



SECTION OF PETRIFIED WOOD

Some millions of years ago, there stood in what is now Yellowstone National Park a tree something like a pine. *PITYOXYLON*, they call it now. It was felled and buried by a volcanic eruption, subsequently it became mineral-impregnated and petrified. Washed out ages later, a piece of its wood was sliced more than paper-thin by the U. S. National Museum, studied by Prof. H. S. Conard of Grinnell College, and photographed through the microscope by Cornelia Clarke. Details of its structure are so well preserved that they show up practically as clearly as do those of wood formed during the past season.

politics, and law-giving, and sets new and ever more pervading fashions in manners, morals, education, and religion; but we are progressively forgetting that for the complete apprenticeship to life, youth needs repose, leisure, art, legends, romance, idealization, and in a word humanism, if it is to enter the kingdom of man well equipped for man's highest work in the world. In education our very kindergartens, which outnumber those of any other land, by dogma and hyper-sophistication tend to exterminate the naive that is the glory of childhood. Everywhere the mechanical and formal triumph over content and substance, the letter over the spirit, the intellect over morals, lesson setting and hearing over real teaching, the technical over the essential, information over education, marks over edification, and method over matter. We coquet with children's likes and dislikes and can not teach duty or the spirit of obedience. In no civilized land is teaching so unprofessional or school boards at such a low level of incompetence. Nowhere are the great traditions of the race so neglected, the high school so oblivious of either the nature or the needs, or both, of the adolescent stage

of life. The American college is half universitized with methods and matter prematurely specialized, and half bound to the recitation, marking methods and discipline of the school, while the apex of our educational system is still in Europe, where hundreds of our best graduates go yearly to find the advanced and special training we are still, in most departments, unable to supply.

In religion, which was grafted from an alien ethnic stock, we lack scientific sincerity. Statistics show more sects and more clergymen per capita of population than in any other land, and a rapidly progressive ignorance by the rising generation of the very Bible we profess to revere. Churches, charities, missions abound, but our slums are putrefying sores whose denizens anthropologists believe lower in the moral and intellectual scale than any known race of savages, and the percentages of juvenile crimes and the average age of first commitment grows steadily earlier. We have vastly simplified politics by separating Church and State and by our voluntary system, but we have also permitted a chasm to yawn between our secular and religious life, between science and theology, till even seminaries for the training of clergymen neglect and even suspect the study of nature as if God were a hypocrite and did one thing in His works and said another in His Word, when in fact each supplements and is an imperfect thing without the other. We try to impose not only our civilization, but our religion, upon lower races, even though they are thereby exterminated, and fail to study the nature and needs of even those we try to help.

All this is hard on youth, which was better understood in ancient Greece and Rome than now, for it is profoundly responsive to all these influences. Despite all this I am an optimist root and core, not merely because an evolutionist must hold that the best and not the worst will survive and prevail, but because in most, though not yet in all, of these fields I see clearly the beginnings of better things. Even in education and religion, the strongholds of conservatism, there are new and better ideals and efforts, and these are less exceptional and are growing in power and influence and are represented by more and better men. In vigor, enthusiasm, and courage we are still young, and our faults are those of youth. Because they have been great our suffering has been also great, and pain is the world's best teacher whose lessons are surest to be

laid to heart. The very fact that we think we are young will make the faith in our future curative, and we shall one day not only attract the youth of the world by our unequaled liberty and opportunity, but develop a mental, moral, and emotional nurture that will be the best preparation for making the most and the best of them and for helping humanity on to a higher stage.

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SEISMOLOGY

Fatal Earthquake Rocks
A Land of Quakes

NEW ZEALAND'S destructive earthquake of Monday, Feb. 2, adds another chapter to the island Commonwealth's already notable history as a country where such things are likely to happen. Relatively new, in a geological sense, its mountain young and still growing, it resembles Japan, California, and other lands that lie in a great circle around the Pacific in the uneasiness of its underlying rock strata.

North Island was visited by this week's quake. Two years ago, on June 17, 1929, it was South Island's turn. In the neighborhood of the town of Murchison the earth humped itself up and stayed up, causing great damage to the railroad tracks which traversed the area. The maximum height of the new-made elevation was measured at fourteen feet nine inches.

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