

Wonders of Easter Island.

In the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, 3,000 miles distant from the nearest continent, rises the mysterious Easter Island abounding with the remote antiquity, which greatly interested and perplexed a party of savages who recently visited them. The island is about forty miles in circumference, barren, without trees, destitute of resources, and inhabited by a few savages who lead the most miserable existence imaginable. But upon this narrow strip of land, so barren and unproductive, the astonished eye of the explorer beholds a forest of gigantic stone statues, about the origin and meaning of which the race dwelling around them knows absolutely nothing. The smallest of these statues measure twenty feet in height, while many measure thirty feet, and a few attain the incredible dimensions of fifty feet. Some repose upon long platforms constructed in the cyclopean manner; the greater portion of them wear crowns about six feet in height, formed of volcanic tufa, which have evidently been placed upon these statues after their erection. The foreheads of the statues are retreating, and the mouths prominent, which indications may probably reveal the race who constructed them. As regards the workmanship upon them, it is rude and clumsy, although not destitute of character and expression. The questions concerning them, presented for solution, are, what do they represent? Whose handwork are they? and how came they there? There are no metals in Easter Island, not even silver; only a few hard species of stone are found capable of being fashioned into axes, with which, perhaps, those mysterious statues were hewn. The stone of which they are composed is found neither upon the island nor any of the surrounding islands; their number, dimensions and character forming a strange contrast to the narrowness and poverty of the place wherein they are constructed. How could this barren island have nourished a race of men capable of raising such monuments? Where is the race? and what country do they still inhabit? In reply to these speculations, several scientific men of great authority hazard the opinion that the island in question is only one of the summits of the submerged continent which geological evidence proves at one time to have occupied the whole of that part of the Pacific which is now called Polynesia. Several also show grounds for believing that the statues in question present a Mexican physiognomy, and may have been the work of one of the kindred races of that people. Several of these monuments are now on way to the British Museum, where it is hoped, additional light will be thrown upon them.

The Law of Libel.

The Guelph Advertiser, after recounting a number of petty libel suits, now and lately before the courts, makes the following truthful remarks, in regard to prosecutors in libel suits giving security for costs, &c.:

We would respectfully suggest to our Legislators that an amendment of the Law of Libel is urgently demanded.—

As the law now stands, a newspaper has

absolutely no protection against the secret conspiracies of its enemies,

and the malice of those it may offend in the discharge of its duties. "At present,"

remarks a contemporary, "when anyone takes aifront at the statement of a journalist, he may enter either into a criminal or a civil suit—the first to confine the body, and the last to lighten the purse of that functionary." Very good. But in case the party suing is not worth anything in law, even if the editor wins his case, he is muddled in the costs of his own lawyers, witnesses, &c., which seldom fall below three or four hundred dollars, and may exceed even a thousand dollars. Thus we find a man whose innocence has been maintained by a jury of his countrymen compelled to pay out a large sum of money, from which he can derive no benefit.—

In short, it is the legal robbery of an unoffending subject. If the law is so very anxious to guard individuals against the slanders of the press (which is perfectly right and necessary), it should at least defend the press against mock suits, and protect its managers in their proper sphere. Eight times out of ten the plaintiffs in newspaper libel suits are losing scamps or scurvy speculators, who permit themselves to be the tools of parties in the background, that are willing to spend a few hundred dollars for the satisfaction of making the editor spend a similar sum. They may be quite satisfied that their case can never stand good in court; but as the principles are too worthless to guarantee the costs of the action, it is enough for them that the defendant must lose heavily in pocket. What we want is a law requiring parties who enter suits for libel against newspapers to deposit a certain sum in the law officer's hands, or give security for the payment of costs if the action fails. This would have the effect of quashing a fat crop of these enterprisers, and give the press a feeling of security and independence it can never enjoy under the present circumstances. We recognize in mock or speculative libel suits the understroke of crime to silence thought; and while we have to deal with a defective law, with men in the country who are weakless and villainous enough to conspire and rob publishers, and lawyers dependent upon such contemptibly small speculations for a livelihood, the only alternatives are to "grin and bear it," with the legal pistol at one's head, loaded to the muzzle with bills of costs and trouble.

Recalling a pleasant day spent with some of the choicest spirits in the literary world, Carlyle said: "We agreed about everything except opinions."

Shot in Battle.

The following is an extract from a letter written by a wounded German soldier describing his sensations: "There! a blow in the breast, a tearing in the body, a fall with a loud cry and terrible pain; there I lay, one of the victims of this bloody day. My first sensation was anger at the blow, my second an expectation of seeing myself explode, for judging by the sound of the ball I believed I had a grenade in my body; then came the pain, and with it helplessness and falling. Oh, how frightful are those first moments!—Where I was hit, how I was wounded, I could form no idea; I only felt that I could not stir, saw the battalions disappear from my sight, and myself alone on the ground amid the fearful howling and whistling of the balls, which were incessantly striking the earth around me. With difficulty could I turn my head a little, and saw behind me two soldiers attending on a third, who was lying on the ground. Of what happened I can give no account, except that I cried for help several times as well as I could, for the pain and burning throbbed the upper hand. At last both of them ran up to me, and with joy I recognized the doctor and hospital attendant of my company. 'Where are you wounded?' is the first question. I could only point. My dress was quickly opened, and in the middle of the breast a bloody wound was found, which the doctor hastily bound. The balls still constantly whizzed around us; one struck the doctor's helmet, and immediately I felt a violent blow in the left arm. Another wound! With difficulty I was turned round, to look for the outlet of the bullet, but it was still in my body, near the spine. At last it was cut out. 'Is the wound dangerous?' I asked. 'I hope not.' 'Pray tell me the truth.' 'Not very dangerous, it is to be hoped,' and with the emphasized 'very' my hopes melted. They were going away. 'The wound in my arm, doctor?' This, fortunately was looked for in vain; the ball had merely caused a blue spot, and had sunk into the ground harmlessly. I extended my hand to the doctor and thanked him, as also the attendants, whom I commissioned to send word to my family. Ceaselessly it whizzed and howled around me. The doctor had carefully laid me on my cloak, with my helmet firmly on my head, in order, in some measure, to protect me from the leaden hail. Thus I lay along with my thoughts, amid the most terrible fire, perhaps, for an hour and a half. All my thoughts, as far as pain and increasing weakness allowed, were fixed on my family. Gradually I got accustomed to the danger which surrounded me, and only when too much sand from the striking bullets was thrown on my body did I remember my little enviable position. * * * At last, after long, long waiting, the sanitary detachment came to me."

50 Pair Horse Blankets, 200 Strings of Bells,

ALSO, A FEW GOOD
Buffalo Robes,
Just to hand at
Isaacs & Gray's

"VERY PRETTY INDEED."

Stove-Pipe VARNISH,

AN
Admirable Preparation
FOR

PRESERVING

AND
BEAUTIFYING

STOVE - PIPES

MASSED IN TWO
&C., &C.

IT SAVES TROUBLE & EXPENSE.

25 CTS.
PER BOX!

FINDLAY & SHAW'S
DRUG STORE,
LOWER TOWN, DURHAM.

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INSTITUTE.
34 KING STREET EAST,
TORONTO, ONT.

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OVER 100 OPERATORS,

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desiring to learn this light and honorable occupation, apply to the Institute. The average length of time required is three months. Ladies learn more rapidly than Gentlemen. Both sexes admitted from 14 years of age and upwards.

For full particulars and terms address

T. H. CHURCHILL,
Toronto, Ont.

A pompous fellow made a very inadequate offer for a valuable property; and, calling the next day for an answer, inquired of the gentleman if he had entertained his proposition. 'No,' replied the other, 'your proposition entertained me.'

A bank note—an old delapidated one

is going the rounds with a piece of yellow paper pasted on the back of it, on which is written, 'Go it, Bill, I'll back you!'

How to TELL THE AGE OF HORSES.

A short time ago we met a gentleman from Illinois, who gave us a piece of information in regard to ascertaining a horse's age, after he or she had passed the ninth year, which was new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this: after the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eye lids at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well-defined wrinkle for each year over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles, he is twelve; if four, he is thirteen. Add the number of wrinkles minus nine and you will get it.

To strike a circle without compasses,

take a pencil between the thumb and forefinger, then resting the first joint of the thumb on the paper, rotate the paper, using the joint of the thumb as a centre, and the point of the pencil kept steady on the moving paper will describe a circle nearly perfect. The circle can be made larger or smaller, according to the distance of the point of the pencil from the end of the forefinger.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Toronto announce that they have a Committee for the purpose of showing kindness to Young Men who are strangers, and leading them under religious influences. It is requested that all who desire the co-operation of this Committee, will send the names and addresses of Young Men about to remove to Toronto, in whom they are interested, by the person himself if possible, or by post, with such particulars of character as they may deem proper.

The Queen has now nine grandsons

and eight grand-daughters, together

with seventeen grandchildren, of whom

the Crown Princesses of Prussia gives

one (died in 1856), the Princess of

Wales five, the Princess Alice five, and the Princess Helena two. And the Queen has still five unmarried chil-

dren!

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(LATE PARKER & CATTLE.)

DEALER IN PURE DRUGS AND
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of every description and reliable in quality.

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supplied at low rates.

VARNISHES!

Best Turpentine Varnish \$1.50 per can.

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LUBRICATING OILS,

Olive, Elephant, Seal and Crude Oil,

MOTT'S MACHINE OIL,

Cheep; used by Millers, Threshers, &c.

COAL OIL

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RESIN, AXLE GREASE, &c.



Teas! Teas!!

Strength, Flavor and Quality unsurpassed.

Prices moderate.

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Roasted and Ground on the premises.

GLASS FRUIT JARS.

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British, Malt, French and Canadian.

PURE ESSENCES, FLAVORING
EXTRACTS, SPICES, PICKLES,

HOPS, &c., &c.

\$300 Reward!

The subscribers will pay the above amount to any person giving information, that will lead to the detection and conviction of the person or persons, who caused the destruction, by fire, of our stores, on the morning of the 8th of June last.

T. & J. R. SMITH.

Durham, July 20th, 1870.

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