ALARM ABOUT COMET

Don't Worry, Even If It Is Much Bigger Than the Earth.

Astronomical and Astrophysical Society to Send an Expedition to the Hawaiian Islands to Take Observations.

Chicago.—Prof. Edwin B. Frost, director of the Yerkes observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., said: "Halley's comet, on which all eyes in the astronomical world are now centered, is about one million times as big as the earth. Yet although the earth's gravity may change the orbit of the comet the earth's path through the sky will be unaffected by the approaching proximity of the two bodies.

This supplements information contained in a "circular respecting observation of Halley's comet, 1910," which has just been issued by the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America. The circular says that an expedition to observe and photograph Halley's comet from the Hawaiian islands is to be sent out by the society, and sets forth that:

"In view of possible large perturbations arising from the close approach of the comet to Venus on May 1 and to the earth on May 16, meridian observations are especially desired during the period in which the comet is sufficiently bright for that purpose.

"What are these 'possible large perturbations'?" Prof. Frost was asked.

"That merely means," was the reply, "that on those dates the comet will be near enough the planets mentioned to be affected by their attraction."

"Will that affect their orbits?"

"It won't affect the orbit of Venus or of the earth, but it is likely to affect the comet's orbit. That is one reason why we want to get meridian observations, which will show almost exactly these orbital changes.

"There will be an interesting spectacle, by the way, on May 1, when the comet is near to Venus. The planet and the comet will be practically the same distance from the earth and everyone will be able to see their relative size."

"The comet's bulk exceeds that of Venus about one million times. It is not solid matter, however. It is gaseous and its mass is comparatively slight. Therefore its attraction will not affect the planets, while the solid, heavy planets are likely to affect it a good deal. The earth and Venus are about the same size, so that the earth, too, is about one-millionth of the size of the comet."

Frederick Ellerman, of the solar observatory at Pasadena, Cal., will head the Hawaiian expedition.

The circular on Halley's comet was issued by the committee on comets of the society. On this committee are Profs. George C. Comstock of Madison, Wis.; Edward E. Barnard and Edwin B. Frost of the Yerkes observatory; Charles D. Perrine and Edward C. Pickering of Harvard university. Says the circular:

"The close approach of the comet to the earth promises unusual opportunity for a study of the physical conditions that obtain in such a body, and as an indispensable basis for such study the committee recommends a photographic campaign as long and as nearly continuous as possible.

"The comet's close proximity to the sun's direction at the time of maximum brilliance imposes serious limitations upon this program and widely extended co-operation will be required throughout the whole circuit of the earth if this ideal of a continuous photographic record is to be even remotely realized."

"All meteors are bits of solid matter—supposed to be debris of comets—which travel around in comets' wakes," continued Prof. Frost. "They are not visible unless they come within 100 miles of the earth—that is, unless they come within the earth's atmosphere.

"The theory that a comet's tail is longer when it is nearest the sun is somewhat awry. Theoretically it would be so, because it is the reaction from the sun's light which causes the emanation of streaming vapors that form the tail. But actual observation shows that when a comet is near the sun there are other changes in its composition which offset the greater force of this reaction of light. A comet's head, for instance, shrinks when near the sun instead of expanding."

OYSTER IS VERY PROLIFIC

Deadly Foe to Race Suicide and Single Bivalve Produces Sixteen Million Young.

London.—Race suicide cannot be charged against the oyster. Prof. W. A. Herdman, lecturing at the London institution, declared a single oyster can produce 16,000,000 young. Running off into mental calculation he staggered his audience by computing that if all these bivalves lived and grew and multiplied, by the time the fifth generation was reached they would have attained, in the mass, a greater bulk than the world itself.

Fortunately for the rest of living things, millions of oysters do not live to propagate their kind. But experiments have enabled oyster growers to rear large numbers. On the Lancashire coast an initial outlay of $250 yielded a profit of $2,500 and ever since then, by an annual expenditure of $375, the owner has raked in $4,000 every year.

TETRAZZINI SINGS TO SICK

Renders Mad Scene from "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "Hello" Girls All Cut In.

New York.—Mme. Tetrazzini sang the mad scene from "Lucia di Lammermoor" all over Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx to the huge delight of lots of telephone girls and their friends. Mme. Tetrazzini didn't know at the time that her voice was being split up in a hundred directions and sent along a labyrinth of wires.

She thought she was singing for an audience of one only, that one being a little friend of hers whom she had met some time ago in San Francisco. She is Miss Rosemarie Cathcart of California, who is living with a Mrs. Howard in the Wallaston apartments, Ninety-sixth street and Broadway.

Miss Cathcart called up Mme. Tetrazzini at the prima donna's residence, 245 West End avenue, and expressed regret that, owing to illness, she had not been able to go to the opera to hear the singer.

"And the doctor says he doesn't know how soon I may go to hear you," said the youg girl plaintively.

"Well, my dear, you shall hear me now," called Mme. Tetrazzini in the phone. "I have an accompanist here in this room and if you will listen I will sing the mad scene from 'Lucia' for you."

Of course Miss Cathcart was delighted. So was the hello girl at the telephone exchange. She told a few girls what was coming and they got busy and called up their friends all over the city and told them to listen, too.

By the time the prima donna began a large audience was waiting at telephones all over town to hear her sing the greatest colorature aria in her repertoire.

It took about 20 minutes to sing the aria, and during all that time there were more "busy" wires in New York than ever before on a Sunday, for they were all being held until the last of the trills, runs and pyrotechnical cadenzas should have passed into memory.

When the last note died away Miss Cathcart and Mme. Tetrazzini, who had put the receiver to her ear when she finished, were astounded to hear a chorus of "Brava!" "Bis!" "Encore!" "Great!" "Out o' sight!" and the like come over the wire.

DOG AND HORSE CHIEF DIET

Principal Food of the Workingmen Throughout Several German Provincial Districts.

London.—The miserable condition of the German workmen throughout the provincial districts of that country are described by the correspondents of several of the leading local papers. In some villages in Saxony the families of laborers subsist mainly on horse and dog meat.

In some of the villages 12 to 18 horses are slaughtered a week, and the meat sells for about six cents a pound.

Dog meat is one-half cent dearer, owing to the scarcity of canines. Some of the butchers claim that many consumers use dog meat, as they regard it as a specific against pneumonia and tuberculosis.

One of the chief centers of horse consumption in Germany is Chemnitz, the third largest city in Saxony, of about 100,000 inhabitants.

In Schlettan, 20 miles from Crottendorf, a great deal of horse meat is sold in the streets and bought by poor people.

But Saxony is not the only horse-eating part of Germany. In Thuringia and in the Harz there is not a village without its horse butcher. In Bohemia, over the frontier from Crottendorf, horses are not only killed but imported from Germany for slaughter.

YOUTH DAFT ON SIMPLE LIFE

Judge Orders Chicago Boy to Eat Mother's Food and Wear Warm Clothing.

Chicago.—Walter Keever, 16 years old, was the other day ordered by Municipal Judge Going to eat real food and wear warm clothing. He was also told to return to his mother's home and eat what she prepared for him.

Walter, pale and emaciated, has been an apostle of the "simple life" and has been trying to live "close to nature." He has been receiving large quantities of literature on the "simple life." When Mrs. Keever intercepted some of the mail and tried to keep the boy from going barefooted in zero weather and rolling about in the snow a quarrel arose and the boy is said to have struck his mother.

Mrs. Keever had him arrested and appealed to the court to do what it could to make the boy lead a normal life.

Walter is to report to the judge in two weeks on his progress toward becoming a normal youth.

Submarines Made Safer.

Paris.—The problem of finding a practical means to stop leakage in the shell of a submarine while under water has been solved at the Cherbourg arsenal.

A hole was bored in the hull of the Narval submarine and the craft, although immersed, could continue work as if nothing had happened.

The greatest secrecy is enforced regarding the nature of the invention, and orders have been issued to provide all the submarine stations at naval bases with the device.

ART AT $600 A SQUARE INCH

That Price Has Been Demanded for Drawing by the Famous Leonardo da Vinci.

Let no one say that art does not pay, when right in Fifth avenue it is offered at $600 the square inch, which is considerably more than the lots that front in that exclusive thoroughfare would bring.

Stroll into the new galleries at 636, and in a dingy little frame, with several other patches, you will see a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci in red chalk. It is only 3¼ inches square, and, taking out the trimming of its upper corners, it contains ten square inches.

The price is $6,000. It is entitled "The Head of a Young Man," and, small as it is, the skill of the Italian painter inspires every line of the tiny masterpiece.

There is not far away a small drawing by Rembrandt, which is there through the courtesy of the new owner, who bought it for $15,000 before the dealers had a chance to hang it and has permitted it to remain in the show. The drawing, partly in sepia and here and there with a touch of crayon, was intended as a study for a painting and is entitled "Christ and the Two Apostles." It is eight by ten inches.—New York Herald.

TEACHING THE YOUNG WIVES

City Grocers, with an Eye to Their Own Interests, Show Them How to Arrange Icebox.

"Even grocers are taking a hand in the education of young housewives," said the pretty New York woman. "I did my first marketing last week. The grocer knew I was green. When I had finished buying he said:

"'Now, do you know how to arrange things in your icebox to the best advantage?'

"I said I was afraid I didn't. He called a young man from the rear of the store.

"'James,' he said, 'when you deliver this basket of things will you show the lady the most economical arrangement of her refrigerator?'

"Fifteen minutes later white-aproned James was turning my ice chest upside down. He made a place for everything and said it ought to be kept there, no matter how small the icebox. The meats, for example, should always come between the milk and butter and the fruit and salads. When he finished my refrigerator held about twice as much as I had been able to get into it. Another wondrous phase of the situation was that James refused a tip.

"'We make it point,' he said, 'of showing customers the proper arrangement of an icechest.'"

Another Food Boycott.

When an olive-colored touring car as big as a coal gondola drew up in front of a stall at the market house there was some lively stepping by the marketeers. The man at the wheel wore a huge bearskin coat that must have set him back $300; the female occupant was attired in a sealskin that was the exact duplicate of a thousand-dollar bill, while every bark of the big machine proclaimed that it took $7,000 to pry it loose from its makers. The woman approached the stall.

"How much are strawberries?" she inquired.

"Seventy-five a baaket," replied the market man.

"S-e-v-e-n-t-y-f-i-v-e c-e-n-t-s!" gasped the woman. "Well! It's simply outrageous the way food products stay up."

And an instant later the sealskin and the bearskin, and the olive-colored car had flounced around the corner in a vanishing cloud of gasoline vapor, and another food boycott was on.—Pittsburg Times-Gazette.

Cracklin' Bread.

In a divorce case at Mexico the plaintiff criticised his wife's cooking and complained that she put "cracklin' bread" before him to eat. His lawyer was laying great stress upon this point and was particularly severe with the wife for serving this homely yet savory bread, which is peculiarly palatable to native Missourians, when Judge Barnett interrupted him with the question:

"Mr. Attorney, did you ever eat 'cracklin' bread?"

"No, sir," came the prompt and somewhat emphatic reply.

"I thought not," said the judge, and there was a ripple of laughter all over the courtroom, which showed that "cracklin' bread" was not foreign to the appetites of those present, including the court.

A Revere Bell.

Gorham, Mass., has discovered in the belfry of the First Parish church a genuine Revere bell. Its inscription reads: "Revere-Boston-1822." Old records show that it cost $500 and was first hung June 7, 1822. This bell, which has done such excellent service during the last 88 years, is now apparently in perfect condition and rings out as true and clear as in days of yore.

No Royalties Called "Baby."

One noteworthy feature about royalties is that none have been called "baby." From their earliest years the royal children are always called by their names, or possibly by some pet name, but an English prince or princess is never called "baby" either by relatives or by his (or her) nurses. From the age of five a prince is called "sir" by his attendants, and a princess "madam."

FINE OLD GRASSHOPPER VANE

On Faneuil Hall, Boston—Was Made by One of America's Earliest Wood Carvers.

Perched on the cupola of Faneuil hall, in Boston, is a grasshopper weather vane which is not only one of the oldest vanes in the country but is famous as the product of one of America's earliest wood carvers and artisans, Shem Drowne of Boston.

Drowne's shop was on Ann street, in the north end.

Of the many vanes he made only three are now known to be in existence—the one on the Shepard Memorial church in Cambridge, which formerly was on the steeple of the New Brick church on Hanover street, in this city, and known as the revenge vane; the one in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical society, a relic of the old Boston Province house, and the one on Faneuil hall.

This grasshopper of copper, hammered out by hand, has large, glassy eyes, which in the sunlight shine like fire. It was made in 1742, at the order of Peter Faneuil, when the hall, his gift to the town, was nearing completion, and for the last 167 years it has been a landmark.

It has not, however, lived a life of unbroken peace, for several times it has been near destruction. In 1775, when Boston was shaken by an earthquake, the vane fell to the ground, but after being supplied with a new leg by the son of the man who made it, it was replaced.

Five years later Faneuil hall was seriously damaged by fire, but the vane remained intact, and when the hall was rebuilt the grasshopper was once more given the place of honor.

Another disaster befell it when, in 1889, a flag was being raised to celebrate the anniversary of the evacuation of the city by the British, the hopper hopped to the street below. But in a few days he hopped right back again, and there he has remained ever since, with the exception of an occasional removal for repairs.

HELD MEETING IN GRAVEYARD

Young Suffragette Proved Her Right to Leadership and Her Fidelity to the Cause.

In a graveyard Miss Inez Milholland, Vassar graduate, suffragette, friend of the working girl, amateur actress and champion female shot-putter, executed her first and one of her cleverest strokes in her campaign of "Votes for Women."

It was during her days at Vassar college. Miss Milholland, on behalf of a band of enthusiastic suffragettes enrolled from the students, had invited several prominent leaders of the cause to address a mass meeting on the college campus. The news of the approaching event reached the ears of the faculty, and President Taylor issued a stringent edict forbidding the gathering. Miss Milholland was not daunted, however. A short distance from the college grounds was a graveyard. Collecting her forces, she moved into the cemetery and the speeches were delivered among the tombstones. —From an article in The World To-Day.

Busy Paris Dressmakers.

This is the period of great excitement in the world of dressmakers. The Rue de la Paix is in a bustle and turmoil from morning till evening; employers and first hands are screaming to lift boys and messengers, who are running wildly up and down stairs. Usually polite manageresses and obsequious doorkeepers receive even their best clients with scowls of disapproval, for all this unusual disorder and excitement is not on account of their clients. It is the private view which is being prepared—the dress rehearsal, as it were—of the coming season's fashions for the benefit of the buyers from big firms throughout the world—Russia, Vienna, America, London, Germany. These are the spring and summer fashions that are being lavished; it is already too late for the half-season styles. A fortnight hence the elite of society will also be let into their mysteries.

Japanese Day Nurseries.

Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, president of the National Association of Day Nurseries, is shortly to deliver a large number of handkerchiefs as a present to the babies of the day nurseries of Japan. The handkerchiefs were contributed by a Chicago woman. According to Mrs. Dodge's report, there are but two day nurseries in the whole of Japan, and at one of them only two of the 20 babies cared for go home at night. There is a Japanese woman at the head of the institution and the mothers of most of the babies are serving sentences in prison. The other day nursery is in Yokohama and is managed by an English woman. A third is being arranged for in Okayama, a large factory town, by Miss Adams, a missionary, who has recently returned from her American home.

The Umpire at Home.

"Billy Evans sat alone in his home the other evening meditating on the approaching baseball season which means his return to the arduous umpiring pursuit.

He was thinking of a number of vexatious features of his calling, when his thoughts were interrupted by the ringing of the telephone bell. Some woman desired to talk to Evans' wife, who did not happen to be at home.

"She's out!" shouted Evans, absentmindedly, in such a thunderous tone that he nearly ruined the poor woman's ear drum.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

OVERSHADOWED POET'S FAME

Thrifty Fellow-Citizen of Whittier Pointed Out Blot on His Memory.

Will Carleton, in a speech before the Writer's club, related the following reminiscense of a visit to the poet Whittier's old home:

"I was billed to lecture one evening at the town which had been for long years the home of the Good Quaker poet. Just before I went over to the hall, a thrifty-looking citizen accosted me.

"Will you probably say anything in praise of Mr. Whittier, to-night?" he asked, after a few general remarks.

"Why, yes," I replied: "I had thought of referring to him, and in a very complimentary way. I have read, admired, and revered him, all my life, and it will be a privilege, here in his own town, to add my humble tribute to that of the world at large."

"Well, that's all right," responded the thrifty-looking citizen," and we've no objection in particular, to your doing so; but you mustn't be disappointed if you don't get any applause with it."

"Why?" I inquired. "Was he not idolized here—is not his memory held in veneration? Has he not advertised this town all over the world?"

"Well, perhaps so," was the reply, "but after he died, we found out that he wasn't paying taxes enough on what property he owned, and, don't you see, it has kind of made him unpopular."

EDUCATOR TOO POORLY PAID

Telling Point Made by President of Brown University in a Recent Speech.

President Faunce, of Brown university, at a dinner of the alumni of that institution the other day, spoke sympathetically of the work of the college professor, whose real business, he declared to be "not to stuff the student's mind with information, but to train the intellect to grapple with and analyze complex situations."

That this important business is ill paid he illustrated by telling of a question and its answer.

"If you won't take offense," said a rich man to a college professor, "what salary do you receive?"

"Twelve hundred dollars," was the reply.

"Why," replied the rich man, "that is just what I pay my chauffeur, except that when I take him out of town I pay all his expenses."

Then Dr. Faunce asked his audience: "Can we afford to pay our chauffeurs as much as we pay the men who educate our sons?"

It was a pertinent question, tellingly put. Which should have the greater reward, the man who drives an automobile or the man who trains the intellect for the tasks of life?

He Was Prepared.

Blanche Ring, the actress, is always preaching caution—whether she practices it or not is, as Kipling says, another story. "If everyone was only as cautious as a man I once knew," she said the other night, "nobody would ever go broke. He called at the money-order window of the local post-office and asked permission to send an order for $100 to the 'old country.' Then the man with the money gave his own name as payee.

"'I'm going over next week,' he volunteered, 'and I want to have the money waiting for me on the other side, so that I can give it to my mother.'

"'Why don't you take it with you?' asked the clerk. 'You would save 40 cents.'

"'Well, suppose the ship sinks and I drown?'"—Young's Magazine.

Photographic Detective.

A scientific organization in France has employed an ingenious device to test the alleged power of a young woman to tell the contents of unopened boxes. The committee, appointed by the organization to make the test, took a photographic plate and exposed it in a camera as if for an ordinary picture. Then the plate was cut in two, and one-half of it, carefully protected from the light, was enclosed with other objects in a sealed box. After the young woman had described the contents of the box the committee developed the two halves of the plate. That which was in the box was "fogged," showing that it had been exposed to light, while the other half developed a perfectly clear picture.

Deaf Hear at Telephone.

Among the many curiosities of the telephone and one which certainly never was thought of when the instrument was invented, is the fact that persons who are extremely deaf often can hear perfectly over the telephone. Those who are so deaf that they can distinguish nothing which is said to them except by the motion of the lips or by the use of an ear trumpet or other similar device can carry on long distance telephone conversations with perfect ease and never miss a word.

Enthusiasm Extraordinary.

Many Chinamen were wrought up to a high state of enthusiasm by the provincial assemblies opened last December throughout the empire. One native schoolmaster was especially fervent. To express his feelings he chopped off one of his fingers and with the stump wrote out eight characters showing his hearty approval. He brought this testimony to the delegates from his district in bidding them farewell.

MISSIONARY TELLS OF WORK

Labor and Perils of Those Who Go Among Savages to Carry Gospel Message.

In the course of a lecture on "The Savages of New Guinea" at the London Institution, A. H. Dunning referred to Dr. Chalmers, the great missionary, who died in the island, and said that for many years there was no photograph of the Goaribardii tribe which murdered him. He placed on the screen a portrait of a savage who was not only a member of the tribe, but he had reason to believe was the actual man who struck Dr. Chalmers down and helped to eat him. A profile photograph of the same native showed an extraordinary receding forehead, the sign of a low type of humanity. The savage was taken prisoner in the course of a governmental expedition to recover the remains of Dr. Chalmers' fellow victim, Mr. Tompkins, and he was generally stated by the other natives to be the man who struck the missionary.

Mr. Dunning gave an amusing account of his adventures among the savages, one of his stories relating to a bottle of strong smelling salts. The first man who smelt, under the impression that it was a "white man's love charm," was so startled that he fetched a friend to try. Then they formed the salts into a sort of trust and scoured the neighborhood for recruits. Nobody gave the show away. They brought new people up one after the other, propped them up against a tree and sat round like Christy minstrels to wait for the result.

Kissing or fondling was unknown in New Guinea until the advent of the missionaries. These were seen kissing the children and the custom spread. Having been kissed by oily natives, he preferred the old style of salutation.

IMMENSE DEPOSITS OF SODA

Shallow Lake in African Valley, Twenty Miles in Extent, Covers Much Wealth.

Further details of the journey just concluded by Mr. Fred Shelford, the well-known engineer, in connection with the projected railway to be constructed from the Uganda railway to Lake Magadi, have been received.

This wonderful lake, which is only reached after a long and difficult journey over uninhabited and waterless country, is described as follows by Mr. Shelford:

"Lake Magadi is picturesquely situated amid weird surroundings at the bottom of a valley 3,000 feet deep. On one side are mountains 6,000 feet above sea level, and on another a range having an altitude of 8,000 feet.

"There is no sign of human life, but on and about the lake are immense numbers of flamingo.

"From the surrounding mountains the lake, which is ten miles long by two to three miles in breadth, looks like an ordinary sheet of water of somewhat reddish hue. On reaching the shores, however, we found that the water was only a few inches deep and covered a hard surface looking exactly like pink marble. This is an immense deposit of soda, which was bored and found to extend to a considerable depth, thus indicating an area of at least 20 miles of solid soda.

"The heat upon the soda lake was very great."

Brighton.

Brighton, which is patronized by kings and neglected by novelists, is not without its literary associations. Dr. Johnson was a frequent visitor in his later life, and a tablet to his memory was recently unveiled in the parish church of St. Nicholas, where he worshiped in company with the Thrales. Charles and Mary Lamb were at Brighton in 1817, and Mary told Dorothy Wordsworth that she and her brother found the air of the Downs almost as good as the Westmoreland mountains. Among other Brighton lovers may be mentioned Fanny Burney, Horace Smith, Theodore Hook, Thackeray — who thought of "Vanity Fair" as a suitable title for his most famous novel while staying at the Old Ship—Dickens, Harrison, Ainsworth and Macaulay.—London Chronicle.

Opposed Use of Cocoa.

The use of cocoa, which was imported by the Spaniards from Mexico in 1520, was even more vigorously opposed than the use of tea itself in France. Cardinal Richelieu, for instance, in a letter to his brother Alphonse, says: "I cannot conceal from you my apprehension that the drug called chocolate, which you are using freely, may be harmful to your health, and I think it would be better for you to have recourse to ordinary remedies." Physicians went so far as to say that chocolate could cause a continuous and mortal fever.

Helps Poor Girls.

Mrs. James J. Storrow, wife of the Boston banker, is interested in a number of charities, among them being the girl's bowl shop. In the spare time which the girls have, they make pottery articles, which they sell, the money to be used for purposes of education. Mrs. Storrow has a girls' library club, and every summer she sends a number of girls to the country, 14 at a time.

He Took It.

The Wife—I wonder if all men are as big fools as you are?

The Husband—I guess not. I'm the only one who was a big enough fool to marry you.