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On the Down Side of Our World

THE ANTIPODES! No other word in the language has such a far-away sound.

The old writers used to amuse themselves by imagining a land where everything was topsy-turvy; where people walked on their heads, built their houses upside down, and where the trees grew into the earth, spreading their roots into the air. And we of the north still feel a certain strangeness about these regions when we read of their cold, blustering Julys, and their rose-crowned Januarys,—merely a sign of our own provincialism, no doubt.

As a matter of fact, the real Antipodes are very much a part of the modern world. In Australia and New Zealand small towns are growing into cities, the cities are constantly being embellished with huge new buildings equipped with the latest type of Otis Elevators.

One of the old writers we have spoken of would doubtless ask if the elevator men in the Antipodes say "Up!" when the elevator is descending and "Down!" when it is mounting.

No matter how topsy-turvy the other side of the world may be regarded by some, the fact remains that Otis Elevators are accepted quite casually and do their daily work in antipodal buildings.

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The toll bridge of early days bears but little resemblance to the one built today, but the reasons for its existence remain the same. A stream must be crossed by the public, and the passing public pays for the convenience provided by the bridge, either in taxes or tolls.

Toll was taken in the past as it is at present to pay not only for the upkeep of the bridge, but to repay to the owners the funds expended in its construction—whether the owners be private or public.

Modern highway traffic is rapid and seeks to travel in a direct line, requiring new roads and bridges. Present custom in many cases finds private toll bridges, with possible future reversion to the public, a solution of the problem.

The Foundation Company in the construction of some of these bridges, or the piers that support them, is in this way serving the public.

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