

THE TELEGRAPH OF TODAY.

BY R. A. WOOD.

The electric telegraph is a never-ending source of instruction and amusement to those engaged in its pursuit, as well as of wonder and mystery to those outside the craft.

Probably the most interesting feature of the telegraph is its swiftness, although the current of today is no more rapid than that which Prof. S. F. E. Morse constructed in that respect the original invention remains unchanged, although many new and time-saving instruments have been invented to facilitate its work.

A bolt of lightning across the clouded heavens compared with the electric current through a slender wire, is of about the same ratio of swiftness as an ice wagon is to a flying express train. A single dot requiring the hundredth part of a second to make, would be heard in New York the same instant it was flashed from California, and there are no instruments yet invented that are able to record the time required for its transmission.

To give an idea of the rapidity of the telegraphic current in the matter of distributing the daily news, it may be well to mention one or two feats accomplished by the Associated Press—the greatest and fastest news-gathering organization in the world.

The most valuable and greatest addition to the telegraph since the original invention, is the quadruplex system, by which four operators at each end of a single wire, may work at the same time, four interesting and fast news items being sent in one another's labor.

It is the use of this machine that has enabled the operator to attain the great speed which has become a necessary part of his work, especially in press dispatches. In the days of old, an operator who could send or receive at the rate of forty words per minute, was looked upon by his brethren as a phenomenon, and the majority of them voted him a golden harp and a high place in the hierarchy, but now that rate of speed is "easy" and the man with his typewriter handles forty words per minute, or eat lunch at the same time.

Of course work in this rapid fashion cannot be done under the old system of sending the words out in full, and to obviate the time which would be required for this, a code system, or telegraph shorthand has been devised, consisting of several thousand abbreviations, carefully compiled, and which is in daily use by the Associated Press.

Just here it may not be amiss to mention the vastness of, and the rapidity with which, the Associated Press handles news dispatches. It is a wire service covers the entire country with a net work of wires from ocean to ocean and from Canada to the Gulf, with Chicago as the central and distributing point, and Addison C. Thoma, superintendent of the system, with headquarters at that point, may, without leaving his chair, ascertain whether battleships are being sent to sea, or conditions at other points in California, Texas, Maine, or any other section of the country, in less time than it requires to note the facts herein. The moment a disaster occurs, or anything of great public interest transpires, the news is in Chicago and being distributed, about as soon as the event is known of in the locality in which it occurs.

MEXICAN FRUITS.

In all my travels in Mexico, I have yet to find an orange to compare with those grown in California. As for apples, peaches and similar fruits of the temperate region, our sister republic seems to produce nothing equal in capability to our windfalls.

Having recently traversed the country from the shores of the Pacific to the Gulf coast, and nearly to its southern boundary, I was surprised to find that the larger half of the fruits found in Mexico are produced by different species of cactus. The following notes are mainly based on fruits purchased in the market places of various cities, and I hope eventually to see them all grow in our city park from the seeds thus obtained.

Tuna. Blanca: A sweet, delicious, bright green fruit, much like the variety cultivated around the California missions; 3 1/2 inches long, 2 inches in diameter, with a shallow umbilicus a little more than an inch broad; about 60 small pulvini half an inch or less apart, probably spiny; seeds between 200 and 250 in number. Market in Oaxaca, June 20, 1902 (Orcutt 2537).

white veined with crimson, outside covered with glistening bloom. San Luis Potosi markets (Orcutt 2532). This and other varieties of tunas are brought into the markets by long trains of burros, and during the months of June to August form the chief food of the poor classes, who often refuse to work while the cheap and abundant supply lasts—free for the gathering. A copper cent will buy what constitutes a fine meal for the humble people residing in town.

Tapona (so named from its resemblance to a bottle stopper): A globe-shaped dark magenta colored fruit, 2 inches in diameter, or less, with a slightly depressed umbilicus an inch wide. Fruit with only about 20 pulvini, mostly near the umbilicus; interior dark red, pulp very slightly acid; about 50 seeds in each. San Luis Potosi (Orcutt 2532).

Cardona: Fruit 2 inches long, 1 1/2 inch in diameter, otherwise closely resembling the camuesa fruit, except for the darker red mealy pulp; 15 seeds in one fruit. San Luis Potosi (Orcutt 2534). This is one of the most abundant and valued fruits in its season—the terminal spike of a mescal leaf being used as a fork by the Mexicans in eating heaping quantities of it.

Crystallina: blanch; fruit green, 3 inches long, 1 1/2 in diameter, with a rather shallow umbilicus 3/4 inch broad; pulvini 3/4 inch apart; pulp sweet, white, containing 118 seeds in the one examined. Can Luis Potosi (Orcutt 2536). The tender green joints of various tunas are also gathered and pared, and may be found in the markets abundant, and are eaten as a vegetable or salad.

Other cactus fruits in the Mexican markets are the grambulos, countless varieties of pitillas, bisnaga berries (bright coral red fruit of species of Manihottaria), etc., which will require a separate paper to describe. In one variety I found approximately 3,000 seeds in one fruit! At retail I paid from one to six cents apiece for many varieties, that proved truly delicious, and which are consumed in great quantities by all classes—rich and poor.

Grace George's latest vehicle, which will have its premier November 5th, introduces players as its principal character. The first act transpires in the tent of some strollers and the scene of the last is the theatre of a greenroom in London.

NOT THE ONLY ONE

There are hundreds of San Diego people similarly situated. Can there be any stronger proof than the evidence of San Diego residents? After you have read the following, kindly answer the question. H. Holcome, now retired from active business, residence 394 M street, says: "There was a constant pain over my left kidney, I could not stoop without feeling sharp twinges and the trouble clung to me persistently more or less for years. During the last year and a half it was more severe than formerly and I conscientiously state that had it not been for Doan's Kidney Pills, procured at Strahlmann-Mayer's drug store, I could not do as I am doing to-day, work in my garden. The investment of mine in four boxes was the best outlay of money I ever made. No one in San Diego need have the slightest hesitation in using Doan's Kidney Pills. Not only can I positively say so from personal experience but Mrs. Holcome was also benefited by their treatment."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"The Strollers" is a capital diversion; the brilliant and fashionable audience which filled the 1st theatre last night so testify. It is a delightful pastime and a perfect triumph for the stage manager, costumer and whoever gathered the big company of comely women.

"The Strollers" preserves the best traditions of entertainments of its kind, especially in its delights for the eye, its ingenious and original construction and the production of its mechanism. It would be difficult indeed to find in any play-house a more perfect working-together of all the elements that enter into a theatrical production. Taken as a whole it is a most satisfactory affair. It has plot and a great deal of amusing business hinges upon it, while as a spectacle the production is an endless succession of beautiful pictures.

All the favorites in the cast, Miss Margarita Sylva, George Boniface, Jr., John D. Gilbert, D. L. Don, David Torrence, Miss Lou Middleton and Miss Dorothy Huntington, were enthusiastically greeted. Miss Sylva is a remarkably beautiful woman in face and figure. She sings pleasingly and dances gracefully. Whether she was more charming than comical, or more comical than charming is impossible to say, and Mr. Gilbert's drollery was impossible to repress.

The thing that makes life worth the while is the value of a smile, and that is what you get in "Pickings From Fuch" which will appear at the 1st theatre Friday evening, Nov. 5. It is a glad, mad whirl of color, with its many voices of the chorus, and it is a pleasant thing to think that there is a house full of glad smiles within the reach of even the glummiest of us. The farce goes with a vim and bounce, and the lines are like a game of verbal ping pong, so deft are they in their hits.

The dramatic recital given Monday evening at Unity hall by Mrs. Mattie Hubbard, the accomplished elocutionist, was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. That Mrs. Hubbard is an artist of exceptional ability was shown by her clever portrayal of widely diverse subjects. She has a voice of wondrous flexibility and depth as well as sweetness, and her gestures are full of grace and expression.

"I wrote to Dr. Pierce for advice though I thought surely I would die." After my baby came in January, 1900, I suffered severely from all sorts of aches and pains until Mrs. M. told me when I had one of your pamphlets, treating on female diseases, I wrote to Dr. Pierce for advice, although I thought I was more liable to die than to get well; your fatherly advice caused my health to be restored. I took five bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, three of "Golden Medical Discovery" and three vials of "Pelllets," together with your other remedies, and I am now able to do all my work.

Weak and sick women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free, and so obtain without charge or fee the advice of a specialist upon all diseases pertaining to women. All correspondence is held as strictly private and is held confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Way Down East" has divided four years of its run between four cities—New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago—most of the remainder of the country having been covered by duplicate companies with what practically is the original production. William A. Brady's production of "Under Southern Skies," with Minnie Victorson in the chief role, has been playing to very large business. Lottie Blair Parker, the author of the piece and of "Way Down East," is enroute with the presenting organization.

She will appear in a new play, as yet unnamed, and may give matinee performances of "Frou Frou," in which she made an emphatic hit last spring at the Garden theatre, New York.

Clyde Fitch was seven years disposing of "Lover's Lane," on the production of which William A. Brady is said to have made \$200,000. Louis James and Frederick Warde combination in Wagenhals & Kemper's production of "The Tempest," will shortly be seen here. The company is a large one, and is receiving much praise at present in the northwest.

The first production of Blanche Walsh's new play, "The Daughter of Hamlet," will be given in Chicago this evening. The most dramatic situation in Mr. Stange's tragedy is almost identical with the great scene in Maeterlinck's "Mama Verna." Miss Walsh in "The Daughter of Hamlet," will, of course be seen as Salammbô and Charles Dalton of "The Sign of the Cross" fame will be Matho. The company will number 67 people. Managers Wagenhals & Kemper have prepared a magnificent production of the play, which promises to be one of the most notable of the year.

John L. Sullivan is going to star again. He has a brand new melodrama, "An American Earl," in which the great John is the Earl. He is also stage director, and has been constant in his attendance on rehearsals. The only obstacle thus far to the success of "An American Earl" is John L.'s unfortunate habit of going to sleep in an armchair during the rehearsals, and disturbing the company with his snoring. This has led to misunderstandings with members of the company, but none of them has been bold enough to protest.

Richard Mansfield is playing Brutus in "Julius Caesar" at Chicago. A critic in the "Chicago Tribune" was especially dramatic, and other features of the late Shakespearean seen here even in the days of Edwin Booth. His interpretation of Brutus recalls that of Booth in many particulars, but he made the closing acts more effective, especially that wherein he appeals to those about him to kill him.

The New York Sun of last Wednesday says: The abrupt closing of Jalla Marlowe's season is likely to leave many members of the company almost destitute. Three weeks' salary is all that any of them has received, and now to be closed up without even the usual two weeks' notice, after five weeks of rehearsal, seems particularly hard.

Minnie Maddern Fiske considers the production of "Mary of Magdala," which began last week in Milwaukee, the most important of her career. The author of the German original, from which the play is taken, Paul Heyse, is reported to have said that Mrs. Fiske is the one English-speaking actress he would choose to interpret his bible heroine. The play is massive in point of scenic investiture, elaborate in costuming, and requires the services of more than 100 people.

Joseph Hart, who is starring with Carrie De Mar in "Foxy Grandpa," is the manager of a number of vaudeville combinations which present short farces of his writing in the "continuous" houses. Mr. Hart also is responsible for many of the songs rendered in "Foxy Grandpa."

Between Nov. 15 and 20, Sara Bernhardt will open with Racine's tragedy, "Andromache," with special music by Saint-Saens. At the same time they will take place the rehearsals of Paul Erveleu's "Therogine de Mercicourt." This will be followed by a new play written for Mme. Bernhardt by her old friend, Victorien Sardou.

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