

**A MILE ABOVE THE EARTH.**

The importance of high altitude observations obtained by the aid of kites, for the further development of meteorology, is shown by the fact that the weather conditions at the height of a mile above any station differ more from the weather at that station than does the weather at any place within 500 or 1,000 miles at the level of the station on the earth's surface. At the height of a mile in free air the temperature is easily from 15 degrees to 25 degrees Fahrenheit colder than at the earth's surface, says the *Boston Herald*, and there is vicinally no daily change in temperature, the nights being as warm as the days. The only changes are due to the passage of warm or cold waves. During fair weather at this height the days are very damp and the nights exceedingly dry. Low clouds frequently cover the earth, and even rain may fall from these while the sun shines brightly at the height of a mile. The overhead velocity of the wind at this height is four times greater than at the ground, and hurricanes of 100 miles an hour are not uncommon. At least, the meteorological records obtained by the kites and measurements of the heights and movements of clouds indicate that these are the conditions which exist at Blue Hill, near Boston.

**THE DUEL HAS A NEW CODE.**

ONE day asked Alexandre Dumas if he thought duelling would ever disappear from our customs. 'Yes,' he replied. 'But when?' I queried. 'When there are no longer any men and women on this earth,' he responded.

Fifty years ago, a group of gentlemen, at the instigation and under the directions of the Marquis de Chateaullivard clubbed together for the purpose of codifying the accepted rules in matters of affairs of honour. From this reunion sprang that precious book which has been in one way or another regarded as an authority by men of honour and which has rendered them inestimable services.

But the Code Chateaullivard does not fulfil its mission any longer. It has suffered the fate of all things in this world—it is out of date. Several later works have been undertaken to comment upon, explain and complete this work of Chateaullivard, but this work to be successfully consummated could not have been done by one individual, no matter how well posted he was. The only possibility of success depended upon a number of gentlemen uniting in themselves the competence and the sincere desire to do something useful toward mitigating the effects of men's ill humours.

This is the reason why the reunion of fencers, sportsmen and men of the world, known under the name of *La Société du Centre de Quatre*, were in a position to realize the task that was proposed to them by one of their most enthusiastic members. A commission of a dozen members was appointed by the *Centre de Quatre*, their mission being to prepare a work, which, upon completion, should be submitted to a general assembly of the members of this society, each of which should be at liberty to criticize, amend or approve of it. The idea of the authors of this new duelling code has been to place before their readers in concise and yet clear and precise terms the rules which should regulate an affair of honour, and which can be usefully and quickly consulted by those interested in

the question, enabling them to avoid a laborious search among the authorities.

But that is not its whole mission. It aims to harmonize with our actual manners of to-day certain decisions laid down by the Code Chateaullivard and which have fallen into disuse. For instance, according to the new code, a duel with swords can only take place when both parties agree to it, and with pistols as the weapons the duel at the word of command is alone admissible.

But the lovers of serious combats may reassure themselves! The distance agreed upon—sixteen metres as the minimum—the number of balls to be exchanged, and the time between the command and the running of the case of a grave offence, the running of a ball in a vital spot. In fact, this little book seems to have come at an opportune moment, and to fill a long felt want.

But the scoffers will ask:—'Will your new duelling code prevent the novice or the unskillful one from killing one another?'

'Mon Dieu! No!' I reply to these faith finders, but at any rate it will teach them to do it correctly. And, as you know, the Prince d'Arvic says, 'In everything there is a way of doing it!'

**ONE OF CRETE'S NEIGHBOURS.**

CORFU and Crete are said by a recent writer to be the most beautiful of the Ionian islands, and the former has been described by Bishop Wordsworth as 'a sort of geographical mosaic to which all the countries of Europe have contributed colours.' Corfu was never conquered by the Turks, and its inhabitants are considered to bear a strong resemblance to the ancient Greeks. It has belonged at different times to the Romans, Venetians, Neapolitans, French and English. In 1865, when Prince George of Denmark was chosen by the powers for King of Greece, the Corinthes petitioned that their island might be incorporated in the kingdom of Greece, and Great Britain consented.

The climate of the island is delightful and the scenery enchanting. In other portions of Southern Europe the gray green of the olive grove grows somewhat monotonous, but in Corfu it is relieved by stretches of brilliantly green grass. Pomegranate and fig, orange, lemon and banana trees grow in profusion, and palms, eucalypti and papaya flourish. There are quantities of oleanders, magnolias and roses. The inhabitants are so lazy that they hardly attempt even the easiest cultivation, and

fortunately for them the soil and climate render it almost unnecessary. A Corfu olive tree left to its own devices will frequently yield as much as two gallons of oil each season, with no more labour involved than a simple gathering and pressing of the fallen fruit.

Corfu is the favourite place of residence of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, who has built there a winter palace which she calls the Villa Achilleon. It is rumoured that the name was given in reference to the one vulnerable spot ever discovered in the heart of the Empress. Several million dollars have been spent in beautifying the palace and surrounding park, and an ideal spot is the result. A most beautiful and artistic monument is erected in the grounds to the memory of Prince Rudolph, the son of the Empress, who, less Spartan than his imperial mother, fled from unhappiness in love by the way of suicide. When at home in Corfu the Empress Elizabeth spends much time studying the Greek language and literature, with which she is very familiar.

**HAVE WE THE MISSING LINK?**

It is confidently asserted in a most readable article in the *Illustrated Magazine* that the 'missing link'—that long sought individual who is expected to prove the development of man from monkey—has at last been found. The *Herald* made the announcement at the time, but here are some interesting particulars. The spot was a ravine in the island of Java, and the discoverer was a Dutch scientist, by the name of Dr. Dabois.

Dr. Dabois was searching in the tertiary formations that occur in Java—formations that from an ordinary human point of view are of extreme antiquity, but which, from a geologist's point of view, are but the more recently formed layers of the earth's crust—and finding numerous fossils of extinct kinds of buffaloes, antelopes, deer, hyenas, pigs, anteaters and crocodiles, when he unearthed, mingled with them, the fossil remains of what has proved to be an ancestor of the human race.

**THE SPOT.**

The features of the district in which the find was made are worthy of note. A good

map of Java will show a small stream, the Bengawan, rising in the hills near the centre of the island and flowing its short course through flat, malarious country, covered with rice fields, northward to the Java Sea. Where this stream leaves the hills it runs between steep banks, thirty to forty feet in height. It was in the bottom layer of these steep banks that Dr. Dabois found the fossil remains.

He was urging on his Javanese coolies, picturesque in their short, kiltilike sarong and quaint head attires, to make haste before the rains stopped their operations, when there were quarried out from the fossiliferous layer, side by side with the bones of extinct animals, a tooth and the roof of a skull, evidences of a manlike being which must have coexisted with those extinct kinds of animals.

The name put a stop to Dr. Dabois' explorations, but in the following dry season he returned to the fossiliferous layer, and, some yards from the site of his former find, unearthed another tooth and a thigh bone. These four parts certainly belonged to the same kind of animal, and the fact that they were found so closely together makes it likely they are parts of the same individual. These four parts are all we have to reconstruct the missing link from, but they are sufficient for the purpose.

Now, what sort of beings were those old world fellows of tertiary times?

If this specimen may be taken as fairly representative, and there is every reason to take it as such, they were surprisingly like ourselves. It was a piece of rare good fortune that the thigh bone was found, for no other bone can indicate so much to us with certainty. So perfectly human is it that it might belong to a London lady. It informs us in unmistakable terms that the human body was much then as it is now, thoroughly adapted for walking easily and jauntily erect.

It saunters as the foot was as our feet, legs as our legs, body as our body, and hands and arms approximately like our hands and arms. The roof of the skull and teeth allow us grounds enough not only to reconstruct with a considerable approach to truth the outline of the head, but to tell much of the character of these manlike folk. They were beetle-browed, with sharply receding foreheads, with ears placed nearer the crown of the head than is nowadays the case, and in all probability with the wide winged pug-noses of Australians.

**EXCELLENT REASONS.**

They must have been people of no mean mental capacity. The skull cap indicates room for a brain of 1,000 cubic centimetres, a brain three-fourths the size of an average European brain, but quite as large as the brains of many Australian, and twice the size of any anthropoid ape's. But from the skull we can learn much more of the nature of the tertiary man than that.

The complete absence of bony ridges for the attachment of the biting muscles informs us with certainty that the tuskl-like canines, or eyeteeth, that give the mouths of gorillas, chimpanzees and orangs such a murderous appearance, had already become small and in perfect series with the other teeth, as in us.

That means tertiary man had reached a high point in evolution. It means he had shed the ferocity of his nature, and relied not upon his great canines as means of defence against his enemies, but upon his cunning and power of adapting means to ends.

The molar teeth are large, and ground somewhat with the rough food of savages; but except in size they are in nowise peculiar. Whether they possessed articulation speech we cannot as yet say, but the discovery of a lower jaw might set this at rest, for it carries the imprint of certain of the speech muscles.

Of his attainments and degree of civilization we know nothing. But it is only right to state here that in a conglomerate formation in North Burma of probably the same age as the layers in which Dr. Dabois found these remains, flat chips, probably of human origin, were found, though recently it has been asserted that these chips had come by accident to be mixed in the bed where they were discovered.

**BIGGEST HEATHEN TEMPLE.**

THE largest heathen temple in the world is in Seringapatam, and it comprises a square, each side being one mile in length, inside of which are six other squares. The walls are twenty-five feet high and five feet thick, and the hall where pilgrims congregate is supported by 1,000 pillars, each cut from a single block of stone.

**TROLLEY TO THE PYRAMIDS.**

ONE of the results of the British occupation of Egypt is the introduction of modern inventions and conveniences in that ancient land. The 'tramways' in Cairo are run by electricity, and a concession has just been granted for a trolley line from Cairo to the pyramids.

**WONDERFUL Blood-Purifying Effect**  
—OF—  
**Ayer's Sarsaparilla**

Mr. Charles Stephenson, a well-known Railway Employee at Kalapoi, New Zealand, writes:

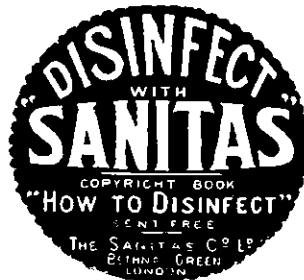


"About ten years ago, while engaged in shunting, my foot caught between the rails, and my leg was fractured below the knee. It healed in time, but I have been troubled ever since with swollen veins, and have been obliged, at times, to wear a bandage. About a year ago it became much worse, and I feared I should be obliged to give up my work. A friend advised me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I did so, and after taking four bottles the swelling disappeared, and I have not been troubled with it since."

**AYER'S SARSAPARILLA**

Sold Medals at the World's Chief Expositions.

**AYER'S PILLS for Biliousness**



DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS.

**BIRD'S CUSTARD POWDER**

Supplies a Daily Luxury—Dainties in endless variety. The Choicest Dishes and the Richest Custard.

THE FRUIT SEASON and BIRD'S CUSTARD. BIRD'S CUSTARD advantageously takes the place of cream with Fresh, Stewed or Tinned Fruits. No rich yet will not disagree; enhances the flavour. So cooling, agreeable and wholesome. BIRD'S CUSTARD is THE ONE THING NEEDED with all Stewed or Tinned Fruits.

NO EGGS! NO TROUBLE! NO RISK!

Stockholders can obtain supplies of Bird's Custard & Bird's Concentrated Egg Powder, Bird's Baking and Bird's Blanc-Mange Powders, from all the leading Wholesale Houses.