

—Among Volcanoes.—
 Here in Hawaii are the two snow-clad extinct volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, both between 13,000 and 14,000 ft. high, and, more famous still, the great crater of Kilanea, which since the memory of man has been in almost uninterrupted activity until quite recently. Unfortunately for my visit the great cauldron of molten and flowing lava—the Lake of Fire, or 'Everlasting Home' of the legendary Goddess Pele, which has so often been described by travellers—no longer exists, the bottom having, so to speak, dropped out of it in one night, leaving only in its place a huge, empty smoking crater pit some half mile in diameter, and 500 or 600 ft. deep. Nevertheless the fires are only smothered, not quenched, for in several places a stick poked down the lava crevices readily ignites, to say nothing of the numerous fumaroles and issues of smoke, and no doubt some fine night the Lake of Fire will make its appearance again as suddenly as it vanished. Irrespective of this particular centre of activity, Kilanea is quite a compendium of past evidences of volcanic activities, and I spent four or five interesting days in its neighbourhood. Fortunately I enjoyed the companionship of Mr. W. T. Brigham, director of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum at Honolulu, who from long residence in the islands, and repeated visits to Kilanea, knows more than any man living of this and other things Hawaiian.

—Relics of the Past.—
 The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, founded by Mr. C. Bishop in memory of his deceased wife (who was an Hawaiian princess), is an admirably conducted institution, possessing a unique collection of Hawaiian history, natural history, and ethnology. Here are several of the beautiful and almost priceless feather cloaks and helmets that belonged to past kings and members of the royal family, lifesize models of Hawaiian natives, an original native temple and native house, whole series illustrating the indigenous arts and crafts, and so on. Here, in fact, I found a determined, well subsidised, and consequently successful effort to preserve for future generations all possible relics of a passing race.

—In the United States.—
 "Joining the next Oceanic Company's steamer Sonoma, I reached San Francisco on March 18, to learn there of the wreck of the Rio Janeiro a few days before our arrival, which threw into mourning many families of Honolulu. A few days were spent in seeing San Francisco and its neighbourhood, among other places the University of California, at Berkeley, across the bay. Then I stayed a day at Monterey, with its numerous but dilapidated traces of former Spanish occupation, and its huge Hotel Del Monte, standing in its remarkable garden of over 100 acres, in which I counted nearly 100 species of trees and shrubs either of Australian origin or of common growth in Australian gardens. On an adjacent promontory, exposed to the sea-borne blasts, limited in number, and confined to a very circumscribed area, is the original home of the Monterey Cypress, so well known in Australian gardens, either as an ornamental tree or as hedge plants, as the Cupressus Macrocarpa. In this part of California, also, but less circumscribed in its habitat, is the home of the Pinus insignis, and everywhere on the plains within 100 miles of San Francisco the Tasmanian bluegum is the commonest tree. Going southwards I visited Los Angeles, the centre of the fruitgrowing districts, and saw some of the fruit orchards in the country round about. Fruit orchards with their trim neatness are much the same everywhere, and I could have imagined myself in Renmark or Mildura but for one great difference.

—Progressive California.—
 Here in California the water question settles itself by an endless supply which comes by gravitation from a 10,000-ft. range of mountains which forms the background of the fruitgrowing plains between them and the ocean. The fruit industry has reached an amazing development in this state, and everywhere good oranges could be purchased very much more cheaply, retail at least, than in South Australia. From Los Angeles I visited the island of Santa Catalina, which in the proper season, then shortly to begin, is the headquarters of a fishing club, the members of which come there to catch the leaping tuna, black bass, and other sea fish. To entitle to membership of the club a fish of 100 lb. has to be caught single-handed with rod and line, and he or she who similarly catches the largest fish becomes the captain of the club for that year. I think a black bass of 354 lb. is the record fish. Leaving Los Angeles I went by the Santa Fe railway to see that which chiefly led me to this part of America, viz., the grand canyon of the Colorado River in Arizona.

—The Grand Canyon.—
 This is not to be confused with the grand canyon of the Rio Grande in Colorado. I believe the Arizona canyon to be the most splendid natural feature on the face of the earth, and the wonder is that it is not more frequently visited, seeing that it is possible to go now within 10 miles of it by railway, and that it lies only about 60 miles off one of the main transcontinental routes. It is futile to attempt any description of it in a few words, so that I will only say here that the canyon is a great river-worn chasm 23 miles long, 12 miles wide at the base, and, at its maximum, 7,000 feet, or approaching a mile and a half, in depth. The rock walls expose geological strata from the Eocene tertiary to the fundamental granite-sculptured into cupolas, domes, towers, spires, pinnacles, amphitheatres, natural temples, and all manner of fantastic shapes that have inspired correspondingly fantastic names: the rocks themselves of many varied hues—vermillion, other shades of red, browns, greens, yellows, creams, greys, and so on; each geological formation stamped with its own individuality of colour and sculpture. At the bottom, forming the deepest part of the canyon, is the actual river gorge, itself 1,300 feet in depth, in which the turbid red Colorado River runs its course, now in placid reaches, now thrown into tumultuous and seething rapids. In the contemplation of this great chasm, slowly filed out of the crust of the earth by the action of this and other rivers, one realizes to some extent at least what stupendous results may be produced by slowly acting natural agencies continued through long ages of geological time.

Returning from the Can on to San Francisco, some 1,200 miles, I found that the snows which in winter block the road into the Yosemite Valley had sufficiently diminished to permit the road to be declared open to visitors, so that I was fortunately able to see this beautiful natural feature and its neighbouring grove of 'Big Trees'. At that considerable elevation of the latter some 7,000 feet of snow still lay everywhere, and in many places drifts of some feet in thickness had been cut through to clear the track.

"From San Francisco I took the long but picturesque route northwards through the States of Oregon and Washington to Vancouver, B.C., where I joined the Canadian-Pacific railway, without question the most ferociously picturesque of the Trans-American routes—the Rocky Mountains. But this is too well known to need further description here. At Moose-Jaw, in Assinibota, a construction of a single Indian place name which means—"The place where the white man mended the cart with the jawbone of a moose"—I diverged southwards into the United States, saw something of the twin cities Minneapolis and St. Paul, of Chicago, Rochester, Buffalo (the exhibition was not yet open), and repeated a visit of 25 years before to Niagara Falls, then on to New York, Washington, Princeton, New York again, and northwards through Newhaven (Yale University), Boston, and Cambridge (Harvard University), Eastern Canada, where the time at my disposal only permitted me to see the three cities of Montreal, Ottawa, and Quebec. It would have repaid me well to spend more time in the cities of eastern America and Canada, but at this season a great tide of travel sets eastwards to the Atlantic, and I had found it necessary to book my berth immediately on arriving at San Francisco. This, of course, fixed a limit to my stay, and caused me to omit from my route many places of interest that should have been seen.

—Thoroughly Up to Date.—
 "It is too much to ask one to give in a hurried manner one's impressions of such an immense country as America. I doubt even if one is justified in doing so at leisure, after a comparatively short visit, but there are a few points perhaps on which the ordinary traveller may speak with some accuracy and without presumption. No one can fail to be struck with the restless energy of the American people, with the universal recognition that time is money, and with the consequent adaptation of methods, appliances, and machinery in innumerable ways to this end of saving time and labour, and consequently expense. I doubt if there is a town in the country of 10,000 inhabitants that has not got a well devised system of electric or cable trams and of electric light. What a contrast between the former and the archaic and ineffectual tram system which we tolerate in Adelaide! Telephones are everywhere. Thus in the first-class hotels every room has its telephone to the office, so that you can have what you want sent up at once. Lifts, or elevators as they are always called, are of course a prime necessity in the huge and lofty buildings that are in vogue in the large towns. In one such building in New York some 30 stories high I saw six elevators in constant work, two of which bore the notice—"This elevator does not stop till the eleventh story." Most well-to-do private houses also possess these conveniences, arranged to work automatically without an attendant. These—the trams, telephones, and elevators—are ordinary contrivances, which meet the traveller at every turn, but the tendencies of which they are used in illustration receive further and more striking developments in the great grain and ore elevators, in the killing and dressing of hogs, sheep, and cattle by machinery, and the application of machinery in a hundred different ways.

—At the Museums.—
 "It was one of my principal objects to visit the great natural history museums of the states, with the idea of trying to establish a working connection between them and our own museum. I was struck with the encouragement and assistance these institutions receive, both of public and private benefactions. The result is that in some departments the principal American museums, notably the National Museum at Washington and the American Museum of Natural History in New York, are unrivalled. I might instance in this connection the department of ethnology and paleontology, which have been admirably developed, and in which American science has always taken a foremost place. Two of the best known paleontological collections I found in the university museums of Princeton and Yale. Indeed, these have been largely gathered together by the efforts of the universities in question, who themselves, either in their corporate capacity or through individuals, have equipped and maintained expeditions into the rich fossil fields of America both north and south. However, there is more to say on this kind of subject than can be said in a brief interview.

—Washington.—
 "Washington D.C. is without exception the finest city I have ever seen, and I have seen all the capitals of Europe except St. Petersburg. To this result its position, its plan (which is not that of the usual chess-board pattern), its broad, well-paved and well-kept streets, its numerous and beautiful avenues of lofty shade-trees, its squares, gardens, detached houses, and lastly the striking cemetery and chaste beauty of its two principal buildings—the Capitol and the Congressional Library—all contribute. An American told me that it was the best organized and best managed city in America; and I may now add that Washington is governed without a municipal system as we understand it. It is perhaps worth noting that in Washington, as well as in some other cities that I visited, the public squares and gardens, brilliant at that time with their beds of blossoming hyacinths, tulips, and other spring flowers, are quite unprotected by any railings. So also the little plots of garden or lawn belonging to private houses are quite open to the street pavements, and yet no mischievous damage appears to be done. My recollection went back to a certain little garden plot in North Adelaide, where the loss of plants and flowers by youthful depredateurs used to be frequent. I made a pious pilgrimage to the old home of Gen. Washington at Mount Vernon, which is well kept up very much in its original condition, and spent a long morning at the Congressional Library, which was another revelation as regards the extent to which mechanical contrivances can be substituted for hand labour even in the management of a library.

—Interested in Australia.—

"I met many pleasant and hospitable people in America. I never had a discourteous word said to me, and it so happened that I only met one acknowledged grubber among all those with whom I got into conversation in the course of travel. Well-informed people took an interest in the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, but considerably more interest was manifested in the experimental political laboratory of New Zealand and its products, and on this I was continually being questioned.

—Canada.—

"Canada appeared to me to be in a prosperous way, and on the eve of greatly increased developments in production—mineral in particular. Sir Wilfred Laurier, to whom I had a letter of introduction, is, I think, the most striking personality with whom I have ever come into personal contact. Montreal is a large, thriving, and growing city, with many American characteristics, extensively and well planted, but the streets for the most part are ill-paved. By reason of its history and splendid situation, Quebec is, perhaps, the most interesting city of the American Continent. Of course, one drove out to the plains of Abraham, which are by no means maintained as they should be considering their associations.

—In the Homeland.—

"Returning to New York from Canada, I sailed thence for Liverpool by the White Star liner Oceanic, 17,300 tons, at that time the largest vessel afloat, though this position is now held by the Celtic, belonging to the same line, which exceeds 20,000 tons. We made the passage in seven days, and had perfectly fine weather throughout. I reached England at the beginning of June to experience the full beauty of an English spring, which I had not witnessed for close on twenty years. One of my first visits was to Waterer's well known rhododendron nurseries at Bagshot, Surrey, where many acres were a perfect blaze of colour from these gorgeous blooms. Then as an amateur gardener I found much pleasure and instruction at the splendidly kept institution at Kew. I could also never sufficiently admire the admirable taste and care with which Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are maintained. During all the summer the principal walks were brilliant with flowering shrubs and tastefully laid out flower and foliage beds. I was able also to see the annual rose show at the Temple Gardens.

"I paid two or three visits to Cambridge, where I had some business in connection with the physiological laboratory of our own university. On one occasion I took part in a very pleasant function. It is the annual custom of the master and fellows of my old college (Trinity) to invite all the men that have graduated in three or four consecutive years whose names are on the college books to "dine and sleep" in their old college, and it so happened that my year was amongst those whose turn it was to be invited on this occasion. It is moreover the pleasing custom to assign each guest to his old college rooms, and thus after 20 years I found myself in the quarters I occupied as an undergraduate. Here I renewed my acquaintance with many of my contemporaries for the first time since my student days. We were right loyally entertained, and the gathering was exceedingly enjoyable. In London I had a good deal to do at the British Museum, and at one or two other institutions in connection with our own kindred establishment, but I need not go into detail. At the beginning of August I went northwards for the shooting, and had some excellent sport with the grouse—first on a West Moreland moor, and later in Scotland.

The partridges were coming into season in due course. Among other visits I spent some days with Mr. T. Barr Smith, who occupied a very pretty place in Perthshire, near Blairgowrie, and a week with Lord and Lady Kintore at Keith Hall, both of whom retained their interest in South Australian matters.

"Returning to London towards the end of September, I left for Genoa on October 12, and thence embarked for Adelaide having been absent a little over nine months, and having completed the circumnavigation of the globe for the second time."

At a meeting of the University Senate to be held on November 27, five members of the council will be elected. The following ten candidates have been nominated:—The Hon. G. Brookman, Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., Senator Sir John Downer, Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A., Dr. W. A. Giles, the Rev. H. Girdlestone, M.A., Mr. E. W. Hawker, M.A., LL.B., Mr. G. J. R. Murray, B.A., LL.B., Professor E. C. Stirling, M.A., M.D., and Senator Sir Josiah Symon. Mr. F. Chapple and Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A., have been proposed for re-election as warden and clerk of the senate respectively.