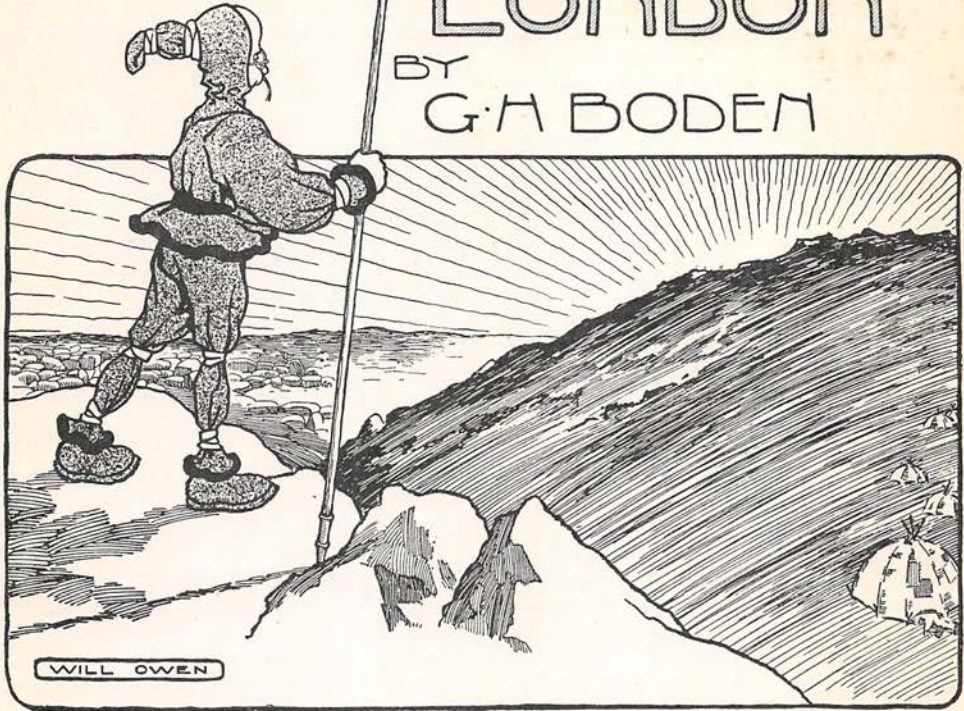


THE DISCOVERY OF LONDON BY G. A. BODEN



(Extract from the "North Pole Examiner" for June, 209,323 A.D.)

AT last we are able to welcome Professor Storry's book on his wonderful discoveries below the sixtieth degree of latitude. The book is thorough and systematic. The reader will find briefly but lucidly set out therein the principal theories on the causes of ice ages, and the former shape and condition of the world, together with much learning on ocean currents, to review which we have neither space nor knowledge sufficient. We should like, however, to point out that in a footnote on page 257, Professor Storry states that only .039 of the surface speed of a current will prevail at a depth of 2,200 yards after 10,000 years, and he gives no evidence for the rejection of the accepted ratio, which we have always understood to be .037; perhaps the printer is responsible for the change. But who is responsible for the plate on page 490, which represents the common skua in mistake for the pomarine skua?

Our concern is not, however, with the earlier part of the book, nor with the excellent summary in Part II. of the results of the researches of the latter half of the century, which have brought to light so many traces of the early existence of man in Greenland, Siberia, and the North of America. We must pass at once to the astounding discoveries in the third part. Professor Storry had long maintained that the whole of Europe enjoyed a temperate climate at a time when the Polar Basin was covered with ice, and his expedition was undertaken in the hope of finding traces of early animal life, and possibly of the existence of man below the sixtieth degree of latitude. The expedition was successful beyond the wildest dreams of the most sanguine, and its results go far to confirm the authenticity of the remains found in the quaternary deposits of Spitzbergen. The expedition followed the line of march of the unhappy Captain Baxter and

his party, whose remains they discovered in latitude 62, so that he had almost succeeded in crossing the great ice-field without knowing that he was so near to success. In latitude 58 traces of the breaking up of the ice began to appear, and the temperature became milder as the party proceeded southward, until on the fifty-third parallel they came to a stretch of clear country, opened apparently by a warm sea current, whose existence hitherto was unsuspected. The climate, though intensely cold, is yet capable of supporting life, and Professor Storry was not long in discovering signs that the country was inhabited. He determined, in spite of some difficulty with his men, many of whom were desirous of returning, to penetrate still further into the country, his perseverance being rewarded almost at once by the discovery of an encampment of natives. These people, who call themselves Anglanders, live in skin huts and display a certain amount of intelligence and civilisation. Their food is principally flesh and fish; their dress is composed of two garments of skin, the under one worn with the fur turned inwards, and the outer with the fur turned outwards. They are clean in their habits, are fond of their families, and seem to have few vices, though they are hot-tempered, and bloodshed is not uncommon. Physically they are strong and well developed, and the women are not repulsive. Their weapons and utensils are made of bone and wood, but they also use stone hammers, not unlike the axes of the Stone Age. There was nothing to indicate an earlier civilisation, so that it was by a pure accident that Professor Storry came across the celebrated steel knife which led to more searching investigations on the second expedition and to the great excavations which are still going on.

The first results of these excavations are common property; it has been established beyond a doubt that the Anglanders or Anglelanders possess a very ancient civilisation, unknown, indeed, to themselves, which will carry the history of the world back some hundreds or even thousands of years. Remains of a great city have already been found, and Professor Storry has actually brought back two statues—one of a man and the other of a woman, bearing the names "Oliver Cromwell" and "Aphrodite" respectively. These seem to belong to different periods, in themselves implying a great antiquity, since the dress in the case of the woman is of a more primitive pattern than in that of the man, though her face displays considerable refine-

ment, and experts say that the nose, which is missing, must have possessed great delicacy of outline. One or two tablets have been discovered, which will be invaluable in ascertaining the language, or languages, since Professor Storry claims to have discovered two alphabets. One tablet, which appears to have been placed at the base of a statue or column, perhaps to commemorate a national victory, bears the signs—

PASSENGERS ARE REQUESTED
TO CROSS THE LINE BY THE BRIDGE.

It is too early yet to make guesses at the significance of these words, but we may perhaps assume PASSENGERS to be the name of the hero or deity to whom the statue was erected; it is unlikely that so long a word would be placed at the beginning of the inscription if it were not a proper noun. Another inscription of equal interest was carved in stone on the front of a temple. It seems to be a line of verse:—

PIT STALLS DRESS CIRCLE GALLERY.

Professor Storry is already hard at work on the first alphabet, and we may expect to hear more from him very shortly.

From representations on urns and vases, some of them of remarkable beauty, Professor Storry argues that the country must have enjoyed hot summers and cold winters, since many of the figures are entirely without clothing, while others are decorously robed. The art, so far as it is yet revealed, is of very uneven quality. Thus the plate on page 1254, representing a young man driving a chariot, shows both proficiency in drawing and a feeling for line, while the scene from a vase on page 1265, bearing the inscription—

A PRESENT FROM BLACKPOOL,

is primitive alike in design and execution. The utensils generally vary very much, both in workmanship and in form, their particular use being often a matter of speculation; such is the platter jar on page 1266, which has a stone lid capable of being held firm by a metal clamp, used perhaps as a receptacle for money or jewellery. Most remarkable of all, however, is a huge, unwieldy cylinder of thick metal with a long and narrow cavity, which is open at one end and terminates at the other in a small orifice on the side of the vessel. This seems as if it were intended for a water jug with a plug at the lower end, but it is not made to stand upright, nor would the quantity of water compensate for

the awkward shape of the vessel. Professor Storry imagines it to have been used for some sort of game, since he found close to it a metal sphere which is just large enough to roll up and down the cavity. These old Anglelanders must have been giants indeed, if their playthings were of this pattern! But giants they were not, if one may judge

with couplings of wire, as if to preserve the identity of the dead—a practice which, so far as we know, has no parallel within human experience. The skulls are of varied shape, showing to all appearance a great diversity of race and many grades of intelligence. Professor Storry suggests that the inferior skulls belonged to slaves of other nations, whose



"The women are not repulsive."

by the skeletons hitherto recovered. Of these there are not many, for in the only burying place yet discovered there is a very large number of skulls, but there are few complete specimens. The explanation of this fact is at present wanting; it seems unlikely that the bodies were burned, for the bones of the complete skeletons are beautifully preserved, and even jointed together

bodies were burned at their masters' funerals, an explanation to which colour is given by the fact that there are among them also skeletons of animals, doubtless held sacred to the dead, including several apes, a hippopotamus, and a huge animal resembling an elephant, but far larger. We await fresh discoveries for the solution of this and other problems.

(From the "North Pole Examiner" for January, 209,325 A.D.)

We have received Professor Storry's new book on the excavations at County Council, as the great city of the Anglanders was called. The workers have brought to light a great quantity of statues and monuments, which are especially numerous in the neighbourhood of the burying place, where so many skulls were found. The work of classification has been very arduous, owing to the immense number of languages in different alphabets, which Professor Storry now believes to have belonged to conquered nations, whose monuments were barbarously carried away as trophies of victory. He has wisely confined himself to the study of the principal language of the Anglanders themselves, and with this he has made considerable progress, aided by several important manuscripts, which are fortunately in an excellent state of preservation.

He has now proved beyond a doubt that the Anglanders were a highly civilised race, possessing a great literature and an elementary knowledge of science. Their religion was polytheistic, the names of eleven gods having been discovered already; these are Jove, Cupid, Nelson, Hercules, Alhambra, Tivoli, Royal Aquarium, Victoria, Windsor Magazine, and Madame Tussaud's. They had also a strong belief in spirits, of whom Hamlet and Tararaboomdeay were the chief. A propitiatory hymn to the latter is among the priceless manuscripts in the Professor's collection, which also includes the fragment of a drama representing the machinations of the evil spirit Hamlet to wreck the peace of a virtuous family; assuming first one form and then another, he gradually ensnares the helpless creatures in his toils until he has destroyed them all. The Goddess of Victory is often represented on the face of coins, the reverse bearing a female figure seated on a wheeled car, which she is pushing along with a staff having three prongs at the upper end; she wears a soft hat, through the back of which her hair is allowed to escape in a graceful festoon so as to form a crescent moon. Hercules, who is generally called the torso, was the God of Strength and probably husband of Royal Aquarium, in whose temple he was worshipped. The Anglanders seem to have been very superstitious in everything; they had a strong belief in charms. Thus we find it stated by one writer that eight ounces of rice at twopence, together with the same amount of treacle, provided that it be

properly welded together and made sufficiently enticing, will drive away the *weasel* or evil spirit. Another writer gravely asserts that the family clock invariably ceases to work when the head of a family dies; and a herb named mistletoe was also used in some undescribed way as a charm. The religious rites, indeed, are a blot on their civilisation; heavy steam rollers have been found, the use of which is too horrible to contemplate, and also a gigantic wheel on which victims seem to have been bound and whirled round continuously until they died of starvation. Others, having first been bound hand and foot, were thrown into boats, which carried them swiftly down a steep incline to perish miserably in the water.

Two historical fragments have been recovered, and Professor Storry asks for assistance in determining the exact meaning of these. The first runs—

"remitted paper. There is no $2\frac{5}{16}$, still less $2\frac{3}{8}$, except for 6 months' paper. Money itself was easy at 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ p.c. for call loans, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. for week to week advances. Ease seems assured for a month at least. The continued weakness of Consols accentuates the fear about the future of money. Home Railway ordinaries were weak, with very little movement. John Jones's left off at 38 and African Gildeds rose $\frac{1}{4}$."

The Professor supposes this to be the description of a battle, though the language is very obscure, and the number of killed—38 only—is very small. In the other fragment, which follows, the language is more dignified, though still obscure.

"Hocker gave a palpable chance in the slips overnight and was occasionally beaten by the ball this morning. Jinks played clean and fine all through and showed a penchant for leg deflections. He delighted us with his driving and square cutting, playing several times naturally to the on, like other left-handers. He met Grace with easy aggressiveness and constantly drove Widgeon to the boundary. It was refreshing to see him give up hanging on his bat."

There can be no question that this describes a military manœuvre, since we know that the *bat* was a heavy war-club, which was grasped firmly by the shaft with both hands and brought down with a swinging motion on the enemy's head. But the most interesting manuscript, to our minds, is a letter from a woman of inferior position to a

great magician. It illustrates in a striking manner the effect of fanaticism on simple minds. The woman relates how she had been smitten down for many years by a complication of nervous disorders, the details of which are described with evident enjoyment. She appears to have spent a considerable fortune in purchasing drugs, and it was only

skill and ingenuity, though they still used metal rails for their locomotives, and had little or no conception of road-making. One circumstance which puzzled Professor Storry for a long time was the extraordinary number of lamps. One of the first objects exhumed was a lamp fixed upon a metal column, and since that time he has dis-

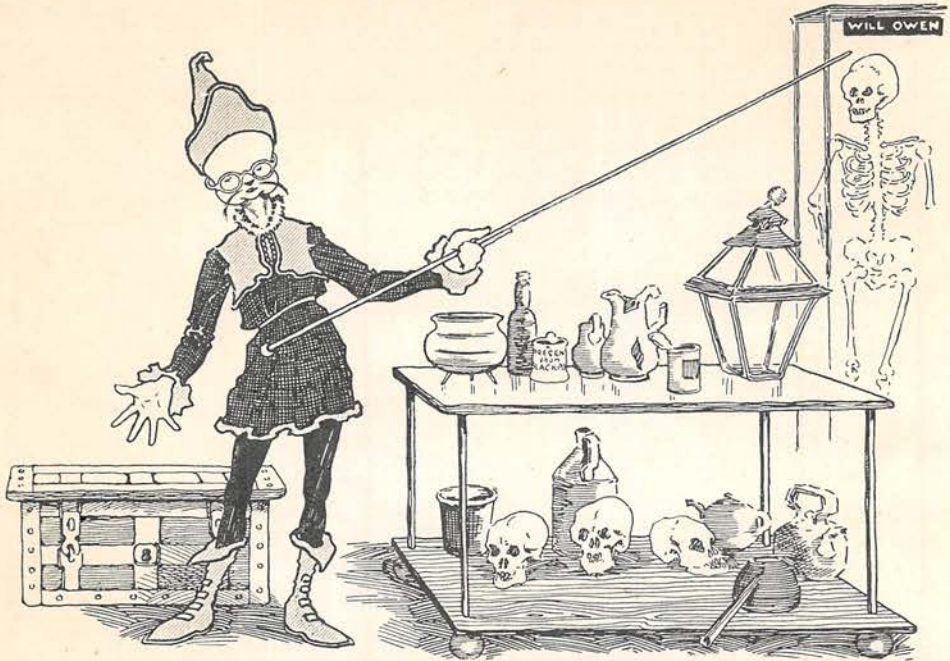


“Another inscription of equal interest was carved in stone on the front of a temple.”

after the abandonment of all hope that she purchased one of the magic philtres of the wizard, her confidence in which completely restored her health. The letter concludes with a touch of humour, the writer stating her intention to compel all her acquaintances to buy philtres for her.

The Anglelanders had some mechanical

covered some scores of lamps of every size and pattern. The use of so many lamps, all of them capable of giving only a feeble light close to the ground, baffled the Professor's comprehension, until he remembered that the axis of the earth, instead of being horizontal, as at the present time, at the estimated date of the Anglelander civilisation



"He has now proved beyond a doubt that the Anglelanders were a highly civilised race."

was inclined to the plane of the orbit at an angle of 66° . The result was that Angleland, lying between the fiftieth and sixtieth degrees of latitude, would have constant alternations of light and darkness every twenty-four hours. They were satisfied, therefore, with a partial illumination of their cities, having no need for a great central light such as is necessary for us, who would otherwise live in darkness for six months at a time.

Of their social life we catch occasional glimpses only. They had their meals in common, sitting in parties of three or four at small tables fitted with marble tops; each district had one or more dining-halls furnished in this way, and every inhabitant was required to contribute a certain quantity of food at a fixed computation. The common store of food was then placed upon a great sideboard, from which each diner took as his hunger prompted him. After meals they assembled in great crowds in the temples, where solemn chants and mystic dances were performed, the audience keeping time by beating their hands together. An engraving on paper of such a scene, miraculously preserved, shows us the whole ceremony—the worshippers, some impassive and others excited by religious fervour, an attendant who hastens to carry a glass of water to one who is faint, and the

dancer, who, in a costume rather convenient than elegant, is poised in a sort of ecstasy upon one foot. The faces of the people in this picture have a certain liveliness, but they do not exhibit the refinement of the statues and of the figures on the vases. We should be on our guard against interpreting too literally any of the work of these early nations. Many of their traditions evidently refer to natural phenomena. The story of the demi-god, Jack Horner, who sits afar in the corners of the earth devouring pastry, and proceeds to extract and hold aloft a single plum, obviously describes in allegorical language the rising of the sun, which would be a daily occurrence in Angleland at that period and could not fail to attract the attention of the poet. Similarly, the eclipse of the moon gives birth to the tale of the cow that jumped upon the moon in alarm at the strains of a violin played by a cat; while the tale of Mother Hubbard (on page 656 of Professor Storry's book) accurately represents the signs of the Zodiac. Happy Anglelanders, spinning your fairy tales in the cradle of the human race, groping blindly after the truth in your dim-lit streets! Well may you sigh for your childish dreams and groan beneath the weight of our boasted knowledge, which has banished the poetry of life and left us but a mechanical toy in its place!