

"Oh, you have succeeded so far as to interest us in a most attractive experiment. Bid your assistant bring them at once, and let us understand their principle. I rejoice to know that Scotland is to have the benefit of your great genius."

Farini showed little enthusiasm anent the King's confidence in him. He had, during the colloquy, cast many an anxious glance towards the French Ambassador, apparently much to the annoyance of that high dignitary, for now the Frenchman, seeing his continued hesitation, said sharply:

"You have heard his Majesty's commands; get on your paraphernalia."

When the Italian was at last equipped, looking like a demon in a painting that hung in the chapel, the King led the way to the edge of Stirling cliff.

"There," he said, indicating a spot on the brow of the precipice; "you could not find in all Scotland a better vantage point for a flight."

The terrified man stood for a moment on the verge of the appalling precipice; then he gave utterance to a remarkable pronouncement, the import of which was perhaps misunderstood because of the chattering of his teeth.

"Oh, not here, your Majesty! Forgive me, and I will confess everything. The gold which I pretended to——"

"Fly, you fool!" cried the French Ambassador, pushing the Italian suddenly between the shoulders and launching him into space. With a wild scream Farini endeavored to support himself with his gauze-like

wings, and for a moment seemed to hover in mid-air, but the framework cracked, and the victim, whirling head over heels, fell like a plummet to the bottom of the cliff.

"I fear you have been too impetuous with him," said the King severely, although as his Majesty glanced at Sir David Lyndsay the faint suspicion of a wink momentarily obscured his eye, a temporary veiling of the royal refulgence which passed unnoticed as every one else was gazing over the cliff at the motionless form of the fallen man.

"I am to blame, Sire," replied the ambassador contritely, "but I think the villain is an impostor, and I could not bear to see your royal indulgence trifled with. However, I am willing to make amends for my imprudence, and if the scoundrel lives, I shall, at my own expense, transport him instantly to France, where he shall have the attendance of the best surgeons the country affords."

"That is very generous of you," replied the King.

And the ambassador, craving permission to retire, hastened to translate his benevolence into action.

Farini was still unconscious when the ambassador and his attendants reached him, but the French nobleman proved as good as his word, for he had the injured man, whose thigh-bone was broken, conveyed in a litter to Leith, and from there shipped to France, yet it was many a day before the Scottish nobles ceased to deplore the untimely departure of their gold-maker.

BOBOLINK.

BY JOHN BURROUGHS.

DAISIES, clover, buttercup,
Red-top, trefoil, meadow sweet,
Ecstatic wing, soaring up,
Then gliding down to grassy seat.

Sunshine, laughter, mad desires,
May day, June day, lucid skies,
All reckless things that love inspires,
The gladdest bird that sings and flies.

Meadows, orchards, bending sprays,
Rushes, lilies, billowy wheat,
Song and frolic fill his days,
A feathered rondeau all complete.

Pink bloom, gold bloom, fleabane white,
Dew drop, rain drop, cooling shade,
Bubbling throat and hovering flight,
And jubilant heart as e'er was made.

GEOLOGY AND THE DELUGE.

REMARKABLE GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND SOUTHERN RUSSIA, SHOWING THAT THE NOACHIAN FLOOD IS A SCIENTIFIC POSSIBILITY.

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THAT about 4,000,000 square miles of North America and 2,000,000 in North-western Europe were once covered with ice a mile or more in depth, is one of the most widely known facts of geology. The "Ice Age," as the period when these conditions prevailed is called, destroyed all the life in the countries where it existed. For many years I have been collecting facts concerning the glacial period in North America and Europe, and in 1900 I went to Siberia to determine conditions in that country in the same period. As Asia, like North America, stretches toward the North Pole, and faces a great sea on the east, I naturally expected to find there evidences of a glacial period similar to that in this country. But, contrary to all my expectations, I found no sign in Central Asia and Southern Siberia of glacial work. On the contrary, the geological conditions I found were such as are only to be explained by an extensive submergence of the region where the Scriptures and tradition locate the Flood which destroyed the whole human race, excepting Noah and his family. The evidences of such a deluge are not one, but several, and extend from Mongolia to the western borders of Russia.

In order to show clearly how I reached the conclusion that this vast area of country was submerged at no very distant period, and probably at the same time that ice covered the face of North America, it is necessary to follow my zigzag itinerary shown on the accompanying map.

NO GLACIAL PERIOD IN CENTRAL ASIA.

Starting from Peking, we went inward 200 miles, and ascended the eastern border of the great Mongolian plateau near Kalgan. We were here in almost the same latitude

as that of New York City, and in a mountainous district from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above the sea. But we found there no signs of the glacial period. We then went to Port Arthur, and made a north-and-south section through the center of Manchuria to the Amur River, and thence up the river to about latitude 54° N., being, at Chita, 2,500 feet above the sea, and at the eastern base of the Vitim plateau, whose general level is 5,000 feet. But though we were here sixteen degrees farther north than the southern point to which the ice extended in the valley of the Mississippi, we could find no signs of the glacial period.

We then crossed the Vitim plateau to Lake Baikal, and, after touching the Yenisei River, at about latitude 56° , proceeded to Omsk, on the Irtysh River, where we turned to the south, and for 1,400 miles drove in a Russian tarantass along the northwestern base of the Alatau Mountains to Tashkend, and thence, through Samarkand, Bokhara, and Merv, to the Caspian Sea. In reality, this entire trip from Lake Baikal to the Caspian Sea is at the base of the mountains which border the great plateau of Central Asia. The distance traversed at their base was more than 4,000 miles. To the southeast of us, mountain peaks from 10,000 to 16,000 feet were constantly in sight, all glistening with the dazzling brightness of miniature glaciers and extensive snowfields. To the northwest, however, there stretched a continuous plain as far as the Arctic Ocean, except where interrupted by the Ural and some minor mountains. But we found no indications that glaciers ever extended out from the mountain valleys crossed, like those which deployed over the plains of Switzerland and Northern Italy from the Alps, which are of about the same height and in about the same latitude.