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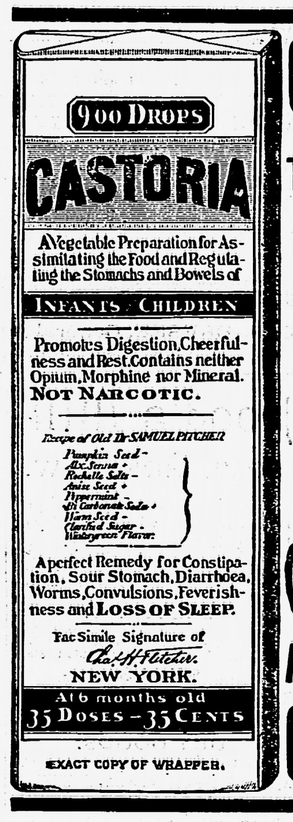

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To order at short notice and reasonable prices.
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CAPTAIN G. M. MULLEN, 231 Smith's Wharf, City.
DEAR SIR:—I, the undersigned, have used your Blocks for three months, and find them to give perfect satisfaction. I cheerfully recommend them to all. They are the best I ever used.
Yours respectfully, B. F. WOODLAND,
Owner of schooners Curlew and Maryland.

Please Notice—That an advertisement in THE TIMES always brings a customer if there is one in Howard county

THE ARGONAUT OF 1898

He Is Honest, Frank, Simple and Generous.

HIS HOPES AND HIS STRUGGLES.

There Is Little Lawlessness Along the Trail, and the Gold Seekers Are Sympathetic and Helpful One to Another. Some Amusing Incidents.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]
SHEEP CAMP, March 21.

Let me give you some impressions concerning the personality of the gold seekers who are now pushing their way—but, oh, so slowly—into the interior. I have talked with hundreds, learned their history, listened to their hopes and fears and in some cases have been the recipient of confidences that it would not be right to reveal.

The genuine argonaut of 1898 is as a rule honest, frank, simple, generous, temperate and obliging. In at least two cases out of three he hails from west of the Mississippi and has had more or less experience in mining life. What strikes me most impressively is the tender, almost childish heart that beats in his rugged breast.

"I have left my wife an little girl to go away many times before," said a sturdy six footer to me yesterday, "an I always held up until this time, but I broke down an cried like a child when I left home to come out here. When my little girl saw it, she jest yelled, but I had to break away an leave her." And his strong frame shook as he turned away to hide his honest face. "But I want to get some money to take my wife back to Scotland to see her old father an mother," he continued, after a pause, "an, by thunder, I'll do it or I'll never go back alive!"

One of the passengers who came up on the steamer from Seattle in the steerage told me he could hear the men sob in their bunks near him at night.

The Other Side.

But there is amusement as well as pathos in this experience. I recall an instance of a Boston man who is out here to study life and character as he finds it. He is one of the kind that has a penchant for "slumming" and is really a fine fellow. Before he left the States on the steamer he told me with modest pride and mild enthusiasm that he had engaged to go in the steerage, but from choice solely.

"I want to imbibe the atmosphere of the hoi polloi," said he in choice Bostonese, "and I think it will more than balance the discomforts and hardships of the trip."

We had not been out two days before I met him among the saloon passengers.

"How's this?" I asked. "Have you got steerage atmosphere enough already?"

"Oh, yes," said he. "It was simply awful being down there among the dogs, the mules and the horses. The atmosphere was a little more than I could stand. I'll go first class the rest of the way."

Here at the camp discouraged men are selling their outfits at half price every day and going back to their homes.

Just a word in passing concerning the reports about stealing and outlawry on the trail. I have thus far seen absolutely nothing of the kind, and there is very little drinking of intoxicants. The camp is literally strewn with goods at every hand: There are no locks or keys or any one to watch them. They are apparently as secure as if they were in the vaults of a safe deposit company. True, the punishment would be summary and severe if one were caught pilfering, but whether the absence of thieving is due to this more than the inherent honesty of the argonauts I know not. I merely state the fact. A little later in the season and farther in on the trail, when a lack of forethought or some other misfortune breeds want or perhaps desperation, the situation may change.

In one instance only has thieving been reported. In this case the two thieves were apprehended before they had made way with their booty, and a half dozen men started after them. One fired back twice at his pursuers, and finding escape impossible turned his pistol at his own head and killed himself instantly. The other was caught, and it was decided to give him 100 lashes. After receiving 17 blows on his back with a knotted hemp rope some one interceded in his behalf. He was then placarded with the word "thief" and turned back toward Dyea, stern men watching him until he had disappeared from view.

The spirit of mutual helpfulness abounds everywhere. If it be wood that is wanted, there are several pairs of strong arms and keen axes ready to supply it at any time. When a tent is to be erected, assistance can always be readily found. And, by the way, it is no easy job to put a tent up in four feet of snow when the wind is blowing 40 miles an hour and the ground is frozen as hard as flint.

I am waiting for some of our goods which got sadly mixed up in transit to Dyea, but I expect my next letter will be dated from the other side of the pass.

A. A. HILL.

MONGOLIAN PHEASANTS.

They May Succeed the Quail as a Game Bird.

Many sportsmen think that the pheasant of the Mongolian kind will in a few years succeed the quail as the popular American game bird. The pheasant has not only its toothsome qualities to recommend it, but its beauty in waving plumage of ravishing hues, and therefore will prove a prize that every sportsman will endeavor to secure when the season is once open for its slaughter. It has attracted the attention of our sporting men for many years in consequence of its successful introduction on the Pacific slope, and now many eastern states are introducing the Mongolian bird into their domains. In Ohio alone over 200 birds were liberated last year.

Mongolian pheasants are well worth all the expense and care that may be expended upon them. They evidently rank next to the birds of paradise in beauty, and, in fact, are too handsome to be made targets of.

The male bird has the cheeks naked and of the brightest scarlet, minutely specked with black. The crown of the head is bronze green. On each side of the occiput is a tuft of dark golden green feathers capable of being erected at pleasure and very conspicuous in the pairing season; upper part of the neck dark green, glossed with purple and violet blue; lower part of the neck, breast and flanks deep reddish orange, showing in some positions beautiful reflections of light purple; each feather bordered and terminated with pansy purple; center of the belly and thighs blackish brown; center of the back and scapular feathers black or brownish black, surrounded by a yellowish white band and bordered with deep reddish orange; lower part of the back and upper tail covert green, intermingled with brownish orange and purplish red; tail feathers brown, crossed by bands of black and fringed with reddish brown; bill pale yellow; legs and toes grayish black. The female has cheeks covered with small, closely set feathers, and the whole of the plumage is yellowish brown, mingled with different shades of gray, brown and black.

The Mongolian pheasant was first introduced into this country by Judge O. N. Denny, who was our consul general at Shanghai. He while there became deeply interested in the large variety of exquisitely plumaged birds of that section of the globe, and determined to introduce the hardiest, the most toothsome and the most prolific bird into the United States. His first experiment in 1881 was a failure, but in 1882 he selected from nine varieties the Chinese ring necked pheasant, the Mongolian, which is now called in Oregon, in compliment to the introducer, the Denny pheasant.

There were but 28 of these, and they all arrived safely at Portland, Or. They were immediately liberated among the grainfields and semibrush covered and wooded prairie at Judge Denny's brother's ranch in Linn county, there to adapt themselves or go out of existence.

Nothing was seen of the new birds for a year or two, and then here and there in different portions of the county shy little coveys made their appearance, and before five years had elapsed the cuckoting of the brilliant plumaged male birds was far more commonly heard than that of their own native grouse. It should be said that through Judge Denny's instrumentality the legislature passed a law protecting the new pheasant for a period of five years, and at the expiration of this time, again at his suggestion, the time was extended for another interval of equal length. At the end of ten years Oregon was literally alive with the Mongolian pheasant, which delights the heart of every sportsman with its swift and rapid flights and tempts the most epicurean palate by its delicate white flesh.—Newark Call.

[Photograph by E. A. Hegg. Copyright, 1898.]

THE LAST HILL BEFORE REACHING THE SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS.

Couldn't Understand It.

"I think," said the arctic explorer, "that I shall make another start within the next six months."

"You'd better go before then," replied his manager. "You see, it's well to strike while the iron's hot. You don't want to take too many chances on a loss of interest, you know."

"I am not afraid of that. My enthusiasm will never decline. However, if you think it better we will start within three months, two months or one month, whichever you prefer."

"Good! Now, have you any preference as to where you go?"

"Certainly I have," was the astonished rejoinder. "I want to go to the north pole."

The manager shoved his chair back and gazed at the explorer in silent wonder. Then he slowly repeated, "To the north pole!"

"Certainly to the north pole."

"But, my dear man, what on earth do you wish to go to the north pole for? There aren't any people there who would buy tickets to a lecture."—Washington Star.

Breathing Exercise.

It may not be generally known to our readers that when exposed to severe cold a feeling of warmth is readily created by repeatedly filling the lungs to their utmost extent in the following manner: Throw the shoulders well back and hold the head well up. Inflate the lungs slowly, the air entering entirely through the nose. When the lungs are completely filled, hold the breath for ten seconds or longer, and then expire it quickly through the mouth. After repeating this exercise while one is chilly a feeling of warmth will be felt over the entire body and even in the feet and hands. It is important to practice this exercise many times each day, and especially when in the open air. If the habit ever becomes universal, then consumption and many other diseases will rarely, if ever, be heard of. Not only while practicing the breathing exercise must the clothing be loose over the chest, but beginners will do well to remember, in having their clothing fitted, to allow for the permanent expansion of one inch, two inches or even three inches, which will eventually follow.—New York Ledger.

Suicide Without Pain.

"Yes," admitted the man who had his feet on the table, "it is true that I did once attempt to commit suicide.

"I was disconsolate, out of work, out of health, and I brooded over my unhappy lot until I"—

"Never mind what drove you to attempt the deed. All that interests us is how you made such a failure."

"I can hardly account for it myself even now. I fired a pistol straight at my heart."

"Blank cartridge?"

"Toy pistol?"

"Had chain armor on?"

"Bullet hit a rib and glanced off?"

"No," said the man, looking scornfully at the scoffers about him. "The bullet hit the looking glass in front of which I was standing and broke it into a thousand pieces."—Strand Magazine.

Convincing.

He—Women are seldom capable of reasoning.

She—Don't you believe it.

He—Why not?

She—Well—because.—Chicago News.

"Bang Up."

"Now, some celery," said the housewife to the marketman.

"Here's some that's bang up. Isn't it white?"

"Yes, it's unnaturally white."

"It's the kind that sells."

"I don't like it. The other there looks better to me."

The marketman laughed.

"Shall I tell you a secret about that white celery? They steam it."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Sure Cure.

"Yes, Stubbs was goin into a decline, an the doctor said the best thing for him was to get an easy government job and lie around doin nothin."

"A sinecure, eh?"

"I don't pretend to know what kind o' cure you call it, but anyway he's cured."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Spanish Conditions.

The temper of the Spanish people is marvelous indeed. A firm government—firm with the just intention of doing right—they are slow to recognize and tolerate, but tyranny they readily swallow, making a wry face perhaps, but no resistance. The more merciless the force opposed to them the more they find in it to admire and make obeisance to. This idiosyncrasy of the Spanish character Canovas del Castillo was swift to appreciate and take advantage of. A writer who complacently sets him down as a great statesman and patriot in the general—the European—sense of the word, is no master of the facts. Canovas was the strong man of Spain. He was not the educator of the people or the worker of the popular inclination. His vigorous understanding was their muscular master.

The police were on his side; a useful portion of the press, hired judiciously for the purpose; the army, and brains to set them all in motion; and so equipped Antonio Canovas del Castillo confronted the Spanish people and said, "Come on!" It was a resolute and daring attitude and kept the crowd triumphantly at bay for 30 years. But of late a change had taken place. A good deal of the old fire had burned out. Fifteen years of colonial revolt, again, impress even the thickest headed Spanish peasant into conceiving that the trouble has no business to last so long, and that his rulers, if hard and exigent toward himself, are weak, extravagant and undexterous elsewhere. And this suspicion ripens into certainty when he sees his sons torn from his side and packed over the sea, and when his taxes swell and swell and the price of bread goes up and up and still no alteration for the better.—Fortnightly Review.

On the Sneak.

An old lady who once visited Oneida was asked on her return if the canal passed through the village. She paused awhile and answered: "I guess not. I didn't see it, and if it did it must have gone through in the night, when I was asleep."—Exchange.

SALVATION OIL
The modern Pain Annihilator, will positively cure Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sprains, Bruises, Cuts, Sores, Earache, Backache and all other aches. SALVATION OIL is sold everywhere for 25 cents. Only the genuine will do the work.
Chew LANGE'S PLUGS. The Great Tobacco Antidote, 10c. Dealers or mail, A. C. Meyer & Co., Balto., Md.

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FAITHFULNESS AND HONESTY GUARANTEED.
THE UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY.
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CAPITAL PAID IN CASH. - - - - - - - - $1,000,00
Deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Maryland, for the security of all persons who hold bonds of this Company, - - - - - $200,000
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