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### SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

VARIOUS TOPICS OF THE DAY WHICH ARE BEING TALKED ABOUT.

Remarkable and Destructive Volcanie Eruptions in Various Parts of the World-A Brief Account of the Recent Explosion in Japan.

The past few years have been remarkable for the number of destructive volcanic eruptions in various parts of the world. The explosion of Krakatoa, where an entire island was blown into the air, occurred only five years ago, and a short time afterward a tract of country in New Zealand, several miles in extent, was converted into "a land of fire."



The latest volcanic catastrophe is reported from Japan, where, on the 15th of last July, a large portion of Mount Bandai was broken up into dust and fragments, and scattered over the adjoining country. The accompanying illustration (Fig. 1) shows the appearance of a formerly fertile valley after it was filled with debris from the explosion, and is from a photograph taken by Mr. W. K. Burton of Tokio, who was sept by the Japanese goverament to investigate the explosion, and whose report is published in The British Journal of Photography. Fig. 2 is a diagram showing the part of the mountain destroyed by the explosion.



FIG. ?-EXPLOSION IN JAPAN.

This phenomenon, says Popular Science News, is properly spoken of as an explosion rather than a volcanic eruption. There was no trace of lava or igneous phenomena of any kind. It was simply an immense explosion like that of a steam boiler, where the overlying mountain was torn apart by the torce of the steam generated by the terrestrial heat. Clouds of steam escaped from the ground in the vicinity of the mountain for some time after the explosion, and when the pressure was first relieved by the destruction of the mountain, torrents of water and mud rushed down the valleys, causing immense loss of life and damage to property.

In some respects this explosion is similar to the eruption which destroyed Pompeii, when a large part of Mount Vesuvius was destroyed; but in that instance the usual igneous phenomena were more evident, although the loss of life was apparently much less. The dwellers at the foot of Vesuvius had ample warning of the eruption before it took place, but the unfortunate Japanese appear to have had no opportunity to escape the catastrophe.

What the Indians Have Cost Us.

The amount expended in Indian wars from 1776 to June 30, 1886, can at best be estimated. The several Indian wars after 1776, including the war of 1812 in the west and northwest, the Creek, Black Hawk and Seminole wars, up to 1860, were bloody and costly. Except when engaged in war with Great Britain and Mexico, or during the rebellion (1860-1865), the United States army was almost entirely used for the Indian service and stationed largely in the Indian country or along the frontier. It will be fair to estimate, taking out the years of foreign wars with England (1812-1815), \$66,614,912.84, and with Mexico (1846-1848), \$73,941,735.12, and the rebellion (1861-1865) and reconstruction (1865-1870), \$3,374,359,360.02, that more than three-fourths of the total expense of the army is chargeable, directly or indirectly, to the Indians.

The total cost of the Indians of the United States, as set forth in the Smithsonian report, is as follows:

Indian department proper, from July 7, 1776, to June 30, 1886..... \$232,900,006 84 Expended by war department for Indian wars and incidental

thereto from July 4, 1776, to June 

Total ...... \$920,289,284 02

Claims Made by Astronomers.

The claim that the planet Mars has snow and rain and evidences of animal life is not a new one. But now Signor Schiaparelli, of Milan, who has been taking observations through one of the finest telescopes of the world, is credited with having made the wonderful discovery of a series of canals in

that planet. They are nearly a hundred miles wide and run from the sea coast to the interior. According to Professor E. A. Boyle, of St. Louis, other astronomers have seen the same phenomena. Signor Schiaparelli claims that Mars is inhabited by a people somewhat like ourselves. Fecundity of the Eel. Mr. Fred Mather, the well known fish cul-

turist, has been estimating the number of eggs in a six pound eel in November (in what is known to fishermon as "eel fat," but which are really the ovaries), and credits that cel with fully 9,000,000. Under the microscope he found that they measured eighty to the hucar inch, and taking one ovary and dividing it by means of the most delicate scales known to science, he halved, quartered and further divided the mass seventeen times, until be had a section small enough to count, the eggs

Gold and Silver.

The director of the United States mint has reported that, according to his established methods of computation, the gold production of the United States for the calendar year 1887 was . 33,093,000, compared to \$34,869,000 for 1880, and the production of silver \$58,408,-800, compared to \$51,321,500 for 1886. The world's consumption of gold and silver in the arts for the year 1886 is estimated at \$46,000,-000 gold and \$22,000,000 silver. The world's production for 1886 he estimates at \$98,764,235 gold and \$126,457,500 silver.

Gentlemen wear very large boutonnieres

ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

Rocking Chairs That Are Things of Beauty and Comfort as Well-Tested Recipes. One variety of the modern rocking chair for the house beautiful is handsome and showy and dainty enough for a queen's boudoir. It is woven of willow in graceful shape and artistic pattern, enameled with white and decorated with gold bands, stripes and kuobs. The palest of moss green, gobelin blue or old pink plush is fashioned into cushions and tied in place with broad sashes of delicately tinted ribbon. Some of the smaller chairs are modeled after the tall, quaintly carved, slender patterns popular many years ago and copied from French models. Other rockers are sleepy hollow, inviting, plush covered resting places.

Sometimes the willow chairs are gilded or bronzed all over, and cushioned with pale green plush. Large, old fashioned, carved oak rocking chairs are also used, made after the fashion of our grandmothers' colonial furniture-roomy, massive, ancient, quaint, and, best of all, exceedingly comfortable. A pretty cushion for that chair is of dull old red or pale green, these tints harmonizingwith the light, soft color of the wood.

Simple willow rocking chairs, of various styles, are merely varnished, or stained the color of cherry, and ornamented with movable cushions and chair rolls of bright colored chintz.

Care of the Clothing.

Where a young lady has no lady's maid (and in democratic America we surely ought not to consider such a personage as indispensable to a young and active girl) she must remember, and in good season, to look over the costume that she is to wear, and to see that it is in perfect order, since she will not have time to brush off dust or restore a wayward button in the hurry of dressing for a dinner or a bail. One of the secrets of retaining the bloom of youth in a street dress is to shake it out of the window as soon as it is taken off by the wearer. Indeed very neat women perform this office for undergarments as well-I have known those who always brushed out the inside of their boots! A silk dress should, if possible, be cleaned without the aid of a brush. A piece of soft flannel is the best instrument for this purpose-white for light colored silks and black for black silks.

Baked Rice with Tomatoes.

Baked rice and tomatoes make a very appetizing hot dish. Boil a coffee cupful of rice; when cooked, strain perfectly dry and mix with an ordinary sized can of tomatoes. Add a little onio; chopped very fine and a small piece of butter; season with pepper and salt to taste. Put the rice and tomatoes in a dish that is well buttered and strewed with bread crumbs, and put a few small pieces of butter over the top. Then bake in an oven to a rich golden color.

Odd and Pleasing Work.

A somewhat quaint style of work is making flower-pot covers and shaped vases, large and small, in cretonne over cardboard. The cretonne is selected to look as effective and like Oriental china as possible, and the shape is first cut out in pliable cardboard, covered with the cretonne, the edges neatly and carefully laid together, then joined up by sewing over. There is a lining of sateen put in before the sections are joined and a tin inside holds the water and the flowers.

One Nice Pumpkin Pie.

Following is a recipe for pumpkin pie, the quantities given being for one pie only: A generous half pint of rich milk, one heaping tablespoonful of stewed pumpkin, one egg (white and yoke separately beaten), and half a teaspoonful of flour. Sugar to taste; a little ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg. Beat well together, all except the white of egg; add this last, stirring in quickly but thoroughly, and bake in a quick oven.

Griddle Cakes in Variety.

One cupful of boiled rice broken into kernels in one cupful of milk, two cupfuls of flour, into which is sifted two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one teaspoonful of salt. Mix thoroughly, adding more milk, and add two eggs (whites and yelks beaten separately) the last thing before baking.

Hominy, barley, oatmenl, tapioca, farina, cerealine, etc., may be used, and a great variety be produced.

Orange Sponge.

Orange sponge furnishes a delicate dessert. Dissolve three and a half sheets of Cooper's isinglass in water and add to it one pound of sugar on which you have previously squeezed the juice of six good sized oranges and one lemon and a half. Add the whites of three eggs well beaten, and beat all together till the mixture is thick and frothy. Turn into a mold and set on ice.

Delightful Doughnuts.

A lady noted for making delightful doughnuts uses the following recipe: Four pints of flour, four teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one grated nutmeg, salt, one pint of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter. Beat up four eggs in a pint cup and fill it up with sweet milk. Mix and knead well.

A Favorite Style in Work Bags.

Simplicity and daintiness seem to be a fashion in work bags just now. Many are made in the ordinary sack shape, with a heading five inches deep, the bag itself twelve inches long and ten inches broad. At the base in one corner a piece of velvet is placed, as though the point turned up; a bow at the apex and a star worked in silks and gold thread on either side.

A moss green plush bag the same size is lined with pink sateen, the heading only with satin of the same color and drawn in with a cord. Good colorings for these are brown, peacock, olive or ruby, with the lining in contrast.



BROCADE BAG.

The bag shown in the cut is from a Parisian model. It is of old brocade, lined with plush and trimmed with lace, and is drawn with satin ribbon to match the plush.

Finish for a Hard Wood Floor. The cheapest of all finishes for a hard wood floor, and one which has a good effect, is to apply to the floor a coat of boiled oil that has previously been mixed with fine whiting colored with burnt umber, Venetian red or French yellow in an impalpable powder obtained by passing the same through a piece of crare, the preparation to be well rubbed in

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