

The Oxford Democrat.

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The Oxford Democrat

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY,

GEO. H. WATKINS,

Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS—\$2.00 per Year.
In Advance, \$1.00.
If not paid within six months, a
discount of 10 per cent. will be
made. If not paid at the end of the
year, no discount will be allowed.
Single Copies Five Cents.

Rates of Advertising.

For one inch of space one week, \$1.00

For one inch of space one month, \$3.00

For one inch of space three months, \$7.00

For one inch of space six months, \$12.00

For one inch of space one year, \$20.00

Special Terms made with Local Advertisers,
and for advertisements continued for considerable
length of time; also, for those occupying extra
space.

Comments for advertising in the DEMOCRAT,
may be made at the following well established
rates.

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TAKE THE



THE GREAT

BURLINGTON ROUTE.

No other line runs Three Through Passenger Trains Daily between Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul, and New York.

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LONGITUDE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY.

Among seamen in general, there are two meridians of special interest. One is the line of longitude which passes through Greenwich; and this is called Longitude Naught. The other of these two meridians might be termed Longitude Naughty; because it often confuses the ideas of the passengers who now cross the Pacific Ocean from California to China, Japan and Australia.

Now, if any young readers have not studied the subject of longitude, they will find it profitable and interesting to do so, and find out about this thing. Longitude is defined by imaginary lines, called meridians, drawn lengthwise over the earth's surface and meeting at its poles, thus dividing the surface of the globe into three hundred and sixty parts, or degrees, called longitude.

Of course, any one of these meridians might have been taken as the point to start from in calculating longitudes; but, since the English, as a people, held the highest position in astronomy, navigation and chart-making, they naturally chose to represent the first meridian as drawn through their royal observatory at Greenwich, and this is now generally recognized as the first meridian; so that, as was implied in the beginning of this article, all longitude is practically reckoned east or west from Greenwich. Now, as longitude is reckoned from the meridian of Greenwich, so the hours of time may be said to begin again at the meridian of 180°, which is exactly opposite, on the other side of the globe.

Longitude is calculated by time, and in this way: When a navigator wishes to know the longitude his ship is in, he finds (by observation of the sun or other heavenly bodies) the true time of day at the ship. He then compares this with the time at Greenwich, shown by his chronometer, and thus he gets his longitude in time, that is, in hours, minutes, and seconds, which he turns into degrees of longitude by multiplying by fifteen; for, as each of the earth's 360 meridians of longitude is rolled directly under the sun once in every twenty-four hours, then 360 degrees of longitude must be equal to twenty-four hours of time, or 15 degrees of longitude to one hour of time.

There is no such thing as 24 o'clock, for we reckon twelve hours before noon and twelve hours after noon; and so, also, there is no 360th degree of longitude, but 180° east and 180° west, making together 360 degrees.

Now, the apparent noon, or twelve o'clock apparent time at any given place, is the time when the earth, by her rotary motion from west to east, rolls the meridian of that given place directly under the sun, and therefore the meridian of Greenwich comes under the sun one hour sooner than the meridian of 15° west. So, when it is twelve o'clock, or noon, at Greenwich or any other place on the meridian of longitude naught (for all places in the same longitude have the same time, no matter what their latitude may be), it will be eleven o'clock forenoon at all places in longitude 15° west, consequently, only ten o'clock forenoon in longitude 30° west, 9 o'clock forenoon in longitude 45° west, and so on, counting back one hour of time for every fifteen degrees of longitude. Thus we find that, when we get across the Western Hemisphere to longitude 180°, we are 12 hours behind the time at Greenwich; or, when it is noon on January 1st, at Greenwich, it is midnight, or just the commencement of January 1st, at the longitude of 180°. But, for the same reason, by the rotation of the earth from west to east, any place in 15° east longitude will come under the sun one hour before Greenwich; or, it will be one o'clock in the afternoon at those places when it is only noon at Greenwich, and so, counting across the Eastern Hemisphere, one hour ahead of Greenwich for every fifteen degrees of longitude, we come to the longitude of 180°, twelve hours ahead of Greenwich time.

Now, on January 1st, it is midnight, or the end of January 1st, say, for instance, one inch on the west side of meridian 180°. But we have just seen that, at that very same time (that is, noon, January 1st, at, say, one inch on the east side of meridian 180°), so that there is twenty-four hours, or one whole day, difference in time between two persons supposed to be standing, one immediately on the east side, the other immediately on the west side of 180°; and so, while it is noon of January 1st with the one at the east, it would be within a few minutes of noon, January 2nd, with the one at the west. Therefore, by stepping across the meridian, the day of the week and the date would be changed. The one who stepped from east to west would lose a day, and the other, stepping from west to east, would have two successive days of the same name and date, and so would gain a day.

But we have here used the words East and West as you use them every day, that is, as directions according to the points of the compass, and you must remember that if we reckon in that way at the meridian itself, then the Western Hemisphere lies to the East of the line, and the Eastern Hemisphere to the West of it. For, as the geographers tell us, the Eastern Hemisphere extends East from Greenwich over Europe, Asia, etc., to meridian 180°, and the Western Hemisphere reaches west from Greenwich over the Atlantic Ocean, the American Continent, and the Pacific Ocean, to the same meridian. So, suppose a passenger on a steamship from San Francisco to China goes below, and "turns in" or goes to bed, at nine o'clock on the evening of February 21st, the ship being then in west longitude, and say, thirty nautical miles this side of the meridian of 180°, and steaming at the rate of ten miles an hour; then, at three minutes before midnight, she will have sailed twenty-nine and a half miles, placing her half a mile on the east side of 180°, according to

the compass, but, of course, still in west longitude. As we have seen, the time at Greenwich is then twelve hours ahead of the time in the vicinity of 180° western hemisphere; therefore, as it is February 21st near midnight at the ship, it will be February 22nd near noon at Greenwich.

Now, suppose at this same moment a sailing ship is lying becalmed a mile from the steamer, to the west according to the compass, but of course in the eastern hemisphere. The time on board that sailing ship will be twelve hours ahead of Greenwich, or near midnight February the twenty-second, the whole of February the twenty-second having passed with them; while on board the steamer, February the twenty-second is just about to commence. Now the steamer steams across the meridian of 180°, and in a few minutes is alongside the sailing ship, both being in the Eastern Hemisphere. The steamer's time will now be the same as the ship's (for the latter has not moved from her position, being becalmed), and that time is the beginning of February the twenty-third, so that February the twenty-second is dropped from the calendar of the people on the steamer.

In the morning, our passenger comes on deck, salutes the officer of the deck, and, being a patriotic American, asks:

"Do you make any celebration of Washington's birthday at sea?"

"Yes," replies the officer; "when it occurs, we load and fire the guns, and run the flag up."

"Then I suppose you will celebrate it today?"

"No, I think not," says the officer, "as Washington's birthday comes on the twenty-second, and this happens to be the twenty-third."

"Beg pardon," says the passenger, "but this is the twenty-second."

"It should have been, in the ordinary course of events, but we crossed the line of 180° during the night, and it is now the twenty-third," says the officer.

Our passenger, not having thought on this subject before, concludes to keep his diary by his own date, and, consequently when he arrives at Yokohama, he finds he has got the wrong day of the week and the wrong date. He proceeds to Hong Kong and finds there, also, that he is a day behind, and, of course, he has to change his date, which he should have done when he crossed 180°. And should he return to the United States by the way of the Pacific Ocean, when he crosses 180° he must call two successive days by the same name and date. Therefore, it is said, we gain a day coming from China, and lose a day going there.

If this is not sufficiently clear, to any boys or girls, let them place themselves on the west side of a table, put a globe on the table in front of them, and light a candle to represent the sun, placing it east of the globe. Now, let them suppose that time has not yet begun, and that they are going to mark the very first day, which may be called January the first, year one. We are told in the Bible that the evening and the morning were the first day. So if the evening was the first half of the day, time must begin at noon.

Now, let some one place the meridian of 180° on the globe directly opposite the candle, or sun, having the North Pole depressed toward the North, and with his right hand on the globe, revolve it from him, which is the way the earth revolves. It then will be seen that the Eastern Hemisphere comes under the sun first, and as each meridian rolls under the sun, all places on that meridian will have their first noon, or noon of January the first, year one. Likewise, when the globe has rolled half way round, the meridian of Greenwich will be under the sun, making it midnight where we started from, so that a person in, say, longitude 179° 59' east, will have spent half of his first day.

Now, as the Western Hemisphere is rolled under the sun, giving all places there their first noon, it will be found that when longitude 179° 59' west comes under the sun, a person living there will have his first noon, or noon of January the first, year one; but it only will be seen that the earth has only to roll two miles more of longitude, which occupies about eight seconds of time, to bring our first person under the sun again, or to give him noon for the second time, which must be January the second, at noon; so that two persons, although within a mile of each other, if on different sides of the meridian of 180°, will always have a different date and a different day of the week. But all this, of course, is so only at the meridian of 180° and nowhere else.—John Keiler, in St. Nicholas.

YOUNG MEN WITH OLD WIVES.

It is surprising how rapidly even the great fall out of notice. Carlyle and George Eliot were literary wonders, and they are already dropping from observation. The latter was buried at Highgate, which is already known as the resting-place of Coleridge. The fact that her husband (John Walter Cross) was so much younger (twenty years) than herself occasioned much comment. This, however, is not without precedent, in literary and social life. One of the leading clergy men in this city is married to a woman ten years his senior, and the union appears congenial. Mohammed's wife was twenty years older than her husband, and it is much to the credit of the latter that he honored her to the last. He ascribed much of his success to her assistance and influence. John Howard, the philanthropist, married, out of gratitude, a woman who was equally his senior. She died in a few years, however, and his second union was one of love. It was, however, also dissolved by the death of his wife, and then he devoted himself to philanthropy. Napoleon's first

wife, Josephine, was his senior by six years, being 31 at the time of their marriage, while he was 25. It would have been well for him had he valued her conjugal love, whose violation was the beginning of his ruin. Aaron Burr also married a widow, who, like Josephine, had two children. Mrs. Burr was ten years older than her husband, but the union was very harmonious. She probably allowed him that large liberty with the fair sex to which he had been accustomed, and thus avoided domestic quarrels. John Wilkes, the famous London agitator of the last century, married a lady who was ten years his senior; but she was not willing to overlook his irregularities, and hence obtained a divorce.

Johnson, the lexicographer, married a widow, who had a small property. He was acquainted with the family before the death of her husband, and this helped in the matter of courtship. Mrs. Porter was 48, while her husband was only 21, at the time of the wedding. The parties started horseback for the place where the ceremony was to be performed, and Johnson thus describes the journey to Boswell: "Sir, she had got into her head from old romance that a woman of spirit should use her lover as a dog. At first she told me I rode too fast, and she could not keep up with me; but when I slackened my pace she passed me and complained that I lagged. I was not to be made the slave of caprice, and therefore pushed on till I was out of sight. When she got to the destination I observed that she was in tears." Johnson always mourned the loss of his wife, and though he was only 43 at the time of her death, he never married again. How often in his subsequent writings he refers to his lost companion in the most affectionate manner.

When only 18, Shakespeare was married to Anne Hathaway, whose age was 25. Six months from the wedding day the first son was born to this ill-mated pair. The husband and father had no means of supporting a family, and when the latter had increased to the number of a son and two daughters he fled to London. The deserted wife supported her children as best she could, and twenty years afterwards her husband returned, and by his subsequent conduct strove to atone for his early error. Such facts as these prove that John Walter Cross, in marrying Mary Evans, had some striking precedents.—Boston Courier.

A RAT IN THE TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

A telegraph inspector recently pressed into his service a rat under the following peculiar circumstances: It was necessary to overhaul a cable of wires inclosed in iron tubes. A certain length of the cable had to be taken out of the tube, and the men commenced hauling at one end without having taken the precaution to attach to the other a wire by which it might be drawn back into the tube after inspection and repairs. The question arose how the cable was to be restored to its proper place, and here the ingenuity of the inspector was manifested.

He invoked the aid of a rat-catcher, and provided with a large rat, a ferret, and a ball of string wound round on a Morse paper drum, he repaired to the opening in the tube. The "flush boxes" were opened, and the rat, with one end of the string attached to his body, was put into the pipe. He scampered away at a racing pace, dragging the twine with him, until he reached the middle of the length of pipe, and there stopped. The ferret was then put in, and off went the rat again until he sprung out of the next flush box. One length of the cable was thus safe, and the same operation

