 93 miles long and will connect the immense waterways above the falls with the sea.

Stockholm has a better and cheaper telephone service than any other city in the world. There are about 14,000 instruments in use, or one to every eighteen people. Two companies, the General and the Bell, own 10,495 and the State telephones number 3,000.

The Ameer of Afghanistan has been under the treatment of Miss L. Hamilton, M. D., a young Scotchwoman, who first trained as a nurse in the Liverpool infirmary. She took her medical degree in Brussels, and was a practising physician in Calcutta until she went to Kabul a few months ago.

Lady Sophia Cecil, aunt of the Marquis of Exeter, who is now 94, is the last survivor of the famous ball at Brussels on the night before Waterloo. She is a daughter of the Duchess of Richmond, who gave the ball, and danced that night with the Duke

of Brunswick, who was killed next day at Quatre Bras.

The attar of roses industry is departing from Kezanlik. In 1890 3,163 kilogrammes were produced. In 1892 the yield was only 439 kilogrammes, and last year it was a little over 200. Competition is the cause of the falling off. The industry is now carried on in other parts of Turkey, and in France and Germany.

A New York woman recently in Paris confessed to a great interest in the woman bootblacks whom she saw there. "They wear a peculiar uniform," she says, "not unlike that of the sisters of mercy, but their coquettish manners quite nullify the religious associations of their dress. Most of them work with gloved hands, and they are wonderfully neat and dexterous at their calling."

Victor Hugo's coffin in the Pantheon in Paris still rests on the temporary trestles upon which it was set on the day of his funeral, nearly ten years ago. Nothing has been done toward preparing the tomb in which it is to lie, or toward erecting a monument over it. At the time of his death it was proposed to raise a great national subscription for that purpose, but nothing has been accomplished.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Brooklyn barber shines the boots of every patron without cost.

The female frog is voiceless. It is only the male frog that sings.

Beggars are promptly arrested in Vienna if caught begging on the streets.

Italy has more theatres, in proportion to population, than any other country.

A store keeper in Brockton, Mass., displays this sign: "Home-made Corne Beef."

A gill of carbolic acid, added to a bucket of white-wash, will kill the vermin in a hen-house.

Bath-tubs are to be placed in the Chicago schools, so that the pupils may disport themselves therein.

It costs four times as much to govern American cities as is spent for the same purpose in English cities.

Stockings were first worn in Italy, in the year 1100. Before that period it was customary to swathe the feet and legs in bandages.

It is illegal to erect in Washington, D. C., on business streets, a building over 110 feet high, or one over 90 feet, on residential streets.

Many of the people of New Zealand are seriously meditating the pensioning of all the residents after they have attained their seventieth year.

The early Egyptians believed that the soul existed only while the body endured. They, therefore, embalmed the body, to prevent decay as long as possible.

The smallest tax paid in Scmerville, Mass., is paid by a man who owns a monkey. The monkey is estimated to be worth five dollars, and the tax on it is seven cents.

A hunter from Winnemucca, Nevada, has been gone three months, hunting for a big bear. Now his folks are hunting for him, and they fear he has found the bear.

The best burglar-proof safes are made of alternate layers of hard and soft metal, which are welded together. This combination will not yield to either drill or sledge-hammer.

A Norwegian law prohibits a person from spending more than five cents at one visit to a public house. Therefore, when a man decides that it is time for a spree, he must hustle from house to house.

In Sweden it is believed that if a bride, during the marriage ceremony, can keep her right foot in advance of the bridegroom's, she is destined to secure future supremacy—in other words, "wear the breeches."

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that "if nine-tenths of all the medicines, patent, proprietary, and otherwise, in all the world, were poured into the ocean, it would be all the better for mankind and all the worse for the fishes."

A family in Pittsburg had an old wardrobe that had stood in the house for fifty years. It became an eyesore to them, and they decided to remove it. As they were doing so, the bottom dropped, and out popped \$75,000 in bank-notes and Government bonds.

"McSwiney's gun" is the name given to a natural hole, ten inches in diameter, in a huge rock on the coast of Donegal, Ireland. At high tide, when the sea is rough, the "gun" repeatedly spouts jets of water to a height of one hundred feet, and each spout is preceded by a loud report.

FAMINE IN NEBRASKA.

Families on the Verge of Starvation and Suffering From Cold.

A despatch from Omaha, Neb., says:—The destitution in those Western Nebraska counties devasted by the drought is growing daily, notwithstanding the efforts to aid the suffering farmers. The following appeal has been issued by Mayor Bemis, of Omaha:—"Information has come to me within the past few days from the most reliable sources—from gentlemen of integrity who speak from actual observation—that the suffering among the farmers in the drought-stricken districts of our State is exceedingly severe. Families are on the verge of starvation; mothers have nothing in which to wrap their babes, and have no clothing for themselves, except dresses made from gunny sacking; underwear and shoes are almost unknown, and fuel is a luxury only to be dreamed of. One of my informants, a clergyman, informs me that he has partaken of meals among farmers where the greens of potato tops and mouldy bread, constituted the only food. I am fully aware that there is a great deal of suffering among our own people, but I believe that our citizens should make a special effort to extend all possible assistance to the sufferers in our State outside the city. It would be a fitting manner of giving thanks for the blessings we have received for our citizens to contribute toward relieving the sufferings of these people. What is needed is clothing of all kinds and descriptions and food of all sorts."

British and Foreign.

Sardou draws \$150,000 a year from royalties on his plays.

Le Stade Francais, a Paris football club, recently defeated the London Civil Service Club.

If Alphonse Daudet's health continues good he will visit London for the first time next spring.

In England, Scotland, and Wales last year, \$3,500,000 was spent on technical education, nearly a million more than the year before.

A statue of Claude Brnard, the great physiologist, who, while he lived, was the chief attraction to Paris for medical students all over the world, was recently unveiled at Lyons, near which city he was born.

Photographs of the Princess of Wales are still the most popular in England; more than 200,000 were sold last year. Next in demand after royalty and the professional beauties, comes Mr. Gladstone. There is little call for Lord Rosebery's picture.

Sir D. A. Lange, who was appointed in 1858 constructor of the Suez Canal, and carried out that work, died in London recently. He had stepped into a barber's shop to be shaved, and, while waiting for the barber, took a seat, lighted a cigarette, and expired immediately.

A pneumatic typewriter has been invented in England in which compressed air does the work of the levers in other machines. A small India-rubber bulb takes the place of the keys, the pressure of the finger producing the impact of the type on the paper. It is much cheaper than any of the existing types of high-grade instruments.

A political agent in England recently sent the following protest to an elector:—"To Mr. X. Y. Z.—Take notice that I object to your name being retained on the list of the ownership electors of the county, and I ground my objection on the fact that you are dead." The document was addressed to the dead man and opened by his widow.

A second part of the present Czar's account of his travels in the East is about to be published by Brockhaus in Leipzig. It deals with the visit to China and Japan, the attempt to assassinate him, and the return through Siberia. The illustrations are from photographs taken by himself and by Prince George of Greece, who accompanied him.

Cambridge University has recently taken up the question of degrees for advanced study and research. The council of the Senate recommends the appointment of a committee to confer with Oxford and other universities to secure common action on the subject, and calls attention to the scheme for post graduate studies already in operation at Harvard.

At Passavella-Settemini, near Pompeii, a Roman bath house was recently excavated, on private property, in which were found in position an immense boiler and a complete system of tubing, with bronze taps—a thing never found before even in Pompeii. Three rooms, with mosaic floors and artistic marble tubs, are well preserved, and, what is very unusual, a roof about sixty feet long is still in place.

Sir Henry Acland, Bart., Regius professor of medicine at Oxford, who accompanied the Prince of Wales in his visit to America in 1860, has sent in his resignation, to take effect at the end of the year, when he will be 80 and will have served the university fifty years. He was appointed reader in anatomy in 1845, Radcliffe's librarian in 1851, Regius professor in 1858, and was created a baronet in 1890. He is the uncle of the Right Hon. Arthur H. Dyke-Acland, Lord Rosebery's Minister of Education.

Louis de Bourbon was the name given in a Paris police court the other day by a wine shop keeper arrested for trying to blow out his brains. He claims to be the grandson of Naundorf who, when Louis Philippe was King, declared that he was Louis XVII., the little Dauphin imprisoned in the Temple. The wine dealer asserts that he has been an officer in the Dutch army, that he has no political ambition, and that his attempt at suicide was due to his failing to make his business pay. The sign over the shop reads "Maison de Bourbon."

Whence Comes the Diamond?

Theories concerning the origin of the diamond have been both numerous and curious. Some mineralogists have suggested that it is the residence of carbon vapors dissipated by heat during that indefinite epoch known as the "coal period." Newton says that in his opinion it is "a coagulated unctuous substance, probably of vegetable origin." Hynes and Faure are both of the opinion that no diamond was ever formed on or within the surface of our earth, and that all such gems are brought to this planet by meteoric stones from some far-away world. Sir David Brewster, the eminent British philosopher (born 1781, died in 1868), entertained ideas concerning the diamond's origin, which, while similar to those of Newton, were different in some respects. In his estimation such gems were once masses of gum, exuded from certain species of extinct trees or plants, which had subsequently "petrified" and assumed the crystalline form! According to Dana, the greatest living authority, they may have been produced by slow decomposition of vegetable or even animal matter.

Young Travellers.

In Bonaventure station, Montreal, the other day, were two little people who are travelling all alone from Norway to Grantsburg, Wis., where they are to join their father. A girl of nine, and her brother of only a year older, they had made the entire trip alone, and all that had been given them when they left their native land was their tickets and letter, in a lady's hand, praying all captains, conductors and trainmen to be kind to the little ones on their long journey. The travellers were the very picture of health. Mr. D. O. Pease, district passenger agent, looked after their wants while here, and provided a substantial lunch to take with them on the train.

To prevent wrinkles, the ladies of the court of Catherine de Medici wore a forehead cloth tightly bound on their heads.