

FIRST PRIZE

The entire membership deserves a merit badge this semester for the coverage on the fires near Almeria, Andalusia. White things burned. Science came. A box of their "instruments" burned. Just what "instruments" a Scientist takes to a white spontaneous combustion would be worth knowing but is not stated. Forceps? Lie-detectors? Willow wands? . . . Then the "Avaricious Spaniards" began selling their land at inflated evaluation, on the strength of the chance that radium in the soil was attracting fire from the atmosphere.

The faithful warden of mass somnolence who writes editorials for the San Francisco *Chronicle* pontificated that the nadir of human stupidity had been sounded again. This "fire" was an hallucination, a product of mass hysteria, like the bogey man of Mattoon . . . That put the news services in their place. Spontaneous silence set in for a while. Then along came the adolescent miss, so familiar to readers of Fort. The child had outsmarted the town, the scientists and AP for about a month. She did it with her little oil can.

But neither the Spanish Fires nor the fatuousness of the fire extinguishers gets the plum duff of the season. It goes to MFS Paul L. Keil, who knows any number of spirit controls by their first names, and who has moved to Lily Dale, N. Y., the necromancers' Mecca. *Paukie* extends a standing invitation to any Fortean passing through to look him up. He means, in the flesh, but one has no doubt you would be twice as welcome if you arrived disembodied. The datum: In a "special" story from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to the Buffalo, N. Y., *Evening News*, 8-1-45 old style, the Atlanta, Georgia, *Constitution* is quoted to the effect that in Dolly Pond Church of God, 25 miles NE of Chattanooga, the Rev. Raymond Hayes, "imported from Cumberland, Ky.," conducts religious rites employing copper-heads and rattle snakes which the ecstatic faithful handle freely. The statement is that Luther Morrow was bitten Wednesday night (78-25-15 FS?) "by a big rattler". Thursday, Morrow put in a full day's work on his farm but the snake died. That's *news*.

LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PINKERTON RETURNS

(A Fortean View of the Semantic Bomb)

Now the biggest lie has been told. Now the greatest crime has been committed. Now the mental slavery of the human race is very nearly complete.

But, gentlemen and ladies, "very nearly complete" is not complete enough. The men who planned and timed this greatest of all lies have shot their bolt and they are done. They have FAILED in their supremest effort—and "they haven't got anything on"!

It was not necessary for their propaganda to convince 100% or even 51% in order to conduct a successful war. It did not greatly matter whether you *believed* it or not. You have observed for the past several years that you "had to" act *as if* you believed whether you did or not. You stood up when the

national anthem was played, not out of respect for it but, rather than involve your wife or sweetheart in a public fist fight. When you were the last man in the shop who had not bought a bond, and your union steward *spoke* to you, you bought rather than be called a heel. When you met some nineteen-year-old kid with only one arm, and a plastic face, you didn't tell him you thought he was a damned fool for going—you patted him on the back. No. It was not necessary to *persuade* anybody of the holiness of the late crusade. The effects desired by the engineers of it all were achieved regardless of your convictions.

This new fraud is a different story. *Everything* depends upon *everybody* swallowing the lie of lies. If just one man, one child, doubts this story, and lives—then the Brain Trusts of all the so-called civilized nations have to start over again from scratch. The schemes of an entire generation of Powerlords are frustrate, rendered nil, puffed away like a little dust—because doubt, suspicion, news of scandal on high, has a velocity much swifter than that old hack "light": and doubt is already on the wing.

Power put every chip on one show-down hand—with a stacked deck and an "atom-bomb" up its sleeve—but when they let it fall, they weren't talking fast enough to divert our entire attention. Ever since Monday, August 23, 15 FS (Aug. 6, 1945 old style) the Fortean mail has sizzled and crackled like a forest fire with the spreading holocaust of healthy doubt—the blaze fatal to Power's hopes. The Fortean don't believe what they read in the papers. Daily experience has taught them they can't. They knew that even before Pearl Harbor clinched it. Since then, the daily press is, without a single exception, the tool and mouthpiece of Power. The convention is to blame this upon advertising and the greed for its revenue, but that is less than half of it. If advertising had never been thought of—or if it should cease tomorrow—it would still be necessary (and worth its while) for Power to subsidize the press of the nation. No matter how much it costs, the public simply must be kept misinformed.

Knowing that, when stupendous "news" breaks, "news" so stupendous it rates an eight column head-line and two to four columns of front-page space—we look for the joker. It's always there. How much more alert are we then, when the "news" slops all over the front page—and occupies three or four more full pages—2, 3, 4, 5! Even those of us who can't recall which play the quotation comes from realize that the harlot press is "protesting too much". We also know that it's on orders from Washington. What, we ask ourselves and each other, is Power trying so overly hard to sell us?

Well, this time it's an "atom-bomb".

"Atom?" we ask. "Atom?" Why, an *atom* is a postulate, a mathematical equation, a dream, an inference, a meal-ticket for the priesthood of Science, just as God is the meal-ticket for the priests of religion. Nobody has ever seen an 'atom' any more than anybody has ever seen 'God'. Both notions are equally dependent upon faith. And in the laboratories you will find as many different definitions of what an *atom* is as there are different religions in the world.

Whose 'atom' are they using in this 'bomb'? Dalton's, Bohr's, or Page's or Crehore's?"

Since Crehore is a Fortean, we didn't think he would sell Power his atoms to kill people with, and so it befell. As appears, it's the Bohr version of the atomic myth, with modern improvements, that the free-prez is trying to sell us as "the greatest discovery since that of fire". To be sure, fire was never discovered any more than air or water were discovered, and you'll recall that an earlier priesthood, before those of Science or even of Javeh, befuddled its public with the yarn about Prometheus stealing it from the gods. Thus, all through time, one myn steals from another, and the stoker with the broad back continues to shovel coal.

But, hold! That is to be all over. The stoker is going to shovel pitchblende now—and with his little finger. Did I say "now"? Well, in some fifty years or so. The transmuting alchemists—beg pardon—the physicists, have to go on with their experiments—at government expense. (See Kaempfert in the *Times*, Aug. 19, old style). This is part of "reconversion", a vast enterprise for spending taxes in the postwar whirl. Thus the common people, Joe Taxpayer and Homer Sap, in their roles of self-rulers take on the dignity of medieval kings. We are now the patrons of the wizards who have the secret of making gold out of water. Two billions have already been spent. How many more billions will be—in the next fifty years? Whose billions?

Still—the crime is not exposed. The clear inferences above are only by the way. The crime is the effort, through shock and awe, to paralyze mass mentality. While you cringe in horror at the destruction recounted, and stare drop-jawed into the wizards' promised future, the ATOM has ridden, dead-headed, out of the make-believe land of *as if*, into reality. Every saloon and pool hall rings with "the power of the atom". What was yesterday nothing but a controversy between pundits is today common coin—as familiar and touchable as a pocket full of pennies. Tell a cab driver that no man has even yet established the existence of an "atom", and he'll reply: "Oh, no? I guess them yellow belly Jap bastards know there's atoms."

And with the establishment of this figure, its maestros and impresarios, the Scientists, essayed to gain new heights of power, more fearful, more dreadful, more awesome and more nearly absolute than any Pope or Emperor who ever lived.

The Fortean Society went on record in 1940, as aiming "To prevent scientists from further development of any hierarchy, Brain-Trust, Court of Wisdom, authoritarian dictatorship of intelligence or learning. . ." And in the smoke of their so-called "atom-bomb" we recognize the greatest challenge to that aim the Society has ever faced: but in their failure to convince us all they shall read their own doom. By this coup, in collaboration with their murderer employers, they reached for a strangle-hold on world mentality at the grass roots. It's up to us Fortean to step on their bloody fingers.

Yet, if you strip this forthcoming colossal boondoggle of its deception, chicanery and favoritism, you will observe that it is the

amiliar first plank in the Fortean Society perpetual Peace Program.

1. A cyclotron in every high school.
2. Let's ALL bust atoms.
3. Every waiter a Ph.D.
4. Every laundress a B.A.
5. Let's train armies of translators to translate every book ever written in any language into every other language.
6. Subsidize publishers to issue same, and booksellers on every corner.

But perhaps that's another story.

If we have any literal-minded readers who feel that the foregoing *denies* that a new, powerful explosive has been fabricated, i.e. us point out that *any* explosion can be called "atom-splitting", and that if it had been considered economically good for us (by those who control our economy), engines to utilize dynamite, TNT, or any other such-like substance could have been perfected in the past at discretion.

INNOCENCE ABROAD

Wherever Reginald Orcutt went in Europe or Asia or the Antipodes, to sell Linotype machines or alphabets, he found that some damned German had been there ahead of him (before 1939). Multiply that by National Cash Register and add International Business Machines, and Orcutt's pictistic gasps of nonplus about the causes of wars reflect a rather infantine mental development. All this occurs in *Merchant of Alphabets*, a new book which is not recommended. Orcutt and his drummer colleagues won't be running into that sort of thing for several decades now. There is more than one way to overcome competition. Damned blood-thirsty Huns!

NAMED FELLOW ACCEPTS

With great delight we beg to report that His Lordship the Duke of Bedford, Named Fellow of the Fortean Society for the Year 14 FS (1944 old style), has accepted. As you probably know, the Duke of Bedford is practically the only member of the House of Lords who does his own thinking. He is the author of *A Call to Manhood*, and *The Financiers' Little Game*. (The Society takes pleasure in supplying both books for \$1.50 the pair. They are printed in Edinburgh.)

No Fellow, of all those Named to date, has a better right to the distinction than the Duke, as is evidenced by his war record of consistent and perpetual criticism of everything rotten in the Empire, most especially its never-articulated "war aims", its then Prime Minister, and the Bank of England. The Duke of Bedford has been the staunchest defender of Conscientious Objectors in the realm, loudly decrying the "cat-and-mouse" practice of imprisoning the same man again and again, for the same offense—i.e., refusing to kill.

For all these reasons—and because he declined to take "oath" on the *Holy Bible* when he assumed his seat in the House of Lords, but only *affirmed* the necessary (being the first British Lord on record ever to make that distinction)—we hail the Duke of Bedford as a first class Fortean. After he had been Named Fellow, and before we received his acceptance, word came that an effigy or statue of His Lordship had been tarred and feathered. That is truly the accolade. As

Ben Hecht says: "Their hatred is the caress incomparable."

The Duke's acceptance of fellowship with us leaves another vacancy among the Named Fellows. The following have all been nominated—which one shall we address next?

Peter Demianovich Ouspensky
Greta Garbo
Aldous Huxley
Margaret Sanger
Rockwell Kent
Isabel Paterson
Eric Temple Bell
Margaret Anderson
Stuart Chase
Dorothy Thompson
John Dos Passos
Eric J. Dingwall
J. B. S. Haldane
Thurman Arnold
H. M. Tomlinson

HEROES RETURN

The steamship line which owns the *Queens, Mary* and *Elizabeth*, receives \$100 a head for every U. S. soldier they bring back.

NO PERSEIDS AGAIN

Year after year they are predicted for Aug. 10, 11, 12. . . . Year after year there is no display. . . . Yet these bunko artists go right on drawing their pay, and sneering at astrologers for missing guesses. (Editor of FRAUDS, please wake up and copy.)

TAYLOR CALDWELL JOINS

When THE BOOKS were finally got back into print, this letter came singing in . . .

"I am not exaggerating when I say that I was more than just casually delighted to know that these books are again available, and I cannot wait until I can once more have the joy, instruction and pleasure of rereading them.

"I first read Mr. Fort's books many years ago. Since then, I have read literally thousands of others. Yet, none have remained so powerfully in my memory. None have so filled me with wonder, speculation and excitement.

"I have quoted parts of these books to numerous friends. I know they will be equally delighted to hear that they can now read them for themselves. So, it gives me really enormous pleasure to spread the news.

"I am firmly convinced of this: that those who have missed Mr. Fort's books are the poorer for it, live much more meagre lives, and have never experienced that profound speculation that comes to one who is informed of things 'beyond coincidence'."

Sincerely yours,
Taylor Caldwell.

"P.S. If you can use any part of this letter in your publicity about these books, I shall be more than pleased to extend permission. For Mr. Fort's books have had an intense influence on me, which I believe has been reflected in all my successful novels."

When we told her the work of Charles Fort was being continued by the Society, she eagerly joined us; and in almost the

same mail MFS Mary Winthrop Bonavia sent us (as Fortean) a ten-page quotation from Taylor Caldwell's current best-seller, *The Wide House*.

On that postman's heels came a word from August Derleth, saying that the Lovecraft-Derleth THE LURKER AT THE THRESHOLD, due next month, had "a brief Fortean tie-up" . . . and before you could say Waldemar Kaempffert, a letter from the Wynn Publishing Company announced that "several references to Mr. Fort" appear in the indexed *Astrology, Science of Prediction*, which they have just published. . . . We should keep track of all such references and Fortean influence. For the record—see: *Obelists Fly High*, by C. Daly King, N. Y. 1935 old style.

IN SACRED PRECINCTS

The Carnegie Technical is an undergraduate publication of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh. In the December issue, 1944 old style, appears—large as life—CHARLES FORT, PHILOSOPHER EXTRAORDINARY. And thereunder—for nearly four pages—Eli Freedman, Chemistry, Fr., quotes Fort, at length, with commentary far from unfriendly. Mr. Freedman is not an MFS, nor yet, in the strictest sense, a Fortean, but this gesture of combined independence and goodwill calls for congratulations all around. . . . Thanks for the send-off, Eli. We hope you'll give your grandson the Books of Charles Fort when he is a "Chemistry, Fr."

More sacred still (the company we keep), is a substantial and not uncomplimentary notice in *The Canadian Theosophist*, March, 1945 old style. The editor calls us Academic Cranks, a charge which is the harder to refute for our not knowing what it means.

No less sacred—and of much wider circulation—were the columns about us in *American Astrology* for August, last year . . . More than 6 pages.

Another reason for Astrological interest in our doings—besides that inspired by our hoots at Astrology's dogmatic enemies—is the possibility of Draysonian inquiry altering celestial calculations. It is this high possibility, we think, which has made Orthodoxy shy at Drayson so long, and one cannot but admire the open-mindedness of the spat-upon branch of the star-walloping fraternity, standing ready as it does to welcome such a *basic* alteration in the calculations piled up through the centuries. This cordiality toward correction stands in sharpest contrast to the inflexible attitude of the Holy Shapley See and its far flung priesthood which maintains its subsidies by swathing an atrophied mentality in a winding sheet of respectability and enshrining the corpse under the colossal misnomer of "the Queen of Sciences".

In this connection, you may have observed that practically all the "discoveries" made by Astronomers in the past five years have been *invisible*. You have no means of checking up on them than you have of checking up on the conversations of Jim Farley in Rome, Berlin, and Cracow (Poland) in 1939.

As time and space afford, observations upon Arcturus, Capella and other stars will be published here from the original manuscripts of Alfred H. Barley. As you know, all credit for keeping the Drayson problem alive

is due to Mr. Barley. What you may not know is that Barley almost damned his studies to extinction by association with Alan Leo (hold your nose), an Astrologer.

While we're on the subject of contrasting Astrology with Astronomy, let us clear up a point of nomenclature in history. You were taught in school that *Astrology* was the parent of *Astronomy*. This teaching was used to bolster faith in the dubious but forcibly injected concept of Progress. The "superstition" of "Astrology" had been outgrown by *progressing* Man, who—in his growing wisdom—continued to study the stars (under the name of "Astronomy") and thus built up the body of exact knowledge (sic) which "the Queen of Sciences" possesses today.

What you were not taught is that the term "Astrology" is the newer word, an invention of propagandists, a bit of apologetic semantics, a "smear" word. For, anciently there was but the one term, "Astronomy", and the *astronomers* (even more commonly called "mathematicians") were the men who looked at the stars, told what they meant, and cast the nativities of the upper crust. An "astronomer" had no other occupation than to practice what has latterly been dubbed "astrology".

When, in the course of human events, the *astronomers* began to lose their grip on the royal imagination (and consequently on the royal purse strings), they foreswore "judicial astrology" (telling fortunes, as it were), not by international agreement, on a date, but ever so gradually, ever so reluctantly, hanging on to their Good Thing as long as they could. Because—before God!—if they gave up fortune telling, why should any prince pay any of them a single *denaro*?

Out of necessity and a strong inclination toward self preservation, the *astronomers* clung to the remnant of the prestige that name had acquired through untold centuries of habitude, and to cast a stigma upon the practices which they relinquished so sadly they called their own mothers astrologers—with a sneer.

LOST: ONE Ph M 1c.

DOUBT is mailed first class to members in the army, navy and marine corps, the better to reach them, my dear. Still, some copies are returned after many forwardings. For instance—who knows a better address for William L. Jones, Ph M 1c, than U.S.S. Milwaukee, Fleet Post Office, N. Y., N. Y.?

THEM PROTOCOLS

From time to time correspondents ask what we think of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, but no well considered answer has been possible because all the books and pamphlets available on the subject have said with one voice—"The work of that title is a forgery." Not even Holy Writ itself has so many detractors as the Protocols. The hoots outnumber the original offense (if it be one) several thousand to one. This is too bad, if those Elders never met, because one cannot fail—in the face of so universal a denial—to doubt it.

No man to blanch at a quandary, Your Secretary bought the first copy of the Protocols he has ever seen offered in a book-dealer's catalogue, and he has been reading such catalogues for thirty years. So—*now* what do we think of them?

Well, whether they are on the level or not, they represent some sound observation. Culled here are a few statements from the book which only the bravest and dullest could deny.

1. I draw the conclusion that by the law of nature right lies in force.

(The matter should be better stated, but what the writer meant is not easy to confute.)

2. Political freedom is an idea but not a fact.

(Who can dissent?)

3. The political has nothing in common with the moral.

(Any rebuttal?)

4. Hunger creates the right of capital to rule the worker more surely than it was given to the aristocracy by the legal authority of kings.

(You may *complain*, but you cannot deny.)

Leaving the question of authenticity in Fortean abeyance, what we should like to know is if any such person as "A.E.N. Howard, Capt. Late R. H. & R. F. A." ever lived. Anybody know HIM?

FORTEAN ARTS

Until a more authentic, or—better, perhaps—a more *completely* Fortean art form is developed, let us take considerable pride in the productions of our worshipful brothers who write what is called scientification and who trace their inspiration straight to Charles Fort without reference to Poe or Jules Verne.

Outstanding among these is MFS August Derleth, writer, editor, publisher. Especially recommended for sleepless nights are:

Sleep No More	\$2.50
Lost Worlds	\$3.00
Jumbee and Other Uncanny Tales	\$3.00

Order them from the Society.

ANOTHER JAIL DEATH

The parents of J. P. Thomas, Jr., filed suit, 7-10-44 old style, for \$130,000 against the mayor, the chief of police and others of Los Angeles, claiming that their son died of a police beating. Although the victim was a U. S. Marine veteran who had seen service in the South Pacific, he was booked as a draft evader. *Cr Hehr*.

This adds a third American city to the Black List of towns in which police conditions are bad enough to give substantial color to such charges.

The cities are:

St. Louis
Buffalo
Los Angeles

Another case where a survivor charged officials with brutality (followed by death), in a psychopathic ward, also occurred in Los Angeles ("a week ago" 6-20-44). The dead man was Eugene Hunter, 48, a chemist. Mrs. Hunter was unable to get her charges past the wall of medical opinion. "Capt. Thad Brown of the police homicide detail said that the autopsy findings (closing of the larynx) made an investigation unnecessary." *Cr Hehr*.

The cities where a "patient" of a psychopathic ward may die of strangulation without need for an investigation are:

New York City
Los Angeles

WHERE HONOR IS DUE

The opportunity to praise an individual among the Orthodox comes our way so seldom that we take up this one gleefully. It is an editorial by Robert Cook, Editor of the *Journal of Heredity*, XXIX, No. 7, July, 1938. It was written as a commentary upon an article published in that issue, by MFS Frederick S. Hammett, Scientific Director, The Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, and Director Marine Experimental Station of that institution. The article is called "Research Institutes for Biology", and this is what the editor wrote:

It has been said that every human institution is the materialized shadow of a person. Such 'shadows' of brick and mortar, of apparatus and ideas and ideals, do not disappear with the setting of the sun. Some of them survive and flourish for centuries after the sun of life has set for him who first cast them across the lives of men. The great men of our race might whimsically be defined as those whose 'shadows' affected the fifth generation, or the fiftieth generation to follow them more than they personally touched the lives of their contemporaries. The fact that this is so is one of the basic reasons why man has gained his present high estate in the living world. Korzybski some years ago coined the term "time binding" to describe this unique faculty whereby man is able to raise himself to higher cultural stature by standing on dead men's shoulders.

Unfortunately these same human institutions, which are one of the chief reasons why man is what he is today, may and frequently do become very effective barriers to (sic) progress. By giving continuity to human activities, institutions foster cultural growth, but the setting up of institutions and conventions releases profound reactions of conservatism which often stifle further progress. Thus man's eternal strivings toward a millenium seem always fated to be wrecked on the tragic paradox that both the means to attain this goal and the barriers which make it possible are perhaps inseparable in the very nature of human institutions.

A vital problem in carrying on from where we are may thus be to devise operations whereby these sociological Siamese Jekyll-Hyde twins may be separated without causing the death of either of them for both conservatism and innovation are necessary. This has been done to a certain extent in the domain of law, in the statutes of mortmain, which have increasingly limited trust holdings in perpetuity, as being contrary to the public interest. A private trust fund can only continue a limited number of years, after which time the testator loses his voice in the administration of the property he accumulated, for in the long run the quick must be served at the expense of the dead. Only in the field of the so-called 'charitable trusts' is this legal principle denied (charity in the legal sense includes religious, educational and research institutions and corporations not conducted for profit). Charity is so sweet and its motives so far above question, that in this field the dead-hand of preconceived notions may be perpetuated indefinitely. In setting up the Rockefeller Foundation its founder is said to have remarked that 'perpetuity is an awful long

time', a truism too often overlooked in a changing world.

Dr. Hammett's discussion of the unfortunate way in which less formal situations, this same principle of the dead hand and of the fossilized mind combine to block a rational approach to research, raises some basically important questions in social organization. The problem of conserving the many advantages which man's time binding faculties give him, and at the same time of consciously and effectively controlling the tendency of institutionalism to lead to worship of the status quo, to inertia, to parasitism, to accepting special privilege at its own valuation, etc., is not an easy one. We find too many positive achievements and too much of promise on the plus side of the ledger, to paraphrase the Red Queen: 'Off with all these 'shadows' heads!'. But Dr. Hammett shows that there is need to consider ways and means of 'shadow control' in the interest of further human progress, and also in fairness to those rebels and pioneers who cast the shadows in the first place, and who, could they return, would be astonished at some of the grotesque outlines which their efforts have thrown over other lives. The means whereby this should be done, are hardly clear, however, for mere governmental supervision will not do (there are plenty of dead hands, and rumor has it even possibly a dead head or so in the Federally integrated experiment stations). Plans imposed from without do not seem very promising if we may judge by the Russian experiment. There the recent 'genetic purge' seems to have left control in the hands of a group whose 'ideology' fits not experimental facts but Stalin's view of Marx. And science in countries where 'the state' plays procrustes seems also to be not without its distortions. So, although we do not even have a bell to put on this cat—or shadow—there is need of an inventive approach to the job.—EDITOR.

LEON WILSON WRITES:

"P.S., I met someone the other day with this idea: that there should be *universal time*, that is all over the old mudball it should be 8:15 A.M. Monday at the same time; the hour should be the same as a piece of nomenclature, having nothing to do with amount of darkness in the air. Have you encountered this before? Some striking advantages present themselves: there would be no more of this: "It's 9:30 here so in London it's now —, etc". There are equally obvious disadvantages; such as, you could not call up a party half way round the world at your 8:00 P.M., and the like; however, strikes me it is the very first step one might take to make this "global" world really *one* community. I pass it on for what it's worth.
Leon Wilson"

This son of a Founder, Harry Leon Wilson, was paroled from a CPS work-camp to hospital duty in Washington, D. C., last December.

THOSE CHINESE EGGS

A good many members thought that eggs standing on end in China on the first day of their heathen spring was Forteana. An equal number wrote to say they could do the trick any day on the Fortean Calendar—simply by shaking the egg "hard enough to break the air sack."



ED HAND

NEW FORTEAN VALUE

The criticism has been directed against Forteanism that it has no positive values, that it destroys without constructing. This is the charge so familiar to atheists and anarchists, neither of which categories has ever had the ghost of a show of demonstrating what they might build. The indictment is particularly invalid in the case of Forteanism, which is built upon rollers in shifting sands, and steers always into the wind.

No absolute good is acknowledged by our creedlessness. Hence this preface to momentous news of MFS Ed Hand, City Clerk, Oglesby, Illinois. Before we can throw our Fortean hats in the air, and cheer the amazing achievement, we must qualify our enthusiasm with a great big IF.

IF being out of debt is a good thing, then we have cause to crow. IF being out of debt is a good thing, we may have found a positive constructive, new value for Forteanism. You will recall, however, that Panurge in Rabelais was opposed to debtlessness—"as if nobody would trust him". And our Federal Government in Washington sets us all a similar example. Without debt all banks must close. We could never have another war. Oh, the question is a knotty one—to owe or not to owe!

Nevertheless, a numerous company holds for no encumbrances, and the announcement that the City of Oglesby, Illinois, does not owe a single penny was considered sufficiently remarkable to be picked up by the freepress and editorialized from Hartford to New Orleans, at least. It was also considered such a thoroughly happy condition by its citizenry, that all 4000 of them turned out to dance on the village green under a banner bearing the legend: "We are all paid for."

Doubtless there were other contributing factors, but this is more than coincidence—surely—that the only municipality we know of which is out of debt is also the only city which can boast a Fortean among its offi-

cials. Ed Hand, Member 44, has lived the Fortean philosophy from birth, and, as City Clerk for nearly 20 years, his influence upon his colleagues in the councils of Oglesby has been toward probity, rectitude and—clearly—the paying of their bills. Moreover, Ed keeps his Fortean dues paid up, which is more than can be said for a lot of folks.

The map on our cover is Oglesby, the one on this page, Ed Hand. The town is between LaSalle and Starved Rock. Solvent Forteans who would like to live in a debt-free city are cordially invited.

"BULLETS" FROM NOWHERE

Beth Dolores Dunn, 11, Pasadena: left thigh "completely pierced", about 5 p.m., 1-17-15 FS. The missile was *ident. as a .22* caliber bullet, but the Pasadena *Independent* does not state whether the object was found or not. Cr. *Joran*.

(Incidentally, now that Jack Campbell has given us "pyrotics" for old ladies who combust spontaneously, who will name these punctured people, wounded far from any front or arms?)

Daniel Higgins, 16, "did not know he had been shot until he felt a twinge in his left hand". He was playing "off Mile Road and Old Colony Boulevard", Dorchester, Mass. No details about the "bullet" are given. This is usually the case in these affairs, so that one seldom knows whether a puncture has been identified as a "bullet wound" by experts who know all things, or from the evidence of a lead slug with rifling. Aug. 31, 1943 old style. Cr. *Stevens*.

MFS Stevens sends another, but the year is missing in the date. On Aug. 29, either 1943 or 1944, Mrs. Elizabeth Tortorice, 53, was working in her tomato patch, which is in Kansas City, when "a bullet struck her in the right leg below the knee". This one was *removed*. No clue as to source.

Members living near the sites of these phenomena are urged to question the principals, to examine the projectiles, and to

photograph them for us to publish, if possible.

The writer on the Newark *Evening News* who covered the hole in Sam Millender's shoulder threw the onus of suspicion on the bloody man himself. The story is full of "he said" he didn't know, and "he told" detectives, as if the wounded one had something to conceal. He was walking south in Mulberry Street, near Lafayette. His shoulder began to sting. He noticed blood on his coat. . . . The *News*: "Police are investigating a story told them last night (11-14-44 old style) by ———, who walked into City Hospital with a bullet wound in his left shoulder." No finding of any missile is mentioned. The story concludes: "He was unable to explain several scratches on his right cheek."

Damon Runyon himself couldn't get a journalistic conviction any quicker than this anonymous scribe. *Cr* Henderson.

On the other hand, also in Jersey: "Five shotgun blasts from a speeding automobile felled (8-26-44 old style) Robert Francis Curran," in Camden. Neither Curran nor his friends could explain the attempt on his life.

The heart-breaker was the deaths of Glenda Ruff, 3, and Vivian, 6, shot by one bullet from a rifle lying in an automobile with no human near it. Redding, Calif., 10-10-44 old style. *Cr* Janney, Stevens and others.

OLD NUTS CRACKED

We have opened our cordialities to the Bacon-Shakspeare controversy. Now, where do you stand on unicorns? No such animal? It seems a shame if there isn't—and never was. Look how pretty they are! But that isn't the latest bit of human ignorance to be brought to Your Secretary's attention. This is: That Neptune and Poseidon are not one and the same. One Robert Brown wrote a monograph to prove their non-identity about 1880, but nobody had told the school marms who were practicing thirty years later. Have they been informed since? What were you taught?

THEY'RE GETTING WARM

One of the most salient features of the cosmogony Your Secretary has been nursing as his own these many years, without finding the time to write it in detail, has been put forward by J. B. S. Haldane, of University College, London. If one must bow to any living Orthodox, and lose, to one of them, the credit for what originality may be involved, this very Haldane is the man one would choose to bow and lose to: because—if not in fact, at least in print—he is highly critical of his own profession.

To be sure, one must forgive him his politics—allegedly a member of the Communist Party, with all the subservience to *discipline* that implies. And—with so much Fort to the contrary—one must take exception to statements like this—

"Darwinism would be exploded tomorrow if the skeleton of a man or a horse were found embedded in a coal seam, where only the bones of animals like newts and lizards are known. In the same way Marxism would be disproved if a Fascist State raised real wages all around, abolished unemployment and re-

duced its armed forces. But neither of these things has happened."

Nevertheless, J. B. S. Haldane is about as broad as biologists come, and now he presents us with a sun which grew to its present dimensions from "atom" size (*Hertrib* 3-8-15 FS), and that is what Your Secretary has had in mind right along.

Haldane goes off into two kinds of "time" and other abstractions requiring more study, as indeed they will, and thus parts company with Od Doc Thayer's "Theory of Infinite Diversity". But we check with Haldane about the previous size of Sol, and aver that the same may be said of every other star, not only that they were "atomic", but *sub-atomic* in size, and that they grew and are still growing—by a process we wot of—a process which some other Orthodox will come up with, in time, no doubt.

ADD BEE FILE

According to Ripley, a bee travels 43,776 miles to gather one pound of honey. We make it 43,775.66 2/3 ourselves.

MFS Bowring refers to Freling Foster in Collier's 8-7-43 old style, where deaths from bee stings are attributed to "anaphylactic shock". That, of course, explains everything!

In Collingdale, Pa., 9-11-44 old style, a traffic cop swiped at a bee and missed. In ten minutes the bee was back with his gang, drove the cop off duty and tied up traffic for a good while. *Cr* Kiesewetter.

WHO BROKE WHAT?

Dear old Waldemar Kaempffert, reviewing a life of Tesla, repeats the yarn (which must be in the book, as well) that Tesla himself destroyed his apparatus for transmitting power to vast distances without wires. The "truth", as appears, is in the way you tell it.

Only see how disarming this is: "Once (Tesla) set up oscillations that shook buildings near his laboratory and brought the police from headquarters. What happened is not clear, for Tesla destroyed the apparatus."

That's Kaempffert's semantics for the N. Y. *Times*.

But, suppose you were Tesla, and you had invented the aforesaid apparatus, and had told the Power People about it. And suppose you came home from having a glass of beer at the corner and found the cops smashing up the place. Suppose you howled bloody murder to the papers, and the cops said the neighbors complained that you were oscillating their apartment building. . . . That would put a different light on the subject, wouldn't it? Light—at metered rates, of course. . . . No wires, no meters, you understand. PRODIGAL GENIUS, The Life of Nikola Tesla, by John O'Neill. \$3.75. Order from the Society.

STILL SITTING

Once again we read of technical progress which makes wires (telephone wires, this time) unnecessary. The story was in the N. Y. *Herald-Tribune*, 2-23-45 old style. *Cr* Bonavia.

Men closer to the business end of this business than the nether side of a newspaper page know that wires have not been essential to the transmission of messages, light or power for the past fifteen years. In other

words, the great god Progress is leashed. We live at the level decreed as meet by Our Betters who will neither give nor get off the pot.

What is it they fear about a life of ease for the millions? Surely not that we'll run berserk. What incentive would there be to go berserk in a world of plenty? . . . What then? Only their jealously guarded distinction? One can think of no other plausible reason for applying brakes to technical advancement. Our Fat Boys in High Places must be dimly aware of their own paucity and emptiness that they dare not take their chances in a world where *everybody* had a dozen cars and a change of planes for Sunday.

COMRIE'S STEERING

Now that we come to reproducing the necessary tools for Andrew J. Comrie's Navigational Method, it develops that our page size will not do it justice. The principal chart is twenty inches long, and the marks thereon, and the *type* thereon, are minute. The greatest extent we could possibly spread it, in the middle of DOUBT, is fourteen inches, and you would not be able to make anything of it, reduced to that size.

We are investigating the possibility of reproducing it full size for sale. Depend upon us to report, because some bakers' dozen of young and argumentative Forteanes have been navigating the South Pacific by Orthodox methods through the past few years (sic, sic!) and they are rather more than pressing to learn what Comrie had on the ball.

CHICAGO!

Abnormal noon darkness was reported Cook County, Ill., in the week previous to 1-28-45 old style. The weather bureau "explained" it by saying that "the air 2,000 feet up was warmer than at the surface and prevented the smoke and fog close to the ground from rising" . . . Maybe we are cuckoo, but the theory we heard in Cook County, *ae* 14, was that warm air *riz*.

OUR CONTEMPORARY!

Was it only coincidence that, just before World Fraud I, Hearst bought *Puck*, the funny weekly so independent that it made the mighty squirm? And that, just before *World Fraud II*, the Luce-Time-Fortune crowd bought *Life*, which also had been a power for honesty in its day?

We have only the *New Yorker* left to laugh at, and a more inoffensive editorial policy than theirs could not be devised. Amid reams of Jingo, however, a kernel or two of meat has appeared.

First, the *New Yorker* reported upon the naval officer (U. S. is assumed) who was promoted and had to sew on new insignia. "When his stars were removed, he found, on the back of each, a label reading MADE IN JAPAN."

(This was matched by an AP despatch—7-5-42—from Pittsburgh, to the effect that American flags "Made in Japan" had been sold the day before at the Army War Show.)

Second, from the *New Yorker*, was the yarn about the Brass Hat in Washington who got a "Foreign Service" ribbon for going to Canada and speaking to some Boy Scouts.

Pretty mild stuff for the only comic paper in the nation—in times like these—but good

and we commend the editors for it. . . . Moreover, the *New Yorker* took a Fortean turn (7-17-43) and ran a story about one "Dr. Oskar Goldberg" who makes it his business to photograph ghosts. . . . And Our Esteemed Contemporary has also taken up sunspots! (8-21-43). The writer of the piece comes out flat-footed for a maxima cycle of "usually" eleven years, that being the pet of Professor A. E. Douglass, U. of Arizona, who connects spots with the growth of trees as adduced by reference to their rings. Never lax in such a duty, Your Secretary has informed the *New Yorker* that every student of sunspots has his own pet cycle, or series of overlapping cycles; and that the technique of determining maximal years from tree-rings works either way, like the identification of "true" meteoritic material (see The Books of Charles Fort). In such a year there must have been lots of spots, as evidenced by the thicker tree-ring. And, of course, we know that trees grow more when the sun has lots of spots because in that year—when there were so many spots—only *see* how much it grew!

Finally, this comes to hand, from an interview with a Mr. Seger of Yorkville. Mr. Seger speaks: "You know, of course, that all that anti-Semitism under the Nazis is superficial, induced by propaganda. There were never enough Jews in Germany to produce real anti-Semitism. There were one-fifth as many Jews in all Germany as you have here in New York City alone."

WHO WILL WRITE?

Only the vaguest hint, and that inadvertent, reveals to us the probability that the Spanish-American "War" was cooked up to cover an incipient stinking scandal concerning the State Bank of Spain. We have no data, not even *The Martial Spirit*, by Walter Millis, is at hand. But there's a pretty subject for some exciting research. Who will give us a paper on it?

PRODIGIOUS

An eleven-year-old mathematical prodigy at Harvard, March 26, 1910 A D, "believes he has solved the problem of navigating in the air. His plan is simple and has to do with the rays given off from radium."

Thirty-four years later, Frederic Andrus Gautesen, Plainfield, N. J., aged four and a half, noticed "the similarity of movement between a garter snake and an elastic wrist watch band", and thereupon "discovered an entirely new principle in physics (which) questioned Newton's third law of motion that 'every action has an equal and opposite reaction.' . . . Scientists believe it is sound." *Times Herald*, Newport News, Va. July 20, 1944 old style. *Cr Reagan*.

ADD PYROTICS

("Pyrotics" is the name suggested by MFS Jack Campbell for persons who burst into flame.)

Miss Mabel Duncanson, 57, burned to death when her "fireproof" home was gutted, 11-6-44 old style, in Upland, Calif. The house of concrete and steel was nearly 20 years old, specially built because of the lady's particular dread of fire. "Surrounding shrubs were not even scorched." *Cr Hehr*.

GOMER MOVES ATHENS

When Ring Lardner, Sherwood Anderson, Theodore Dreiser, Ben Hecht, Carl Sandburg, Keith Preston, Bert Leston Taylor, Harry Hansen, Samuel Putnam, Edwin Balmer, and Your (unpublished) Secretary, *ae* 18, were all residents of Cook County simultaneously, some Eastern wag dubbed Chicago "the Athens of our Middle-West". At that time, Peoria was known as the former residence of Bob Ingersoll, the home of some pretty fair whisky, and a never-failing laugh in vaudeville. But now that the only author left between Cicero and the Lake is Marshall Field, Peoria is coming into its own.

MFS Gomer Bath conducts a column down there, always sprightly, and always as sensible as a daily's traffic will permit. He's the gadfly of the mentally slothful, and as frequently as he thinks he can get away with it, he comes out flatfooted in favor of the gentle art of thinking. As a result, the Society boasts more members in Peoria than in any other city of like size in the world.

AFFS

ALBERT JAY NOCK

Freeman

Rabelaisian

Fortean

TOAST — IN CYANIDE

The Society's ever-ready beaker of poison is heartily extended to the American Legion for the quotation below. Tina Voorhees gleaned it from a pamphlet supporting compulsory military training:

"Respect for authority is the greatest need of young manhood of today."

In other words, the vilest evil that can befall young manhood today or any other day, is—in the Legion's opinion—the best thing that can happen to it. *Respect for authority* is the most paralyzing, subversive, degrading, enslaving, retarding and completely damning bit of mental conditioning that can be imposed upon human beings.

In the name of common-sense, where does the American Legion expect its own beloved Pershings, MacArthurs and Roosevelts to come from if *respect for authority* is enforced?

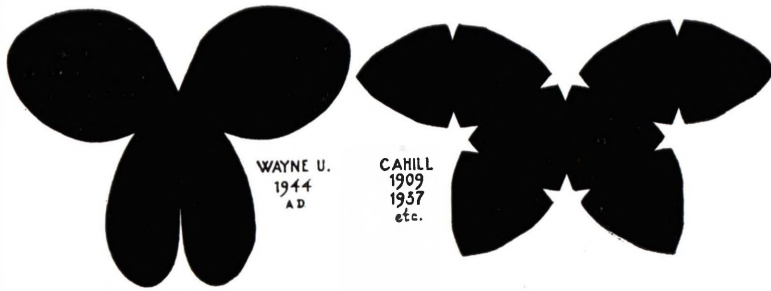
REPUBLICAN TREE

At least one apple tree in Rockport, Indiana, must expect Hoover back. It bore a second crop of fruit in December, acted the N. Y. *Daily News*. *Cr Ford*

SWANN HARDING WRITES

"Years ago a certain scientist "discovered" that bacteria could spread plant disease and another "discovered" that insects, he cited the honeybee specifically, could spread the bacteria and thus spread the disease. All the evidence supported this and it was accepted. Just now I have a letter full of learned citations from another scientist saying not so, and endeavoring to clear the honeybee of indictment, in spite of the fact that recorded history of scientific discovery holds a true bill against the dam bee. At this point I writ him, and this is generally true to my knowledge of every scientific discovery wherever made.

"You are older than I and you should by now be aware that history is the accepted lie. This is as true of scientific as of any other history; the conventional lie holds. Every story of scientific discovery we read represents a conventionally accepted fiction which some misguidedly regard as true for all time but which the more intelligent realize is a fiction accepted for convenience. You may demur and say that lies should never be accepted. But you are old enough to realize that there is nothing else to accept in any field of history, and research discovery as recorded in books, by institutions, and by individuals, is simply history. Each scientific discovery is always disputed but, if it holds its own in controversy, others arise to declare that they made the same discovery weeks, months, or years ago, or else to insist someone else made it half century ago. As I have shown in print, every one of a dozen persons made any discovery you care to mention while any one of a dozen other persons called them liars and thieves and any one of a dozen others in turn called *them* liars and thieves. I once intimately knew two outstanding scientists in a celebrated institution and each one would tell me in confidence that the other was a thief of other men's work, a liar, and had never done anything worth mentioning. Others outside the institution, and some inside, said both lived off the reputations of their subordinates or what they had stolen from obscure bibliographical sources and neither one was anything. Yet in some mysterious way science "progresses"; it can progress only when and because certain patent fictions or lies are universally and conventionally accepted as truth; that temporarily ends controversy in that sector and the synthetic pattern thus created, called scientific truth, does prove useful for many practical purposes. But cessation of controversy usually occurs because the dispute has exhausted the disputants and nobody is left who cares to waste energy calling anyone else a liar. There are no final truths; there are even no final facts. There are simply things that appear to be true under certain rigidly controlled conditions and usually some important condition has escaped control. There are only hypotheses, theories, fictions, and conventional lies. I can always find somebody to pop out of the bushes and yell liar when I say soandso discovered suchandsuch. Because one has to stop somewhere occasionally to rest up, the conventionally accepted fiction has its place in the scheme of things, then the controversy can pass on to 'truths' as yet not accepted."



ON CAHILL'S WINGS

Even as Bernard J. S. Cahill lay dying (10-4-44 old style) and before the ink was dry on our latest article about his Butterfly Projection, another map of the world, shaped like a butterfly, crept from a chrysalis at Wayne University in Detroit. It tried its wings in the *Detroit Free Press*, Sunday, Feb. 25, 1945 old style.

The reproduction in color occupied the center spread of the Graphic section, accompanied by the perfervid and awestruck text of one William J. Coughlin. Mr. Coughlin was impressed by the fact that—at last!—Mercator had been superseded. He did not mention B. J. S. Cahill. It was as if this was the first butterfly ever seen on earth. Credit for this great forward stride of cartography was about evenly divided between Spencer A. Larsen, professor of Business Administration, director of Air Cargo Research at Wayne University, and Dr. Floyd A. Stilgenbauer, associate professor in the Department of Geography.

First to report the amazing resemblance between the two butterflies was M F S Harley C. Waitman, a new member but a good one. He wrote to the principals in the case, as did Your Secretary. All and sundry disclaimed any previous knowledge of the Cahill Projection. One would suppose that the first action of a map-maker who sets up as an innovator would be to inform himself of what has been done in the field.

Dr. Stilgenbauer went so far as to state that "the Cahill map was never published in America", whereas it has been available for school use in two sizes for years, published by probably the largest suppliers of maps to schools in the United States.

It has appeared in Nelson's Loose-leaf Encyclopedia since 1915, and it is prominently and favorably mentioned, and pictured, in David Greenwood's *Down to Earth, Mapping for Everybody*, 1944. Our story ends here, for the time being, because the Society has the highest hopes of persuading Wayne University Press to print acknowledgment to Mr. Cahill on the maps they are selling, and to pay Mr. Cahill's widow royalty on each map sold.

To conserve space, we reproduce only silhouettes of the two butterflies, for the sake of comparison.

Comparison of the details of the two maps must wait upon developments. Mrs. Cahill has put into the Society's hands a

wealth of material from her husband's drafting table and typewriter, reflecting the labors of nearly 40 years. This data opens a vast new field in cartography, revealing Mr. Cahill's grasp and mastery of the needs and practical requirements of map and chart users for every purpose. His own "Butterfly Map" is but a single, "popular" picture selected from a great gallery of technical studies because of its appeal and easy comprehensibility. We do not know the extent of the "gallery" back of the Wayne University map, but it cannot have been a large one if it did not contain any Cahill. The Wayne map in itself, without such a background as the Cahill map has, is but a map "of portraiture", a novelty, subject to the same limitations of usefulness as the Butterfly it so closely resembles. These uses are very general, for school books and atlases, for advertising etc. A pilot could not fly anywhere by either of them; but back of the Cahill map are the details necessary for all navigational purposes, all "rigorously mathematical".

Members who wish to supply themselves with a Cahill Butterfly Map of the World may order through the Society. Wingspread 14¾ inches, 25 cents. Wingspread 19¾ inches, 35 cents.

And if you wish to know how all maps are made—and why they are made that way — order *Down to Earth*, by David Greenwood. You can understand every word of it. \$4.00 from the Society.

MORE JOQUEL II

The same generous hand which sent us the St. George books has sent in another package since. No giants of Stuart X stature were enclosed, but several well worth attention. For instance—

NEW TRUTHS ABOUT COLUMBUS, by Grace A. Fendler, 1934, Santa Monica, California . . . This is a daisy! Trading upon the fact that nobody knows one damned thing about Christopher Columbus, and that anybody who cares to bother can make up a lie as believable as the one told by the Catholics, the author sets out to make the Admiral some sort of Rosicrucian-Freemason, and identical in his person with the so-called "Prince of Wales", Edward, purported son of (the mad) King Henry VI of England and his *virago* wife, Margaret d'Anjou. As befalls, Your Secretary has had occasion to look well into the family of Anjou, and into the myths of Columbus, in fact, he must have looked into both rather more

thoroughly than Grace A. Fendler, for the lady does not mention the possibility that the alleged "Prince of Wales", Edward, was not the offspring of either the King or the Queen, nor does she take cognizance of Maurice David's heavily documented monograph (1933) establishing conclusively (to Mr. David's way of thinking) that Christopher Columbus was a Jew.

Such oversights are common, and we do not disparage the book for that, but not until the author essays to trace a "Columbus Cypher" through the works of Shakspeare (which name she misspells), does her genius truly flower. Herewith a sample paragraph, linking Columbus (Prince Edward, *sic*) with Launcelot in the Merchant of Venice:

"The call of Launcelot, 'Sola Sola Wo Ha Ho Sola Sola' is again the Musical Cipher which by the *repetition* of the syllables proves itself another Cipher Key. Sol is D; La is E; hence with the usual cipher inversion this DE becomes ED. The second Sola proves this ED as not only the key-word but probably relates directly to the corresponding ED of the Cipher Monogram of Columbus. The syllables 'Wo Ha Wo' should now be 'sounded' since they occur in a Musical Cipher, with the result that we get, phonetically, a peculiar resemblance to *Wohaw* or *War*. By adding the final Sola or again Ed, the cipher translates itself into Ed-War-Ed or Edward."

Also in the package was the fourth edition (1912 A D) of Isaac Newton Vail's *the Earth's Annular System*. The copy wants binding, but when that is done it will put into circulation among such members as are interested. Send 20c in stamps with your request, to cover packing and postage.

The Lost Lake, by the same author, a title hitherto unknown to us, comes in the same package. Unfortunately, this well worn pamphlet is imperfect, lacking the first eight pages, so that one is dropped rather coldly on the top of page nine where the first words are "The Iceberg". Before you know it, after that, you learn that Mr. Vail thought the Great Lakes are puddles left by a larger sea, the "Millerian Sea" by name.

Some of Vail's logic in the remaining pages is as sound as the proverbial nut; but what it all amounts to is that the Great Ice Sheet didn't roll those boulders where you find them; they were *floated* there on or in icebergs of that same Millerian Sea. Who can contradict him?

How Planets and Moons Were Made, by Paul G. Lewis, 1915, is a ramification of the theory that Luna was *pulled* out of Earth; but the author founds a "law" upon this phenomenon, a sort of gravitational mating of the spheres, where male conditions encounter female conditions and have satellites for offspring.

FISHED FOR?

The clipping comes from the London Times of May 30, 1944, old style. It states that a ship full of war supplies was "recently" discovered drifting without a crew. This is called a "mystery". Here are two possible solutions.

Solution 1. If it was a German vessel then, probably, it had put to sea with its

ar supplies" with orders to sink them and the ship. The German factory owners who made the supplies had been paid for them. The German citizens had coughed up the dough in war taxes and German bond drives. The German steel in the hull, etc. had been paid for. The workmen in the German shipyards had been employed—day and night, with overtime pay—etc., etc. The sooner that ship and its cargo could be destroyed, the better for German prosperity. So—a submarine went along, and a time-bomb was set in the ship's innards, to give the sub a chance to withdraw with the crew all snug, ready to go back to Germany and repeat ad infinitum . . . But, something went wrong with the time bomb. It did not explode. So, naturally, the crewless derelict drifted until an Allied ship sighted it.

Solution 2. If the vessel was NOT German, but British or American, then, probably a space-ship from Mars captured the crew and took them home for the table—as you might do with a mess of perch.

"No further official information" had been published 1-16-45 old style.

POSTHUMOUS FORTEANS

Mention of Poe and Verne brings up a list we have started but lacked space to print—a list of persons dead who have left unmistakable evidence that they were, at heart, Forteans. Pyrrho and Voltaire have been named before this. Here is the list to date. Members are invited to add to it, and to raise objections to any inclusions they are unwarranted.

The Bacons (Roger and Francis)

Pyrrho

Zoilus

Rabelais

Voltaire

Nietzsche

Franklin

Jefferson

Paine

Ingersoll

Thoreau

Poe

Verne

Twain

Melville

Morris (William)

London (Jack)

Reade (Winwood)

Taylor (Bert Leston)

Carpenter (Edward)

In stating objections, please write "for publication", so that any controversy may be carried on in the columns of DOUBT for the edification of all.

POSTWAR CONSCRIPTION

At the moment of writing, the "issue" which cries most loudly for public attention is the proposal that some sort of military service shall be made compulsory in the U. S., forevermore. By the time you read this, something else will be crying much louder, so it seems a waste of time, rather, to mention it at all.

The clarion call to battle against this enchainment upon personal "liberty" is checked in an imperative key, as if the menace were not only unique but imminent.

From the ivory turret of a Fortean attitude, we discount the need for alarm. In our opinion, not even the uniform manufacturing bloc sincerely desires this thing. The law was defeated before it was drawn—and practically everybody knows it. What millions do not appreciate is that their energies are being stimulated to oppose such a measure for the purpose of keeping them preoccupied so completely that other legislation for our enslavement will remain unrepealed or can be enacted. And—no matter how stringent and drastic these losses would have appeared to us under more nearly normal conditions, they will seem as *nothing*, just nothing at all, compared to what we have so "narrowly escaped" by our "eternal vigilance" in defeating the all-time conscription law.

Even if that reasoning is erroneous, and the law is passed, we take satisfaction from the foreknowledge that no man who matters will obey it.

STEADY, BOYS . . .

The pocket magazine, *Digest and Review* reprints an article "by Stan Baumgartner", condensed from *Everybody's Weekly* and copyright by the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, entitled "Haunted Half Acre". Therein is told the story of John Lister's plot near Gold Hill, Oregon, almost detail for detail, with the leaning house, the diminishing men, the bent plumb line, etc., etc., but the land described by Baumgartner is said to be in California, near Santa Cruz, and the owners and exploiters are named Prather and Strong.

Our good member Albert E. Page will find here another Pagian vortex, but before the more skeptical accept the high jinks as veritable, they will ask for phenomena they have not viewed repeatedly at amusement parks in one or another gaudily painted *House of Illusion!* (Cr Brooks)

The Truth About INDIA

by
Kanhayal Gauba
(continued)

The Maharajas of Indore and Bikaner have each incomes from their States equivalent to the income of the Kings of Denmark, Norway and Bulgaria combined. The King of Spain rules over 190,000 square miles of territory and a population of 27 millions a hundred million budget sterling. King Alfonso's civil list is surpassed by a Prince who rules over only 3,700 square miles and has treasury receipts barely $\frac{3}{4}$ million sterling. Such instances could be multiplied. The ruler of "X", whose affairs are now administered by a Council composed of European and Indian Officers, receives over four lakhs a year or nearly twice the pay of the Viceroy. His territories are only 6,000 square miles, of which a considerable portion is desert. How this Prince spends four lakhs of rupees is a more or less public scandal. This is how a Journal not unfriendly to the Princes refers to the affairs in this State (*Princely India*, 5th April 1929):

"THE PRINCE IS TRYING HIS UTMOST TO GET RID OF THE NEW Council, but the people are strongly in favour of it, because the Council is a great check on the autocratic misrule in the State.

"Ever since Mr. . . . came as Financial and Revenue Member he has been doing everything in the interest of the people of the State. If he has unfortunately failed to check the extravagance of the ruler, it is because of his delicate and difficult position in the State. The ruler is taking a monthly allowance of Rs. 35,000 for his personal expenses which is too big an amount for a State like . . . with an annual income of Rs. ten lakhs. Not being satisfied with this amount of Rs. 35,000 a month the Ruler is raising loans to meet his growing expenditure. He is now sunk in debts to the tune of Rs. 15 lakhs. Whatever money he borrows is squandered on prostitutes. It is a scandal in and outside the State that one of his newly married wives was a well-known dancing girl and the ruler is playing into her hands like a slave. Her brother and other relations are exercising GREAT INFLUENCE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE."

In another State a small principality of only 180 square miles and not sufficiently important to be noted in the *Times of India Year Book*, 1930, more than half the revenue of Rs. 2,19,000, i.e., the sum of Rs. 1,36,000 goes to meet the domestic charges of the Ruler. The maintenance of the royal stables in this enlightened principality costs Rs. 14,000 annually or nearly three times the amount spent on public health. (*Princely India*, 17th February 1923.)

Administration Reports are published by some States but not by a great many, very often there is considerable delay in the publication of these reports—especially if there is some aspect of the budget that is not particularly creditable. When available—not to the public—the reports make interesting reading particularly in regard to the efforts now made to show the income of the Ruler as low as possible. The actual purse may be 10 per cent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent, it may even be more. But over and above there are items like maintenance of the palace which are charged to the Public Works, the palace gardens may be a charge on the Department of Agriculture, electrification of the Capital, which consists mainly of the palace and the Ministers' houses to Municipal funds, new cars may be charged to the Army Department and new dancing girls to contingencies. Many specific instances could be cited in this connection, but two or three will suffice:

"FOR INDOREANS THE YEAR 1926 WAS A PARTICULARLY EVENTFUL one as it saw a change in the occupant of the throne. Tukoji Rao abdicated early that year and his son, Yeshwant Rao, was installed as Maharaja. Whatever difference that fact may have otherwise made, it has not led to a reduction in palace expenditure. This amounted to Rs. 21,28,257 in 1924-25, but rose by nearly two lakhs to Rs. 23,22,924 next year. The ordinary revenue for the year was Rs. 1,28,10,887, so that the proportion of palace expenses to the total revenue works out at about 18 per cent. But the real pro-

portion appears to be still higher when it is remembered that there were some charges which should ultimately have been debited to the palace, but have been shown under other heads. Among such must be included the cost of the Lal Bagh Palace Works which came to nearly six lakhs, but is, strangely enough, shown under P.W.D. repairs to other residences of the Maharaja, which altogether cost a little over Rs. 6,000 are also similarly debited to the P.W.D. instead of being included among palace expenses. The expenditure on shikar which came to nearly Rs. 12,000 is likewise shown under "Forests." If all these expenses are added up, it will be found that palace expenses do not constitute only 18, but more than 22 per cent of the total revenue of the State. It does not need much argument to make out that the palace swallows a disproportionate share of the State revenue, which naturally results in the starvation of such nation building departments as education and sanitation." (Servant of India, 14-6-27).

The Butler Committee was hoodwinked into saying that 56 princes have fixed a privy purse, but the percentages of the purse are not mentioned nor does it apparently matter very much to the Butler or Simon Committees, so long as the Princes can say that they have fixed their privy purses. But if their administration reports are carefully read, it is quite clear that the privy purse merely signifies the pocket expenses of a Ruler. Mr. Chudgar, in his *Indian Princes under British Protection* (p. 147), cites for example the case of the Maharaja of Bikaner, who is "the loudest in swearing that he has fixed his privy purse to ten per cent of his revenues." Says Mr. Chudgar:

"THE MAHARAJA OF BIKANER, THE LOUDEST IN SWEARING THAT he has fixed his privy purse to ten per cent of his revenues, debits all his residential palace expenditures on repairs, etc. to civil works. In the Bikaner Administration Report for 1926-1927 there are forty-seven items of such repairs, and only four items of real civil works of public utility costing only five per cent of the total amount shown against civil works which is about £40,000. In the Administration Report of Jamnagar for the year 1925-26 the item of Civil list is stated as Rs. 480,000 or roughly £40,000, and all other personal expenses enumerated under the head of palace expenses amount to £125,000, together £165,000, which comes to 20 per cent of the total revenue. In addition to this there is an item of £200,000, all spent on motor-cars, palaces, etc. which are separate from palace expenses, and the total comes to £375,000 or almost 50 per cent of the revenues. In the year 1926-27 the figures of expenses on these items are still more staggering: £600,000 of which £200,000 are mentioned AS UNFORESEEN."

In another state, the name is immaterial, a budget was framed for the first time a few years ago. Previously a budget could not be drawn because the Maharaja considered it derogatory to curtail his private expenditure. Eventually he was persuaded to come into line with some others of his brother Princes and to frame a budget for the ensuing year. The budget dealt with a revenue of over a crore of rupees. When drawn, it was claimed to be a model budget of a model state ruled by a model Ruler. Summed up, the budget was as follows:

"THE TOTAL INCOME OF THE STATE IS ABOUT Rs. 125 LAKHS. Out of this 50 lakhs are appropriated under head 'Pay'. This includes 20 lakhs for the military department. 15 lakhs go to meet contingencies of which 10 lakhs are reserved for Huzuri (Maharaja's) contingencies. Travelling allowances and pensions account for 5 lakhs and the balance of 55 lakhs belongs to the Maharaja's privy purse. Thus the civil administration of the State costs only Rs. 40 lakhs including contingencies, travelling allowances and pensions, of which Education gets 2 lakhs while the palace claims Rs. 65 lakhs including the Rs. 10 lakhs of Huzuri contingencies. It would interest students of public finance to note that in this State, out of a total revenue of 125 lakhs, 65 lakhs are swallowed by the ruler, 40 lakhs are spent on the civil administration and 20 lakhs on the military. Even more interesting it would be to note that ONLY TWO LAKHS ARE GIVEN TO EDUCATION."

The marriages of the Princes are charged to the State revenues. Ten days touring of a certain member of the Chamber of Princes costs the State Rs. 54,000. The marriage of this Ruler (not the first) appears in one of his Administration Reports at a lakh of rupees. Apart from the amount paid to him as "Privy purse" there is separately shown the sum of over a lakh of rupees paid to his wives—"Their Highnesses".

Generally each Prince has a pet object on which he lavishes the money and the reserves of his State. Some can never have enough palaces, others can never have enough women, still others can never have enough cars, a few only are without the vices so common among the rich. The finest architects are imported to design the royal residences and no money is too much to provide the luxury and the comfort that is required. Highly organised systems of seduction extending sometimes to neighbouring States, sometimes into British India and occasionally even as far as the capitals of Europe provide the variety and choice in women-kind. The makers of aristocrats in cars will tell you that their best customers are the Rajas, Maharajas and Nawabs of India.

8

Having seen how much of the State revenue the average Prince helps himself to, it is equally interesting to see how the money is raised. It must be remembered that with the exception of a very few states, the ruling chief regards himself not merely as the head of the body politic but on the contrary he identifies himself, i.e., his own person with the State. The Ruler's welfare is the welfare of the State, the Ruler's rights are the rights of the State, he is in short the State itself. India was recently scandalized when the Viceroy promulgated half a dozen ordinances to meet the exigencies of the Civil Disobedience Movement. And yet in some hundred odd States there is no rule of law, the destinies of the States depend on the whims, the idiosyncracies, the fads and passions of their rulers. Laws, euphemistically described as "acts" are promulgated, taxes are levied, estates are forfeited, liberty violated and honour disgraced, the full details of which have never been chronicled and perhaps will never be fully chronicled. It would astonish

the world that such things can happen and do happen in the 20th Century and under the nose, the eyes and the ears of Simla. The Treaty of Versailles carved up the Austrian and Turkish Empires for corruption and tyrannies and oppression that appear mild compared to the iniquities current in several States today. There is a fair sprinkling of post-prandial sympathy with their people, but the general attitude among the Princes is summed up in the words of a Prince, more honest than others of his Order, citing Louis XIV as precedent *L'etat C'est Moi* or "I am the State" (vide *Presidential address Indian States People Conference*, 17th December 1921).

Several states do not publish Administration Reports which are available to the public. Those that do, are carefully coloured and varnished. Accurate and complete statistics are therefore not available. It is therefore difficult to say what the wealth per head of the population can be but "it can not be more than that in British India, which according to most liberal estimates does not exceed £3/10/—" (*Indian Princes under British Protection*, p. 236). The probability is that it is considerably lower. Even assuming this as correct and the other figures for British India as applicable to the States, the error, if any, would nevertheless be on the right side, we may assume that the income per head is about Rs. 80/—. In sterling at the current rate taxation on the basis of 8 per cent works out at nine shillings per head (*Indian Statuary Commission, Volume II*, p. 207). This is the figure for British India. Mr. Chudgar has fully analyzed the taxation per head in various State. Excepting three States, Mysore, Travancore and Kashmir, where other large sources of revenue are available, taxation in the States appears on the whole to be higher than that in British India. In Baroda, taxation per head is 15 shillings, in Indore 18 shillings, in Alwar 15 shillings, in Nawanganar and Cutch £1-10/—, in Bhavnagar £1/—, and in Bhopal 17 shillings. The figures in several other States vary between 15 shillings and 18 shillings. The taxation in Indian States may therefore safely be assumed to be between fifty to hundred per cent higher than taxation in British India.

9

It is generally agreed that the amounts spent by the present administration of British India on Education and Sanitation are considerably lower than the revenue or taxation merit. As Mr. Layton, Financial Assessor to the Indian Statuary Commission (Vol. II, p. 208), admits, "There can be little doubt that in conditions such as those now obtaining in India it should be possible to stimulate production and to increase the welfare of the people by public expenditure designed to give greater economic security, better physical, well being and education." The pretext of the Government in India for the inadequate progress of the public welfare departments is the low percentage of taxation compared to other countries and the necessities of the Army, and the efficiency of the Services. How far this explanation is justified, on facts, is beyond the purview of this book. The States whose scale of taxation are obviously higher than the scale of taxation in British India, have military and Service requirements proportionately very

such lower than those of British India. The military establishment of the Baroda State, which is considerably high, is 14 per cent of the revenues. The Government of India's contribution to the general defence is about 55 per cent of the central revenues. But in spite of the fact that taxation is higher, and requirements of individual military establishments much lower, the States generally spend less on the welfare departments than the British Government.

The average expenditure per head in British India on Education is 9d. and on Sanitation and Public Health 5d. The average taxation per head, as already mentioned, is 9 shillings. The Bikaner State spends 5d. per head on Education and 4d. on Public Health and Sanitation, while taxation amounts to £1/2/- per head. The Indore State spends 7d. on Education and 2d. on Public Health, while taxation is 18 shillings per head. The Nawanagar State subjects are taxed to the tune of £1/10/- per head, or three times as much as they would have to pay under British Rule, while they receive on Education 6d. and in Public Health 3d. Cutch is apparently worse. While taxation is £1/10/- per head, the Public Welfare Departments get 3d. between them. The Maharaja of Alwar whose "glory it is to serve in and out of India," serves his people by spending the magnificent sum of 1d. per head on their general health and 3d. on their Education. A modern Ruler, referred to earlier in chapter, spends two lacs a year on the education of his subjects from a revenue of over a crore of rupees. In another State, the amounts paid to the Ruler's subjects were nearly three times the amounts spent on Public Health and Sanitation. The amount spent on Education in the latter State was only twice as much as the amount spent on the maintenance of the royal cars and stables. Such instances could be multiplied. In yet another States the royal stables cost twice as much as the Public Health (vide *Princely India*, 17th February 1923). The following figures for one of the Rajputana principalities (1921-24) speak for themselves:

Year	Revenue	Education	Medical	Garage
1921-22	1,20,31,738	1,76,427	1,80,785	1,41,350
1922-23	1,25,03,506	2,13,825	1,79,039	3,12,530
1923-24	1,72,77,498	2,84,492	1,96,077	3,25,398

What more need be said? It may be asked why the States do not spend more on the welfare of their subjects? The question should be addressed to the Chamber of Princes, it may be addressed to the Government of India. The Government of India will reply they cannot interfere. The Chamber will not be concerned for such matters refer to the internal sovereignty of its august members. *L'Etat c'est Moi* or "I am the State". The State does not spend half the revenues on itself—why complain?

10

His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanganar, not long ago, informed Lord Irwin in post-banquet enthusiasm "we have tried to move with the times: we have established an Advisory Council." Several Princes tell you that they are equally progressive. Great pains were taken to acquaint the Butler Committee of the progressive character of

their administrations—but apparently without much success. It is certainly not our intention to disparage the attempts of those Princes who are making a genuine and serious effort to secure the co-operation of their subjects in the administration. But it must be admitted, however, that such Princes are few and far between.

The Butler Committee refers to these Assemblies in paragraph fifteen of their Report "Of 108 Princes in Class One, 30 have established Legislative Councils, most of which are at present of a consultative nature only." Please to note the language of high diplomacy "most of which are at present of a consultative nature only." The Address of the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Rajputana State Peoples Conference held at Pushkar not many years ago threw some interesting light on the constitution of one of these Assemblies:

"THE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION IN ALL THE 21 STATES OF Rajputana is hereditary despotism. With the exception of Bikaner, no State has a Legislative Council. The Bikaner Legislative Assembly, which consists of 45 members, has only 18 elected members, the rest being nominated and officials. Even the elected members are returned not by a direct vote of the people, but by the Municipalities which are officially ridden bodies. The Assembly resolutions are of a purely advisory character, the power to vote them rests with the executive and legislation can also be enacted without reference to the Assembly. In all other States THERE is not even a semblance of legislation by popular consent."

The Young Rajasthan not long ago filled in some of the gaps in our knowledge as to the working of some of these reformed "Constitutions" brought into being to impress Lord Irwin and a credulous British public that the Princes are, "moving with the time":

"THE MOST IMPORTANT INSTITUTION OF THE STATE IS THE Executive Council. But unfortunately members of this Council are neither subordinate nor respon-

sible to the Legislature. They are in no way representative of the subjects. They are directly appointed by the Maharaja himself, and hold office at his sweet will. The Legislature has no authority to question the legality of an act of the Executive Council nor of the Municipal Committees at least in the mofussil, are nominated by the Government and that Tahsildar or Nazim presides over their deliberations. In this way the overwhelming majority of elected members are in fact nominated. The result is that there is absolutely no popular representation in the Assembly. These fictitiously elected persons cannot possibly be expected to have any sympathy with the general public of their respective Tahsils or constituencies; far less are they capable of doing justice to the MULTIFARIOUS AND ONEROUS FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY."

(To be continued)

ANOTHER SKY-LIGHT

"What did I see Tuesday night?" (4-17-15 P.S) James L. Hendry, Jeffersontown, Ky., asks the ed of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*.

In the Eastern sky, over Fisherville, at 11:00 p.m., "the most beautiful light I have ever seen"—size of a large canteloupe, glowed and receded in brilliance "like a heart throb", coming straight toward the Hendry house. "It cast a light downward, like a lamp shade over the earth. . . . After about ten minutes it went out like a snuffed candle." Mrs. Hendry saw it too, and "one man in Jeffersontown" who "thinks it was a meteor". Cr Staehlin.

HENRY MILLER JOINS

That sometime writer, sometime watercolorist, Henry Miller, who lives in Beverly Glenn and advertises, "Ladies always treated with respect," at his exhibitions, has embraced Forteanism. To properly welcome him, and to make the acquaintance of an individualist of the old order, members are urged to buy his book—"Plight of the Creative Artist in the U.S.A." from the Society, \$1.50.

If you like water colors, send money (any amount) to Henry Miller, Big Sur, California. He will send you a "picture". The Fortean Society assumes no responsibility for what happens after that.

VERBATIM

"The moon sometimes rises at absolutely the same time for a great number of evenings in succession in Norway and Sweden." *Seattle Star*, 3-19-44 old style. Cr Hoerlein.

HEARST HAS HEART

The N. Y. *Journal-American* printed an anti-vivisection editorial in its issue of Sept. 15, 1944 old style, aimed specifically toward stopping the Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., from erecting "one of the largest (vivisection laboratories) in existence". The argument therein is that "experiments upon animals prove little or nothing". The writer of the editorial should realize that his point is not pertinent. If he wants to stop vivisection, what he has to prove is that there's no money in it. But there IS. There's bigger boodle in vivisection than in Parapsychology any day.

The further weakness in the editor's argument is the implication that if mankind were benefited thereby, he would condone it. On the other hand we have Mark Twain: ". . . I am not interested to know whether vivisection produces results that are profitable to the human race or doesn't. To know that the results are profitable to the race would not remove my hostility to it. The pain which it inflicts upon unconsenting animals is the basis of my enmity toward it, and it is to me sufficient justification of the enmity without looking further."

PAGE NELLY BLYE

Remember the good old days when newspapers were guardians of public weal?—especially if their publishers' politics differed from the current party in power? Nelly Blye, a sob-sister of that school, got herself put in a nut-house, on assignment, to see at first hand if the charges of brutality, filthiness, graft, etc., etc., were true. Whether or not the officials knew she was there for that purpose, we can only guess. However, she

did write the story for her rag, and it did some good, if only temporarily.

We don't hear such charges against institutions of that kind very frequently any more, and that silence lulls most of us (especially the crusaderless dailies) into a sense of security. Our asylums are all manned by completely reformed characters. There's no more of that strong-arm stuff. No—since the invention of the sulfa family nothing else is needed. Whenever an inmate disturbs the tranquil life of the place with a seizure of any kind—from belly-ache to maniacal raving—SULFA . . . and *boom!*—he's quiet for a good while if not forever.

Had you heard, however, that the *Army* has discontinued the use of this epoch-maker entirely?

EPOCH-MAKER

Time made a considerable fuss, 1-22-45 old style, over the discovery by Dr. Orestes H. Caldwell that the snowflakes around his house were "electrified". Any day now the Curator of lions at the Bronx Zoo will shatter the firmament by announcing that cats purr. *Cr Hand.*

MOUNTAIN SINKING

Erapuca, in the Copal Zone of Honduras, sinking "at an alarming rate". More than 650 acres of cornfields on the mountainside have disappeared. *Detroit News*, 7-27-44 old style. *Cr Stetter.*

HAPPY STATISTIC

A sneaking notion that more "errors" have been made in the past four years by official Washington, mistakenly informing families of military casualties, only to correct themselves later, than in any other forty years in history, leads to the suggestion that someone compile the data on this subject. It should be a joyous job since error was, in most cases, never so welcome—and highly illuminating.

MIRACLE MAN?

Attention is called to F. Matthias Alexander, of whom many have heard. He has a "new way of life" which comes endorsed by a long list of persons who usually think for themselves. Fifty million Frenchmen are more likely to be wrong than

- George Bernard Shaw
- Aldous Huxley
- John Dewey
- James Harvey Robinson
- Sir Stafford Cripps
- George E. Coghill
- Robert Donat

AND

Michael March —

simultaneously and on the same subject. Accordingly, we esteem the following books worth looking into, if your old way of life does not suit you. Your Secretary has not read the books, simply because he doesn't think he needs them. They are—

- The Use of the Self.....\$2.00
- The Universal Constant in Living.....\$2.50
- Constructive Conscious Control of the Individual.....\$3.00
- Man's Supreme Inheritance.....\$2.50

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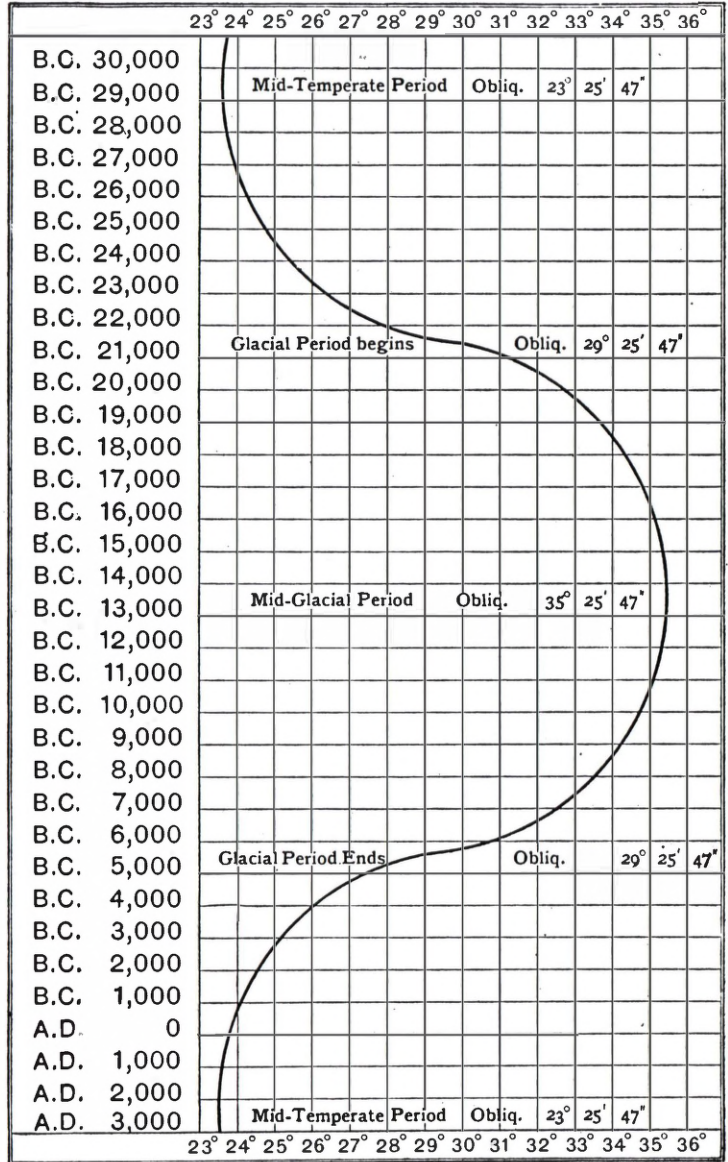


Fig. 4

From the book "Draysonia" published by Longman's Green and Co.

□ **GLACIAL PERIOD and DRAYSON'S HYPOTHESIS**, by John Millis. Reprinted by permission from *Popular Astronomy*. The most clear and comprehensive presentation of the Drayson Problem. Written from the standpoint of the engineer and geologist, groups which have been much fairer to Drayson than his fellow astronomers — since his theory does not revolutionize their sciences as it does astronomy . . . Published for the Society. 16 pp., diags., wrapps.\$1.00

MORE *NOTES* of CHARLES FORT

1835

Box 1 (Continued)

- June 19 5:30 p.m. Waterspout. New Brunswick. A. J. Sci. 36-115.
19 4 p.m. / Tornado / Finley's Report.
19 5:12 p.m. / New Brunswick, N. J. / Tornado / reverse) Tornado and waterspout. Finley's Report.
- July 16 Mercury inferior conjunction with sun (A-1).
17 Milan and Wirtenberg. 8:30 p.m. S.E. to N.W. detonating meteor (reverse) exploded over Wirtenberg. Seen at Stuttgart and other places / no stones mentioned. BA '60.
18 Aarhus Berlin fireball BA '60.
20 Russia. Light quake.
30 2:30 p.m. / Dickson Co. Tenn / Loud detonations. Iron found or Aug 1 later. BA 60-75.
or Aug 1 Met Iron / Charlotte, Dickson or Aug 1 Co. Tenn. (on other notes—"F") Fletcher's Intro to (2 indecipherable words T.T.).
- Aug 3 Chichester / bet 11-12 a.m. / 2 shocks / L.T. Aug 11, 1835.
4 Great concussion air S. Herefordshire / stone of Aldsworth probably from. Rept. BA 1860-75. See July 4 '34.
4 4:30 p.m. South Herefordshire, Tretire, explosive sound thought meteoric. BA 52-184 (reverse) Also at Malvern. The Analyst 1835-175.
4 About ½ mile from where the meteor fell, there was a shower of small pieces (reverse) Children thought it a shower of black beetles and held out hands to catch the supposed insects. Was 4:30 p.m. BA 57-140.
4 Gloucester / "an extraordinary concussion of the air felt and heard." about 3:30 a.m. (reverse) Like a report of Navy Ordnance. L. T. 24—p. 3.
4 Sound. About 4:30 p.m. S. Herefordshire. "Most extraordinary concussion in the air". BA 152/184
4 Aldsworth near Cirencester meteorite (F) Nature 94-258. (reverse) C. R. 125-896.
7 etc. L. T. Index. Halley's Comet.
19 Quake and sea waves, Japan, Heavy quake.
20 Quake, Lancashire. See March 10, 1843.
20 Quake, Manchester. M. Post Oct 9, '63.
20 Quake Clitheroe etc., Lancashire.
- about 3:30 a.m. L. T. 24, p. 3
Volc. eruption Mt. Arlscheh in Cappadocia. BA '54 (reverse) Gent's Mag. gives date Aug 25.
23 Asia Minor. Heavy quake.
25 5 p.m. Mount Kassarich, near Odessa, thick smoke and flames from mt. and quakes till Sept. 1. (reverse) Quakes in Oct. An. Reg. '35-143.
30 Quake. Dept. Drome, France / B. A. 256/1854. See Sept 14, 1836.
- Sep 3 Hurricane, Barbadoes. L. T. 23, p. 2.
6 Gelat. / Germany, Gotha / D-49.
13 Maudit said he saw whirlwind take up at Caux, all the water and living fishes in a "mare". (reverse) Cosmos 3/4/697.
14 Quakes. France. BA '54.
20 Near Bristol. Army in sky. Cosmos N.S. 13/264
- Oct 2 L. T. p. 3, etc. Halley's Comet.
6 L. T. p. 1, etc. Halley's Comet visible. See Aug. Index.
- Box A (Resumed)**
12 About 6 p.m. At Lambeth a large square of plate glass in a draper's shop Westminster Road (reverse) three bullet holes in glass. Not said bullets found but attributed to an air-gun. See Oct. 31.
Box 1 (Resumed)
12-13 It.? Flashes, quake and whirlwind. See 1805.
12 Great quake. Calabria. BA '54.
14 Intense darkness. Quebec. Niles Nat. Reg. 57-192.
23 7 p.m. 11 p.m. fireballs over Greenfield, Mass., exploding quake effects. Niles Weekly Register Nov. 15.
24 Pau (Fr.) Sounds of quake. BA 54/258 See Nov.
27 About 4 a.m. St. Bertrand de Comminges sharp shock and rumbling sound. Another an hour later.
27 About 4 a.m. Very severe quake in Haute-Garonne and rolling sound (reverse) See Jour des Deb. Nov. 5. Moniteur Nov 6.
27 About 4 a.m. Quake and phenomena. Quake in Haute-Pyrenees the Cirque de Troumouse in the mountain enveloped in a burning sulphurous column. CR 1-469.
28 3:45 near Bareges and 4:30—Shocks and sounds like thunder. BA '54.
29 About 4 a.m. Quake and meteors. St. Gall, Appenzell, etc. Switzerland and (reverse) Bale, 3:47 a.m. shocks, sound like report of a cannon. Meteors BA '54.
- 29 3:47 a.m. at Bale—4 a.m. other parts of Switzerland violent shocks —(reverse) dull sound like distant cannon. "Luminous meteors were observed". BA '54.
- Box A (Resumed)**
Oct 31 Glass breaking. Home of Mr. Archbold, barrister, 4 Lunden-grove, Kensington Gravel pits—a large conservatory in his garden—crash and part of the glass roof fell (reverse) day after day glass fell. Poice could find out nothing. Mr. A. suspected some one but nothing found out. No missiles mentioned. Glass broke while constables on watch. See Oct 12.
- Box 1 (Resumed)**
Nov 1 Attrib. this to terrestrial volc.—but none in Ky. etc.
1 Quake—dry fog. Moluccas / for three weeks had been preceded by a heavy sulphurous fog (reverse). There was a volc eruption in the island of Banda. BA '54.
7 Trans. Merc.
11 Quake — Concepcion, Chile. 2 volcs 400 miles away were in violent action. BA '11.
12-13 N. Y. Evening. Few meteors but flashes like lightning and aurora. 2 a.m. began meteors from Leo. (reverse) Niles Weekly Register Nov 19, 1836.
Nov 13 Meteor set fire to barn / Aiss, France. Rept. BA 165-128
13-14 Great falling meteors seen in N. J., and by Sir John Herschel at Cape of Good Hope (reverse) Ac. to M. Arago Mag. Pop Sci. 3/62.
13 Simonod (Ain) France. Oldham's Cat. of Meteorites.
13 9 p.m. Belley (Ain) Brilliant meteor seen and loud detonations heard. At the same time fire broke out on roof of a (reverse) farm house and attributed to the meteor. C. R. 1-414. Two strange stones found and thought been meteoric had black crust. (2-66).
13 Near Belley (De L'Ain) Fr. Loud detonations. Meteor said to have set fire to a (reverse) barn. A stone was found—resembled obsidian but no nickel in it; so not meteoric. (BA 60-75).
13 This meteorite in the Museum of the Geological Survey, Calcutta ac. to Oldham.
13 Near Belley Fr. (Ain) loud de-

- tonations. Stone resembling obsidian was found "but no nickel and is not meteoric". BA 60-75.
- 13 9 p.m. Belley (Ain) Fr. Detonating meteor. 2 stones thought might have fallen were found. C. R. 1/414 2/66 (reverse) and set fire a "grange".
- End of Nov Pau (Basses, Pyrenees) Fr. Quake and loud explosive sounds. See Oct 24. BA '54.
- Nov or Dec Snails / Montpellier.
- Nov 16 Comet passed perihelion. Newcomb, "Astronomy for Everybody", p 262, tells only of successful predictions. "So exact was their work that all of them hit the time (reverse) within five days. Professor assigned November eleventh as the date of return and Pontecondant predicted it for November thirteenth". (Ver.)
- 17 Perihelion passage of Halley's comet. Pontecondant and Rosenberger had (reverse) calculated it to be on 14th. W. T. Lynn, in N - Q, 10-1-152.
- 17 Aurora Njima. C. R. 1/499.
- 18 Saturn } Conjunctions with
19 Mercury } the moon
20 Mars } Solar eclipsed on 20th.
21 Venus } Observatory 25/58
- End-of-Nov Basses, Pyrenees shocks, loud explosions rather severely cold weather turned (reverse) and a hot suffocating south wind blew. BA '54.
- Nov 18 Morning. Red glare in northern sky. Dome of St. Paul's brilliantly illuminated (reverse) Engines of the Fire establishment called out repeatedly. L. T. Nov. 19.
- Last of Nov At Pau (Basses, Pyrenees) either shocks or sounds (reverse) at time of a sudden hot suffocating south wind. BA '54.
- Dec 11 A — Canada, Kingston, etc. A. J. S. 30/131.
- Dec A Dets. Am J. Sci. 32/217.
- Dec 12-13 About midnight. Berlin and Magdeburg large meteors. BA '60.
- 22 Moon / Light like a star in Aristarchus / Proctor (.....?) Marvels / 329.
- 1836
- Jan 3 Very violent quake in Philippines. Several volcanoes were active. BA '54.
- 12 Javis Philippines Light quake. 6:30 p.m. / Large meteor at Cherbourg. Detonations heard at Coutances. BA '60.
- 12 Cherbourg, France. Detonating wheel-like meteor. See Feb. 12 (D-262).
- 24 India. Chandernagore, Sook-Saguir, also Kabul. Light quake. BA '11.
- 28 9 p.m. See May 19, 1806. Vessel at 0° 40' S and 22° 30' W. Violent shock to a vessel.
- 31 Stone fell near two men who had been shooting. Near Correze, France. Phipson Meteors p. 47 (reverse) CR 58/226.
- 31 Mascomes, France. Stone and two detonations. BA 67/416.
- 31 1 p.m. Meteorite. Mascombes. Particulars "preceded by detonations". La Sci Pour Tous 9-93.
- Feb 8 7 a.m. Italy. Rivoli, Piedmont. Detonating meteor. BA '60.
- 9 5 p.m. Hungary. Quake and sounds and atmospheric disturbances. BA '54.
- 12 6:27 a.m. Cherbourg. Detonating meteor and strong sulphurous odor. CR 2-154.
- 13 According to Smithsonian in Western crater of Messis where there are two remarkable straight lines of light (reverse) dark band between them covered with luminous points. Sci. Am. Sup. 7/2696
- 23-26 Shocks. Parma, Italy. BA '54.
- 24 Great quake. Italy, Rossano and Croscia, Calabria in ruins. Rise and fall of sea. A meteor seen. Ponton Earthquakes. p. 108.
- April Easter Monday. 8 o'clock. Shropshire. Like an explosion. L. T. April 14, p. 5.
- April 2 Pribylott Islands, Alaska. Destructive quake. BA 1911-42.
- 22 Sulphur. Prussia. Phipson Earth's Atmosphere. p. 42.
- 22 Aurora at sea. C. R. 111/519
- 24 (cut) Italy. Calabria. "A terribly destructive earthquake". In the sky were phenomena that looked like "great beams on fire". BA 54/259.
- 24 Cosenza, Italy. Heavy quake.
- 24-25 Calabria, Italy. Phenomena and quake. See 1805.
- 24 Night. At moment of great quake in Calabria, a meteor (reverse) appeared along the shore of Calopezzali. C. R. 17-621.
- 24 Calabria and Naples. Shock and meteor. The next day Vesuvius (reverse) sent out thick smoke. BA '54.
- 24 Rossano, Calabria. Large fireballs "like a wooden beam on fire". BA '60.
- April Great dry fog in South Australia. Chem. News. 88-43. (reverse) "the phenomena excited a great deal of apprehension in the minds of the settlers".
- 24 Rassano, etc. (Cosenza) Italy. Great quake. '11.
- May 3-4 Calabria, Italy. Light quake.
- 8 Toronto. A (?severe quake?TT) A. J. S. 32/393
- May 10 Pollen in valley of the Aspe. (Basso-Pyrenees) C. R. 2-516
- 13 5 a.m. France. Angers, Nantes, etc., west of. Sounds and quake. BA '54
- 15 Konigsberg. Lights on moon during eclipse of sun. Loomis Treatise on Astronomy p. 174.
- 15 According to Poey. CR 56/88. Havana. Luminous things moved away from sun at considerable distance then retracing others moved with no commonness of direction. Some size of 7th mag. star, others scarcely detectable.
- 15 Augs. Havana. Eclipse of sun. CR 56/88 D-210.
- June 3 Red Hook, N. Y. Tornado. Finley's Report.
- 10 Sury (Loire). Fireball. Stone BA '60.
- 12 Venetia, Italy. Medium quake.
- 23 London Times, p. 6. Sun spots.
- 28 8-9 a.m. Heavy fall of snow in Sydney. N.S.W. (reverse) unprecedented. Symons' 12-170.
- July 8 New England. Dark Day. Sc. Am. 112-229.
- 8 Basilicata, Italy. Light quake.
- 15 Evening. Providence, Rhode Island. Sound like thunder and quake. Niles Reg. July 30, 1836.
- Box A (Resumed)**
- July 20 London Times, p. 5. Extraordinary occurrence.
- 20 L. T. p. 6. Strange discovery.
- Box 1 (Resumed)**
- 25 Inferior conjunction of Venus.
- (?) 28 Norwich, Conn. Sky like a mosaic of stones in tar. See under Obs.
- August A (?severe quake?TT) detonations. Am. J. Sci. 32/220
- 8 Smyrna. Midnight. Quakes. Successional. At 10 p.m. a meteor had been seen. BA '54.
- 9 Pribylott Islands, Alaska. Great quake.
- August Perseids. Am. J. Sci. 37-335
- 11 Aurora. BA 1836/32
- 15 Albi, France. Frogs. C. R. 3/435
- 20 Illinois. 4 p.m. Large detonating meteor. In sunshine BA '60.
- 20 Meteors in Illinois in daylight. A. J. Sci. 33/402 BA '60-76.
- 30 Cayaca. Quake. See June 5, 1897. BA '11.
- Box A (Resumed)**
- Scp 7 Spontaneous combustion in Paris. London Times, April 10, 1837 p. 3.
- Box 1 (Resumed)**
- 16 Aubres, Drome, France. Meteorite. See Aug 30, '35.
- 18 Florence. 10 a.m. Fireball "A doubtful substance found"? BA '60.
- 24 Near Macclesfield, England. Swarm of minute insects set upon 50 sq miles. Analyst 5/234.
- 25 Red glare in sky. London firemen out. Mechanics Mag 26/335. (reverse) This in Annual Report upon London Fires.
- Oct 11 Volcano. Goentoer, Java, N.M. C.R. 70-878.
- 18 Breslau. Large fireball. BA '60. Great aurora or sky glow and 2 Vules or sun spots. See Feb 1837. (reverse) CR 3/585.
- 18 "Fire in sky" alarm and hundreds of firemen and soldiers in many cities in ((reverse) England, France and Germany. Mechanics Mag 26/355.
- 18 Cherbourg. Aurora. CR 3/518-536-585.
- October A (?severe quake?TT) France 34/288. A. J. Sci.
- 18 About 8 p.m. London. Great glare in sky, fire engines called out. L. T. Oct. 20, p. 3. (re-

- verse) At Strasbourg, Rennes, etc. about 8:30. Times, 24th. Two streams of fire rose in opposite directions.
- About last of Oct Paisley, Kirkpatrick, Erkine, Inchinan. About 10:50 p.m. L. T. Oct 31, p. 6.
- Nov 1 London Times, p. 2. Quake. Rancliffe Bridge (not found)
- 1 Vulc. 2 black bodies diff. sized by Pastorff. C. R. 49/811.
- Autumn Many auroras. Shetlands. C. R. 3/781
- November Jour. of Asiatic Soc of Bengal of Nov. See May 19, 1806. Vessel at $1^{\circ} 35' S$ and $20^{\circ} 45' W$ of (reverse) Greenwich ($23^{\circ} SW$ of Paris) heard loud sound and felt shock. In a succeeding voyage met at $0^{\circ} 35' S$ and $15^{\circ} 50' W$ of Greenwich sea violently agitated and volcanic cinders and ashes floating.
- 11 See Dec. 11. Macao, Brazil (F)
- 12 Leonids. According to Almstead. A. J. Sci. 31-388.
- 12-13 Near Tours meteors like a rain of fire reported. Near Culloy in the valley of the Rhone seen through a fog so rapidly people thought auroral flashes (reverse) or lightning. Athenaeum 1837-12.
- 12-13 In Northern Russia unusual no. of meteors (lat. 60) town of Bogouslowsk (reverse) C. R. 4-524. Between 3 & 4 a.m. of 13th from Leo.
- 20 Italy. Quake and red light. See 1805.
- 20 Italy. Salerno and Basilicata. Medium quake. BA '11.
- 22 Silesia. "atmospheric explosion" BA '60.
- Dec 3 etc. 2 p.m. began eruption in Guadaloupe. C. R. 4-294.
- 11 Parma. From 7:45 p.m. till midnight about 50 meteors — stars first mag. 12 — Jupiter (reverse) then about 15 smaller ones till daybreak. Most from E to W. L. T. 1837 Jan 4, p. 6.
- December Eruption. Guadaloupe. See Feb Athenaeum 1837-444.
- 11 At Parma from 7:45 to midnight no less than 50 meteors equal in brilliance stars of 1st mag. 12 of them as bright as Jupiter. From midnight till 6:30 (reverse) Great number of smaller ones, 15 size of stars of second mag. Most of them from E to W. See Dec 11, 1833. L. T. 1837, Jan 4, p. 6.
- 11 Macao, Brazil. Fall great number of stones. C. R. 5-211. See Nov. 11.
- 1837**
- Jan 1 Palestine. Quake. Congregational Magazine 20-405.
- 1 Syria. Great quake. BA '11. Vesoul and Toulouse, 1:15 a.m. loud detonating meteor. BA '60.
- Jan 1 4:35 p.m. Beyrout, Syria. Quake. The atmosphere was hot and (reverse) charged with electricity. 39 villages destroyed. Arc. Sci. 1838-254.
- 1 Great quake town of Saffet. 4 or 5000 killed L. T. Apr. 12
- 1 Sever shock. Beyrout. 14 houses thrown down (reverse) L. T. Feb 7, p. 5.
- 5 1 a.m. Near Vichy, etc., Meteor size of moon followed by several luminous points — one minute. C. R. 4-94.
- 5 1:15 a.m. Toulouse, etc. detonating meteor. Germany too. BA '60-76.
- 15 Mikolawa, Hungary. 5 p.m. Stone fell according to Poggendorf. BA '60.
- 26 Bet 1 and 2 a.m. Chalons-sur-Seine and at Bourg (Ain) aurora very brilliant supposed from a fire. Night 25-26 aurora at Geneva maximum at 12:45 (over) L. T. Feb 7, p. 6. L. T. Feb 8, p. 6.
- 29 Vizille, Isere. Violent explosive sound followed by quake. BA '54.
- Feb 5 Op Mars. Al.
- 6 Eruption. Guadaloupe. Athenaeum 1837-444. See Dec.
- 13-14 Red dust fall about 600 miles west of Cape Verde (reverse) Nautical Magazine 1-291.
- 15 Over the Comrie region fell a black powder. Edin. Phil Jour. 31-293.
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 15 Phantom. In Times of 25th, copying from the Western Luminary that on Wednesday night (Feb 15?) some persons saw lights in the streets of Exmouth and heard tramping horses between 11 and 12 p.m.—going (reverse) to wind-dows saw a funeral procession—several mutes on horseback, some with torches, three mourning coaches followed by chariots — procession ending with more mutes on horseback. Said that several persons ran from houses and (p. 2) saw it turn a corner, and took a short cut, expecting to overtake it, seeing the lights glittering on the road, but upon reaching the road could not see it and searched in vain. (reverse) Then inquiries at the toll gate, but somewhere between last sighted and the toll gate had disappeared. Said that no person likely to be buried with such pomp had died in the neighborhood.
- Box 1 (Resumed)**
- 16 2 Vulcans by Pastorff. Am. Sci. 1860 D-410.
- 18 Aurora — from the sun. Wycombe. 10:30 p.m., "two streams of a bright vermilion color; the one (reverse) arising in the north-east passing over Arcturus and Ursa Major, and the other originating in the south-west, leaving Orion on the south, and passing over Aldebaran and Capella and meeting in the zenith, forming a luminous arch of no great breadth." (reverse) The Western limb was by much the brightest and shot forth rays.
- 18 Aurora. Proc. Roy. Irish Acad. 1/38.
- 18 Dorset. 7 to 11 p.m. Aurora. L. T. Feb 25, p. 2.
- 18 Aurora. France, Switzerland, Livonia. CR 4/589-263-337.
- 18 Aurora. London nad France. A. J. Sci. 32/396.
- 18 from 8 to 10 p.m., broad crimson streak in sky E to W. Close to Mars. L. T. 25, p. 6.
- 22 Orkneys. Ship illuminated near St. Elmos fire and shore nearby and then thunder and hail. Jour. Frank. Institute 20/362
- 25 Quake. Belgium Ciel. 8/38
- 25 Doncaster. 10 p.m. Aurora in east. 10:30 another opposite column in west on Orion. L. T. March 1, p. 2.
- March At Cape of Good Hope — by Sir John Herschel — sunspots "extraordinary both in point of (reverse) number and magnitude and in every point of view extremely remarkable. Arcana of Science 1838-279.
- 3 At Zara, Dalmatia, quake preceded by a dull noise.
- 14 Austria. Light quake.
- 18 Greece. Medium quake.
- 28 Island of Curzola, Dalmatia. At 6:15 p.m. a luminous meteor and rain of fire — at 8:30 a.m. (q) B A 54/267. See March 3.
- 31 New Haven. Meteors. A. J. Sci.
- April 1 11/184 See Apr 12 (over) wrong date. See 1826.
- 4 A (?severe quake?T) France. Am. J. Sci. 34/285
- Box A (Resumed)**
- April Unknown worms of Devonshire.
- Spring Haunted house 3 miles west of Lafayette, Indiana. Rel-Phi J/ May 4, 1872 p. 15.
- Box 1 (Resumed)**
- April-May Caserta, Italy. Light quake.
- 5 Austria. Stone fall reported. Creg thinks maybe (reverse) confounded with Jan 15. BA '60.
- 6 Angers. Aurora. C.R. 5/589.
- April 11 Tuscany, Italy. Medium quake.
- 11 Tuscany, etc., Italy. Medium quake. BA '11.
- 12 Quake. Halford. Am. J. Sci. 32/399. See Ap 1. See Aug 1840.
- 20 (F) Setting Sun above the horizon — moon rose in total eclipse refraction — Thomson Intro to Meteorology — p. 82.
- 24 Showers of "altogether unknown to agriculturists of the neighborhood" (reverse) worms Devonshire D-92
- April 24 Worms / Nothing in Plymouth papers.
- 28 10 p.m. Shores of the Baltic, in the province of Koeslin, Russia (reverse) a hill 100 feet high sank, leaving a chasm, with a sound like thunder. L. T. May 17 p. 7
- Jan 1 Great quake on 1st in Syria. Athenaeum 837/416.
- Jan 1 and 10

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