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THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

No. 18



EDITED BY

25c

TIFFANY THAYER

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the

FORTEAN SOCIETY

Box 192 Grand Central Annex

New York City

1931 A D = the year 1 F S

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FIRST PRIZE

By far the vastest quantity of clippings ever to hand on one subject came in from the membership on that chunk of something from above which fell 1-7-17 FS, at Portland, Oregon. Thank you all.

It fell Saturday. The Army took it up Monday. AP sent photos by wire for publication Wednesday. It was seen to fall "and bounce five feet", in a "localized hail shower" from a clear sky. It was covered with ice. Commandant (or Captain) Leon G. Thompson was walking on the campus of Hill Military Academy on Rocky Butte with Registrar Thomas Pogett (or Pigott), at 9:45 a.m. Thompson saw it bounce. Pogett picked it up.

J. Hugh (I-prefer-God) Pruett, astronomer with the U. of Oregon extension service, guessed the ice fell off a plane, but he could offer "no sure explanation" of the substance like concrete which bounced. The wire-service reporters, all trained to inject the military slant into any and every story they possibly can, wrote that the object was probably part of a "rocket". They even asked White Sands, in New Mexico, which said it hadn't lost anything. The local *Oregonian* reporters, not so war-minded as their national colleagues, looked into the record and discovered that "chunks of smooth ice, roughly four inches square", had fallen on Portland June 3, 1894 AD, and that in a heavy rain storm, with lightning, on July 21, 1920, "glistening white fragments that looked like bits of china" had fallen on the same city. *Cr Sheeley*.

The State Geologist found that the object contained iron, aluminum, titanium, magnesium, calcium, vanadium, sodium, manganese, copper, nickel, chrome and zircon. A cement company said it was not concrete, and if they wouldn't know that in Portland—where then?

The *Oregonian* ran a cartoon of a puckish fellow in a conical cap, sitting on the moon shooting a slug from a slingshot. Most papers, on Tuesday, ran the Portland story next to one about a "fireball" falling into the Pacific, observed for 200 miles up and down the coast from Oceanside, Calif. The object was seen "shortly after 8:30 p.m."

Only the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* ran the Portland story next to the tale of Washington (D.C.)'s hair-snipper. Somebody in Washington had cut their hair from the heads of thirteen women, in street cars and movie houses, in the course of the past 14 days.

The San Francisco *Call* ran Portland's "plug" next to a publicity release for Harvard's "mechanical brain", not to be confused with U. of Pennsy's Electronic Brain" mentioned last issue as "absolutely unique". (We have, since, ascertained that neither can Harvard's endowment-eater operate an abacus.)

On Wednesday, 1-11-17 FS, all law-abiding United Press wipers told about a "young, shy, anonymous" voice telephoning an unnamed "newspaper" admitting that the object was a plaster plug from a decorative "shell" on the campus, and that it had been thrown by hand. That would make everything hunky-dory, but for some three facts. One: the hole from which the "plug" is supposed to have been taken has been a *hole*, unplugged, as long as Commandant Thompson's memory serves; years, anyway. Two: the object fell straight down, in a shower of egg-shaped and egg-sized chunks of ice which struck the ground in an area of approximately a fifteen-foot radius. Three: the students were all on vacation.

The Chicago *Tribune* went so far out of its way to quiet the citizens' fears that it ran an editorial on the subject, which stated that "the object fitted exactly into a gap in the decorative plaster on a nearby building" . . . That, after pieces of the object had been broken off and sent to (a) the State Geologist, (b) astronomer Pruett, (c) the Portland Cement Company, (d) the U.S. Army, and (e) a second chunk to the State Laboratory. The plug still "fitted exactly into a gap", according to the *Tribune*. If by "gap . . . on a nearby building" we are to understand "the hole in an old shell on the campus", then this is the inspiration for the editorial:

"Today larger samples of the missile as well as material taken from a hole in decorative shell casing found on the academy campus were tested by Tom Matthews . . . Both, he said, appear to be plaster and they are identical within the range of error inherent in the spectro-scope." . . . That is what the World's Greatest Wyper calls "fitting exactly".

The Portland *Oregonian* had the commendable good taste and rare acumen to refer valiantly to Charles Fort *in extenso* on two days of the nine.

MFS Kerr relished this datum highly. He even found an inexplicable hole in a Washington, D.C., sidewalk from which he would like to say the "plug" had come, but for the fact that the hole did not appear until 1-13-17 FS. He is work-

ing on the possibility of the object traveling through time as well as through space, thus appearing in Oregon before it left Washington. Meanwhile, he wrote this—

"THE SONG OF THE DAMNED"

*This poltergeist, this sly afreet, he
Cast an object, slightly sleety,
A cylinder, a bit concrete-y,
From a cloudless sky.*

*The Army had no explanation,
And Pruett waived vague speculation,
But Thayer said, in vast elation,
"This datum shall not die.*

*"We doubt not that the sly jinn do it
But Ike will say that Joey threw it
And God knows what the Reverend
Pruett
Will say to spread the lie?"*

*"Truth will out though they obscure it
In newsprint brief as it is lurid,
And concrete, abstract, 's not so pure it
Scorns the law of gravity."*

*Then Pruett said, "I cannot see it,"
And "Russian Hail," Ike said, must
be it."*

*And all, I think, surely agree it
's not a diamond in the sky.*

*Astronomers soon all were nutty,
And all high brass committed suttee
To find a mixer, putty, putty,
Up above the world so high.*

*The inside story really wows us —
While earthbound red tape waits and
drowns*

*The genie's building Veterans' houses,
And his output's high.*

*The genie puts his shoulder to it —
To hell with Ike, to hell with Pruett,
We'll live in Heaven and commuett
By rocket by and by.*

The Washington police blame the sidewalk hole on "a clever kid with his Christmas chemical set".

But that is not this quarter's high spot . . . The following datum (also from Kerr) would take first prize in any session, but for its being delayed. This is an oldy, but of such calibre that it is worth all the trouble members Kerr and White were put to to resurrect it.

It is the information that Dr. Alfred H. Joy, "internationally known astronomer", while making "midnight, pitch-dark calculations in connection with his life work of charting and photographing the Milky Way (stout fellow!)" at Mt. Wilson—FELL OFF THE TELESCOPE, and doesn't know how or why.

Fort would say it was probably because he had never been in an observatory after dark before, but that would be unkind. Your Secretary is fairly convinced that since whist has gone out of fashion a good many astronomers spend an occasional hour or two looking at the stars. Or—perhaps Dr. Joy was attacked by a "damp, furry thing" out of H. G. Wells. (Remember *In the Avu Observatory*?)

Howard Shapley himself almost got the award this session, for switching from astronomy to eugenics, and advocating the race "kill off, while young, all pri-

mates that show any evidence or promise of genius or even of talent." That is — Survival of the Shapleyest. But the prize is reserved for members.

It could have gone to the group which sent in the "accidental" discovery at Johns Hopkins that when columbium nitride reaches a temperature of 435 degrees below zero it begins to play jive. Or it could have gone to that even larger group, on both sides of the Atlantic, which sent several dozen broken glasses —broken by singers both ways from Caruso. (In this connection, watch for a USA tour by Josie Fearon. She will be billed as "the singer who broke the unbreakable tumbler sixty miles away".)

We might have handed the bouquet to members — Bump, Kerr, Reagan and Wakefield — for the lady who was so allergic to ether that she exploded on the operating table, 2-5-17 FS . . . Member Stevens could have had it, for a "perfectly formed dog" found alive under her sink by Mrs. Jennie Dunlevy, Phila., 10-5-46 old style. The dog was half an inch long.

Reagan almost copped, solo, for discovering to us that "penicillin and streptomycin decrease mental abilities" aceto Dr. David Q. Macht, of Sinai Hospital, Baltimore . . . Or, Wakefield, solo, for the admission in the San Francisco *Chronicle* that "during a lull in the theorems" at Princeton's bicentennial, with Einstein "huddled in a corner", one scholar admitted "that there are many times when mathematicians themselves (sic) have difficulty in understanding each other".

Russell's best was 15-year-old Augusta Basso, the "electric girl", who — Reuter told the L'pool *Echo* — "during the coal shortage in Italy . . . kept herself warm and even brewed cups of tea and coffee with (her) surplus current".

Kerr again: That the American Red Cross and the "Chinese firm" of Powell and Sons (or the Sincere Trading Company), Shanghai, are squabbling over \$975,000 claimed by somebody for the sale of "blood plasma". The Washington *Times-Herald* version of the UP despatch is so garbled that nobody could make head or tail of it, but such obscurantism is probably advisable in presenting a yarn involving the Red Cross in a *sale* of the blood it begged from you—etc., etc., etc.

Three more top-notch data had to be eliminated to bring off our denouement. The three:

A traffic stop-sign disappeared in Burbank, Calif., leaving a "smell of dynamite", 1-5-17 FS. Two "bystanders" are named but no injuries mentioned. The L.A. *Daily News* gratuitously injects a "time-bomb", with the easy certitude of the clueless self-confident. *Cr Sullivan* and Bowring

The anchor chain of the Navy oiler USS *Caliente* got tied in a "lover's knot" while the vessel was anchored off Terminal Island, 2-2-17 FS. To get the hook back aboard the knot was "untied" by acetylene torches. *Cr Wing Anderson* and MFS Hehr

A sewer—752 feet of pipe—for which some contractor appears to have been paid in 1913 AD, "disappeared" from its

proper place under Nelson Avenue in Harrison, N.Y., 1-19-17 FS. The man-holes were in plain view on the surface—but they didn't lead anywhere. *Cr Barneson* and Kerr.

The Winners —

Elsender, Reagan and Hoernlien! Hail!

These three doughty all recalled a sentence on page 734 of THE BOOKS. In 1930 AD Charles Fort wrote:

"I am not much given to prophecy, but I'll take this chance—that if England loses India, we may expect hard winters in England."

COLOR FALLS

When snow fell near Bend, Oregon, in the week before 1-22-17 FS, "old-timers" were (for reason?) reminded of the "big brown snow" of March, 1907. Phil F. Brogan, an *Oregonian* staff writer, tells that drifts four feet high were khaki-colored from the surface right down to the dead grass. Fort appears to have misded that . . . Brogan writes: "Long after that year . . . the fine dust was in evidence. Out in the open grasslands, it mostly disappeared after a year or two, but it could still be found under the shingles of ranch homes 20 years later." He does not state that the snow of 17 FS was colored, but in Belgrade 2-2-17, and in Chicago 2-5-17, "yellow" snow fell. *Cr Sheeley*, Chibbett, Russell, Reagan.

The Belgrade snow is alleged to have been "tinted by dust blown from the Sahara". The Chicago coloring matter, called variously "brown" and "yellow", was attributed to "dust from the southwest plains".

Apparently that old, easy answer did not satisfy even the folk who voiced it, for, John J. O'Neill (the Republican Kampffert) devoted his column in the Her-Trib, 3-9-47 old style, to the question—"What Makes Fresh Snow Dirty?" He does not talk about colors, nor does he mention Fort, but he does state that "areas around Chicago reported dirty snow", and at the end of the session, about 40-column-inches later, he concludes that "the final 50 per cent of the material is precluded both by its nature and its size from having a dust-storm or furnace origin. It may come from outer space but this is improbable; if it does not, where does it come from?" *Cr Bonavia*

In Bootle, England, in the night of 1-27 to 28-17 FS, occurred "a mysterious heavy fall, of tarry soot". Roadways and sidewalks had turned black over night. It was "sticky" and hard to remove. No explanation offered. *Cr Russell*

Red rain in Genoa, 3-14-17 FS, attributed to "ashes carried by the wind from erupting Mount Etna, 500 miles away". *Cr Elsender*

Red rain and yellow dust over Western Europe—from Cannes to Amsterdam —4-7 to 8-17 FS. "The scientists' theory was that the rain, sweeping up from the south, somehow got mixed up with a dust storm over the red sand dunes of the (white) African deserts. The yellow dust, they figured, was just the wind-blown ash from the Icelandic volcano Hekla, which began boiling over Saturday

(4-7-17) for the first time in 102 years." *Cr Bloch* and Bowring

A delayed report of red rain in Cleveland comes from MFS Wills. It occurred in May of the year 13, 14 or 15 FS. The streets were "spotted with measles-like drops of something".

OUR FOOT IN THE DOOR

Two newspaper columnists, members of the Society, devoted their space to Fortean activity one day each in the month of March, 17 FS. We thank them both most heartily—but without naming them, lest they be told by their bosses never to do it again.

Please do it again! —and again and again — as frequently as you consider it safe. Just don't get fired. You are both too valuable to Fortean aims in your present posts.

SECESH FORTEANA

We Forteans — like the poor — are everywhere, and the grandfather of MFS Blackford was an officer in Lee's army. He has now published some of the letters exchanged by his grandfather and grandmother from '61 to '65, and they are a substantial contribution to the history of the period. From the Society — \$3.50.

Thanks are due MFS Blackford, also, for a contribution to the Society archives of the book, *A Journey to the Earth's Interior / or Have the Poles Really Been Discovered*, by Marshall B. Gardner, Aurora, Ill., 1920. Mr. Gardner puts Sol inside a hollow Earth, the shape of which is something like an auto tire, but the author is at pains to explain that his idea differs greatly from that of "Symmes" (Jno. Cleves, Symmes, of Ohio, late Captain of Infantry, died 1829). An illustration from Gardner's book appears on our cover, "reproduced from photograph of working model, made by the author, 1912, patented May 12, 1914, No. 1096102".

GOOD KICKING

Practically everybody (including the Founders) approves the new Fortean slogan: "Still alive — and KICKING!"

Unless some very powerful objections are raised before DOUBT goes to press again, the phrase will be officially adopted as expressing the spirit of Forteanism briefly and eternally.

MORE DEVILS

A good member, who shall be anonymous lest his sources of supply dry up, has been to the trouble of assembling and sending to us no less than six printed pieces of Catholic "literature" attesting the reality of Satan-possession, and of the Catholic priests' exclusive ability to exorcise or drive out devils.

When we printed the story, "Satan in Iowa", DOUBT No. 15, we did not realize how touchy the Church was on this subject. By way of retaliation, emissaries of the Catholic Church visited two major news-stand outlets for DOUBT, one in New York City and one in Hollywood, and by the persuasive means these people have of forcing their Thirteenth-century will upon us in the Twentieth, caused those two booksellers to discon-

tinue the sale of DOUBT. Our contempt for the men who bowed to this pressure passes all expression in words. Our reaction to the efforts of the Church to suppress us is exemplified by the following analysis of the printed pieces of fraudulent matter offered for sale by Catholic priests. If any organization of less political potency than the Church should attempt to foist such rank imbecility as this upon the public as fact, it would be prosecuted by the Post Office, the Department of Justice and the Society for the Suppression of Vice.

Item one is a "Sequel To Begone Satan", by title, *Mary Crushes The Serpent*, 30 Years' Experience of An Exorcist Told In His Own Words. No "author" ever is named, but this obscene attempt to prey upon the ignorant purports to be "translated" by Rev. Celestine Kapsner, O.S.B., and "edited" by Rev. Theodore Geiger.

Geiger, who writes a preface, signs himself Cathedral Rector, Bamberg (1934), and the piece has the "Imprimatur" of "Dr. Wolkenan, Vicargeneral of the Archbishop (? of Bamberg?).". Kapsner lived in Collegeville, Minn., and probably still does, but the booklet was "published" in New Haven, Conn. It is not copyrighted in the U.S., but the phrase "Reprint Forbidden" appears. Just glancing at the contents will make you want to spit in the face of the next priest you pass on the street.

The next item is a sheaf of mimeographed sheets, unfoliated (11 leaves), entitled "Can A Protestant Minister Drive Out Devils? A Most Unusually Interesting Case of Possession by the Devil / (This is an excerpt taken out of the book *The Holy Mass* published in 1881/ Fr. Pustet & Co. Written by Rev. Michael Mueller Priest of the Congr. M. Holy Redeemer)" The gist of the matter is that a Protestant minister is no damned good at this racket.

The third item is also a sheaf of mimeographed sheets, stapled together, 16 pp., by title—LAUTIEN / "Bird or Devil, I Am Going To Talk to This Thing." With typical American grit Rev. Peter Heier S.V.D., from Hague, N.D./ meets the devil in Honan, China as a missionary. 1926 / BUT THE DEVIL MEETS HIM ALSO, AND HOW! (I swear I am quoting this verbatim.) In the Following Interesting Experience Father Heier Tells the Story.

The story "Father" Heier tells is about a Chinese girl, obviously a mental case.

Item four is a slick-paper booklet of 80 pp., plus ornamental cover: *Are there DEVILS today?* / Third enlarged edition / An Authentic Report on Two Cases of Exorcism Performed in Recent Years, with Signed Testimonies of Numerous Eye-Witnesses.

One M.J. Grupa "Cens. libr." conferred the "NIHIL OBSTAT" at Lake Orchard, Mich., Oct. 15, 1927 AD, and the "IMPRIMATUR" is that of "S. Woznicki, Secr. . . De Mandato Episcopi, Nov. 11, 1927. Published by the Mariannahill Mission Society, Detroit.

The names of the "possessed" were Clara Germana Cele and Monica Mohl-

etsche. No description of Monica is given, but Germana was a native Kafir. She died 1913.

"The exorcism was witnessed by three priests, three Brothers, fourteen Sisters, and more than one hundred fifty natives. During the exorcism the possessed girl repeatedly floated freely in the air, and sometimes four, five, or six persons, Sisters and adult girls, holding her were raised up with her."

Item five is *Truth About the Devil*, by Very Rev. Dominic Szymanski, O.M.C., D.D., J.U.D. It is a handbook for priests, with complete directions for all cases of devil-possession, published in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. (No date, but recent.)

Item six is also a priests' aid, a little 20-page booklet of "Prayers to Expel the Evil Spirits (Exorcism), NIHIL OBSTAT, Rev. Basil Stegman O.S.B., Censor Librorum; IMPRIMATUR, Jos. F. Busch, Episcopus Sti. Clodoaldi, September 20, 1945."

With this last item in hand and plenty of Holy Water, no priest has anything to worry about, except, perhaps, meeting a man his own size.

LOST HOUSES

Between September and November 29, last year, an unoccupied house disappeared in Leeds, England. And—11-16-46 old style, the Los Angeles police were looking for a three-room structure missing in the San Fernando Valley. *Cr* Elsender and Kerr.

ON THE OTHER HAND

Still another case of identical fingerprints, the third such reported in DOUBT, was observed in Auto Accident Court, NYC, 3-26-17 FS. The men are negros, brothers, James I. Thompson and James G. Thompson. *Cr* Kerr and Drayton.

CAPISTRANO BUST

For at least the second time within Your Secretary's memory (which is perfect back to the year 3 FS) the "Capistrano Swallows" came "early", this time by four days. The famous Redwood City Tannery Swallows (who have preferred the Tannery to the Mission for at least 18 years) arrived 3-26-17 FS, which is an old Tannery tradition begun 268 years ago by the Blessed Saint Joseph (of Redwood City).

FREE GASOLINE

One gasoline gusher came in at Covington, Ky., 12-12-46 old style. Nobody knew or could guess where it came from—20,000 gallons of it (estimated). It stopped two days later, as mysteriously as it had started. *Cr* Kerr and Hoernlein.

Brother Kerr was remiss in getting our dossier started when the same thing happened in Arlington, Va. The file starts 1-15-47 old style, but the wipers mention checking tanks for leaks "over a several-month period". The allegation is, that autos run (passably) on "water" from Arlington wells since the leak started—nobody knows where . . . One well-owner asserted that "oil and grease" became noticeable in her well *three years*

ago . . . 2,700 gallons were pumped out of one basement. As we go to press, the gas is still free, as far as we know.

LOOK! NO HANDS

Kerr wrote even the headline for this one!!!

12-9-46 old style, in North Riverside, Illinois, boys found six human hands in a paper bag. . . Same date, on the Kilbuck Township Road outside Pittsburgh, a small dog dragged a package to its companions, four children. The package contained four human hands. Washington *Star* credits AP.

GIANNINI AGAIN

MFS Giannini, whose work has been presented here before (see DOUBT No. 9) got a full page in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* of 3-30-47 old style, and a fat column from Bob Considine in the Washington (D.C.) *Post*, of 2-2-47. His concept has not changed. He still calls himself "the first man in 500 years to challenge the accepted picture of the cosmos as outlined by Copernicus five centuries ago", despite the fact that some new somebody has challenged that picture every few weeks all through those centuries. *Cr* Kerr and Burbank.

In the same mail come *three* separate and distinct "challenges" to the Copernican picture. (1) That of P. Emilio Ameco-Roxas, an Italian-born Argentinian, former associate of U.G. Morrow (Field Theory. see DOUBT No. 5). Ameco-Roxas thinks we live inside a shell. *Cr* Ella Young (2) That of Dr. George Gamow, of George Washington U. (Incidentally, Gamow's notions—which he has sent to the British *Nature* in a letter—begin to smell around the edges of Gillette's theory, of which more next issue.) *Cr* Reagan (3) That of John G. Abizaid, of Boston, who has a flat earth "surrounded by a thick barrier of ice through which no human being can penetrate". *Cr* Wheeler.

TWO SLEEPLESS

Albert Edmelare Herpin, Trenton, N.J., died *ae* 95, Jan. 5, 17 FS. He had never slept in his life, he said. *Cr* Reagan, McMahon, Wakefield.

Eddie Webster, 74, is still alive (and KICKING, we hope) in Lancaster, Ohio. He has not slept since he was a child and was shocked when a relative was found dead in bed. *Cr* Reagan.

TWO SLEEP

Carlson, Bloch and Wing Anderson all sent in the Yogi Ramanand Swami datum. He let himself be "buried alive" for 24 hours, sealed in concrete, 4-7 or 8-17 FS.

Whether or not it is the same Swami, one cannot tell, but Russell sends a datum from the L'pool *Echo* of 11-23-46 old style, attesting that one stayed in his tomb "four days", and boasted that he had done that more than 300 times. The four-dayer was in Surat, Bombay Province; the one-dayer, on the campus of Khalsa College, Bombay.

OUR MANNEKEN

Once upon a time, in Brussels, on the day of a big parade a little prince wandered away from the palace all by himself. In the hurly burly of preparing the king's person for the parade, the little fellow was not missed until his nurse went to dress him. Then she almost lost her mind—and her head with it, because the king was informed that his son was not to be found.

They searched, you may believe, everywhere, and for such a long time that the parade could not be delayed any longer without a scandal. At length the king was prevailed upon to mount his horse, but just before he did so he took oath to his patron, Saint (Doubting) Thomas, that wneresoever the prince was found, alive, a bronze statue should be erected, life size, dedicated to the eternal glory of Saint (Doubting) Thomas.

The plaudits of the commonality as he rode before the multitude were a mockery that day to the heavy-hearted monarch—until—suddenly the procession halted, and there in the middle of the road stood the little prince, joyfully peeing on the parade.

True to his oath, the king ordered a life size bronze statue to be erected in honor of Saint (Doubting) Thomas, and to commemorate the event he decreed that the statue should present the prince in exactly the posture he had held when he was found.

That is the story of Manneken-Pis, which may be seen any day in Brussels, and which we show you on this page. Its Fortean significance hardly needs laboring, for surely it is more than coincidence that the patron of the Fortean Society is Saint (Doubting) Thomas too, and that the name of the little prince who peed on the parade was Charles. Eventually we plan to have made small replica's of our Manneken—one each year, in bronze—for presentation to the Named Fellow.

This photograph was taken by HFFS Russell standing on the historic site.

BRITISH REPORT

Our British Cousins are going great guns. Besides the Elsender tie for First Prize, HFFS Russell turns up with feature space and lead article on Forteanism in a new magazine, *New Frontiers*, published in London.

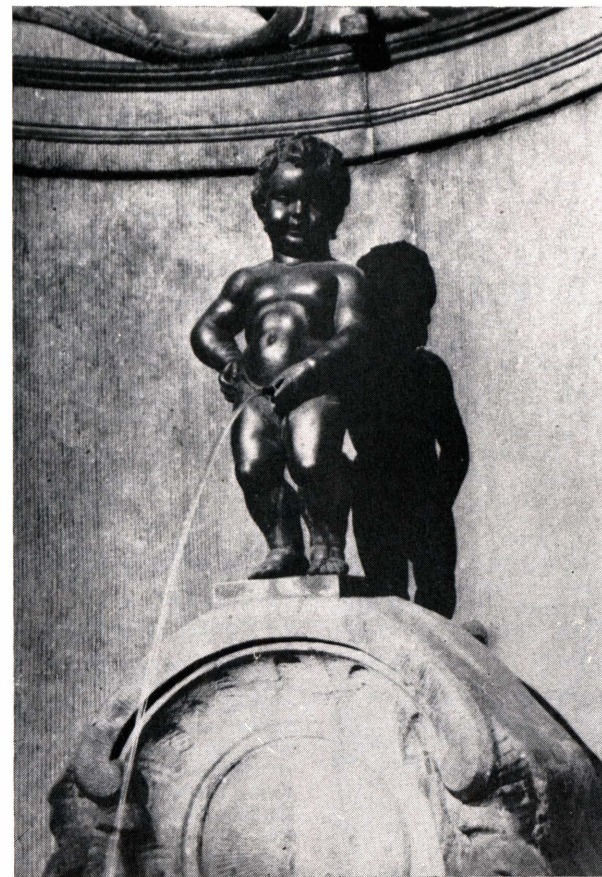
Also cause for celebration is the finding of MFS Raymond Cass (missing this good while), an early contributor of much good data.

Russell sends a number of pamphlets which you should have, especially BILL SIKES ON BANKING, by Glyn Thomas, illustrated, hilarious wisdom. Send a dollar to Glyn Thomas, Hirst House, Saltaire, Yorkshire, England. He has a lot of material you should read.

MFS Hopper is in the *Occult Review* with an article on Gypsy Magic.

AND—we discover—the old O.T.O., founded by Aleister Crowley is functioning in London. We shall investigate this as thoroughly as possible, and report as fully as seems prudent.

Elsender sends a picture of a queue waiting to carry its own coal away at



Newcastle!—and several reports of coal miners killed and injured in the pits. Fifteen men died at Lowca, 12-9-46 old style. Fourteen more at West Calder, 1-11-47. Eight were burned, but not killed, near Wrexham, 1-10-47, and one was killed and two injured near Whitehaven, Cumberland, 3-1-47.

The maternity wards of hospitals were closed at Leicester, Preston, Derby and elsewhere because so many babies were dying of that "epidemic diarrhoea" which breaks out in U.S. hospitals from time to time. Nobody knows what causes it. Eighty and more babies died.

. . . 2-10-47 old style, twenty racing greyhounds had died in one kennel, from a disease just as mysterious.

These data did not deter H.M. Ebrahim, "a South African ginger beer manufacturer", from fathering his thirtieth child upon his fourth wife. He is 71 years old.

From the same alert source, we have a "panther" reputed to have killed over 200 people in the past five years in the Chindwara district of India, a "Monster of Pindray" near Poitiers, France, which had killed and partly devoured 150 sheep in the week before 12-17-46 old style, an alleged "leopard", near Acre, Palestine, which killed two Arab children, and a wolf shot twelve miles from Moscow 1-9-47.

It took Elsender to nail the report

from Prof. Alfred S. Romer of Harvard, that the EGG came before the chicken. Elsender also sends the news that the original "Tree of Knowledge" from which Eve plucked the apple has died again. Reference is to a tree which had been growing "in the traditional site of the Garden of Eden at Qurna". It died in 1920, 1944 and now for at least the third time. A new has been planted.

Some coincidence may be observed in the death of the tree and the practice of "Father" P. Mayhew, vicar of St. Aidan's Anglo-Catholic Church, Roundhayroad, Leeds. The vicar passes out "detective yarns, cowboy and bandit thrillers", to the choir boys, to read during his sermons, so they won't fidget or get bored . . . Elsender also has a cat which walked 300 miles, back to his old home in Trevoll from Bexhill, Sussex, and a fly one inch long—a new species—found on that fabulous Isle of Man!

Russell sends the obit of "Gef", easily the most celebrated Manxman of all time, that "talking mongoose of Cashen Gap", out of which Nandor Fodor and Harry Price have both made copy. As appears, one Leslie Graham bought the Cashen farm, and killed a little animal on it, thirty-seven inches long, ten-inch tail, 5 lb., 1 oz., thick fur, mottled yellow and black. No dying words are recorded.

Russell also reports that the U. S. Navy is making phonograph records of what the fish say to each other, a boondoggle we should have added to our Perpetual Peace Plan if we had thought of it first.

Also in the piscatorial category, a shark weighing 700 pounds was found, last December, to contain the complete skeleton of a man—and some of (his?) clothing.

Russell covered the dying-babies story very thoroughly, and matches the ginger-beer-making father with an American Indian aged 87, in Des Moines, Iowa, who accepts co-credit with his 22-year-old wife, for a new 9-pound boy, his ninth child.

Russell's fly datum is lethal. "A gad or horse fly" bit Mrs. Elsie May Worth, 34, South Molton. She died . . . A bottle of perfume exploded in a shop at Strood, Kent, setting the place — and an adjoining butcher shop—afire. *Daily Telegraph*, 11-22-46 old style . . . In a "freak" storm in Wales, village of Llanengan, while the wind was taking house-roofs off it made a sound "like creaking chains". No doubt the echo of those which the Welsh have nothing to lose but.

Russell also reports the Atlantic Ocean getting deeper—by four inches in twenty years . . . Plastic oyster shells in use "to reduce the weight of cargoes in American ships". The oysters are taken out of their heavy natural shells, allegedly alive, and put in the synthetic ones . . . A kitchen floor which dropped (11-18-46 old style) sixty-three feet, taking a table and chair down with it, is now under nearly six feet of water "which rises and falls". "There is a possibility that the water may be part of one of the old tidal pools of Liverpool's early history for which archaeologists have long searched." . . . "Red and white flares" were reported off Anglesey shortly after ten p.m., 1-15-17 FS, in a vicious rainstorm and gale. Coast guards ashore and in boats searched until 4:00 a.m., but found nothing . . . Next day, Dr. E. A. Wilson, "a non-practicing medical man", announced the formation of a "Bachelor Motherhood League". Members of the League—some of Britains two million spinsters—are going to have babies and be brave about it, no matter what anybody says.

PINS

For some months longer than six years, from the middle of 1930 AD to the end of the year 6 FS, Guy F. Rogers and Sheridan Webster published a paper called PINS, first from New Orleans, then from Gainesville, Florida. PINS was the organ of the People's Industrial System, which these men conceived as a means to improve world-wide economy.

Rogers gives all credit to Webster for perfecting the system, which is described as Henry George's philosophy improved by substitution of the "Pins Plan" for the Single Tax. If the plan had prospered, the monetary system of "Coin"

Harvey would have been adopted, a system you have been carefully trained to laugh at, but worth another look all the same.

Tobacco and liquor were frowned upon by PINS, as were medical doctors, meat eaters and selfishness. Under that handicap, the miracle is that PINS staggered as far as it did. Those other two "poisons", salt and coffee, were in use at Gainesville, however.

For the past few years Rogers has been "prefabricating" concrete houses, and indefatigably filling columns in a wide variety of critical papers with his independent thinking on every subject under the sun. He has contributed a complete file of the publication PINS, valued in excess of \$100, to the Fortean Society archives, in consideration of which he has been made an Honorary Life Member.

So it is HLMFS Rogers who is now planning a book about the Medical Follies, to be called *The Medical Mischief, You Say!* It will have 200 contributors and, of course, will be obtainable from the Society. It will be announced when ready.

STADE SUMS UP

We promised to tell what Science found out about Shasta. MFS Stade writes:

"For some time the Shasta National Forest has been interested in finding out the cause of some stone circles surrounding mounds in the area adjacent to Camp Leaf. Recently, Johnny Noble of the *Oakland Tribune* made a special visit to this area with Lonnie Wilson, *Tribune* photographer; Franklin Fenenga and C. E. Smith, the last two being scientists from the University of California's Museum of Anthropology.

"A few weeks previously the Siskiyou County Historical Society made a field trip to the area and Burton J. Westman, one of its members and geologist from Etna, gave a detailed report in which he could find no geological answer to the mounds and rock mosaics. Similarly, the University of California experts could find no anthropological answer.

"The *Oakland Tribune*, in a feature story on November 22, 1946, hints that since science can't give the answer, you are entitled to pull your own out of the bag. Maybe the little people had something to do with it or it might be the Pacific version of Hendrick Hudson.

"P.S. Local Forest Rangers think that these circles are some of Paul Bunyan's pancakes that got burned at the edges so the cook threw them out."

To that we add a letter from Wakefield:

"Below are a few notes on the colony of people said to live on Mt. Shasta. Ever since the gold rush the old timers novelists and artists — have centered their attention upon the strange happenings in this region. — strange looking persons seen coming out of the dense growth of trees — who would run into hiding when — seen by anyone. — oddly dressed — one would sometimes come to the smaller towns for modern commodities — different dress from American In-

dian — tall, graceful and agile — large head and forehead with a special decoration that came over the center of the forehead to the bridge of the nose — (this to conceal the "third eye") science tells us the nerves are there —

"Weird lights are seen and when the wind is favorable music is heard — All attempts to locate colony have failed —

"Rosicrucians and other occult groups claim they are the survivors of the Lemurian race who lived on Lemuria now sunken in the Pacific.

"Some years ago the newspapers sent investigators with the usual results. As one reporter stated: The people did not want to make statements for the press which would make them appear simple and gullible."

A correspondent of the *Oakland Tribune* works out a volcanic theory for the circles, to his own satisfaction. But the explanation we like best is that of Ad Schuster, a columnist on the same paper. He suggests that the circles mark the site where the whites "started giving the Indians the run-around".

FOOD IN MAMMOTH

A member recently asked for the source of the following:

"A very curious example of the Siberian Mammoth was discovered only a few years ago by a Lamut of one of the Arctic Villages, and through the energy of Dr. Herz was eventually removed in pieces to St. Petersburg . . . It was sunk in frozen ground, and this cold storage treatment had preserved it in an extraordinary manner . . . the frozen ground had so kept the remains that Dr. Herz had found well-preserved fragments of food between the teeth, and the remains of a hearty meal in the stomach." From *Romance of Geology*, by E. S. Grew, London, 1911 AD.

FOURTH ESTATE

The journalists of New York City have divided sharply, through the month of April, on the question of which is the chief function of a daily wyper at this time. One half holds that herding the sheep into line for vaccination is the prime reason for publishing today, the other half contends that keeping people away from Charlie Chaplin's latest picture is the surest way to get into Heaven.

The trumped-up influenza scare was a complete flop inoculation-wise, and this small-pox nonsense is only slightly more successful. Significant was the use of former air-raid wardens to peddle fright from door to door. If one calls on you—kick him down stairs.

WE ERR

"Stuart X" and George H. Malter, Sr. (St. George), are not identical, correspondence with the survivor, Stuart X, convinces us. Apparently our suspicions were too hasty. The two men were very like-minded however, especially as regards the US monetary system, for we find St. George writing *The Gold Secret and its Connection with Tariff and Trusts: American Gold for the American People*, about 1915, which is

precisely when Stuart X was writing letters on that subject to Woodrow Wilson and many others. Their views are startlingly like those of Gladys Bing and AFFS the Duke of Bedford today.

We learned about these Stuart X letters from HFFS Bloch (whose picture appears elsewhere in this issue). Bloch saw a book on the shelves of (MFS) Doreal's White Temple in Denver, *A Prophet in His Own Country*, by Stuart X, "edited with an introduction and notes by Aleister Crowley", published by the author, Washington, D. C., 1916, in an edition limited to only 500 copies, numbered and signed by Stuart X.

Bloch himself did not appreciate the extent of the coincidence, but with admirable zeal informed us where the book was to be had. We acquired it for the Society, and now report upon it.

The coincidence mentioned just above concerns the late Aleister Crowley more than it does Stuart X, and so we shall save those revelations for another time. Crowley's contribution to this volume is almost entirely negative, consisting largely of redundant and banal footnotes to the letters.

The "Prophet's" score of hits is fairly high. He predicted the collapse of Germany, England and "the dis-united States", all of which we have observed come to pass. He predicted revolution in Russia, Japanese invasion of China, and two more colossal wars which remain highly probable if not inevitable. The first of these, says Stuart X is to be a "Class" war, the one after that a "Race" war. In the first, the Proletariat is to be victorious; in the second, the Chinese. One can arrive at almost identical conclusions by the simplest of mathematics. The only wonder is that so few persons can add. The white race is to be obliterated, and Stuart X sees no loss in that.

We find the author professing adherence to Henry George, staunchly defending Scott Nearing, and deploring the lost integrity of Woodrow Wilson under the corrosive influence of politicians and international bankers.

Letter No. 111 (1913) reads:

"A Lady
"Dining with us
"Brought her Father
"A highly successful Lawyer
"Out of the grave
"To remark that —
"Law is the Science of Injustice."

Not many of Stuart's letters were printed by the publications to which they were offered, but a few were inserted by Congressman R. W. Austin (Tenn.) in the *Congressional Record*. One of these, of which the author is particularly proud, is addressed to Dr. Sun Yet-Sen. It appeared in the issue of September 13, 1913 AD.

This Forteanism appears in the Prophet:

(Man) has never yet found anything fixed,
nor does his vision,
roam where it will
in Heaven or Earth,

find anything fixed; —

All is flux —

The very tombstones fail to fix the "Dead."

THAT OTHER PROPHET

MFS Roberts, translator, editor and interpreter of Nostradamus, thinks that Fortean should be interested in his man, and perhaps they should. The cult of Nostradamus is an old one, hardy and perennial, and certainly as sensible as the cult of Biblical Revelation, vaccination, the atom, the race track, or the Pyramid of Gizeh. If coming events are not already only too apparent to you, perhaps they will be clarified by the Roberts interpretation of Nostradamus.

The rhymes were first published 1555 AD, in archaic and ambiguous French. Mr. Roberts does not make his translations rhyme, but he has attempted to reduce the ambiguity, and he claims that his book is the only complete edition since 1672. Unfortunately, the "interpretations" are so brief and so scantily documented that it is seldom possible to learn from the text whether events described are now past or are still to come. The Society supplies the book. \$3.00

STILL ANOTHER

Against the sounding board of OAH-SPE, "the New Bible", now published by MFS Wing Anderson, that "C" Chief American Essenes of Kosmon" has composed a book called *Prophetic Years* 1947-1953. It is a successful effort to carry this mail-order religion to that group among us who must watch the dollars. This is not an entirely new wrinkle. Christianity itself made its strongest appeal to the slave class of Rome, and the income of its professors today, even in the face of obvious decline, remains no less than prodigious. By making common-cause with the purse-troubled rather than with the soul-cankered, Prophet Anderson gives his prognostications the immediate practicality of a bowl of vegetable soup. For instance, the "Scarlet Colored (or Covered) Beast" of which we must most beware (unless, indeed, it is already too late) is that group of International Bankers who did so well for themselves at Bretton Woods. The Society supplies *Prophetic Years* for \$3.00 . . . *Oahspe* for \$5.00

EXPLOSIONS

The presence of explosives at the scene of the great Texas tragedy prevents that disaster from being classed as Fortean, but that explosion is far from being an isolated phenomena.

Forest of Dean, town of Coleford, the Thursday nite before 11-30-46 old style. A "bluish-white flash", windows smashed, lights and phones out of commission.

A fifteen-block area of the business district of Minneapolis, early in the day, 12-16-46 old style. Entrance shattered, windows broken, no explanation.

About 11:00 p.m., Saturday before 12-29-46 old style, Dayton Ohio, "a terrific noise" and "the ground just

shook". No quake, said "Authorities" at Xavier U, Cincy.

"Early last night" (which makes it at the same time as the Dayton datum, same date) "a sharp blast" shook houses in the north end of San Bernardino, California. The *Sun* localized it, "in the general vicinity of Genevieve and Twenty-ninth Streets".

Early on 1-4-17 FS, an "explosion" rocked "the area around the entrance to New York Harbor". Attributed to the "backfire" of an oil compressor . . . At 9:25 the following evening, 1-5-17, Brooklyn, Manhattan, etc., heard what sounded like a "major explosion". *Thunder* said the cops!

In a coal mine, Plymouth, Penna., 1-18-17 FS, killed fifteen miners.

Same day, Detroit, two killed thirteen injured, gasoline truck unloading at a fire station.

Gasoline truck unloading at a service station, the day following that just above, in Cincinnati.

Los Angeles, 2-26-17 FS, "worst explosion in city's history", killed 15 or 75, depending on the wyper you read, injured hundreds . . . Occurred in the O'Connor Electro-Plating plant. "Three experts announced . . . a mixture of perchloric acid . . . and acetic anhydride . . . caused the explosion . . . Their report was made after a conference with officials of the plant and their legal advisers."

Kansas City, 3-21-17 FS, a home blown 200 feet into the air. "Gas."

Waterford, Eire, undated: mysterious and deafening explosion around midnight, accompanied by "a vivid flash resembling a ball of fire".

Credit — Ella Young, Elsenser, Reagan, Herbert, Bloch, Hoernlein.

MORE NOCK IN PRINT

Readers of *Memoirs of a Superfluous Man* and other books by the late AFFS Albert Jay Nock will be delighted to learn that his timely work, OUR ENEMY, THE STATE, has been restored to print. From the Society — now — only \$2.50.

PRE-COLON LINGO

The Algonquin Indians speak Norwegian, and you may take our word for it, or read the four volumes MFS Reidner T. Sherwin has written to prove it. The first volume in the series was published in the year 10 FS, the next in 12, another in 14, and the latest in 16. The title of the set is *The Viking and the Red Man*. Each volume \$2.50 from the Society.

Not a professional philologist when he began these studies, MFS Sherwin braved the scorn of the learned to such good effect that he now has numbers of them eating out of his hand. The books are largely vocabularies of the tribes speaking Algonquin dialects, with the Indian definitions, followed by the old Norse words which correspond in sound or in some other particular, with their old Norwegian definitions, which are marvelously like in thousands of cases. Besides the extensive vocabularies, each volume has a foreword and an appendix rich in more general, associated

information.

Sherwin makes his philological case with devastating thoroughness, and then points out to the unwary that, although this substantiates the Norse discovery of America long before Columbus, that discovery never has needed his assistance to prove it. Further, the jacket blurb on one volume refines the matter down to "the discovery of the North American continent by Leif Ericson in the year 1000 A.D..." etc.

Dear old Leif has become almost as much a convention in orthodox academic circles as the legendary Columbus among his Catholic Knights, so it becomes behoof upon us to blast that complacency. Luckily other men have delved in this vineyard, and we cite you several.

Jennings C. Wise has put together 470 quarto pages under the title, *The Mystery of Columbus*, and another equally massy tome called *The Background of Columbus*, the two purporting to establish that certain Europeans knew a great deal about the land now called America as early as 400 B.C. . . . Each volume \$5.00 from the Society.

Then there was Leo Wiener, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at Harvard, who published, 1920 AD, a four volume work, *Africa and the Discovery of America*. Unfortunately this set is out of print, but many libraries must have it, especially university libraries. The professor leans heavily on philological evidence to establish that African medicine-men brought Arabic "medical science" and religion (with their nomenclatures) to the Western World, and taught them to the Indian medicine men. Indeed, one can almost imagine a bridge connecting Africa and Brazil for centuries.

Besides, here is one of two bibliographies on the subject, reprinted from the *Icelandic Discoverers of America*, by Mrs. John B. Shipley. The other one will appear in an early issue.

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FAWCETT ALIVE

Willy Aureli, "the Brazilian explorer", was quoted in *Reynolds News* 8-18-46 oldstyle, as claiming to have found Col. Fawcett and twenty-one other white men alive and well in a remote Calapos Indian village deep in the jungle. The assertion is that Fawcett has made himself a Calapos chieftain. *Cr Russell.*

SOUND IN MOONLIGHT

James Dennistoun cites Sanzi as authority for the tale of Federigo Montfello who "marched from Faenza in bright moonlight, with a party of 400 horses on a foraging expedition, (when) a noise like the clashing of arms was suddenly heard at a distance, which immediately being repeated close at hand, the troops, with fierce and terrified aspect, rushed on each other, and for about ten minutes fought and struggled pell-mell, while their frightened horses, partaking in the panic, neighed and bolted in all directions. Dawn discovered a scene of strange confusion; the infantry mounted, the cavalry on foot, many lying wounded on the ground, not a few horses killed, others with broken or disordered harness. The senseless alarm was never accounted for, and was consequently ascribed to diabolical influences." *Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino*, i. 74. The incident occurred late in 1438 or early in 1439 AD. A more exact date may be in Sanzi's rhymed chronicle of Federigo (No. 1305 of the Ottoboniana MSS in the Vatican Library, and never published), but that is doubtful. The author's bastard, Raphael, became famous as a painter.

HFFS BLOCH

Every member who has been on the rolls more than a few years remembers Don Bloch, our cave-crawling, book-collecting, steady contributor of superlative data, active exponent of Fortean principles and tireless propagator of the gospel of unbelief.

From the first, Don Bloch has displayed a perfect grasp of Fortean aims and an energy in the Society's interests second only to that of the Founders themselves. In fact, he has consistently acted as if he were a Founder ever since membership card 166 was issued to him so many years ago. Accordingly, at the death of HFFS Cahill (who had succeeded Founder Harry Leon Wilson), the vacant post was proffered to him—with solemn injunctions concerning the responsibilities—and he accepted.

You see the likeness of HFFS Bloch on this page, some of you for the first time. He is shown, characteristically, among his books (he's a great Saltus man). Formerly a reporter, he reformed sufficiently to become attached to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the US Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. He is now stationed in Denver, whence he edits the *Bulletin* of the National Speleological Society, and worries about Iktomi (whom he discovered to us).

FIVE YEAR MARRIAGES

One Charles Wesley Amlin proposes to change our marriage laws so that connubial contracts of five year's duration may be entered into by interested parties. At the expiration of the contract, if the parties are still interested, they may exercise their options; if not — phttt. The details come in a pamphlet (42 pp., and cover) called *Till Death Us Do Part*. From the Society, \$1.00

For another dollar, another pamphlet (75 pp., and cover): *The Doctor Discusses Morals*. The "morals" this doctor discusses are present-day sexual relationships, and the doctor who does the discussing is Winfield Scott Pugh. One chapter is about the Fortean in Mattoon, and Pugh calls it "mass hysteria".

MORE CRITTERS

Near Carthage, Tenn., just before 11-12-46 old style, "a strange-looking animal with a roar like a lion" preying on livestock. Farmers were content, accto AP, when they had killed "a big red dog". *Cr Hoernlein.*

The Winslow, Indiana, *Dispatch* prints a column, "Twenty-five Years Ago — from the files of this paper, Friday, Nov. 25, 1921": "Bedford Reed of Monroe township, drew a snake out of his well which he says circumstances point to being the large snake seen near Petersburg recently." See DOUBT, Nos. 16 and 17.

MFS Kerr writes as an old Hoosier, that he saw a whopper about two miles from Jasper in the Summer of 1926 AD. He tried to kill it but the snake laughed at him.

Near Wapello, Iowa, on Christmas day, last, a "lion" thought to have been released by a carnival "tired of footing big meat bills", attacked a dog and his farmer. Also seen by the local Presbyterian

pastor, but it was a "panther" if you'll take his word for it. *Cr Stevens.*

An "alligator" found same Christmas day, "eight miles above" Vincennes, Ind., in Mariah Creek. The National Museum, Washington, D. C., said the beast must be a fresh runaway because "it could exist only for a short time in surroundings cooler than its body temperature". *Cr Kerr.*

On January 3, the gunners of Columbus Junction, Iowa, near Wapello, set out to follow "lion" tracks in the snow. *Cr E. S. Anderson.*

About 11 o'clock Sunday nite, 1-15-17 FS, at Eden, N. Y., near Buffalo, a "panther" screamed and left tracks. The screams have been heard before but nobody has seen the cat. *Cr Goldstein.*

A "pack of half-wild dogs" killed a pet deer and injured a fawn in the Linda Vista hills above the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. *Cr Bowring.*

Thirty-five lambs on the golf course of Hawera, New Zealand, were killed in one night "by the neat severance of the sinews at the back of the neck and a deep incision in a spot just behind the shoulders". Little blood in evidence. Buffalo *Courier-Express*, 3-13-47 old style. *Cr Goldstein.*

WATCH THESE

A twelve-year-old child of Colombo, Ceylon, is destined by his "naturist" parents to live two centuries. He is Mario, son of "Dr. Louis". Keep an eye on him.

Watch, also, switch-engines engineers on the Southern Railway, near Gaffney, S. C. Two, on the same job, same age, both of Blacksburg, died "of heart attacks", one within four days of the other, within a block of the same place.

Watch cooks on the cargo vessel *Bantria* out of Liverpool. One has disappeared on each of her two latest voyages. The new one, signed on 12-21-46 old style, is Fred Mather, who doesn't believe in Hoo-doo. *Cr Kerr, Elsander Russell.*

FOUR-POUND HAIL

That was some hail storm in Sydney, Australia, New Years Day. It sent 350 to the hospital, broke 500,000 panes of glass. The heaviest chunk of ice reported weighed four pounds. *Cr Elsander and Russell.*

NO NORTH POLE

Tired of the British kicking the Pole around, and of the Damned Reds saying there are two North Poles, Dr. Waldo Kliever of Minneapolis up and says there isn't any, that the earth's magnetic lines are in perpetual flux. We are scratching Waldo in the hope of finding a Fortean.

NO SUCH SANDERSON

The Satevepost, which believes in "lie-detectors" but has its doubts about sea-serpents, ran an article by an alleged zoologist, Ivan T. Sanderson, "Don't Scoff at Sea Monsters". It's pretty mamby-pamby stuff: says nothing new: and apparently zoologist Sanderson never heard of Rupert T. Gould's *the Case for the Sea Serpent*, 1934 old style. He states that "the giant ribbonfish . . . is believed to grow to twenty feet in length".

From *Science Digest*, December, 1945

old style: "The ribbonfish . . . probably is the species which has caused the rash of sea serpent stories . . . according to Karl P. Schmidt, the (Chicago Natural History) museum's chief curator of zoology (who has one mounted) . . . It is a narrow, snake-like fish which may reach a length of 50 feet and a weight of 600 pounds." *Cr Oltscher and Reagan.*

In the August 46 *True*, S. Robert Russell has a good "sea monster" story, but no witnesses saw more than "a huge domed back". *Cr Willets.*

HLMFS McAtee sends this excerpt from Amelia M. Murray's *Letters from the United States, Cuba and Canada*, London 1856:

"I have heard of the genuine sea-serpent at last! You know I always advocated the reality of such a reptile — partly founded upon its admission into the Scandinavian Mythology, in which every symbol was borrowed from Nature. Last Spring, when Captain Peat, of the steamer *William Seabrook*, was going up an inland portion of the Savannah River, he as well as his crew and passengers saw a gigantic serpent just before the vessel; it quickly disappeared; a notice of the circumstance was inserted in a local newspaper, and treated with the usual incredulity. Captain Rollins of this ship says, he, like the rest of the world, disbelieved the report; but the next day, during the passage of his steamer to Savannah, on approaching the bar of St. Helens, he was called by his look-out man to see 'the biggest log that ever was.' On looking through his telescope, he clearly saw that the object in question was no tree, but a monster as long as the *Isabel* herself, in rapid motion; as he watched it, it reared its snakelike body and head high out of the water as the funnel of the steamer, looked about for an instant, and then plunged down, leaving a swirling eddy where it had shown itself. No reasonable person acquainted with the calm seaman-like character of Captain Rollins, will suspect him of either exaggeration or error in describing a fact; but this, I believe, is the first time that the sea-serpent has been supposed to be seen or heard of in southern latitudes: it is probably a denizen of the deep seas which rarely and accidentally gets into the shallower water; and if it is an uncommon creature, I think the argument that no bone or skeleton has ever been found, cannot stand against such strong evidence as we have of its existence: there may be some weight or property in the skeleton which prevents any part of it from rising to the surface out of the sea caves where it usually lives and dies." (ii, 48-49)

Loch Ness is reported active . . . Something "40 feet long" is alarming people on the South Wexford (Eire) coast by leaping "to a height of 25 feet out of the sea". Fisherman say it never spouts or blows.

An Oakland *Tribune* columnist tells of something "mermaid-like" observed in the water near Long Wharf, 2-14-22 AD . . . And Ivar Haglund, an "aquarium owner" of Seattle, took a picture of "the Madrona monster" in Lake Washington,

2-28-17 FS. We're trying to get a print. *Cr Carlson, Young, Wakefield, McMahon, Hoernlein, and others.*

VOLCANOS

Space limitations prevent listing the many newly active volcanos. Sixteen data are in hand for the period. Please continue to send them. The coincidence of volcano activity, numerous explosions and sun-spot frequency is only too obvious.

LOCUSTS MOVE

In October last year, the locusts were in Brazil, eating everything in sight . . . 1-16-17 FS, the first swarms to enter Palestine since 1915 AD, were rounding the Dead Sea, going north . . . 1-19-17 FS, they were moving on India from the west.

Red ants invaded Middlesbrough, England, driving humans out. *Cr Reagan, Elsander, Russell.*

THE MULBERRY BUSH

Lloyd's Register of Shipping,
71, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C.3.
26th March, 1946

ENCLOSURE

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, with which you enclose an extract from the "Daily Mail" of the 30th May, 1944, regarding the vessel which is stated to have been picked up without any crew on board and towed to a British port.

A further careful search has been made in this Office, but I regret that it is still not possible to identify the vessel in question. As, obviously, she did not become a total loss, it is unlikely that any record was taken of the circumstances.

You may care to address an enquiry to the Principal Clerk to the Corporation of Lloyd's, Leadenhall Street, London, E. C. 3, in case that gentlemen may be able to assist you. I return the extract from the "Daily Mail" which accompanied your letter.

Yours faithfully (signed) for Secretary,
Tom Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

Lloyd's
London, E.C.3.
3rd. April, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of April 1st, together with an enclosure containing an extract from the "DAILY MAIL", dated May 30, 1944. I note that you state the Mr. Spray of Lloyd's Register has made a search and I am afraid that I can add nothing further.

Casualties to vessels are recorded under their names and if you can supply the name of the vessel I have no doubt we can give you the information concerning it. I may add that we cannot collect any casualty to which this "DAILY MAIL" extract could refer. If you wish to pursue the matter further I would suggest that you address an enquiry to the Registrar General of Shipping & Seamen, Llantrisant Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Yours faithfully, (signed) Shipping Editor
T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

DAILY MAIL,
Editorial Department,
Northcliffe House,
London, E.C.4.
17th April, 1946.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 15th inst. with reference to a report which appeared in the press regarding a "Ghost ship" found in mid Atlantic, in 1944, I regret that no further information regarding this ship has been published.

Yours faithfully, (signed) Librarian.
T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

General Register and Record Office
of Shipping and Seamen,
Llantrisant Road, Cardiff.
18th April, 1946

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th April and to inform you that it will receive attention.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,
(signed) Registrar-General

The Superintendent
Mercantile Marine Office
Post Office Building
Westgate Road
Newcastle-on-Tyne

Re your letter (15-4-46) to R.G.S.S. Cardiff. Will you be good enough to attend at this office without delay respecting the above, and oblige.

(signed)—Superintendent

Mercantile Marine Office
Ministry of Transport
Head Post Office Building
Westgate Road
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1 3rd May 1946

Mr. T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

Dear Sir,

A Post Card, requesting you to call at this office was sent to you on the 29th April, and related to a letter addressed by you to the Registrar General of Seamen.

If you are unable to call, will you please say for what purpose the information asked for is required, and if your enquiry relates to a seaman, particulars sufficient to identify him should be furnished.

Yours faithfully, (signed) Asst. Superintendent.

Customs and Excise,
City Gate House,
Finsbury Square,
London, E.C.2.
31st May, 1946

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I am directed to inform you that they are unable to trace the vessel in question from the information given, and to request that they may be furnished with any further information in your possession, e.g. the nationality of the vessel, the port to which she was towed and the date of arrival, the name of the towing vessel, and the cargo.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant, (signed)
T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

Customs and Excise
City Gate House,
Finsbury Square,
London, E.C.2.
19th June, 1946

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Com-

missioners of Customs and Excise to state that, in the absence of more specific information, they are unable to trace the vessel concerned.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant, (signed)
T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

The Times
The Times Publishing Company, Ltd.
Printing House Square
London, E.C.4.
July 19, 1946.

T. Elsander, Esq. (etc.)
Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter about the "Ghost Ship", I have forwarded this to the source of our information, with a request that you be assisted if at all possible.

Yours faithfully, (signed) Librarian.

The Press Association, Limited
P.O. Box No. 67
85, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4
July 29, 1946.

Tom Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of July 17, which has been passed on to us by the Librarian of "The Times", we greatly regret that we cannot give you the information you desire in regard to the Ghost Ship laden with lease and lend material which was found without a crew drifting in mid-Atlantic in 1944.

We do not keep our files for such a long period, and although one of our sub-editors remembers issuing a paragraph on the subject he cannot recall the source of the information or the name of the vessel concerned.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) for General Manager

The Press Association, Limited.
P.O. Box No. 67
85, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.
Aug. 19, 1946

Tom Elsander, Esq. (etc.)

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of August 13 about the "ghost" ship.

We are afraid that the only suggestion we can make is that you should communicate with

The Public Relations Officer,

The Admiralty,
Whitehall, S.W.

We cannot, of course, guarantee that The Admiralty can give you the information you desire. On the other hand it is quite possible that they can help you in the matter.

Yours faithfully, (signed) for General Manager

Department of Chief of Naval Information,
ADMIRALTY, S.W.1
30th August, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I regret that we are unable to give you much help in your enquiry. There is no record in the Admiralty of any ship being found abandoned in the circumstances you mention and we have also made enquiries, without result, from the Ministry of Transport and from Lloyd's.

If it is possible, however, the account may have referred to the case of an American cargo vessel, the *OLDHAM*. On April 3rd, 1944, she was disabled in mid-Atlantic and her crew were taken off by another ship. A tug from St. John's,

Newfoundland, then took her in tow and brought her back to Halifax. There was no mystery about the incident.

Yours sincerely,
(signed) for Chief of Naval Information

UNFORGOTTEN MILLER

LMFS Miller, who conducted *Coronet's* "Forgotten Mysteries" department for a number of years has collected fifteen chapters of this and related matter within cloth covers. In his introduction the author doffs his hat appropriately to Charles Fort, and here and there through the text the finger of Fort can be discerned, but the vast majority of the data is either new or novel in its presentation. It is all exciting, challenging, valuable. Don't miss it! Order from the Society. *Forgotten Mysteries*, by R. DeWitt Miller, indexed, \$2.50.

The Truth About INDIA

by
Kanhayalal Gauba
(continued)

17

Very few Englishmen take the trouble to learn the language of the people. But whether a European is a cold weather visitor or is a civilian of thirty years service, he is, in his own opinion, pre-eminently qualified to dogmatize on the lives, the manners, customs, capacities and aspirations of the people of this country. Perhaps there is no country in the world about which there are more books written than upon India. Perhaps there is no country about which there are more deliberate falsehoods railed than this country. In recent times we have had Miss Mayo's assertions regarding Indian young men. We now and again have Sir Michael O'Dwyer's effusions and Sir Walter Lawrence's Memoirs. We all know that Miss Mayo does not speak from personal experience, nor does the world overlook in Sir Michael's case that the ranks of vitriolic freelances are often filled by de-throned monarchs and unsuccessful administrators. And the India that Sir Walter Lawrence served was confined in no inconsiderable portion to the Messes and Gymkhanas or happy days in the Kulu valley and moonlit nights on the lakes of Kashmir. Addressing the Royal Institute in March, 1914, Sir Walter referred to the subjects of Indian States:

"During my twenty-one years of life in India I was always comparing the conditions in Indian States with the conditions prevailing in British India, and I am of opinion that the people in the Indian States are happier and more contented than are their brethren over the border in British territory. They have a government more congenial, more in accordance with their own ideas, in short, a government that is Indian. As an Englishman I might prefer to live in British territory, but if I were an Indian I should most certainly elect to live in an Indian State. There is more chance, more scope for individuality. There is more freedom and less overt and everpresent government. There is a career there open to the tal-

ents, there is no one there to jar on their religious and social prejudices, and to run counter to their religious and social prejudices, and above all there is no one to disturb their quiet. I admit at once that from an English point of view the standard of efficiency is lower in the Indian States than it is in British territory. But my point is that our standard is too high for the Indians. It is rigid and uncomfortable for them; and for us it is becoming daily more difficult to maintain the Standard."

Sir Walter Lawrence is quoted with approval in *Scraps of Paper* (pp. 30-31). Sir Walter Lawrence's opinion is not intended to be an indictment of British rule though it reads very much like one. It is not intended even as a compliment to the rulers of the Indian States. What is then the value of this opinion? Are the people of the States very happy? The reason is not far to seek — people like Sir Walter Lawrence and Sir Michael O'Dwyer hate the agitator class. They hate anything savouring of a 'reform movement.' Minto-Morley Schemes or Montagu-Chelmsford encroachments on vested authority. Civilization we know is the capacity to kick. The Indian who goes to Oxford and Cambridge learns something of the ways of civilization. In other words he begins to kick. It takes a lot of kicking however to make any serious impression on the crocodile gaiters of the service. But the vested interest in the service hate the kicking, they hate the lesson that civilization is teaching the Indian. Therefore the pathetic sympathy for India. Western culture is not suited to the immemorial East, the glory of the Eastern sun is dimmed by the dust raised by foolish experiments in western democracy. India is drifting seriously to perdition, thanks to the silly notions learnt at Oxford and Cambridge. There has been an entire disregard of realities by idealists like Montague and weak administrators like Lord Irwin, who allow Pandits from allahabad and revolutionaries like Ghandi to interfere with the navigation charts. India needs strength. And changing the metaphor, India licks the hand of the master. To negotiate with the Congress is playing with fire. Experiments in western types of administration must fail because parliamentary government is essentially European in conception. It does not fit in with the customs and temperament of Easterners. People in the States are happier under their own rulers, who, if not quite up to European standards of efficiency, have the pomp and autocracy that is so dear to the Indian heart. Hence therefore the solution of India's difficulties by ex-Colonels and retired Lieutenant Governors:

"I admire the Indians, and respect their great qualities, and believe in their great future. And because I hold that that future is endangered by the recent experiments — by the concessions which conciliate no one, and merely weaken our Government and puzzle and exasperate the people, — I venture to suggest another experiment, a new form of government that would appeal to Indian ideals, and would not weaken the British connection. I

would turn the whole of British India into Indian States." (Sir Walter Lawrence at the Royal Institute, 1914).

The statements of Sir Walter Lawrence, above cited, are typical of the mentality of the ex-civilian. In its reference to the affairs of British India we are not here concerned and the only reason for reproducing the second paragraph was to complete the picture. The Graf Zeppelin not long ago paid a visit to England. There was only one mooring mast at Cardington. The K100 which was incomplete hurriedly came out of its shed and took possession of the mast. In doing so it broke its nose. The K100 was described as a dog in the manger. The ex-civilian is much the same.

Sir Walter Lawrence in addressing the Royal Institute did not cite any illustration or any authority for the hypothesis to his theory. No doubt he referred to the 21 years life in India, but we all know how 21 years of a civilian are spent. Indeed the evidence available is entirely in the opposite direction. The subjects of the Indian States are not happier and more contented than their brethren in British India. Says Mr. Rangalyer in his brilliant book, *(India Peace or War?)* pp. 162-3):

"One man rule is bad enough even when the man is able, but when it degenerates into the rule of a man who is addicted to the worst vices of Oriental despotism — women, wine, and idle amusements at the cost of the people — it becomes a nightmare. Were a referendum taken today among the subjects they would cheerfully vote for the annexation of the States to British India. The States exist today because of the mercy of the British.

"Had there been in British India one thousandth of that corruption and dishonesty and oppression and uncontrolled autocracy you find in the Indian States, the British Raj would have perished long ago."

Mr. Chintamani in this matter quoted to the Indian Peoples Conference (25th May 1929) the dicta of Sir Albion Banerji:

"Of another state its recently retired Foreign and Political Minister, an I.C.S. Officer until a few years ago and one who had been Prime Minister of two other States, has told a press representative a little time ago things which cannot bring glory or satisfaction to its august ruler. A large section of the population 'absolutely illiterate and poor' 'governed like dumb, driven cattle'; 'no touch between the Government and the people'; 'No means open to them to represent their grievances'; 'the administrative machinery required overhauling from top to bottom'; 'the intellectual classes are also in a sense depressed classes'; 'hardly any public opinion'; 'even bare subsistence is denied under the existing conditions.' No gentlemen, I am not quoting Mr. Abyankar. These are the compliments publically showered on the administration of which he was lately a member by Sir Albion Banerjee."

Looking at the circumstances more closely we find that there are two classes of Indian States — The Salute States and

the non-Salute States. Officially the classification is referred to as First Division and Second Division. The classification means no more than that the First Division States are entitled to a salute of guns, while the Second Division have not this privilege. The number of guns varies with the importance of the ruler. The Nizam of Hyderabad gets 21, the ruler of Banganapalle only 9. The Salute States generally exercise powers of internal administration, make their own laws, and have power of life and death over their subjects. Their courts are not subject to any appealable jurisdiction even in cases of the extreme penalty of the law. A theoretical exception is recognised by petition to the Governor-General-in-Council, but in practice this has been a dead letter. In the exercise of these judicial powers the only limitation upon these States is that they cannot try European British subjects for capital offences. (*Indian Princes under British Protection*, pp. 4-5).

The non-Salute States cannot in certain cases make laws without the sanction and approval of the Government of India. Their judicial powers are limited to the trial of minor offences. Serious offences are tried by the Political Agent or resident attached to the State. In the matter of general administration these States are subject to larger outside control than are the States of the First Division. There are some States in this classification whose executive, legislative, and judicial powers are divided between Chiefs and the Political Agents or residents attached to those States.

(To be continued)

ATHEIST SCHISM

The *Truth Seeker* crowd had a falling out, with the net result that still another free thought publication is in the mails. The new magazine is called *Progressive World*, and it unites five other like-minded papers.

MFS Orr is one of the editors of *Progressive World*, while MFS Alt remains on the staff of the *Truth Seeker*. DOUBT pays no favorites; the more the merrier. As Fort used to say of cosmogonies, "What we want is variety."

The address of *Progressive World* is, Box 27, Clifton, New Jersey. Send at least \$2.00, direct to that address.

TWO EARS OF HARDING

Honorary Founder T. Swann Harding has written a history of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he has been "editor" since before the Civil War. The title is *Two Blades of Grass*, the price is \$3.50, from the Society.

ON FOLDING DATA

Please, folks, when you fold newspaper clippings to fit envelopes, please leave the story on the OUTSIDE of the fold — with the headline in view if possible. Your poor Secretary wastes hours every month unfolding and refolding thousands of pieces . . . OUTSIDE, please, so the subject can be seen at a glance. Thank you.

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD, and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have produced in facsimile — life size — the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have. The numerals, such as '11 or '64, etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

1842

- Dec 5 5:30 p.m. / Epinal, Vosges, Langres / Large fireball and great detonations. In July, 1851 small meteorite was found near Epinal, the fragment perhaps of this fireball. BA 60-80 (reverse) CR 15-1119
- 5 6:30 a.m. Meteorite of Langres C.R. 15-1118 sky clear at Epinal.
- 5 5:30 a.m. / Det met like gunfire at Epinal / Mass of meteoric iron found there July 7, 1851. C.R. 35-289 (reverse) Said that cinders had been found at time of the fall.

(see Dec 7) Basilico, Switzerland, Fireball. BA '60

Box A (Resumed)

- Dec 12 Dorch lame girl / London
- 18 Box 2 (Resumed)
- 18 15h Venus Inf Conjunction Sun A1
- 20 Wirtenberg Fireball BA '60

Dec 27 to Feb 13 1843 4 quakes in Calabria LT April 14, 1842 p. 4

Box A (Resumed)

- Dec (last) Stones fell Clavaux on children "without injuring them to the slightest degree."

Dec

Stones. (reverse: another typed fragment of MSS. TT). Two young girls were picking up leaves, near Clavaux (Livet) France, when they saw stones falling around them. Their extraordinary observation was that the stones struck them without injuring them. They ran home, and returned with their parents. The stones fell again, and it is said that the children were a field of attraction. According to the story, the children then had an experience that I liken to that of Cumpston's: they were pulled into something that was like a vortex, but their parents, unaffected, like Mrs. Cumpston, dragged them back. It looks as if there were a flow both ways, or an alternating current, here. The story was told broadcast, and many persons from neighboring towns went to the place, and recognizing what seemed to be a necessary condition, or factor, took children with them. "all were witnesses of the same extraordinary phenomenon." We are told that one of the witnesses, "when holding the hand of one of the children", was struck upon the cheek by a stone the size of an egg, but from which he felt no pain, so slowly had it fallen. The appearing-point is said to have been only a few feet overhead. Page 2 London Times, Jan. 13, 1843: That, according to the *Courier de l'Isere*, in the last of December.

Dec

(end of)

Stones Livet near Clavaux - two girls picking up leaves - stones fell on them. Not injure them. Parents when joining hands with children felt selves drawn in field of attraction. Others one injured slightly from a falling (reverse) stone. About 60 picked up/nothing particular of different colors - Phe continued several days. At first in morning - then in afternoon - then toward night - then no more. LT Jan 13, p 3 - 1843

1843

Box 2 (Resumed)

Quakes Europe etc. Supplement C.R. 20-1444

All quakes of Europe and adjacent parts of Africa and Asia C.R. 18-393

1843

(early in) At sea off mouth of River

Platte, crew of vessel sickened by (reverse) a fetid, oppressive atmosphere. LT March 30, p 9. Bruges Fireball BA '60

4 Volc Goentoer, Java N.M. C.R. 70-878

4 Cairo (Ill.) quake BA '11

4 8:40 p.m. Near Madrid. (Mo.) quake severest since 1811 (reverse) also damage in St. Louis. N Y Herald Jan 20, p. 4.

Jan 5
Jan 18
Feb 17
Feb 18
Mar 15
Apr 14
Jan 6-

Quakes Java C.R. 70-878

(11)
Jan 7
Feb 2
Jan 10-
Feb 1

11:30 a.m. Quake - deluge / Singapore quake followed by a little rain, then torrent till 11th. (reverse) C.R.5-881

LT p. 5. }
LT p. 5. } Etna

Jan 13

(ab) Manuna Loa / Athenaeum 1844-68 / A J Sci / 2/27/411

One of the greatest of gales in England

Box A (Resumed)

16-17

Myst bell ringing as if pulled. / Servant ill / LT 1843 Jan 20, p.7

Box 2 (Resumed)

Feb 1

Riegesdorf Fireball BA '60

5

8 p.m. Nottinghamshire met like a 'large mass of fire of a blood red color'. BA 50/90

7

Charleston, S.C. / About 10 a.m. 2 slight quakes and sound Bull Seis A 4-117

8

Martinique St. Thomas's quake / about 10:30 a.m. / Also St Igelts and Novis etc. / L T Index

8

for the quake see Fielding Reid

8

Quake & comet Great quake West Indies A. J. S. 44/419

8

Off Guadeloupe column of black water rose from sea (reverse) supposed submarine volc. LT May 24, p. 8.

8

Antigua about 10:45 a.m. quake / There was a deep purple haze. A. Reg. '43-12

8

A quake Dominica, and soon after a stupendous comet visible at sunset and then above horizon several hours. Tail 25 or 30 degrees long. LT Apr 4, p. 6 See March

8

(Newspaper clipping TT) Quake. From the master of the *William Stone* which arrived here on Saturday last from Martinique we learn that the earthquake which was felt there on the previous Wednesday was

felt very severely in that island; so much so that many of the inhabitants of the town of St. Pierre fled from there to the beach, fearing the same fate **Box A (Resumed)**

that the inhabitants of Port Royal were visited with a few years ago. The master of the *William Stone* did not report any further damage to the town than sundry cracks and fissures in the buildings.

P.S. since writing the above, we have received most disastrous accounts of the effects of the great earthquake in the other colonies. A small vessel from St. Christopher reports that at Guadalupe the ravages have been most awful. At Pointe-a-Pitre, 3000 persons are reported to have perished, and the town itself is submerged, hardly three houses being now visible. At St. Kitts, the town of Basseterre suffered very considerably, every house having been more or less damaged. At Dominica and Nevis likewise considerable damage had been done. In short it would appear to have been the most extensive and disastrous convulsion of nature with which the colonies have been visited for many years. In our next publication we hope to present more authentic and accurate accounts as to the extent of this calamity. (14th February 1843). (The paper is continuous through this break in the narrative. TT)

The 8th February, 1843, will long be memorable in the annals of these islands,—a day of mourning and desolation to many,—a day of fasting and of prayer for all,—a day on which everyone should humble himself in spirit and thought before the Great Being who, in His inscrutable judgment has permitted that awful catastrophe with which these islands have been visited, and from which the inhabitants of Trinidad have been so mercifully spared; spared, let us hope and trust, in order that we may manifest our deep sympathy with our suffering fellow-colonists, and do our utmost endeavors to alleviate the distress and affliction of those whom a mysterious Providence has so severely chastised.

From Guadalupe, the dreadful news mentioned in our last has been fully confirmed. Thousands have perished; tens of thousands are without a home or shelter of any kind. Pointe-a-Pitre no longer exists. What the earthquake had spared, fire has since destroyed, and 15,000 persons surrounded the Governor of the ill-fated island on

the spot where Pointe-a-Pitre once stood, crying out for bread, and appealing to their more fortunate fellow-colonists of Martinique.

From Antigua we learn as follows:—This island was visited in the forenoon of the 8th instant by a most awful earthquake which has almost destroyed the country. There is scarcely a stone building but what is partially or wholly destroyed; churches, public edifices, mills, etc.; but the calamity was attended with (second page of newspaper clipping) but little loss of life. Without the most liberal aid of Government we cannot recover. The crops must materially suffer. We calculated on 18,000 hogsheads of sugar; but today one can hardly say whether the first vessel can be loaded. We require immediately masons and carpenters, building lime and hardwood in quantity, and large pieces, for most mills must be skeleton ones of this material as the masonry will not season in time.

From St. Kitts we have received the following letter:—Yesterday morning the 8th February we were visited by the severest earthquake ever known here; it lasted two and a half to three minutes . . . every stone building more or less injured, and many down or damaged so as to be untenable. Up to the time of writing only two deaths. Nevis and Montserrat have suffered severely. At Nevis it is said 8 lives have been lost. In Cayou and Nicola Town there is nothing in the shape of a wall standing; and the country every chimney is down. All boiling houses, and steam engine houses are severely damaged. St. Vincent and Barbados escaped. The Gazette of St. Vincent under date of the 11th February writes:—One of those awful visitations of Providence which so often occur in these colonies,—an earthquake,—was experienced here on the morning of the 8th instant about half past ten, and continued for an unusual length of time, probably a minute or a minute and a half . . .

A letter from Roseau, Dominica, says:—We were yesterday visited by one of the most awful earthquakes ever experienced in this island; the works on almost all the estates throughout the island have been levelled to the ground no lives as yet been reported lost. A great cloud of smoke was seen after the shock rising over Guadalupe. (17th February, 1843). (In Pencil, in Fort's hand) — "Port of Spain Gazette Sept 21, 1925"

- 8 Destructive quake St. Lucia B. W. I. BA 1911-55
- 8 Destructive quake West Indies BA 1911-53
- 8 5,000 persons killed in West Indies in this quake. BA 1911-42
- 8 LT p. 7. Meteor Nottingham
- 10 (ab) N. Missouri. Dense clouds of a dark substance resembling (reverse) steel dust N. Y. Herald March 2, p. 4.
- 14 Several shocks New Orleans / N Y Herald Feb 28, p. 4
- 16 11 p.m. / Shocks Nashville, Tenn. / N Y Herald Feb 28, p. 4.
- 17 Many meteors Brussels BA 47-15
- 19 See if this some other date this ver C.R. 22-709 That in New Grenada (I think U. S. Columbia) down the valley of Lagunella, swept a flood of mud (reverse) (see if 1828) supposed from the Ruiz Volcano with its enormous blocks of ice from the mountains. Broke down and covered trees with mud. Many inhabitants perished. See if 1845.
- 28 Cor to Cape Town Mail of March 11, describes the comet as he saw it. Close to the sun like 1st mag star at 9 A.M. March 2, after sunset, it threw up a long train of light half way to the zenith (reverse) On 3rd it was much higher in the heavens. When the sun had set and visible ab ½ hour afterward - very brilliant - after it disappeared, the tail shot up obliquely toward the north. On 4th brilliant but reduced to ¼th first size - destitute of the long tail.

See

Dec 22
etc.
1880

/ Also that Smith comet that disappeared.

- 28 Ac to the New Bedford Mercury copied in N Y Daily Tribune, March 10 comet near the sun visible all day 28th without glasses brilliancy almost equal to that of Venus — tail about 3 degrees long (reverse) very near eastern limb of sun.
- 28 Comet seen in broad daylight numerous places in New England Am. J. Sci. 44/412
- 28 (Comet) Brilliant body near the sun, by many persons in New England "size of venus" (reverse) and yet when March 7, the beam seen nucleus doubtful. Am. J. Sci. 44/412
- Mar 1 Comet first seen in Tasmania. Manian Jour of Sci. 2-155 disap on 7th of April
- 1 Dust. At Valencia, Spain heavy gale "an immense red mass upon the horizon. It advanced slowly and (reverse) cast a fine red colored dust. Athenaeum 1843 268

Box A (Resumed)

- 1 LT p. 6. Shot Sunderland See Jan 20, p. 7.

Box 2 (Resumed)

- 2 Tail of comet seen at 6.33. No. 79.3 E from ship *John Barry*. At sunset (reverse) on 4th the nucleus seen/then greater altitude next night. Bombay Monthly Times April, 1843
- 2 Comet just seen in Sydney, N.S. W. 7 p.m. Sydney Morning Herald March 7.
- 5-6 Beam. Ac to a writer from Brown University tail of comet - as soon as dark a slender beam of light from the horizon, (or near it) at a point 10 or 15 degrees south of west (reverse) observed till 8 p.m. and had then passed below horizon. No nucleus had been seen and writers tell of it too near the sun - so he thinks reports of the comet nucleus in daytime just seen unfounded. N.Y. Daily Herald March 14, p. 2
- 6 At Serampore India ac to Friend of India, March 9-16 evening after sunset long beam seemed auroral - next night the nucleus seen - nucleus in Eridanus on 7th - tail 36 degrees long. If produced it would meet Sirius (reverse) a line from Canopus to Sirius and another to nucleus of the comet made a right angle.
- 6 Evening at Calcutta comet tail at first like a streak of smoke from a steamer. Illumined by the sun (reverse) and after sunset, like a sun column, but then seen as a comet tail. Calcutta Jour. Nat. Hist. 4-128
- 6-9 Report by Lieut. Maury of the Hydrographical Office. (reverse) In daytime every point of space within 15 degrees of the sun was examined but no nucleus could be found. N. Y. Daily Tribune March 13, p. 4. On evening of 8th tail was a faint nebulous arch reaching away beyond Sirius in the East resting on (a star) of the great Dog. (reverse) At sunset the tail visible pointing "toward the sun". (Self away) Nothing in Eastern sky in morning.
- 6-9-11 (A) Many thought that the comet was approaching the sun - so he explained invisibility of the nucleus; that (reverse) lost to sight in rays of sun / But ac to Cape Town Observer the comet was leaving the SUN.
- 6-9-11 (A) My idea that "nucleus" was a fixed star that waned but sent out a "train" (reverse) But - does the sun move west of a fixed point in "shell" 4 minutes to the east every day? And so leave it behind?
- 7 (Newspaper clipping) Great Comet / A comet of extraor-

dinary size and brilliancy has been visible for five successive nights in the south-western sky. 'Though its rays are by no means of that fiery hue which is the general characteristic of these meteors, being, on the contrary of a silvery appearance like the moon, and though its tail, as it is termed, does not extend so far across the heaven as in some previous comets, yet it is still by far the largest and most lustrous object that has visited this globe within the memory of man. (7th March 1843.) Port of Spain Gazette.

- 7 Near Guadalupe, W I, column of black water, and vapor from the ocean, has been (reverse) great quake in Guadalupe. Feb 8 Athenaeum 1843-574
- 8 Banks of Essequibo river 4° 11' N. Lat. Account in Athenaeum 1843-529, by the explorer Schonburgk, of the comet as he saw it - saw tail, but in forest could not see the horizon. On 9th saw the nucleus 12° above horizon - tail to Eridanus.
- 10 About 1 a.m. Quake Jersey & Guernsey LT March 18, p. 5
- 10 about 12:30 a.m. Quake Manche Fr. Times 1844/277
- Mar Comet / See The New World Extra Series No. 65 The Comet / P.P. 639 lit/ On 13th at Yale College as reported in a letter in the New Haven Palladium the nucleus near 55 Celi setting (reverse) Setting ab 7:40 p.m. 55 Celi or Batey / Cor U.S. Gazette says 25' of Zeta Celi / what date? That in a powerful refractor no disc discernable / He says that moving eastwards ab 3½ degrees a day, and southward ab 1/3 degree per day.
- Mar 10 About 8:20 p.m. / Lancashire - N E of Manchester especially Rochdale. One before Aug 20, 1835 June 11, '39. LT March 16, p. 6.
- 11 Lieut. Maury's report up to March 11. Search for the (reverse) Comet and in vain - but each evening the magnificent "tail". Trib 15th, p. 1
- Mar More observations on the comet / Clark Hist. Astro / 103
- Mar - Apr / The Comet See Again / Streak seen March 4 - in Jamaica LT Apr 22, p. 3. See "Beams" No satisfactory nucleus ever seen.
- Mar 2 Comet at Rio LT May 15, p. 6. For Persia - see Times, June 10, p. 5.
- Mar Get prediction of "comet". See if came back
- Mar The comet / They tried to say the comet of Sept 1882 was this but see periods they gave to it.

- Mar Mr. Glaisher's denial that the beam was the comet's tail thinks unusual zodiacal light. Mag of Sci 5-14
- Feb Mar Comet / Clement in Am J Sci 44/415 Perihelion passage Feb 27, 240348 M Phil time see Eng. pubs.
- Mar M. M. Laugier and Mauvais of Paris agreed: they determined that the comet would return in 35 years, Clausen - 6 or 7 years. Prof. Hubbard of Washington - 553 years. Clarke Hist. Astro. 103 (reverse) Clarke - perihelion 9:47 p.m. Feb 27, 1843
- Mar 14 Oporto / "splendid comet appeared at sunset" in west, and appeared in west Venus? LT March 22, p. 5.
- 16 Paris? 7 p.m. Salignanis Mess / light in sky supposed to be tail of enormous new comet. No nucleus seen.
- 17 "Comet or supposed comet" See Timbs 1844. (2) at 10:30 this evening / LT 25th, p. 7. Ireland between 12 and 1.
- 23 LT p. 6. Tail of a comet seen variously in Orion, Lepus, Cetus.
- 31 LT p. 5. Beam in sky - several nebulous bodies that might be a comet
- Mar 14 quake and "rushing sound" in Vermont 9.5 p.m. N. Y. Daily Tribune 24- p. 2.
- before
- Mar 15 "A strange yellow liquid that adhered to the fingers when touched and dyed the ground where it fell". India. Lil. Gazette 1843-389
- Mar 16 bet 11 & 12 p.m. quake St. Louis accompanied by a "rushing noise". N Y Trib. 20th p. 31
- 17 8:20 a.m. / quake Manchester Rochdale / Lloyd's 19, p. 2. (reverse) About 1 a.m. Liver pool 19- p 8
- 17 Quake Lancashire, Cumberland, Dunfries, Isle Man, Belfast & Jersey, Guernsey. Trans Ry Irish Acad 28-293 (reverse) in Manchester Morn. Post Oct 9, 1863 See 1816
- 17 1:20 a.m. Sounds like exposures - quakes Westmoreland. (reverse) LT March 21 etc.
- 17 Quake and sky. About 1 a.m. Liverpool LT 18, p. 7. 2 cols LT 29, p. 7. Manchester etc. March 21, p. 5 in Westmoreland ab 1:20 "a yellowish blaze in the elements" supposed powder mills had blown up. Said according to one witness had been slight shock (reverse) at Manchester taken for report of distant cannon at Liverpool - dimness of moon noted at Manchester - dim and filmy Noise like an explosion - sound and vibration Isle of Man ab 12:45.



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