Opelousas Courier

OPELOUSAS : : LOUISIANA.

CALIFORNIANS are told by the San Francisco Call that, if they want five cent pieces, they must get over their prejudice against the nickel, as there are not enough silver pieces to answer the demand.

DR. I. I. HAYES has introduced in the New York legislature a bill to establish at the lower end of Manhattan Island a grand underground railroad depot and to tunnel the Hudson river so that the great trunk lines could enter New York.

SAILS are recovering somewhat of the estimation that ten years ago they threatened to lose entirely. It is found that all the advantages are not on the side of steam. In freightage of the heavier, coarser kind, cheapness is more of an element than speed.

A REAL telegraph has been invented by an English mechanical engineer. A writer in London moves his pen, and simultaneously in Brighton another pen is moved in precisely similar curves and motions. The writer writes in London, the ink marks in Brighton. The pen at the receiving end has all the appearance of being guided by a spirit hand. The apparatus is shortly to be made public before the society of telegraph engineers.

THE common horse-chestnut is capable of furnishing several useful products, which are regularly manufactured in several localities in Europe. The seeds contain over thirty-six per cent. of starch —250 pounds of the seeds yield 100 pounds of dry starch. Paste made from the starch is extremely adhesive, and is not attacked by insects. It is also used for producing certaing kinds of distilled liquors.

GEN. SHERIDAN received recently from Ben Clark, the interpreter and scout at Fort Reno, a handsome Indian trophy, in the shape of bow, and arrows and quiver. The quiver is a unique specimen of Indian art. It is made of a beautiful soft panther's skin, decorated with bits of red flannel. The tail is ornamented with bead work, and the huge claws are preserved at the bottom of the bow case. In the quiver are several arrows, which are of Indian manufacture, with the exception of the heads, which are of iron made by Yankee machines and sold to them by the traders.

PACIFC coast whalers set forth from their winter quarters early in the spring, provisioned for a cruise of at least six months. The crews number about thirty-five men, a force sufficient to man four or five boats. The number of boats carried depends on the locality of the hunting ground and the nature of the whales to be captured. In the extreme north whales never attack a boat, but in the south they do so frequently. The best of the weapons carried is the patent harpoon gun, which is darted from the hand, and explodes after striking the whale, causing instant death when it enters a vital part.

REV. JOHN BRADY is now a Presbyterian missionary in Alaska. Only a few years ago he was a street vagabond in New York, sleeping wherever he could find a shelter. After spending a term on Blackwell's island he was sent to a farm, where he both worked and studied. Then he became bell ringer at Yale college, and was in due time graduated, with a highly creditable record. Then his friends paid his way through the New York theological seminary. On entering the ministry he chose the Alaska field as one where there was plenty of hard work. The Rev. John Brady will succeed.

IN the government of Cherson, Russia, in the bed of a river, a peasant found an egg of unusual size. It is equal to forty hen's eggs, whereas the ostrich egg is equal only to twenty-four. It is of a yellowish color, and, being found between the clay and gypsum layers, is supposed to belong to the tertiary formation. The purchaser of this egg offered it to the Imperial Academy of Science, St. Petersburg, for one thousand roubles. The academy failed to buy it on account of lack of means, but asked permission to take a mould from it. The British museum has now bought this unique egg, to the grief of the Russian students of natural science.

WURTEMBURG, in Germany, is often visited by terrible hail storms. In some parts of the country whole districts seem to be exempted from the land tax on account of the damage caused by the hail. And these hail storms are apparently becoming more destructive. As regards liability to being visited, it appears that pine woods enjoy comparative immunity, while beech woods and bare hillsides are particularly unfortunate. The parishes most frequently devastated lie on the outskirts of wooded hills, but it does not appear that clearance of a wood has any deleterious influence. The valleys of the Neckar and some other rivers are the least troubled by this annoyance.

Do 'possums play 'possum? is the question asked by a scientific journal. It then goes on to show that they do not. Thus do the cherished delusions of our childhood days vanish before the searching light of investigation. It has been generally believed that to serve its purpose an opossum would feign death only to escape when a fitting opportunity offered. The oposum got a great deal of praise and admiration for this cunning device, and now it seems that the wily animal has been taking all this in on false pretenses, by not being as wily as it pretended. An investigator gives it as his opinion that the 'possum really faints instead of feints. It seems that the little animal is so timid that it is easily frightened into a temporary death, and, of course, when it wakes up it makes off as quickly as possible.

A DECISION on politeness was recently given by the supreme court at Boston. A hotel clerk sued his employers, who had discharged him before his time was up, they alleging that he had injured their business by being too familiar with guests in addressing them by their Christian names or surnames only. The allegation was admitted, and the court said: "To address a person by his Christian name, unless the parties have been intimately connected, socially and otherwise, is uncalled-for familiarity, and, therfore insulting to the party so addressed. To address a party by his surname only, shows a want of respect, and would imply that the party so addressed was beneath the party addressing; therefore it is discourteous and would be considered insulting. To speak of employers by their surnames only shows a great want of respect on the part of the employe toward the employer. While it may be customary for a person to address his juniors, clerks or under servants by their Christian or surnames, to address others so shows a want of respect, and the party so addressed would naturally evade contact in future with any one who had previously so addressed him." Politeness, added the court, costs nothing, but the want of it had cost the plaintiff the loss of his situation. The complaint was dismissed with costs.

SOUTHERN NEWS ITEMS.

The Mississippi printing offices are exempt from taxation.

The number of educable children in Mississippi is 336,540.

A New Hampshire man is endeavoring to establish starch factories in Florida.

Machinery has been put up at Fernando, Fla., to work the palmetto fiber.

The sponge trade of Cedar Keys, Fla., since the first of January amounts to $75,500.

A company of capitalists have commenced building a street railroad in Vicksburg.

About one hundred and fifty bills have been passed by the Tennessee legislature.

Florida immigration, while not so brisk as heretofore, is of a more substantial character.

There has not been a white man confined in the jail of Taliaferro county, Ga., in three years.

Athens Ga., has a bonded debt of $125,000, which bears interest at the rate of seven per cent.

An Augusta man has sold seven bushels of watermelon seed at the rate of thirty-two dollars per bushel.

The society for the prevention of cruelty to animals numbers one hundred and twenty members in Little Rock, Ark.

The $10,000 appropriated by the Alabama legislature to purchase limbs for maimed soldiers is exhausted already.

North Carolina will employ fifty convicts in draining and reclaiming Angola bay, an immense body of swamp land.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson will soon have 1600 acres of his orange grove plantation enclosed by a hedge of Macartney roses.

A New Orleans policeman endeavored to prove to his sweetheart that he knew how to handle a pistol, and accidentally shot her in the chest.

The Tennessee legislature has passed a bill authorizing the state board of health to establish quarantine whenever and wherever it may deem it advisable to do so.

A correspondent of the Augusta Sentinel is of the opinion that Georgia society will not be what it should be until the practice of carrying concealed corkscrews is entirely done away with.

The penitentiary feature was stricken from the tramp act in the Texas senate, and the penalty made thirty to ninety days' imprisonment at hard work in the county.

Appeal: Memphis was never bette governed than she is now; she was never in a better sanitary condition, never had a better outlook, and never saw the day when her people should be more cheerful as to the future.

Knoxville Tribune: Putnam county has the champion moonshiner. He is a boy ten years old. He used tar kegs for beer tubs, an old coffee-pot for a still, and an elder-stalk for a worm. A good average for this miniature moonshine establishment was four gallons per week.

Dallas (Texas) Herald: Capt. Hall has a force of five hundred men at work, has completed nearly fourteen miles of grade, and this week has opened up the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth miles on the Weatherford extension of the Texas and Pacific.

The Mississippi papers state that a fatal disease has broken out in the counties bordering the Alabama line, which is pronounced by the physicians as "black measles," and by the negroes as the "black plague." It is represented to be very contagious and usually fatal, not a single case having thus far recovered.

Key West Vidette: Reports brought by the sponging fleet inform us that in the bay to that sheet of water extending from the Tortugas to cape Florida they found millions of the largest sponges floating upon the water, all perfectly putrid, killed, as they believe, by the poisoned water that not long since destroyed myriads of fish.

Scottsboro (Ala.) Citizen: We had an interview with Mr. Daniel Martin, of the Belle onte vicinity, last Tuesday. Mr. Martin informed us that he is now in his 79th year, and married his present wife, who is not yet seventeen, about four years ago. She was only twelve years and fifty days old when he married her and he was seventy-five.

Arkansas Democrat: Enough food is thrown away every year on worthless dogs in Arkansas to support five times the number of suffering poor in the state for the same period. And yet a great many people —doubtless a majority—are opposed to any infringement of the sacred and inalienable rights of the dog. We are a queer people.

Albany (Ga.) Advertiser: If the Georgia legislature will restore the code of honor by removing all penalty fro n dueling, and substitute for the present law an act making the practice of carrying concealed weapons punishable by death, bloodshed will decrease, and such shocking tragedies as the one enacted in the state capitol, last week, will soon become like angel visits.

Columbus (Ga.) Times: This is a fast-running world, and the south need ask no odds of the north in all branches of industry. Why, we don't need even their ice any longer to cool our summer drinks, for the Industrial Ice company of this city is now turning out as fair an article of that indispensable luxury as can be furnished by the best of the far-famed northern lakes.

Dallas (Texas) Commercial: The negro emigration from Mississippi has been disastrous all round. In the first place many plantations have been almost depopulated of laborers, and the planting interest seriously affected. In the second place, the emigrants themselves, having changed remunerative employment for actual poverty in many cases, now possess neither the money to complete their journey nor to return home.

The citizens of Natchez and Concordia parish, La., have held a meeting to call the attention of congress to the condition of the Mississippi between the banks of Concordia parish and Adams county, and the danger of its breaking into Lake Concordia and changing its course. This would seriously damage a number of Louisiana planters, and at the same time cut off Natchez from the river just as Vicksburg has been cut off.

The New Orleans and Texas railroad is now completed to a point about four miles beyond Berwick. The road is well graded, and about two miles of the distance is surfaced. The work is being pushed actively forward and about a third of a mile of track is daily put in running order, the distance varying from 1800 to 2100 feet every twelve hours. It is estimated that by this route, when completed, the run between New Orleans and Houston will be made in fifteen hours.

New Orleans Times: The reports from the parishes continue to speak in large terms of the exodus of the negroes now in progress. It is said the enthusiastic welcome tendered the citizens of Natchitoches on their return after the trial in this city, has caused a consternation in the minds of the colored people, and that, in spite of the rumored ill-treatment received by the emigrants in St. Louis they are moving out of Morehouse, Madison, Ouachita and Natchitoches parishes in vast crowds. The negroes, also, are selling everything they have at the best rates they can get. These rates are of course very low.

Thomasville (Ga.) Times: Uncle Jack had been out among his sheep a little during Saturday afternoon, and he made to us the following statement: In one "bunch" of about forty-five or fifty head, he saw three lambs; in another lot of about one hundred and twenty-five, he found only one lamb. Cause known to be hogs and dogs. During the same visit we learned that the sheep in the Colquitt range are dying at a fearful rate with a species of distemper. Mr. William Hurst told us on Saturday that, on good authority, he had it that one stock-owner in the range mentioned has already lost 600 out of 1200 head by distemper.

We learn that over 80 000 tons of guano have been regularly inspected and sold in Georgia during the present season. This amount is absolutely enormous. The cash value of it is not much less than three million five hundred thousand dollars. This is a total that will make the farmers shudder. It is estimated that fully two-thirds of the amount might have been kept within the limits of the state if its natural resources had been developed, and that one-half of the total amount might have been saved to the farmers themselves if they had only utilized the natural resources of their farms. The inspection fees for this vast quantity of fertilizers amount to over $40,000—the fee being fifty cents for a ton. This will prove a very handsome revenue for the state, and will much more than support the agricultural bureau, under whose auspices it is made.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

In the senate, on the 31st, numerous bills were introduced and referred, among them the following: By Mr. Grover: Extending the time for the construction of the Northern Pacific railroad. By Mr. Johnston: To authorize a national board of health to investigate and report on infectious and contagious diseases of animals. By Mr. Pendleton: For the relief of Col. Thomas Worthington, of Ohio, for army supplies furnished in 1861. Also a joint resolution relative to requiring a court of inquiry into the case of Col. Worthington, of the forty-sixth Ohio regiment volunteers. Adjourned.

In the senate, on the 1st, a bill appropriating $200,000 for disinfecting yellow fever vessels was passed.....Mr. Cockrell introduced a bill for the erection of public buildings at Jefferson City.....The senate went into executive session pending a motion by Mr. Edmunds to take up the resolution heretofore introduced by him declaring that the business and other interests of the country required that legislation should be confined to the objects for which the extra session was called. When the doors were reopened the senate adjourned.

In the senate, on the 2d, various bills were introduced, among them one by Senator Harris, providing for a treaty with Mexico.....Senator Saulsbury made a report against the admission of Bell as senator from New Hampshire, on the appointment of the governor. It will come up for consideration.....Senator Hoar presented the views of the minority of the committee in favor of admitting Bell, signed by himself, Cameron [Wis.] and Ingalls.....The senate went into executive session. When the doors reopened it adjourned.

In the senate, on the 3d, Senator Voorhees introduced a bill authorizing the president to appoint James Shields, of Missouri, a brigadier-general in the army, on the retired list.....The report of the committee on privileges and elections, on the credentials of Charles H. Bell, appointed by the governor senator from New Hampshire, were taken up at the opening of the senate. Senator Hoar argued in favor of admitting Mr. Bell, saying that there was an unbroken line of precedents for so doing.....After an executive session, the senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.

In the house, on the 29th, the session was given up to discussion of the army appropriation bill,

In the house, on the 1st, Mr. Atkins (Tenn.) reported the legislative appropriation bill. It appropriates between fifteen and sixteen million dollars. The bill contains provisions repealing sections 801, 820 and 821, revised statutes, providing that all jurors, grand and petit, shall be publicly drawn from a box containing the names of not less than three hundred persons possessing the necessary qualifications. It also repeals sections 2016, 2018 and 2020 and all of the succeeding sections down to and including 2027, and also section 5522. It also strikes out of section 2019 the words, "for the purpose of engaging in the work of canvassing ballots," and strikes out of section 2028 the words, "or a deputy marshal," and the words, "city, town, county or parish." It also repeals section 2031, except such part of it as relates to the pay of supervisors of elections. It repeals all other sections and laws, authorizing appointment of chief supervisers of election and special or deputy marshals of elections. The house went into committee of the whole on the bill.

In the house, on the 2d, on motion of Mr. Dunnell (Minn.), all general debate on the army appropriation bill was ordered closed at three o'clock Friday, leaving five minutes' debate still open.....The house then went into committee of the whole, and after a lengthy debate the committee rose and the house adjourned.

In the house, on the 3d, the debate on the appropriation bill was continued, and the evening session was given up to the same subject.

Sleep-Walking Extraordinary.

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press.

George Tarr, an Illinois detective, was staying at a St. Paul hotel over night, having just arrested two desperate murderers. Tarr dreamed that one of his prisoners had escaped and that he was chasing the fugitive, and awoke to find that he had jumped through the window of his room, taking the sash with him, and had fallen upon a projecting roof several feet below. Realizing his strange position and dress, he impulsively concluded to climb up the side of the house to his room. Gripping the corner with one hand, clawing the outside boards with the fingers of the other, and making a free use of his toe-nails, he actually succeeded in climbing up the walls like a frightened cat, and entered his room without awakening any of the people about the hotel. He loosened the nails of his hands and feet, however, leaving traces of blood on the side of the building and about his room, which establish his story that he really made the wonderful ascent.

A SERMON FOR THE SISTERS.

BY IRWIN RUSSELL.

I nebber breaks a colt afore he's old enough to trabbel;
I nebber digs my taters till dey plenty big to grabble;
An' when you sees me risin' up to struttify in mettin'
I's fust clumb up de knowledge-tree and done some apple-eatin'.

I sees some sistahs pruzint, mighty proud o' what dey wearin',
It's well you isn't apples, now, you better be declarin'!
For when you'd heard yo' markit-price, 't'd hurt yo' little feelin s
You wouldn't fetch a dime a peck for al' yo' lancy pe-lin s.

O sistahs—leetle apples (for you're r'a'lly mighty like 'em)—
I lubs de ol-time russets, dough it's seldom I kin strike 'em;
An' so I lubs you, sistahs, for yo' grace, an' not yo' graces—
I don't keer how my apple looks, but on'y how it tastes

Is dey a Sabbaf-scholar heah? Den let him 'form his mudder
How Jacob-in-de-bible's boys played off upon dey bruddder!
Dey sol' him to a trader—an' at last he struck de prison:
Dat comed of Joseph's struttin' in dat streaked coat oh his'n.

My Christian frien's, dis story preches dat chen men is human—
He'd had a dozen fancy coats, ef he'd 'a 'been a 'oman!
De cuseldness oh showin' off, he foun' out all about it;
An' yit he wuz a Christian man, as good as ever shouted.

It larned him! An' I bet you when he come to git his riches
Dey didn't go for stylish coats or Philadelphy breches;
He didn't was'e his money when experunce taught him better,
But went aroun' a-lookin' like he's waitin' for a letter!

Now, sistahs, won't you copy him? Say, won't you take a lesson,
An' mind dis sollum wahnin' 'bout de sin oh fancy dressin'?
How much yo' spen' upon yo'self? I wish you might remember
Yo' preacher ain't been paid a cent since somewhar in November.

I better close. I sees some gals dis sahmon's kinder hittin'
A-whisperin', an' 'sturbin' all dat's near whar dey's a-sittin';
To look at dem, an' listen at dey onrespect'ful jabber,
It turns de milk oh human kineness mighty nigh to clabber!

A-A-A-MEN!

PHILOSOPHY OF "SPIRITISM"

The Medium a Mind-Reader, According to the Springfield Republican.

Acceptance of a term does not necessarily imply belief in a theory. That there are and always have been certain phenomena not explainable on physical grounds alone few thinking persons will deny. That they are attributable to the influence of departed spirits is a doctrine to which the rational student of mental philosophy is less liable to give credence. Eminent physicians may contend that Miss Fancher, the Brooklyn "ecstatic," does not possess clairvoyant powers. She may and she may not. A condition which is not impossible to a person in strong health should hardly be denied to one in whom, in consequence of long illness, mind must predominate over matter. A knowledge of anatomy and drugs does not establish a man's claim to precedence in deciding matters of this kind. One may have a perfect acquaintance with the physical structure of the brain, but he is no better qualified than any other reasoning observer to explain mental actions. I am free to admit that most mental effects are affected by physical causes, but sometimes we find them going beyond. That there is such a thing as clairvoyance, or mind-reading as some may term it, I affirm. That true spiritualism exists, I am bound to deny, since every personal attempt to fathom the so-called mystery has resulted in nothing more than barefaced fraud. One incident of many in a long period of investigation will serve to illustrate my points.

In preface, let me say, what most know, that the majority of professional mediums claim to be controlled by Indian spirits, and for the purpose of conveying their information in a more impressive manner, employ a species of jargon which is only a more corrupt use of language than a person of ordinary intelligence would adopt in everyday life. As an assistance in creating impressions, the reception room is generally darkened —in fact they strive to produce effects as uncanny as possible, thus preparing the credulous for unquestioning assent to "something very strange at least."

Some time ago, in company with a friend, I visited a famous clairvoyant in one of our largest cities. She lives in elegance, talks fluently, and with her whole family claims to believe in spiritualism. This was our third visit, and we were in different disguise every time, going but once together. With astonishing accuracy she read my entire life in brief, told me the mental and physical condition of absent friends, even what some were doing at that very hour, never once failing in the past or present, but she was hopelessly wrecked when she touched upon the future. The main facts she repeated after the first visit, giving just enough to prove that she had worked methodically if indeed responsible, then dismissing the old wish the remark that she had told me all that before. She gave names of friends living and dead, with personal descriptions, and further, described accurately some whom I had never known, and the correctness of those pictures I afterward proved by applying to those who had known them. The leading item on which I proposed to test her she gave me perfectly at the outset and good naturedly referred to my skepticism. Through it all she was but twice thrown off her guard, forgetting then her dialect and answering me with very human irritation rather than spiritual superiority and forbearance.

During my friend's interview with her—I waiting meanwhile—a refined, intellectual and delicate woman was shown into the back parlor. The medium, not having gone under control, came out to say to her husband that she would like him to attend the new comer. A conversation followed, to which I confess I listened. I was there for information and felt entitled to all I might obtain in a public way. It proved that this lady, a skeptic, having attended one of the many seances at this house, had become convinced of the truth of the theory, and had for a week been seeing and conversing with the spirits, and was now willing to be developed. The husband, a burly man weighing about 200, took her in charge, and from my corner I discovered that she was "completely entranced," and was about to write a communication from the spirit world, the man still controlling by suggestions and manipulations. At this point I deliberately walked forward and took my seat so that I could watch the entire proceeding. Such action was far from pleasing to the man and to his mother, who also was there. I asked him if she was in a trance. "Perfectly so—entirely unconscious." At that moment she opened her eyes, and then began a violent twitching of her arms, which he could not stop, although he for some time attempted to "throw off the influence." At length, seeing these movements were exhausting her, I asked permission to try quieting her myself. In five minutes she was herself again. As a result of this incident a conversation began, in which the lady gave me her peculiar experiences, and asked my opinion, which I unhesitatingly gave—that the whole thing was a humbug as regards spiritualism, but that I had reason to believe that such a power as mind-reading exists. Of course this brought the guns of both mother and son to bear upon me, not so much on account of my own skepticism, as because I seemed likely to snatch from them a wealthy and more than half-converted patron, who wanted only a few sharp, sensible words to carry her back into unbelief and reason. Incidentally the man said, pointing to me:

"There is a person whom I could never influence—the nature is too positive."

Apparently piqued, the lady said: "You could not have controlled me had I not been willing."

"I think I could. I think my will is stronger than yours. Before I had exerted it upon you five minutes you were perfectly submissive."

"Then, sir," I remarked, "you exercised will power?"

"I did."

"That is not spiritualism, it is mesmerism, animal magnetism."

Thoroughly vexed with himself and annoyed with me, he snarled out: "I claim that to a certain degree they are alike."

"And I claim that 'spiritualism' and mesmerism are by no means identical. The one supposes a human agency, the other a super-human."

"Prof. Carpenter employs virtually the same means that I take. He addresses his hearers, interests and quiets them, and then begins to operate upon his subjects."

"I agree with you, and precisely to the same end. But Prof. Carpenter honestly calls himself a mesmerist—you claim to be controlled by spirit influence."

"Has my wife not told you many truths to-day?"

"She has. Your wife is an excellent mind-reader."

"Did she not go beyond mind-reading? Has she not told you, as well as others, facts which only the spirits know?"

No, she has told me many things I do not know, but I have not verified them yet. They are in the future."

"You then absolutely deny that my wife has made or can make a spiritual communication to you?"

"I do—to me or anybody else. I do not believe that the dead friends of myself or any other person are coming to talk to me through your wife at one dollar a visit. I hold that if they had anything to say to me they would come to me directly."

"If one sends a telegram he sends by a hired operator, does he not?—he cannot attend to the work himself."

"The cases are not parellel. We started from a spiritual stand-point, and you have wandered into the physical properties of matter. But right here let me ask you a question. If your wife wishes to tell me through the spirits, or through her, something about an absent friend, why does she wish to hold in her hand a lock of that person's hair or a letter written by him? Do spirits need a tangible connection with our world?"

"We must work by established methods. You admit that the lock of hair and the letter assist the communication?"

"I admit that your wife's talk is more rapid under those conditions, but I have my own theory on the subject. I deny in toto the published theory of spiritists."

"How will you explain my wife's telling the things you acknowledge to be so?"

"I call it mind-reading."

"What, when it touches the thoughts and actions of your absent friends?"

"Yes."

"I came from a state of infidelity into a full and perfect faith in Spiritualism. If I lose that faith I shall go back to infidelity. Why should we profess this if we do not believe it?"

"The business pays."

"You call it mind reading—how do you explain the process?"

"I do not pretend to explain the most ordinary workings of the human mind, nor can anybody else. How, then, can you expect me to demonstrate to you the action of mind in an abnormal condition?"

"How do you satisfy yourself, then, that it is not Spiritualism? Do you deny there is such a thing as true clairvoyance?"

"I do not deny that, but I claim that clairvoyance is not spiritualism. I hold that your wife, or anbody else successful in the business, as well as many in private life, has, beyond the majority, the faculty of rendering her mind utterly negative, so to speak. The essential thing, at the start, is a quiet, passive condition on both sides, especially on the part of the medium. The darkness and the silence contribute to this result, as the attention is not drawn off by outside objects. The mind of the medium being thus obedient, for I claim she can produce this effect upon herself by a mere effort of will, or rather a non-exertion of will, she is, for the time being, mentally subordinate and her mind is virtually the servant of the other. How this is done I do not pretend to say. I further believe that, using her sitter as a means of communication as well as guide, she can put herself in partial connection with absent minds. That this has about it something material as well, is illustrated by the fact that she wants something which the absent one has handled. She may or may not be unconscious all this time—there are differences. You claimed this lady was unconscious during the entire time she was under your influence. She said she was not unconscious for an instant, but was powerless to speak. Everybody knows that we are affected in different ways by the society of different people. This is only another leaf out of the same book which we are discussing, but nobody sees anything supernatural in it. It is my belief that, as this mind-absorbing power is much more common than we once believed, and is largely a matter of temperament and sensibility, existing to as great a degree among those who do not practice it for gain, and who utterly repudiate all theory of spiritualism in connection with it as among acknowledged spiritualists, sooner or later we shall come to such an understanding of these mental phenomena as will make it possible to know the general principles which govern such action, if not to comprehend it in its fullest extent. And it seems to me that the wisest way to combat the effects of an ignorant belief in spirits—effects pernicious to the holders of such belief and alarmingly hurtful to general society—would be to experiment with a few thorough skeptics who possess this gift, for there are many such. Many shrink from this, lest like others as wise and sensible, they should be led into adoption of the folly. But if spiritualism is merely peculiar mental action, investigation will only lead to good results."

"How do you account for materialized spirits?"

"I have never seen any, and have never known any one who has. I claim that the faces which some honest ones purport to see are brought before them solely by the power of imagination, and that such hallucination is nothing more strange than any other vagary during a diseased condition of the brain. Stimulants bring strange visions in their wake; why may not an imagination, highly wrought upon, see ghosts and flowers, after having gone through a course of training to that very end? In both instances, the mind is in an unnatural, unhealthy state. This is my theory, sir."

"We can not convert each other, I see."

Here our talk ended. I take pleasure in adding that the lady mentioned came over to my side of the argument and warmly thanked me for my efforts in her behalf and my success in leading her back to agreeable skepticism.

As I believed then, I believe now, basing that opinion upon long observation and study of what I hold to be a very pleasant and agreeable subject, when detached from the gross trickery of professionals who make capital out of a widespread credulity. With regard to Miss Fancher's ability to live without eating, I have nothing to say. It is easily tested. Concerning the keenness of her mental perceptions and the subtlety of her grasp upon objects invisible to and remote from her, I hold that she simply possesses to a remarkable degree the same power which belongs, to a less extent, to five out of every ten whom we meet daily, but who are too absorbed in the busy whirl of life to pay much heed to impressions and premonitions.

A Dramatic Court-Room Scene.

In the trial of Bishop Burton, at Salt Lake, Utah, on the 24th, for the Morrisite massacre, Philip Hewit, the eye-witness of the affair, testified as follows: "I was in the Morrisite camp on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of June, 1862. The surrender was made on the 15th. I knew Burton at that time and had known him before. I worked for him at the court-house. I knew Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Swaney. The Morrisites were gathered together in front of the school-house. He raised his head and shouted: 'Joseph Morris, where are you?' Morris stepped forward and asked: 'Gentlemen, what do you want?' Then Burton said: 'Will you give up, give up, give up?'—at the same time firing three shots at him. Morris replied: 'I will never give up my principles; they are eternal truth,' and that is what he meant when he said he would not give up. Burton could have taken Morris without firing a shot if he had pleased. The arms of the Morrisites were stacked behind the school-house, and a body of Burton's troops were guarding them. After he had shot Morris three times, Burton cried out, 'Where is your prophet now?' Just then Mrs. Swaney came from the crowd, saying, 'Is this going to be another Mountain Meadows massacre?' Burton shot her also. Mrs. Bowman ran up and cried, 'You bloodthirsty wretch!' Burton said that no one could call him that, and then shot her too. I went a little distance away and saw John Lanke lying on the ground wounded. He knew me and waved his hand to me. I knew that it was Burton who shot Morris and the two women, for I was acquainted with him. I don't know whether I could recognize him now or not, for it has been seventeen years since the event."

The prosecution asked the witness to look about the court-room and pick out the man. The witness left the stand and peered into the faces of the defendant's counsel, one after another, until he came to Burton, when he said: "If that man will stand up I can tell whether he is Burton or not." By direction of the prosecution the defendant arose, tall and erect, whereupon witness recognized Burton, and in an excited voice pronounced him the man whom he saw shoot Joseph Morris and the two women, Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Swaney.

Wonderful Things in Leather.

The McKay Sewing Machine company, which is now having a fight in congress, sewed 45,000,000 pairs of shoes last year, and there were pegged upon the pegging machines 55,000,000 pairs last year. And those machines have entirely revolutionized the business. There are 450,000 bushels of loose pegs made in New England, and those pegs sell from sixty-five to seventy-five cents per bushel; yet a patented peg-wood (a strip or ribbon of wood cut against the grain, and of a width just equal to the length of a peg) has so superseded the loose pegs that last year there were 55,000,000 pairs of boots and shoes pegged with it. The whole expense of this peg-wood averages about one-fourth of a cent per pair. Nearly one thousand of these pegs are driven into the shoe in a minute, and there are about four to six pegs to an inch, or about twenty-two inches of pegging to a shoe. Over two hundred varieties of shoe machines are now in the market. The man who invented this peg-wood had to borrow money to enable him to perfect his device and pay the fees of the solicitor and patent office, besides having borrowed $60,000 to introduce it into the market. It cost the parties who invested and introduced into the shoe shops the "cable screw-wire machine," $300,000. Six hundred pairs of pegged shoes can now be made in a day by a gang of ten men. Where before shoe shops existed throughout New England, now shops have become large, labor is classified, and receives a larger compensation (strikes to the contrary notwithstanding); wages have advanced 50 to 100 per cent. to the laborer, and the shoe in quality is 25 per cent. better than twenty-five years ago.

The Niagara Falls Ice-Bridge.

The great ice-bridge at Niagara has almost disappeared. A correspondent of the Buffalo Courier says: "It is strange, but a fact, that most of the bridge was snow, and nothing but the severe cold weather that we have had kept it together so long. It is estimated that about eighteen thousand people have crossed this bridge. Mr. Convoy, the well-known guide, was the first to cross the ice-bridge on December 30th. The last to cross was a boy, accompanied by a dog, Wednesday afternoon, the 12th ultimo. Although there have been a great many dangerous places about the falls during the winter, and so many thousands of people have gazed upon the grand sights and superb scenery, it is pleasant to know that not a single accident has occurred. It will not be surprising if we have another ice-bridge this spring, when the ice comes down from the lakes. May 8, 1877, an ice-bridge formed just below the American falls, while grass was being cut in Prospect Park. People crossed the bridge at that time for two or three days. It broke and went down the river on the 14th."

FACTS AND FANCIES.

MARY'S CHILL.

Mary had a little chill
Which gave her heaps of pain;
And when she tried to shake that chill,
It shook her back again.

It followed her to school one day,
Which was against the rule
It made the children laugh to see
Poor Mary shake in school.

And so the teacher sent her home,
And bade her take some tile,
To reconstruct her system and
To liquidate the bile.

What makes poor Mary have the chills,
And shake so awful bad?
Why don't she take a gross of pills
Or wear a liver-pad?

BAR RELIEF—Drinking in a saloon room to drown sorrow.

THE late Prince Henry, of Holland, left an estate of at least $41,000,000.

THE largest steel rail mill in the United States is to be erected at Baldwin, near Harrisburg, Pa.

A CLOCK keeps its hands before its face probably, because it is ashamed of the cowardly manner in which time flies.

IF the socialists keep on shooting at the monarchs of Europe, it might pay for some American to go over and copper the king.

ALL the patents on India-rubber shoes have expired, and that's why most any sort of a man can get trusted for a pair this spring.

CRITICS are sentinels in the grand army of letters, stationed at the corners of newspapers and reviews, to challenge every new author.

EVE, it will be remembered, had no spring bonnet, yet she married the first gentleman in the land. She had a fall suit, however, of the fig-leaf pattern when she left Eden.

"BRILLIANT and impulsive people," said a lecturer on physiognomy, "have black eyes; or, if they don't have 'em, they're apt to get 'em if they are too brilliant and too impulsive."

TALMAGE may be guilty of heresy, burglary, arson and murder, but the one great fact that no one can go to sleep under his preaching should weigh tons in his favor.

IT will please many of his admirers to know that Dan Rice will have five of his shows around the country this season, and they will all be "original" and each will have the "only" Dan Rice with it.

THE largest diamond in the world—weighing 400 karats—has just been found in India. It will be at least four weeks before hack-drivers can get anything on their shirt fronts to beat the new find.

THE last rays of the setting sun were shining on the gilded frame of a mirror before which a young fop had been standing for hours, trying to arrange a refractory tie, when he exclaimed, "Aha! at last it's eventide."

THE world's fair, at Sydney, Australia, to be opened on the 1st of next August, will be chiefly contributed to by the mother country and the United States. Two ship loads of American machinery and products are to be exhibited.

"KEEP 'way from dat nigger, I tell you," said Uncle Rube to his sable daughter; "keep 'way from him. He's like what de 'Postle John lived on in de wild'ness." "How's dat?" she asked. "Low cuss and wild, honey," replied Uncle Rube.

SENATOR BURTON, a colored member of the Texas legislature, sends money to Virginia to assist his old mistress who raised him and taught him how to read, and who is now living in straitened circumstances.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

A.—What is the good and what is the bad?
Where is the perfectly true?
What is the end you live for, my lad?
And what, may I ask, are you?
Unproven, I fear, is your heaven above,
Life is but labor and sorrow;
Then why should we hope, and why should we love,
And why should we care for the morrow?

B.—There may be a fight worth fighting, my friend,
Though victory there be none:
And though no haven be ours at the end,
Still we may steer straight on.
And though nothing be good and nothing be bad,
And nothing be true to the letter,
Yet a good many things are worse, my lad,
And one or two things are better.

REMARKABLE are the stories coming from Newfoundland as to the wealth of copper ore. According to these accounts vast masses of copper have been discovered near the sea, rising above the surface in lofty cliffs, easily quarried, and easily shipped, and of superior richness.

EVERY now and then some chap writes to a newspaper for a recipe to prevent hair from coming out. If men would go home from the lodge before midnight with their legs sober, their hair wouldn't come out so rapidly. We always go home early, and we have more hair now than the day we were born.—[Norristown Herald.

THE police in Alsace and Lorraine have seized great quantities of cigarette paper in the shape of a tricolor and inscribed with the arms of Strasbourg, Metz, etc; also many labels for bottles marked "Liberation Liquor" and "Extract of France, to be taken at the psychological moment," and some miniature maps with the severed territory in black.

THE late Prince Henry of the Netherlands was one of the wealthiest princes in Europe. His property has been usualy estimated in Holland at $41,500,000. The greater part of it consists in state funds; there are also shares in commercial companies, landed estates and castles, and similar property, some of it in the Netherlands, the remainder in Germany and the Dutch colonies.

THERE is some excitement in Connecticut over the elopement of Gov. Hubbard's daughter with her father's coachman, who seems to be quite a decent young fellow. He knows how to drive horses, and that is more than many young men know. On the whole, the young woman's chances for happiness are better than if she had married a youth of fashion and fortune.—[Chicago Journal.

OTTO MCNANNY is a St. Louis man of middle age and sedate manners. Mary Engelbrecht is young, with a shapely figure and a pretty face, and she dresses with artistic neatness. Otto saw Mary in the street for the first time, and was overcome with admiration. He threw one arm around her waist, drew her to him, exclaimed, "O, girly, girly," and kissed her three times before she could break away. He subsequently paid fifteen dollars fine in a police court.

"YOUR daughter has treated me very curt—" And the young man was lifted up by the parental boot from the door of his girl's house to the middle of the horse-car track. He arose as quick as he could and mildly explained that he hadn't finished the word, which was "courteously;" and Alphonso was taken under the inhospitable roof once more, had his pantaloons mended, was done up in salve, and was then sent home to his ma in a hack. Thus is true greatness rewarded and impetuosity rebuked.