[illegible] JANUARY 24 ECLIPSE OF SUN WILL LOOK

This is what the total eclipse of the sun will look like to Toronto people on January 24. The picture is one taken by Dr. C. A. Chant, Professor of Astro-Physics at the University of Toronto, in Australia during the total eclipse which was visible to that country in 1923.

France Follows Suit.

Paris is to have a Wembley of its own [illegible] and preparations for the new exhibition are already in an adv[illegible]e. The French venture is to be an international exhibition of decorative and industrial art, and it is expected that from May to October next year, while it is in progress, the city on the Seine will be busier ahan ever.

Lofty towers are already rising on the chosen site, which stretches from the [illegible]des across the river to the Champs Elysees, and the whole area of the Esplanade and Place des Invalides is being covered with a series of fairy palaces.

Very prominent in this latest Exhibition will be French cooking and the art of the French furniture makers. An dit is expected that the American accent will be even more in evidence at the Paris exhibition than it was at Wembley.

Basil King

Canadian author, who, although on the verge of blindness, has sailed for Spain to obtain material for a new novel.

Basil King, the Canadian novelist, is facing total blindness. He has been facing that possibility for many years and now that it is an imminent certainty, he is looking to the future with courage undaunted. Far from feeling that his talent is useless, he has sailed for Spain, where he will spend the winter in search of literary material.

"His sight has always been weak," stated S. C. Swift, head of the Library Department of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, in Toronto. "In fact, that was one of the things that compelled him to give up the ministry years ago. Reading and writing since have intensified the trouble."

"Has it influenced his writing at all?" Mr. Swift was asked.

"I think it has, though not to any marked extent. I think it has possibly sobered him, but it has certainly not made him pessimistic. He is quite a philosopher, you know, and takes things as they come, with a strong faith in the Almighty."

King's book, "Conquest of Fear," published a year ago, shows the sobering influence of the writer's approaching blindness, in Mr. Swift's opinion. Mr. Swift, from his knowledge of King's writings, hazarded the guess that the book for which he purposes gathering material in Spain, will be partly on historical and partly on social lines.

Badly-Dressed Statesmen.

Cecil Rhodes would not have accepted the dictum of the "Tailor and Cutter" that is obligatory on statesmen to dress well. Even on ceremonial occasions Rhodes would wear old and dilapidated flannels and a seedy slouch hat.

Sir Gordon Sprigg, when Premier of Cape Colony, made an effort to enforce the wearing of "respectable" dark clothes in the Cape Parliament. Sir Gordon was the height of respectability himself, and always wore a black frock-coat in Parliament.

Rhodes refused to follow the Premier's lead and made a speech against the proposed sumptuary regulation. "If I cannot help to legislate in comfortable clothes," said he, 'I refuse to help at all, and I think most honorable members will agree with me." They did.

Britons Hope to Call India on Phone Soon.

A few months ago it was considered an ambitious undertaking, when plans were announced for a telephone service between London and Berlin, a distance of some 600 miles. Now, however, British postoffice engineers are giving serious consideration to the practicability of constructing new lines and linking up existing facilities, with a view of enabling conversations to be held between London and cities in India.

In some quarters, it is stated, optimistically, that London and Rangoon might be connected by phone. This distance is no greater than that covered by the circuit involved in the Havana-Los Angeles wire. It is from the perfection of the instrument known as the "repeater," that long distance telephony for Europe is hoped to be developed into a commercial success.

Mud Skippers.

The mud skipper is a large fish, which walks on land frequently. It also climbs trees and does other things equally curious. A well-grown specimen weights from forty to fifty pounds. It has a head something like that of a mastiff, the resemblance being very striking about the lower jaw.

The mud skipper walks principally by means of its pe toral fins and its tail. It gets along exceedingly well. It is fairly common along the shores of the Indo-Pacific Ocean—that is to say, in southeastern Asia. In Siam plenty of mud skippers are to be found.

The most remarkable accomplishment of the mud skipper is to climb trees. With its pectoral fins it catches hold of a tree trunk as firmly as if it had hands. It goes up into the tree in search of insects, sunshine and fresh air. The mud skipper has a loud, hoarse voice.

Music They Understand.

The natural way to expand the love of music among people is to give them the music they understand. If music were left exclusively to the highbrows its range of influence would soon diminish and the art would become the preserve of a cult. The great spread of the musical public now observable in this country is due to the fact that all tastes and all degrees of musical knowledge are being intelligently catered for. Clearly, it is of no use to press Shakespeare upon a child when fairy tales are the only poetry it can understand. And if a follower of music is able only to grosp the attractiveness of a ballad or a popular tune, let him have that. He may by means of them work up to higher forms of music impossible of appreciation by him at one stride.

Complexion creams are being increasingly used by men, mostly middle-aged or elderly. Skillfully applied, they make a man both look and feel younger.

Hot water is in future to be supplied free to the inhabitants of Windhoek, a small town in South-West Africa. It is obtained from a hot-water spring which is to be connected with the ordinary water supply.

Children of the Old Times

If our young folks could go back five or six hundred years, they would find that the children of those times dressed and behaved very differently from themselves. The higher civilization of the twentieth century has given all classes of people advantages that even royalty did not possess in those old days, but no class has greater reason to be grateful for the changes that have occurred than the young people of to-day.

In those times that we are going to speak of a child's life was rude and uncomfortable enough. Babies, as soon as they were born, were wrapped in swaddling clothes, so that they looked like the chrysalis of the silk-worm. The cradle was a rude, cumbrous affair, usually made of oak, and often with no rockers.

The huge oaken cradle in which King Henry V. of England was rocked when a baby is still in existence, carefully preserved by descendants of a personage who held the responsible office of rocker to this prince. It is wider at one end than at the other, and there are holes at the bottom for cordage to pass through, on which was supported the royal baby's bed—a mattress of rushes, the best the land afforded.

Very little was done for children in those early days. They had no books of any kind, excepting the horn-book, a kind of tablet, from which they learned the alphabet. Few Anglo-Saxon or Norman children could read or write. Their learing consisted in psalm-singing and reciting poetry. The principal rule for teaching was to tell a child to learn, and then subject him to a severe beating if he did not.

This harshness seems to have continued to a late period, in English society, for Lady Jane Grey, wso was remarkable for her precociousness and scholarship, complained of the "nips and bobs and punches" administered by her parents, who could never be satisfied by anything she did.

Costumes Long Ago.

The style of dress was simple, and did not vary greatly through several centuries. Boys wore a tunic, a garment that descended about to the knee, and was fastened at the waist by a girdle of folded cloth of the same material. The lower classes wore nothing besides this tunic, but the gentry wore over it a short cloak or mantle, which was fastened on the shoulder by a brooch.

They usually went bareheaded, but sometimes they put on a pointed hat or cap, shaped like a sugar-loaf. The trousers were tight to the leg, and were, in fact, long stockings, or hose, as they were called.

Over these stockings they sometimes wore bands of cloth, linen or leather, commencing at the ankle, and terminating a little below the knee, either in close coils, like the hav-bands of a modern hostler, or crossing each other sandalwise, as they are worn to this day by the people of Abruzzi and the Apennines ,and in some parts of Russia and Spain.

The shoes were of cloth or leather, open at the instep, and fastened with thongs. Among the gentry these thongs were adorned with gold and gems. The buskins of Louis le Debonaire, the son of Charlemagne, were of gold stuff; his tunic was interwoven with gold, and his belt was of silver.

The dress of the girls was a loose, short gown, worn over a longer robe, confined to the waist and having long, wide sleeves. Sometimes these sleeves were so long that they had to be tied up in knots, so as to avoid treading on them.

The hair was worn braided in two long plaits, and coquettishly tied with parti-colored ribbons. When they went out of doors, they wore a very wide cloak over the upper part of the body, and a covering upon the head, which must have hade them look much like little nuns.

Between the years 1100 and 1500, according to old pictures, the dress of the young folks was very nearly the same as that of other persons. Little girls dressed like their mothers, with long, cumbersome trains to their dresses, stomachers trimmed with fur, a leathern or silken purse attached to their girdles, studded or impearled with little metallic buttons, and large chignons on the tops of their heads.

Young fellows of eleven or fifteen tripped about in long, peaked shoes, tight hose, short tunics or slashed doublets, bordered mantles, long or short, according to the prevailing style, their hair so long that it fell into their eyes, and covered with a bannet of cloth a quarter of an ell or more in height—a modified garb of their fathers.

The poor young prince, by right King Edward V., who was afterward murdered by his cruel uncle, Gloster, in the Tower, received for the ceremony of the coronation of the usurper a short gown, made of two yards and three-quarters of crimson cloth of the same stuff lined with green damask; a mantle made of two yards and a half of purple velvet, bordered with ermine; a stomacher and doublet made of two yards of black satin, besides two foot-cloths, a bonnet of purple velvet, gilt spurs, and a chain of gold to be worn around the neck.

Favorite Sports.

The out-door amusements of the boys were boxing, running, wrestling, football, tilting at the ring and quintain. Toys familiar to us were used—such as whop-tops, balls, marbles, shuttle-cocks and hoops.

These toys were, of course, very crude and coarse as compared with those of modern days.

There are many crude pictures in ancient books illustrating these old games. In one they are playing ball; in another, battle-door and shuttle-cock; in still another, the boys are playing with a hoop. Two of them are holding the hoop up between them and the third is preparing to jump through it head foremost.

His plan is to come down on the other side upon his hands, and so turn a somersault and come up on his feet beyond.

The hobby-horse and the whip were well known.

One of the most popular toys was called the jousting-tov. It was a model of a mounted knight in full armor, with a lance manufactured of brass. The knight and his horse rested on a stand with four wheels, which was drawn about by means of a cord attached to the front.

The plaything was so constructed that the knight could be thrown backward and separated from his horse by a smart blow on the top of his shield or the front of his helmet. With two of these toys it was easy to represent two knights in deadly combat.

They were placed some distance from each other, and then drawn suddenly together. When the lance of one hit the figure of the opposite knight, of course it overthrew it, and ended the mimic duel.

As soon as the boys were old enough they were trained in the marital exercises and usages which were practiced in those days.

They put on heavy suits of armor, and took lessons in springing upon a horse, in running races, and in striking heavy blows in quick succession with a battle-ax or club, as if they were beating an enemy lying upon the ground, nd trying to break his armor to pieces, and other similar things.

One feat which they practiced was to climb up between two partition-walls, built pretty near together, by bracing their backs against one wall and working with their knees and hands against the other.

Another feat was to climb up a ladder, on the under side, by means of the hands alone.

They also learned to mount upon a horse, behind another person by leaping directly from the ground.

But the most famous exercise of all —or perhaps it should be called a game—was performed with the quintain. The quintain was of singular construction. There is one still standing on the green in Offharn village, Kent, a southern county of England, and so we have a pretty good idea of how the plaything looked.

It consists of a stout post set in the ground, and rising ten or twelve feet above the surface. A strong bar is placed across the top, turning on a pivot, so that it will go round and round.

At one end of this cross-bar there is fixed a square board for a target. From the other end a heavy club is suspended.

In playing the game, the competitors mounted on horseback, and rode one after another under the target-end of the cross-bar, hurling their spears at it with all their force. The blow from the spear would knock the target-end of the cross-bar away, and so bring round the other end with its heavy club to strike a blow on the horseman's head if he was not instantly out of the way. It was like striking one enemy in front in battle, with another enemy ready to strike you on the instant from behind.

Of the children's indoor amusements, dancing was the favorite one. Very staid, stiff and sober, however, were the dances of the period, and it must have been a funny sight to see the boys and girls, looking like minature men and women, engaged in this pastime.

A game called "Qui Fery," now our well-known "Hot Cockles," was frequently indulged in.

One of the players was blinded, and knelt in the centre of a circle, with one hand behind her. The rest of the company, each in turn, struck her hand, asking "Qui Fery" who touched?) If the one blindfolded guessed correctly, that one took her place.

"Cross and Pile," afterward called "Head and Tail," "Crambo," a game in which one gave a word for another to find a rhyme to it; dice, chess, tables, now our familiar back-gammon, were among the frequent amusements of old-time young folks.

Dwellings Were Comfortless.

The dwellings at this period were dark, cheerless and inconvenient. The poor people lived in huts of mud, wood or rough stones, with thatched roofs.

Nobles and princes lived in large castles, very stately on the outside, but cold and uncomfortable within. There were no carpets on the floor, nothing but straw or rushes sprinkled over the stone pavements. But feeble light was admitted through the few windows, and the smoke from the great fire-place ascended through a hole in the roof, for there were no chimneys. The parlor or great hall was hung round with suits of armor, fierce-looking weapons, deers' antlers and grizzly-boars' heads. The "festive board" was literally boards, which were simply set upon trestles to form a table. There were no books in cheap or in elegant bindings, no paintings on the walls; but, perhaps, the rudely-carved figure of a saint looked down from its niche, and in some of the wealthier houses, a huge copy of the Bible or some ancient Latin work might be found in the ladies' chamber.

It was no wonder that the poor girls and their mothers were glad to pass as much time as possible out of doors.

Whenever the weather was fair, they came out of the dark huts and cheerless castles, some to mount palfrey and ride a-hawking in the broad meadow, others to dance and play chess in the shady gardens.

A great deal of attention and care were paid by the gentry to their yards and gardens, and they were favorite places of resort to the ladies of the household.

A manuscript of the fourteenth century gives an illustration of a group of boys and girls amusing themselves in a garden of weaving-chaplets and garlands of flowers. In another, a party of ladies are represented dining at a table.

Early rising was a virtue among our ancestors, and the girls and boys of those early centuries arose betimes. Six o'clock in the summer and seven in the winter was the rule.

ARncient Table Manners.

Lunch or breakfast was eaten soon after rising, and the dinner hour was at ten or eleven.

Later, in King Henry the Eighth's time, they dined at noon. Supper occurred at five in the afternoon.

Table manners were primitive, and the conveniences of our age were lacking. There were no such things as forks. They were not invented for a long time afterward. The common table knife was a clasp-knife. It was considered the height of refinement for tyo to eat out of the same dish.

Napkins were not in use. People wiped their hands on the straw or rushes on the floor, or oftener on the table-cloth. The following rules are thse which a mamma of the fourteenth century might be supposed to give her young daughters who were just entering society:

"In eating, you must avoid much laughing or talking. If you eat with another—namely, in the same plate—turn the nicest piece to him, and do not go picking the finest and largest for yourself, which is not courteous. Moreover, no one should eat greedily a piece that is too large or too hot, for fear of being burned or choked.'"

How delightfully simple! Who could help being decorous and unobjectionable in society, living up to this code of etiquette?

It was considered quite the thing for young gentlemen to leave home and take service under persons of higher rank in order to learn meanners and accomplishments. Their duties at first were humble. They waited at table, put on their master's shoes, carried him armor in battle, and performed other offices which would be considered menial by our smart young men of to-day. This apprenticeship, however, was a valuable one to the neophyte. He learned to be meek, obient and courteous—virtues that were the highest attribution of knighthood.

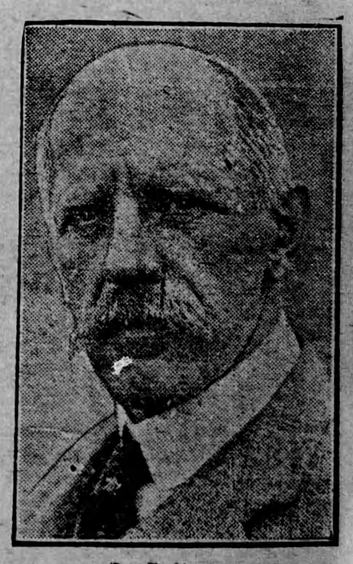
In the same manner girls were taught to spin, to weave, to embroider, and to make dresses. They also learned how to nurse and doctor the sick—a most excellent thing in a girl's education. Medical herbs were grown in every garden, and the girls dried and made them into medicine for use when needed.

During the middle ages the ladies were the surgeons and physicians. In all the medieval romances and manuscripts, women are represented as nursing wounded knights, and preparing with their own white hands the plasters for mained limbs and painful wounds.

Our old-time children have now very nearly grown to be men and women. We have followed them from infancy to years of maturity. Their dress, their amusements, their mode of living have passed in review before us, and we will now leave them—the boy perhaps a perfect knight, to tilt on tourneyfields or fight stern battles in the warfare of life; the girl a matronly woman sitting at her embroidery frame in her dark stone chamber, or riding forth in the sunshine to the beautiful meadows with her lord, to watch the falcon's light or see the red deer leap from covert to covert.

Life may not have been so dreary to them as we might suppose, but surely none of the young folks of to-day would care to go back and live with the children of the olden time.

A cache of supplies belonging to surveyors of the Topographical Survey of Canada is shown in Northern Saskatchewan. It is built off the ground and strong enough to resist the assaults of animals.



Dr. F. Nansen

Who has officially announced his plans to lead a Zeppelin expedition to the North Pole.

The Real Best Sellers.

What are the real "best sellers?" The books that are the sensations of a moment are usually known by this name, but in most cases they are forgotten in a very short time. One day they may be on all the bookstalls; the next the man who buys second-hand literature will hardly look at them.

The real best sellers are the "old-timers" of our youth. "Little Lord Fauntleroy," the authoress of which died recently, has still a steady sale. Dickens is as popular as ever, and even Wilkie Collins is familiar to many more people than we might suppose.

Another interesting sidelight on this question was provided by Mr. C. J. Longmon, who presided at the recent Longmans bicentenary luncheon. He said that more copies of "Robinson Crusoe" had been sold in India alone during the last five years than had been sold in the first five years of its publication.

Riches in themselves are not an evil; it is the trust in riches that is evil.—Canon Rurell.

Native girls of New Guinea are as fond of decking themselves with bright-colored stones and other orna[illegible] as their European sisters.

The members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in charge of Inspector C. H. Hill, who have been present in the Canadian government's pavilion at Wembley since the exhibition opened, are shown previous to sailing from Liverpool for home.