

**THE BOILING LAKE OF DOMINICA.**

Dominica, the most mountainous of the Lesser Antilles, is about thirty miles in length by sixteen in breadth. The physical formation of the island is indescribably rugged, and the scenery generally is of the most varied and beautiful character. The highest mountain, Morne Diablotin, is 4,533 feet above the level of the sea, or a little higher than Ben Nevis, in Scotland. There are several large rivers in the island, but its interior is still little known, although nearly 400 years have elapsed since the discovery of the island by Columbus.

A correspondent of the *Illustrated London News* relates the discovery of the boiling lake, and the details of a recent journey to that remarkable place:

"We stood upon a large plateau of about fifty acres in extent, which is in reality a small spur of what have since been called the Sulphur Hills. Here and there over this plateau, on the surface of which is no vestige of vegetation, were huge-charred trunks of trees, large masses of volcanic rock, and numberless blow-holes, ejecting steam and water. The water, collecting from all sides, formed in the center of this scene of desolation a milk-white, impetuous stream, discharging itself over the edge of the plateau into the precipice beneath.

"Picking our way cautiously over this volcanic bed of scoria, pumice, and sulphur, and jumping from rock to rock, which here and there protruded from the stream, we crossed a firm mound of earth beyond, and unexpectedly found ourselves at the edge of the Boiling Lake. It was thus on March 2, 1875, that the Boiling Lake was seen and closely examined by Dr. Freeland, a Scotch medical practitioner, Captain Gardyne, who was traveling with him, Dr. Nicholls, a medical practitioner in this island, and myself.

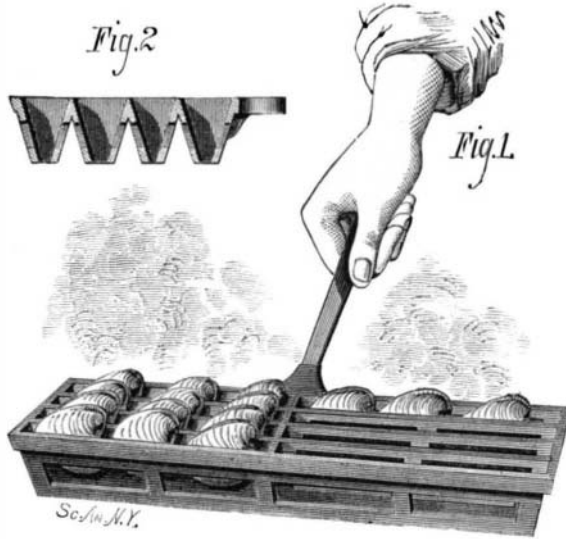
"Here, then, at an elevation of about 2,400 feet above the level of the sea, and on the southern side of the Sulphur Hills, is the Boiling Lake of Dominica. It is a body of pale slate-colored boiling water, inclosed in a circular basin of about 150 yards in width, the sides of the basin being, I should say, about 60 feet in height. The bare summits of the Sulphur Hills rise about 500 feet above the edge of the basin, and from blow-holes in the side of the hills issue small quantities of water, which in their downward course to the lake form two tributary rivulets.

"On arriving at the edge of the basin one sees nothing but clouds of steam rising from the lake. But the noise of the boiling water is distinctly audible, and it is only when a passing breeze for a moment dissipates the cloud of steam that one sees boiling in vast bubbles the body of water at one's feet. The actually boiling portion of the lake must be in a circle of about 40 feet in diameter, and the bubbles rise, I should say, about 3 feet or 4 feet into the air. The ripples caused by the boiling break towards the surrounding shore until they lave the sulphur-coated stones at the water's edge. The water itself, it is curious to observe, has, near the shore, a circular motion, which, perhaps, to some extent, accounts for the shape of the lake's basin; for I noticed that a small

log thrown into the water traveled round the lake, passing and re-passing the spot at which it had entered the water. The only apparent exit to the lake is on the southwestern side, and is not unlike a railway cutting—say about 9 feet in width. The amount of water discharged through this exit is apparently very small; but on closer examination I noticed an extensive sub-surface drainage, which, at about 200 yards south of the lake, forms a beautiful waterfall."

**IMPROVED CLAM BAKER.**

The implement illustrated herewith is a handy contrivance for baking clams in their shells. It holds the clams so that all the juice is retained, and enables the baking to be



STRORB'S CLAM BAKER.

more expeditiously and conveniently done. The device consists simply of a rectangular iron frame, the sides of which are downwardly and inwardly inclined, so that the bottom is narrower than the top. In said frame are arranged V-shaped bars, as shown in Fig. 2, which have cavities in their under sides, so that the heat is more quickly distributed to the clams when placed over the fire. This construction also allows of the implement being cheaply made of sheet metal.

In use the clams are placed as shown in Fig. 1, with the edge or mouth of the shell downward and wedged in between the bars, so that the bivalve cannot open while being cooked. The whole is then placed over the fire, and left without further attention until the baking is accomplished. Patented January 22, 1878. For further particulars address the inventor, Mr. John L. Stroub, New York city, N. Y.

**Charles Frederick Hartt.**

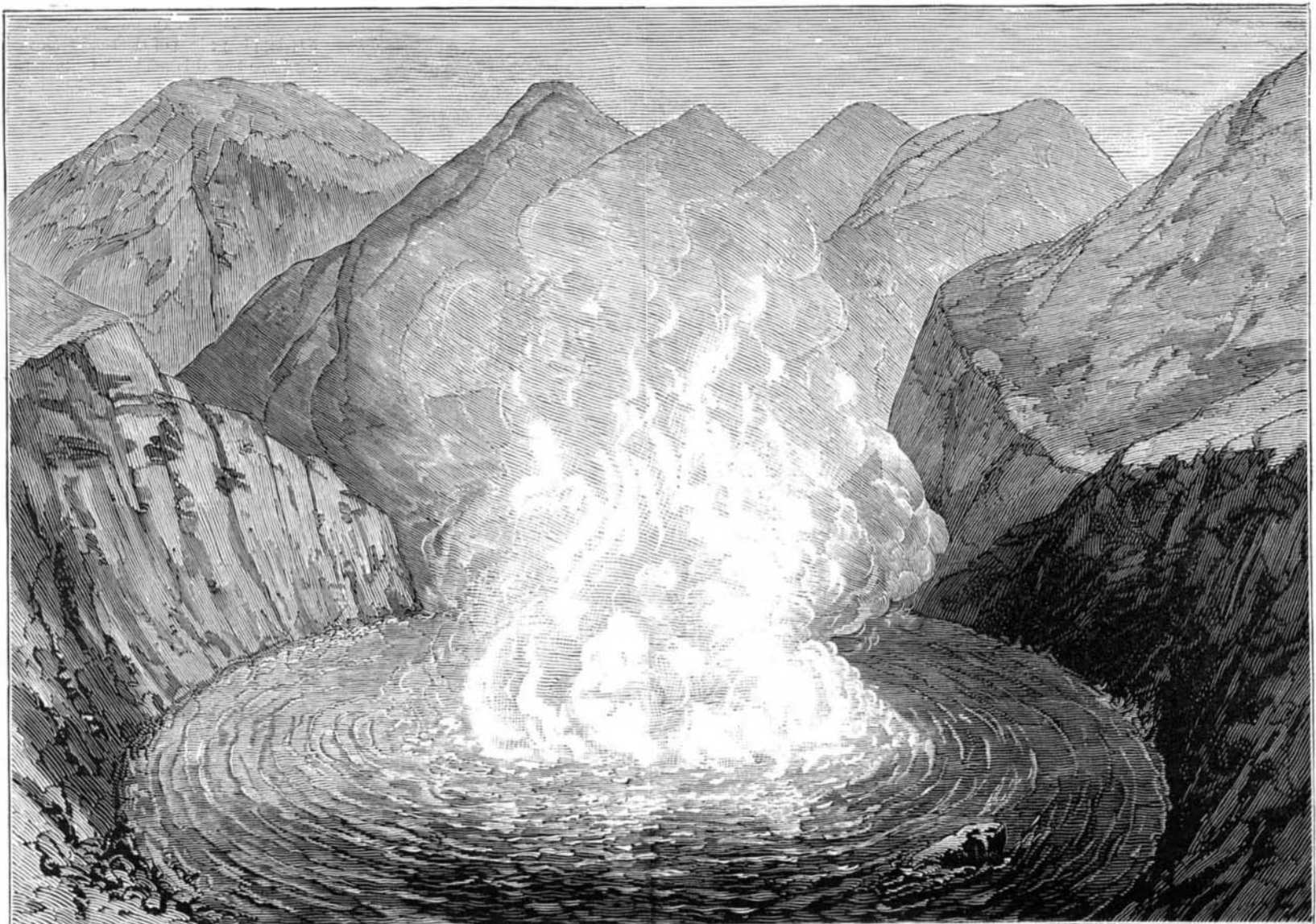
The loss which the world of science, but a few months ago, suffered in the death of Professor Orton, while engaged in South American exploration, has recently been supplemented by that of Professor Charles F. Hartt, Chief of the Geological Survey of Brazil. Professor Hartt was born about 1838, at St. John, N. B. In his youth he became interested in the study of geology, and discovered at St. John many new fossil plants and the oldest specimens of fossil insects then known. Most, if not all, of these were named and described by him in Dawson's "Arcadian Geology." From 1862 to 1865 he studied under Agassiz, and accompanied the latter to Brazil as geologist of his expedition. Shortly after his return he succeeded Professor Tenney to the chair of Natural History of Vassar College, which he resigned to accept the Professorship of Geology and Physical Geography at Cornell University. From the time of his first visit to Brazil, he made the geology of that empire his special study, and returned thither three times; in each case making careful explorations of the northern provinces and the valley of the Amazon. In May, 1875, the Emperor placed Professor Hartt at the head of the Geological Survey of Brazil, with a most liberal salary. The results of this great work have been but partially published. He was an untiring worker, and the results of his labors, although extensive, might have been still more so had he not been hampered through the jealousy of his native assistants during the absence of the Emperor in America and Europe. In 1870 he published his chief work "The Geology and Physical Geography of Brazil."

It is rarely that we find a specialist so versatile as was Professor Hartt. To his accomplishments as a geologist were added those of an ardent archæologist, artist, and linguist. He learned a new language with amazing rapidity, and the idiom of his adopted country was as familiar to him as that of the land of his birth; while his researches into the structure and affinities of the Indian languages of South America were profound and accurate. It is a singular fact that in the death of Professor Hartt, Vassar College loses, within a year, the only three professors who have filled the chair of Natural History in that institution, the other two being Sanborn Tenney and James Orton.

**To Exterminate the Red Ant.**

Professor Leidy states that when he purchased his present residence, while it was undergoing repair, he noticed a fragment of bread, left by the workmen in one of the second story rooms, swarming with little red ants.

Apprehending that the house was seriously infested, to ascertain whether it was so, he placed a piece of sweet cake in every room from the cellar to the attic. At noon every piece was found covered with the ants. Having provided a cup of turpentine oil, each piece was picked up with forceps, and the ants tapped into the oil. The cake was replaced, and in the evening was found covered with ants. The same process was gone through the following two days, morning,



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