

## BATTLES AND RAIN

Absolutely No Physical Relation Exists Between Them.

### AN ANCIENT MYTH RIDDLED.

No Amount of Gun or Cannon Fire Would Have Any Appreciable Effect Upon Either the Humidity or the Temperature of the Atmosphere.

"It is one of the extraordinary things of warfare," says a recent writer in Pearson's Weekly (London), "that a big battle invariably produces rain."

Once in the early stone age somebody remarked to somebody else that rain frequently occurred after battles. The author of this casual statement was probably not a psychologist, else his conscience would have smitten him for having set afloat in the world the germ of a particularly fatuous fallacy. The evolution of the idea was probably complete long before the age of bronze. Big battles are often followed by rain. Big battles often produce rain. Big battles invariably produce rain. Even the modern penny-a-liner cannot improve on the statement. The myth is fixed—crystallized—and probably imperishable.

Had we enjoyed the privilege of personal acquaintance with the Neanderthal gentleman just mentioned we should have courteously entreated him to start another ball rolling down the ages, to wit, "A big sneeze is often followed by rain." The infinitesimal increase in the humidity of the air occasioned by a sneeze is a simple and obvious fact, whereas the infinitesimal amount of water vapor produced by the explosion of a few tons of ammunition can be hunted down only by an excursion into the fields of chemistry.

Since, however, we must put up with the myth in its present form, let us see how it happens that rain has so often followed battles as to suggest to uncritical people that there was a physical relation between the one and the other.

First of all, no such relation exists. Rain is the result of the active condensation in the atmosphere, and this is purely a question of humidity and temperature. If the humidity be sufficiently increased, or the temperature sufficiently lowered, condensation is inevitable—provided certain nuclei of condensation (dust particles or molecules of hygroscopic gases) be present, and outside of the laboratory they always are present.

Now, it is conceivable that a warring army might produce a local rainstorm by setting fire to a great city. If the air be rather moist, a large conflagration invariably builds up great cumulus clouds above it. The heated air rises and cools by expansion, just as its does from the sun heated earth on a summer day, and condensation results. Under favorable conditions a very big fire might cause a smart shower, or even a thunderstorm, though usually the process goes no further than to form clouds.

A battle, however, cannot be supposed to have any appreciable effect upon either the temperature or the humidity of the air. Two explanations of the alleged production of rain by battles have been offered, one non-sensical, and the other pseudo-scientific. The nonsensical explanation is the popular one—viz, that the condensation of moisture is promoted by the concussion due to cannonading, or that the drops already condensed and constituting the clouds are jostled together by the same process, with the result that they coalesce and fall as rain. As was once pointed out by Professor Newcomb, the effect of a violent explosion upon a body of moist air a quarter of a mile away is exactly the same as that of the clapping of one's hands upon the moist air of the room in which the experiment is performed—i. e., absolutely nil. Or, again, if we stand in the steam escaping from a kettle and clap our hands we shall not produce a shower, though we jostle the water drops just as the explosion does at a distance of a quarter of a mile.

The pseudo-scientific explanation is that the gases and smoke produced by explosions increase condensation by increasing the number of "nuclei" in the atmosphere. The nucleation of the atmosphere, as affected by ordinary dustiness, by hygroscopic gases, by radioactive discharges, by ultra violet light and what not, is still an obscure subject. An outstanding result of recent investigations, however, appears to be this: The lower atmosphere normally contains more than the minimum number of nuclei necessary for the process of condensation, and this process cannot be made more active by a mere increase in the number. Thus various and abundant nuclei, in the form of gases and smoke, are given off to the atmosphere by great manufacturing centers, yet these places do not have a heavier rainfall than the surrounding open country. Pittsburgh, for example, is one of the driest places in Pennsylvania. The suggestion that explosions may produce rain by furnishing nuclei to the atmosphere is, in fact, a mere speculation, and probably could be easily refuted by laboratory experiments.—Scientific American.

Glangy, but Sincere  
"That's my beau."  
"I suppose he considers you the apple of his eye?"  
"Well, something like that. He says I'm a pippin."—Spokane Review.

The more we do, the more we can do; the more busy we are, the more leisure we have.—Hazlitt.

## AN ARCTIC SOLOMON.

It Didn't Take Him Long to Reach a Sensible Conclusion.

The "floating court" is an institution founded by the United States government for administering judgment in the far north. An interesting example of the unusual problems that confront Captain A. J. Henderson, one of the first judges of the court, is told by Mr. Walter Noble Burns in the Wide World Magazine:

One day, at Point Hope, there appeared before the court held on the Thetis, Captain Henderson's ship, an old Eskimo and his wife. They were accompanied by their pretty daughter and two stalwart young men, who were suitors for her hand. In choicest Eskimo that sounded like a series of explosions of vocal dynamite, the venerable father poured a voluble tale into the ears of the interpreter.

"This man, he say," began the interpreter, "these two feller want this gal for wife. One feller he offer a rifle, ten pound walrusbone, six walrus tusk, a dog team and sled. The other feller, he give kayak, two reindeer, a bearskin and six fox skin. This gal the old man's only daughter. He old, and he want good trade. But he not know which he best take. He say maybe you tell him."

Captain Henderson is no Cupid—he stands six feet two and weighs 250 pounds—but he determined to essay the role of Cupid's first assistant.

"You love this girl?" he asked one suitor.

"Yes," replied the interpreter, "he love her."

"And do you love her?" the captain asked the other.

"Yes, he love her too."

The captain looked at the girl, who was a pretty little thing, something over four feet high, with coal black hair plastered down over her temples, and sleet-black roguish eyes. Let no one doubt the vital beauty of Eskimo maids in the flush of youth and health.

"Here," said the captain to the girl, "which one of these men do you want?"

The interpreter put the question. The maiden's eyes grew brighter, her cheeks a deeper crimson and a coy smile wreathed her lips. She stepped over to one of the young men unhesitatingly and touched him on the arm.

"This one," she said, and there was no need for the interpreter to translate.

"All right," said the captain, with a roar of laughter, "take him."

And he married them on the spot. Straight from the ship back to the village the newly wedded couple paddled, to set up housekeeping and to live happily, no doubt, ever afterward. The bride's father touched off a few more explosions of vocal dynamite into the interpreter's ear.

"He say," declared the interpreter to Captain Henderson, "he satisfied."

Where Moslem Pilgrims Land.

Jeddah is a most important town for the entire human race, apart from being the principal landing place for pilgrims to Mecca. Just outside the city is buried Eve. The reputed mother of mankind, like a good Moslemah, lies with her feet toward Mecca. Her grave has gradually grown in size and is now of huge dimensions. Burton calculated that our first parent "measured 120 paces from head to waist and 80 from waist to heel and must have presented the appearance of a duck." Probably the reason why the modern lover still uses that word as a term of endearment.—London Chronicle.

Poor Egg!

"Here's a Swiss named Egg who lives in New York petitioning to have his name changed."

"Sort of an egg shake, eh! What's the trouble?"

"He and his family have four children, and his family is constantly referred to as 'the half dozen Eggs.' He claims his yolk is too heavy to be borne."

"Why doesn't he lay for his tormentors?"

"It appears that he did once and got beaten, whipped to a froth. Poor Egg could barely scramble home."—Boston Transcript.

Blamed the Planets.

In the middle of the fourteenth century in Paris a new ordinance enjoining the cleansing of the streets and the shutting up of swine was carefully neglected, as usual, and a terrible plague was the consequence. The faculty of medicine, called upon for a remedy by the king, sent to inform him after long discussion that the plague was the result of a hostile conjunction of the planets Mars and Jupiter.

Carrier Pigeons.

Pigeons were employed in early Egyptian days, navigators taking them on their galleys and liberating them when they arrived at their destination in order to announce their safe arrival to their friends. The Romans utilized them in communicating with each other in wartime.

Revenge.

"Will you marry me, Miss Gussie?"

"No, Mr. Jinks."

"Oh, thank you! I was so afraid you'd say yes, for, you see, the fellows were betting no fellow had the nerve to ask you, and I took it up in spite of the risk."—Baltimore American.

Domestic Discord.

"My husband used to call me his lovely lute."

"And now?"

"Now he plucks on me."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Where Truth dares to come her sister, Liberty, will not be far.—Akenaside.

## RUSSELL'S SERMON.



Jan. 10.—Pastor Russell spoke today on the disturbed social condition of the world. His text was, "The heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be the hope of His people."—Joel 3:16.

It was pointed out that the shaking heavens are not the Divine abode, but a symbolic representation of present day ecclesiasticism. For some time the stars, or bright ones, have been falling. There is a great shaking or confusion now operating in ecclesiastical circles. It will progress until, as St. Peter figuratively declares, "the heavens shall take fire"—be consumed, cease to be, leaving the way clear for the "new heavens," the ecclesiastical system of the Millennium, which will be the glorified Church, invisible to men, but clothed with Divine Power for the blessing of mankind, for their release from ignorance and superstition and their uplift for a thousand years, for return to the image and likeness of God, lost in Eden, redeemed at Calvary.

The shaking of earth referred to by our Lord and the Apostles signifies revolutions that are expected to follow immediately the present European war. If the Pastor understands the Bible teaching correctly on this matter, this great symbolic earthquake, which will eventuate in anarchy, will reach its culmination first in Italy. However, this will not be merely a sectional shaking. The whole earth, the entire social fabric, will be shaken; and everything in it that is not of a permanent character—not in harmony with Divine Justice, Mercy and Truth—will be shaken loose. In the symbolic language of St. Peter, the earth, society, also shall take fire and pass away, in the fire of anarchy.

"Blood, Fire and Pillars of Smoke."

Joel's prophecy, referring to this time, points specifically to the "blood, fire and pillars of smoke" which we see already beginning in Europe. More than a million men of the flower of Europe, in the bloom of life, have shed their blood. The explosion of tons of powder and the burning of cities and villages is surely a fire in the earth, the like of which never occurred before in the same space of time. Everywhere pillars of smoke are rising from the battlefield, from burning villages, and from funeral pyres whereon the dead, too numerous to bury, are burned. How much more blood, smoke and pillars of fire there will be we can only surmise.

The Pastor had courage to speak of these terrible things only because of his full confidence that behind this dark cloud is the glad sunrise of the New Day—the Day of Messiah. With such a glorious hope beyond it—the hope of the Church's glorification in the First Resurrection and of the world's Millennial blessing—God's true people everywhere can lift up their heads and rejoice, even as their Great Teacher, eighteen centuries ago, prophesied that they would do.

Perishing For Lack of Knowledge.

Many of God's true people have been in ignorance of His real Character and Plan because stupefied by the false doctrines of the Dark Ages. They have not studied their Bibles aright. On the contrary, many of them have been "overcharged with the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches," and have been unfruitful in respect to their character-development and their knowledge of God.

The deceitfulness of riches does not signify that merely the rich are thus deceived. The great mass of humanity are under the lure of riches, spending earthly attainments, time, strength of mind and body, searching for earthly wealth, but getting little. In the distressing time impending, some of these will see their mistake and wish that they had been more alert in laying up Heavenly riches—knowledge of the Bible, of God, and character-development in His likeness. To such the old familiar hymn will have new meaning—

"When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay."

Our Adventist friends are not the only ones who have made the mistake of thinking that the fire and the shaking of earth and heaven are merely literal. Practically all the creeds of Orthodoxy give this misinterpretation. It is now time that our eyes of understanding should open. Now that the shaking and the fire have begun, it is high time that we should see that "the earth abideth forever." There is no reason why it should be destroyed, nor why humanity should be destroyed off the earth. God's purposes have not yet been accomplished. Yes, the Divine Plan is only in its infancy. Humanity has learned only its first lesson—"the exceeding sinfulness of sin." The second lesson, the matchless brilliancy of virtue, will be given during the Messianic Reign.

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## SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County.  
Bank of Helix, a Corporation, Plaintiff, vs. P. O. Martin and Minnie Martin, his wife, Defendants.

To P. O. Martin and Minnie Martin, the above named Defendants:

In the name of the state of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint in the above entitled suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons; and you will take notice that if you fail to appear or plead within that time, plaintiff for want thereof will take judgment against you for the relief prayed for in plaintiff's complaint herein, to-wit: Judgment for the sum of \$2700.00, together with interest thereon at 8 per cent per annum from March 23, 1914, until paid, and for the further sum of \$250.00 Attorneys' fees and for plaintiff's costs and disbursements of this suit; and for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage made by you and each of you to the Bank of Helix on the 25th day of September, 1909, covering the North Half of Lots 1 and 2 in Block No. 14 in the Dallas Land & Improvement Company's Addition to the City of Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, and for the sale of said property and foreclosing you and each of you from any and all interest therein.

This summons is issued pursuant to an order of the Hon. H. H. Belt, Judge of the above entitled court, duly made and entered on the 4th day of January, 1915, directing that publication hereof be made once each week for a period of six consecutive weeks in the Polk County Observer and the first publication thereof is made pursuant to said order on the 5th day of January, 1915.

OSCAR HAYTER & RALEY & RALEY,  
Attorneys for Plaintiff.



DR. W. L. HOLLOWAY  
CHIROPRACTOR.  
Phone 822.

## NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that Paul Fundman, the administrator of the estate of Lawrence Davis, deceased, has filed his final account as such administrator in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Polk County, and that Saturday, the 30th day of January, 1915, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at the Courtroom of the said County Court, in the county Court House, in Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, has been appointed by said Court as the time and place for the hearing of objections to the said final account and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published, January 1, 1915.

PAUL FUNDMAN,  
Administrator aforesaid.  
OSCAR HAYTER,  
Attorney. Jan. 1-Jan. 29.

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