

THE INTERNAL REGIONS.

Jonathan Wilder's Wild Story of the Earth's Inhabitants.

How He Got There, What He Saw, and How He Got Away.—Editorial Comments.

The following, to which allusion is made on the editorial page of this paper, is reproduced by request, from the Deseret News of February 21st, 1893.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNAL REGIONS.

(From the Standard Republic of 1892.)

SOME months ago a Canadian, of the Rocky Mountain party, to whom I had rendered some services, brought to me a bundle of papers, of which he gave me the following singular account: He said that beyond the mountains he fell in with a party of the Hudson Bay company. With this party he found a brother that he had not seen for many years. His brother was in the middle of a river, and informed him that about two years before, he had been on a hunting party, east of McKenzie's river, where he fell in with a tribe of Esquimaux Indians, from one of whom he received the bundle in exchange for a knife. The Indian told him that long time ago, his band was encamped on the east shore, a great distance to the north, that one day a strange man was seen on the ice, coming toward them; that the stranger was greatly exhausted from hunger and cold; that he took him to his tent and gave him food, but he died that night, and left the bundle of papers, which were wrapped up in skins.

If my curiosity was excited at this singular history of these papers, it was much more so when, on examination, they proved to be a narrative of the travels and extraordinary adventures of an American by the name of Jonathan Wilder. The papers are in a greatly damaged state, and appeared to have suffered from the rain-hurds through which they had passed. The narrative is written partly on common paper, and partly on rude parchment, and what appears to be the bark of a tree. It appears that Mr. Wilder was many years ago, wrecked on the coast of Africa; was taken prisoner by the natives, and was carried into the interior of the country, that he passed through many nations of Africa, as a slave to a Ghazal merchant; that he eventually fell in with, and was rescued by the celebrated Mungo Park, whom he afterwards accompanied on his travels. He states that Mr. Park, himself and three natives, were descending a large river, the name of which is hidden out in the manuscript, but presumed to be the Niger; they came to a large city, at which they projected to land, but were diverted from it by the hostile attitude of the natives, who appeared on the bank in immense numbers. They passed the city, followed by the natives on the banks, hallooing and using singular gestures, which added to their apprehension that mischief was intended. In a short distance, the river became contracted, and the current greatly increased, which induced them to attempt a landing at all hazards, but it was now

too late; the river became a perfect rapid, rocks and whirlpools being there on all sides, and they soon lost all control over the direction of the boat. A large crocodile appeared directly ahead, with a crocodile in its jaws, gaping to receive them. The three natives had jumped seaward as the boat approached the bank, and Wilder, clinging to the boat, and awaiting their fate, which they saw was inevitable. They soon lost all sense of their situation, and eventually found themselves thrown upon a small island within the bowels of the mountain. Here they remained for some time, awaiting any dead animal and fish, which they found in abundance, east upon the island. Their eyes had, in a little time, become accustomed to their dark abode, and they were enabled to see and to find the entrance of the mountain. This took some peculiar form from another shore, and formed an arch overhead, which effectually prevented all light of sun from entering the cave, in a situation which destroyed all hope of ever again seeing the light of Heaven, and leaving the fact that the next rise of water would sweep them away from that desolate island, they determined to embark in their boat, which had sustained no great injury, and started themselves to provisions, believing that no fair could be more barren than that which awaited them in their present situation.

They accordingly swam more laden than themselves into the bounding current, and were carried along with inconceivable rapidity, until increasing darkness was about them, and they were entangled in another small island, where to their great astonishment they found an island deserted by its previous inhabitants, but which he had been forced down the river and thrown on the island, where they were again rescued over since remained his solitary tenant. They again embarked, accompanied by the old negro, who gladly united his fate with his new acquaintances. The current gradually became less rapid, and they occasionally landed for repose. Our party now began to entertain some faint hopes that they were near some fair land, from that river, after running under the mountain, would carry them safely out on the other side. After a voyage of considerable duration, to their great joy and astonishment, they were suddenly launched into daylight, in view of an open sea, but in what quarter of the globe they were at a loss to conjecture.

The party now landed to seek repose, after their long and arduous voyage, and congratulated each other on their misadventures; but yet they could scarcely satisfy themselves that all had not been a dream. The party remained here several days, viewing the surrounding country, and endeavoring to find out on what part of the globe they were cast; but as no sun, moon or stars had appeared, Mr. Park's instructions were of no avail; neither could his maps and charts throw any light on the subject. Reflecting on their late extraordinary adventures, and their present singular situation, Mr. Park was induced to examine a book which he had with him, containing some philosophical speculations on the organization of the globe. This book appeared about the 15th century, and is supposed to have been written by a Frenchman, under the title of Tellusmund, an East Indian philosopher. The writer had advanced the singular idea that the water had once covered the globe; that

by some convulsion of nature the earth appeared; that mankind sprang from the sea, and originally had tails, which in time dropped off, like the tail of a tadpole, and that the globe was hollow, within and made up of concentric shells. At another time our party would have laughed at the speculation of this philosopher, as the visionary effusions of a crazed lunatic; but, looking back to their late eventful voyage, and their present situation, in a bare, cheerless, stormy, and seeing neither sun, moon or stars, the truth flashed on their minds, that they had penetrated the globe, and were then in the internal regions.

Full of this idea our party embarked and coasted along the shore some days, and at last came to a large, well built, populous city. The abandonment of our adventures was not greater than that of the inhabitants, who fled from them in terror, and were driven toward them to numerous numbers, until we were in a language, as Wilder described, not recognized by Park, as the Hebrew tongue, and the people to be a colony of Jews. Mr. Wilder gives a long and full description of the city and its inhabitants, and enters minutely into a history of their manners, habits and customs, which do not appear to be the same as those recorded in Holy Writ. The art of printing is unknown to this people, but they have a mode of inscribing their words on the surface of the globe, down to the neck of Jerusalem by the king of Babylon, and their king and people is carried away captive. They have a tradition that when their King Zedekiah fled from the city of Jerusalem to the plain of Jericho, where he died, his army was made prisoners. An angel appeared to those who remained in the city, and exhorted them to flee to the plain, and faithful he led them forth by night and conducted them through many nations, and for many days, until they came to a cave of low in the earth, which they entered, and which was closed behind them; and that they passed through the earth to the world they now inhabit, as a place of refuge, where they are to remain until the coming of the Messiah, who will reward the faithful, and as a reward for their sufferings and their captivity, will have them a great and mighty nation, to whom all the other nations of the earth shall be subject. They said it was forbidden them that should the year of the world 5000 a great prophet would appear on the great surface of the globe, who would build a city of refuge, and gather together the remnants of the scattered tribes of Israel, preparatory to the restoration.

This people have immense wealth in all the precious metals, and an abundance of domestic animals, the most remarkable of which is an animal much larger than the elephant of the old world, and supposed by Mr. Wilder to be the mammoth, whose bones are occasionally found on the American continent. They have neither sun, moon or stars, but need no light and heat from the reflection of the sun, as no sunbeams but only glow opposite two hollow openings one at the North and the other at the South Pole, and the light and the seasons are regulated by the revolving of the earth. The inhabitants were placed over the most part of the interior world, but reside principally in cities, though governed by the same law, wars and rebellions are very frequent.

Their chief city and their seat of government, where the king resides, is called the city of Noah. Wilder was there several days, but refused against Mordecai, their king, but returned, and heavy contributions levied on them. Park says he has long since been known to them, and they have large magazines of arms and military stores. These magazines sometimes blow up, and do great damage to lives and property. Mr. Wilder writes that some speculations as to the probable effect such circumstances have on the external surface of the globe, and that our earthquakes are caused by the blowing up of these powder houses.

Park and Wilder traveled over the greater part of the interior world, and visited both the poles. The South Pole is surrounded by ice, but at the North, a fine land surrounds the opening, except a narrow strait connecting the sea with the interior seas. This people of that island two thousand years ago a part of the nation recorded and determined to return to Jerusalem. They journeyed northward, and westward to the north pole, and were there some of a month afterwards. They left Park and Wilder to maintain a large of letters to return to their own country by the same route. Wilder made some pertinent remarks and allusions to the probable origin of the Indians of the American continent.

Park and Wilder traveled further than the exploring of the country, because anxious to return to the old world, and having provided themselves with necessaries for their journey, they started on their journey northward, and westward to the north pole, and were there some of a month afterwards. They left Park and Wilder to maintain a large of letters to return to their own country by the same route. Wilder made some pertinent remarks and allusions to the probable origin of the Indians of the American continent. They journeyed northward, and westward to the north pole, and were there some of a month afterwards. They left Park and Wilder to maintain a large of letters to return to their own country by the same route. Wilder made some pertinent remarks and allusions to the probable origin of the Indians of the American continent.

the interior world, and in a note to one of his last chapters, he appears to have formed the design, if he should live to reach his native town of Boston, to prepare himself as a missionary, and return to the people he had left. I have given but a sketch of some of the prominent parts of this wonderful narrative. The papers are greatly disordered, and as soon as my return will permit, I intend preparing them for the press. The work, including maps and drawings, will probably occupy a volume of some three hundred pages. In the meantime, the curious may have an opportunity of examining the singular manuscript by calling on me.

As wonderful as the narrative appears to be, to me it has the stamp of authenticity.

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On another page of the same issue in which the foregoing appeared (Deseret News, Feb. 21st, 1893) Dr. Willard Richards, editor and publisher of the News, made the following comment: INTERNAL HISTORY.

WE give the "News from the Internal Regions," as we do other stories, just as we received, and for what it is worth. Some curiosities in Wilder's narrative suggest a few queries, concerning some of which we have not the historical facts before us. Does the history of Mungo Park give any more definite account of the death by drowning, than the narrative of Jonathan Wilder? If it does, who knows that Wilder's statements are false? History's system of letters, and the system of astronomy was false, before Copernicus arose? And if Copernicus had proved Ptolemy's system false, is it not possible that some late philosopher may yet prove some portions of Copernicus' true? If the earth is a small ball, growing more and more dense to its center, of what use is that center? Has God formed anything in vain? Is, as some suppose, the earth a living animal, why does it not forget her life? Then, if the earth were such, and more solid toward its center than its surface, would not animals on the earth be necessarily at its center than their circumference? Instead of being exactly round near the surface, as we suppose, the greatest pressure, leaving a cavity in the center capable of active operation. Might not even the oceans understand this? If so, would the globe makers understand that a hollow globe is preferable to a solid? If not, why do they make their hollow? And what makes the globe, the work of man's hands, to made on a wheel plan than the great original globe? If the earth is hollow, what is the explanation of the philosopher, being his scales on to weigh the sun? If so, where shall we get the other hook? If the earth is hollow, would not the every gravitation? What is the gravitation? Who will be an kind as to define its causality? Until the possibility of gravitation is defined, who knows but that gravitation find at the center of a crust, 50 or 100 miles thick, enclosing an earth, would have just as good an effect, for all practical

JAPANESE PILE CURE advertisement with logo and text describing the medicine's efficacy for various ailments.

DR. GUNN'S LIVER PILLS advertisement featuring an illustration of a man and woman and text promoting the pills for liver health.

HIGHLAND Evaporated Cream advertisement featuring a portrait of a man, text describing the cream's purity and sterilization, and a logo for J.C. MURPHY & CO.

ZION'S SAVINGS BANK & TRUST CO., Nos. 1, 3 and 5 MAIN STREET.

CASH CAPITAL, \$200,000. SURPLUS, \$200,000.

Table titled 'COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS' showing deposits from 1873 to 1892.

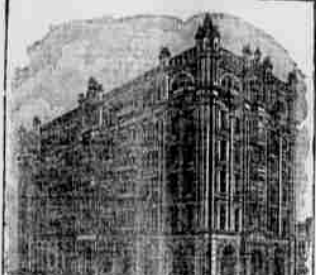


Table titled 'DIRECTORS' listing names and roles such as President, Vice-President, and Cashier.

DURING YEAR 1892 WE HAD 219 NEW DEPOSITORS; MORE THAN ALL OTHER SAVINGS BANKS IN UTAH COMBINED.

OPEN an account with us NOW. We have depositors whose first deposit was only a small sum and whose account now shows thousands of dollars to their credit. Married Ladies and Minor Children have right to deposit in their own name and payable only to their own order.

Open Saturday for deposits until 8 p. m. After getting your wages deposit what you can spare. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES in our BURGLAR PROOF VAULT for Rent at Reasonable Figure.