HIGH-CASTE INDIAN MAGIC.

LEVITATION AND SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

PROFESSOR KELLAR'S VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES.

From The North American Review.

Fifteen years spent in India and the far East have convinced me that the high caste fakirs, or magicians, of Northern India have probably discovered natural laws of which we in the West are ignorant. That they succeed in overcoming forces of nature which to us seem insurmountable, my observation satisfies me beyond doubt. No topic of the marvellous has excited more general interest and remained in greater obscurity than Hindoo jugglery. Discussion has, through a confusion of terms, lent to the subject a vagueness which it might otherwise have escaped. Magic is defined as "the art of putting in action the power of spirits, or the occult powers of nature"; so it seems proper to use the term magician in speaking of the esoteric marvel worker, in the sense of a human being who is able to put in action "the occult powers of nature."

News of the strange performances of the Hindoo magicians has reached the West for centuries. Marco Polo's stories of their feats, though at first received in Europe with some credence, afterward served to foster the impression that he was the willing victim of delusion. The tales of the Crusaders rivalled those told of the achievements of the great Merlin, and we glean from the exploits of Thomas of Ercildoune and the wizards of the North glimpses of what may be the reflected potency of the Tibetan esoterics. Yet, through a thousand years of rumor, the high caste fakir has succeeded in preserving the secret of his powers, which have on more than one occasion baffled my deepest scrutiny, and remained the inexplicable subject of my lasting wonder and admiration.

These fakirs—for that term does not imply a reflection upon their personalities or their methods—are very dignified men, of patriarchal appearance, with ascetic faces and long gray beards. All the skillful ones I have seen were quite advanced in years, and were said to have spent their lives in study and in seclusion. It seems plausible indeed to believe their story, that it is only after a life-time of contemplation and study that they are admitted into the higher circles of the esoteric brotherhood, whose seat is in the monasteries of Tibet and in the mountain recesses of northern Hindustan. They are quiet, suave and secretive, and appear to attach an almost religious significance to the manifestations of their power. There is nothing inherently improbable in the theory that they are initiated into a knowledge whose secrets have been successfully preserved for centuries. That there is anything supernatural in their power I would be the last to concede, for I have spent my life in combating the delusions of supernaturalism and the so-called manifestations of spiritualism.

FEATS OF LEVITATION.

The most marvellous phenomena which I have observed may be described under the heads of feats of levitation, or the annihilation of gravity; feats of whirling illusion, in which one human form seems to multiply itself into many, which again resolve themselves into one; and feats of voluntary interment. My first experience with the phenomenon of levitation was in January, 1882, during the course of an engagement I was filling at the Chowringhee Theatre Royal in Calcutta. Mr. Eglinton, a professed spiritual medium, was giving seances in Calcutta at the time, and as I openly avowed my ability to expose the frauds of all so-called mediums, I was taken to one of them which occurred in a brilliantly lighted apartment. I will not describe it otherwise than to say that I so puzzled and interested me that I gladly accepted the invitation an evening or two afterward to be present with several others at a dark seance given by Mr. Eglinton.

It was now that the feat of levitation was apparently performed in the presence of these spectators. The only furniture in the room was a plain teakwood table, a zither, some chairs, two musical boxes and a scroll of paper. A circle having been formed, I was placed on Mr. Eglinton's left and seized his left hand firmly in my right. Immediately on the extinction of the lights, I felt him rise slowly in the air, and as I retained firm hold of his hand, I was pulled to my feet, and subsequently compelled to jump on a chair and then on the table in order to retain my hold of him. That his body did ascend into the air on that occasion with an apparently utter disregard of the law of gravity, there can be no doubt. The musical-boxes, playing briskly, then appeared to float through the air above our heads, small green lights appearing and disappearing here and there without visible cause, and the zither playing near the ceiling or immediately over our heads. I mention this incident as a preface to the more remarkable feats of levitation I will now describe, and also to say that this being my first experience of that strange power, what most excited my wonder was the fact, for I may speak of it as a fact without qualification, that when Mr. Eglinton rose from my side, and, by the hold he had on my right hand, pulled me up after him, my own body appeared for the time being to have been rendered non-susceptible to gravity.

On the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Calcutta during the winter of 1875-76, I saw a marvel of levitation performed in the presence of the Prince and of some fifty thousand spectators. The place was the Maidam, or Great Plaza of Calcutta, and the old fakir who was the master magician of the occasion did his work out in the open plaza. Around him, in raised seats and on and under the galleries of the neighboring houses, the native Princes and Begums were gathered by the score, arrayed in their silks and jewels, with a magnificence to which our Western eyes are little accustomed. After a salaam to the Prince, the old fakir took three swords with straight cross-barred hilts, and buried them full downward about six inches in the ground. The points of these swords were as sharp as I afterward informed myself. A younger fakir, whose black beard was parted in what we now call the English fashion, although it originated in Hindustan, then appeared, and, at a gesture from his master, stretched himself out upon the ground at full length, with his feet together and his hands close to his sides, and, after a pass or two made by the hands of the old man, appeared to become rigid and lifeless. A third fakir now came forward, and taking hold of the feet of his prostrate companion, whose head was lifted by the master, the two laid the stiffened body upon the points of the swords, which appeared to support it without penetrating the flesh. The point of one of the swords was immediately under the nape of the man's neck, that of the second rested midway between his shoulders, and that of the third was at the base of his spine, there being nothing under his legs. After the body had been placed on the swordpoints the second fakir retired, and the old man, who was standing some distance from it, turned and salaamed to the audience.

The body tipped neither to the right nor to the left, but seemed to be balanced with mathematical accuracy. Presently the master took a dagger, with which he removed the soft round the hilt of the first sword, and, releasing it from the earth, after some exertion, quietly stuck it into his girdle, the body meanwhile retaining its position. The second and the third swords were likewise taken from under the body, which, there in broad daylight and under the eyes of all the spectators, preserved its horizontal position, without visible support, about two feet from the ground. A murmur of admiration pervaded the vast throng, and with a low salaam to the Prince, the master summoned his assistant, and lifting the suspended body from its airy perch they laid it gently upon the ground. With a few passes of the master's hand the inanimate youth was himself again.

A ZULU WITCH DOCTOR.

During the Zulu war I was in South Africa, travelling north through Zululand. In Dunn's reservation, 200 miles north from Durban, in Natal, I saw a witch doctor levitate the form of a young Zulu by having a tuft of grass about his head, amid surroundings calculated to impress themselves deeply upon the most prosaic imagination. It was evening, at I the witch doctor, who belonged to the class described more than once by Rider Haggard with great accuracy, was as revolting in his appearance as the high caste fakirs had been pleasing. A number of fakirs had gathered about our camp-fire and I had given them some illustrations of my own skill. They seemed puzzled, but were not specially curious. One of them took away and after some minutes returned with their own conjuror, the witch doctor in question. After considerable solicitation from the natives, the intricacies of which my knowledge of the Zulu language did not enable me quite to penetrate, the conjuror, who at first seemed reluctant to give his consent to an exhibition of his powers before me, took a knob kerry, or club, and fastened it at the end of a thong of rawhide about two feet long. A young native, tall and athletic, whose eyes appeared to be fixed upon those of the conjuror with an apprehensive steadfastness, took his own knob kerry and fastened it at the end of a similar thong of hide. The two then stood about six feet apart in the full glare of the fire and began, all the while in silence, to whirl their knob kerrys about their heads. I noticed that when the two clubs seemed, in their flight, almost to come in contact, a spark or flame passed, or appeared to pass, from one of them to the other. The third time this happened there was an explosion; the spark appeared to burst, the young man's knob kerry was shattered to pieces, and he fell to the ground apparently lifeless.

The witch doctor turned to the high grass a few feet behind us and gathered a handful of stalks about three feet long. Standing in the shadow and away from the fire, he waved with a swift motion, exactly similar to that of the clubs a few minutes before, the bunch of grass around the head of the young Zulu, who lay as dead in the firelight. In a moment or two the grass seemed to ignite in its flight, although the witch doctor was not standing within twenty feet of the fire, and burned slowly, crackling audibly. Approaching more closely the form of the native in the trance, the conjuror waved the flaming grass gently over his figure, about a foot from the flesh. To my intense amazement the recumbent body slowly rose from the ground and floated upward in the air to a height of about three feet, remaining in suspension and moving up and down, according as the passes of the burning grass were slower or faster. As the grass burned out and dropped to the ground the body returned to its position on the ground, and after a few passes from the hands of the witch doctor the young Zulu leaped to his feet, apparently none the worse for his wonderful experience.

A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

After the Eglinton seance in Calcutta I saw a performance by the whirling fakirs in the Chandee Choke, the Cheapside of Calcutta. There were a score of Englishmen in the party, which had gathered by arrangement, and we were escorted to a long empty room in the Chandee Choke, which was apparently an unoccupied storeroom. There was no back door, and the only two windows in the room—which were at either side of the entrance—looked on the street. There was no one present when we arrived, and we examined the room carefully, testing the walls, ceiling and floor for secret doors, traps, wires, etc., and came to the conclusion that in those respects, at least, all was as it should be. We then drew a chalk line one-third of the way down the room from the door, beyond which we were to remain as audience, while four fakirs, who appeared at that moment from the street, were to give us an exhibition of their magical powers in the other two-thirds of the apartment, which was destitute of either doors or windows, and so far as we could inform ourselves, absolutely without means of communication with the adjoining buildings or with the open air.

The old fakir took a chating-dish and set it about ten feet from the chalk line on his side, casting upon its glowing coals a white powder, which gave out a strong scent of tuberoses, very agreeable to the senses. A fine, white vapor arose from the burning powder and filled the corners of the ceiling, draping the dull paneling with a flying wreath or two, but still permitting a clear view of the end wall. At a point some six or eight feet beyond the chating-dish the old man and his three assistants began dancing slowly; they gave utterance to no sound, but whirled faster and faster, with a rhythmic motion, their robes flowing out on either side and blending the four forms into a composite group, of which the tall master was the central figure. Suddenly, to our great astonishment, we became aware that there was only one form visible, that of the old man. The swift whirl of his dance was gradually relaxed, and in a minute or two he became motionless, salaamed, advanced in front of the chating-dish, bowed again, and pointed with a dignified gesture to the rear of the apartment. We all looked eagerly in the direction of his gesture; there was not a living creature, nor indeed an object of any kind visible beyond the line, except himself. With another salaam he returned to his original position in the rear of the chating-dish, and began with reverse motion the dance of a moment before. Holding out his arms on each side of him as if the better to balance himself, he now sang in a low, monotonous tone, a chant, the words of which impressed themselves upon my memory and sounded like this:

"Ai ya or ekto do!"

In some inexplicable way the monotonous drone of this chant, which fell not unmusically from his lips, seemed to join with the vapors which curled about the scene to bewitch our fancies, or at all events to produce a condition of dreamy delight. If this was hypnotism, so be it; but whether or not the existence of this charmed condition can be ascribed to hypnotic influences, I never felt my senses more completely at my command; and with my eyes fixed intently on his whirling figure I became aware that he seemed to be throwing from himself portions of his body, one arm here, the other there, a leg here and so on, the illusion being perfect, if illusion it was, and the end of the room where he had begun to dance alone becoming gradually filled with figures like his own, only younger, each whirling with the same chant in the same direction. Suddenly the dance again died away, the chant was hushed, and when we looked again there was but one performer visible, the old fakir, who advanced in front of the chating-dish and asked for backsheesh. He received it liberally and we again made an examination of the room, but could discover no explanation of the disappearance of his companions.

A FAKIR BURIED ALIVE.

Colonel, afterward General Julius Medley, one time commander of the British forces in Lahore, related to me the most remarkable instance of voluntary interment which had come to his knowledge during his service in the East. I had told him of an experience of my own at Secunderabad in 1878, which I shall presently describe. He assured me of the accuracy of his account of the following incident, and as he was a most distinguished soldier and the uncle of my wife, I attach as much importance to his narrative as if I had myself seen what he related.

He said a group of fakirs of the high caste had visited his quarters in the preceding year and offered to give an exhibition. The old man had, without assistance, thrown himself into a trance while in a sitting position upon the ground. His three assistants had then taken hold of the end of his tongue and pushed it back until it closed the epiglottis. They then laid him upon his back and swathed his body in bandages. The assistant fakirs next filled the eyes, ears, mouth and nostrils of their apparently unconscious master with a red paste not unlike putty, and bandaged his neck and face. All this took place in the presence of Colonel Medley and his staff. The entire body of the old man was then apparently protected from the atmosphere, as well as from the ants, which in the East attack every living thing that is helpless. It was for this purpose of protection, I learned, that the red paste had been put in the cavities of the face and head. The colonel and his staff inspected the body of the old man and signified their willingness that the ceremony should proceed. In the meanwhile four of Colonel Medley's soldiers had dug a grave ten feet deep in the inclosed yard of the barracks, and at a gesture from the Colonel the old fakir's assistants lifted his body and gently placed it in a box sheathed with metal, which was then hermetically sealed under the Colonel's eye. The box was lowered into the tomb, the earth was filled in, the surface was levelled, and millet seed was sown over the grave. The assistants then departed under a solemn promise to return in forty days.

Colonel Medley assured me that for every moment, day and night, of the forty succeeding days he had kept an armed guard on watch above the fakir's grave. He felt morally certain that no human agency could tamper with the tomb or the box without his knowledge. At the end of the specified time the fakirs returned, and in the presence of Colonel Medley and his staff the tomb was opened. The body of the aged fakir was removed from the box, not differing in appearance in any way from the condition in which it was buried, except that the linen clothes in which it had been wrapped had rotted and fell away at the touch. The fakirs unwound the bandages, removed the red putty-like preparation from the orifices of the eyes, nose, mouth and ears, and with the assistance of a native woman washed the body in warm water and applied an unguent to the face. The woman blew her breath in the old man's mouth, passed her hands briskly over his limbs, and gave him a smart slap upon the chest. His tongue had in the meantime been put in a natural position and respiration seemed to begin with the blow of the woman's hand. The changes which passed over the features of the old man during the last stage of these preparations were awful to look upon. Misery and effort were painfully depicted upon them. But within five minutes after the breath seemed to re-enter his body the master fakir was himself again.

ANOTHER CASE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

I was the guest of Colonel Jenkins, the commander of the British forces at that time. The incident of my own experience which I had related to Colonel Medley, and which drew from him the remarkable narrative I have just recounted, was this: I was one of a party of Englishmen present at a grand fete in Secunderabad at the palace of Sir Saler Jung, the Nizam of Secunderabad. An old man, with aquiline features, a long white beard and flashing black eyes, accompanied by his wife, a pretty little woman, came to us as the chief of a band of eight fakirs. In the presence of all the company one of the young men was tightly bandaged, and a small glass disc was held in front of and directly between his eyes. His master told him to gaze fixedly at the disc, and as he did so the others of the band of fakirs began droning a chant, the words of which were:

"Ram, ram, asaaram, asaaram, asaaram,
Ram, ram, asaaram, asaaram, asaaram."

The bandaged fakir appeared to go to sleep under the drowsy hum of this incantation. He soon became to all appearance dead; the blood seemed to leave the extremities, and his limbs stiffened. His tongue was now turned back until it filled the epiglottis; its pulse ceased, and his face by the aged fakir; his eyes turned up until only the whites were visible, the lids were shut, and the red, putty-like substance I have alluded to was used to close his eyes, ears, nostrils and mouth.

Dr. Crawford, of the army, who was present, then made a careful examination of the man's condition. All the usual tests for death were applied, a mirror was held over his mouth, and to all intents and purposes he was pronounced dead. Dr. Crawford went even to the extent of what might be called cruelty, although the subject was undoubtedly unconscious, and stuck a large bodkin through the palm of the man's hands, through the tips of his ears, his cheeks, the ends of his fingers, his thighs, his arms and other parts of his body. No blood came from these wounds, but a yellowish ichor followed the point of the needle. The master fakir took a coal of glowing charcoal and placed it on the upturned palm of his subject's hand, causing the flesh to sizzle and an unpleasant odor to arise, but there was no sign of feeling. This condition continued for thirty minutes, at the end of which the master fakir made passes over the body with his hands, removed the red paste from the face and ears, took off the bandages, and bade us note the result. With horrible contortions and the appearance of great agony, which the old fakir assured us was only an apparance, his assistant returned to the land of the living, apparently as well as ever, except for a badly burned hand.

Bishop Thoburn, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in his book on the East, says he has repeatedly heard these stories of suspended animation and voluntary interment, and that Dr. John Martin Honlberger, formerly physician at the Court of Ranjit Singh, ruler of the Sikhs, had told him how a native of Cashmere named Hari Das had been buried alive in the presence of Ranjit Singh, but adds that Dr. Honlberger did not witness this interment himself, and that he can find no evidence in his own experience that such a thing ever takes place.

I am convinced, however, that such voluntary interments have taken place and there is abundant record of such incidents in the experiences of other Anglo-Indian officers besides General Medley. I not only "tell the tale as 'twas told to me," but I tell of what I have myself seen and which I am unable to explain.

HARRY KELLAR.

A BUSY DAY AT THE PRESBYTERY.

TO FINISH THE BRIGGS CASE—CITY EVANGELIZATION.

The Presbyterian ministers of New-York, with an elder from each church, will meet this afternoon in the Scotch Church in two capacities. At 2 p. m. they will assemble as a court and receive a paper prepared by Dr. George Alexander, of the University Place Church; Dr. Henry van Dyke, of the Brick Church, and Robert Jaffray, of the West Church, in reference to the vote of the body in the recent hersy trial. The members of the committee, while all friends of Dr. Briggs, are not extreme men, and it is expected that they will submit a judgment which will be sustained by a large majority. It is the hope of many that the vote will be so large that the prosecuting committee may decide not to appeal the case to the higher courts. After the meeting to-day the committee has ten days in which to file their notice of appeal if they decide to take one.

At 3 p. m. the Presbytery will meet and discuss among other things the important report submitted last month, recommending the sale of one church building downtown, advising the sale of another, if permission can be obtained, suggesting the sale of one or more church buildings in Fifth, Madison and Fourth aves. in order to establish others east of Third-ave.

FOR THE NEW MOUNT SINAI.

PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED BUILDING.

THE PROJECT DISCUSSED AT A MEETING YESTERDAY.

One of the most important meetings ever held by the friends and directors of Mount Sinai Hospital was yesterday's annual meeting, held in the dispensary building, No. 149 East Sixty-seventh-st. The principal business of the meeting was the discussion of the propositions unanimously recommended by the board of directors that a new fireproof building be erected on the present site of the hospital, or elsewhere, for the accommodation of 300 to 400 patients. The board proposed that the funds for the building be obtained by issuing bonds bearing 3 per cent interest. The present building is inadequate for the demands made upon it. The accommodations are antiquated and the hospital was built long before fireproof buildings were

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL.

erected. The hospital, because of its popularity and work, has many applicants for admission who cannot be accommodated. The capacity of the hospital is 315 beds, and the number of applicants who are turned away averages seventy-five weekly.

It is estimated that $500,000 will be necessary for a new building on the present site, but if the hospital must go and another site be procured at least $750,000 must be raised. All the reports read yesterday agree on one point, that the present building is too small and unsafe. The hospital is taxed to its utmost. The present building has been occupied since 1872. It was shown that 5,669 applications for admission to the hospital had been received, of which 2,592 were admitted. The people who were discharged cured numbered 1,679.

There was much discussion in relation to a new building, and many plans were submitted. De Witt J. Seligman advocated building further uptown on the West Side. Another member suggested that the present building be used for a women's hospital, and a men's hospital built further uptown. M. Warley Platzek opposed Mr. Seligman's scheme, and said that the sufferers would have to travel too far from their homes and would probably die on the way. He proposed that the present building be used as an emergency hospital and a new building erected much further uptown for the transferred patients. He was heartily indorsed in the first part of his proposition by Dr. A. G. Gerster, of the medical board, but in regard to the latter part asserted that too much valuable time would be lost by going further uptown. Jesse Seligman advocated a site beyond the Harlem. Mr. Hornthal asked that the boundary be fixed at between Sixty-seventh and Ninetieth sts., the East River and Lexington-ave. After much discussion this was unanimously indorsed and referred back to the board of directors with power to act. The method of raising money was also left in its hands. The Mount Sinai Hospital, although supported entirely by Hebrew charity, is unsectarian, and a good percentage of those treated are of other faiths. The directors and friends feel sure that when the project is placed before the public liberal responses from all sources will be received.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of the following ticket: President, Hyman Blum; vice-president, Isaac Wallach; treasurer, Elias Adler; five directors for the term of four years, Louis Stix, S. L. Fatman, Isaac Blumenthal, Adolph Herrmann, David Wile, and one director for the term of three years, George Blumenthal.

THE PETROLEUM MARKET.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD AND RANGE OF PRICES.

The speculation in crude oil last week was almost dead. The only sales at the Consolidated Exchange were on Wednesday, when prices showed a gain of nearly 2 cents over the previous week. There were unexpected sales on Saturday at the Stock Exchange, the first transactions in several weeks. It is almost needless to add that the market was bereft of feature. There was no news from the petroleum country of a nature to influence values and the refined markets were devoid of interest.

The pipe line figures, however, foreshadow a moderate reduction in net stocks for last month. The daily average of runs in December was 63,745 barrels, against a daily average of runs in November of 84,042 barrels; of 124,223 barrels in December, 1891; 84,710 barrels in 1890, and 66,397 barrels in December, 1889. The daily average of last month was 82,404 barrels against 97,664 barrels in November; 89,469 barrels in December, 1891; 88,048 barrels in December, 1890, and 89,078 barrels in December, 1889. The pipe line figures for last month are appended:

	Runs.	Deliveries.	Excess deliveries.	Charters.
Total barrels	1,971,404	2,554,072	582,518	1,746,644
Av. per day	63,745	82,404	18,659	56,324

The first few days of January also indicate a shrinkage in stocks. The figures from January 1 to 5 (charters to the 6th inclusive, are as follows:

	Runs.	Deliveries.	Excess deliveries.	Charters.
Total barrels	278,302	313,048	34,746	238,253
Av. per day	55,660	62,609	7,169	39,709

The range of prices and the total dealings in National Transit certificates at the Stock Exchange and the Consolidated Stock and Petroleum Exchange for the last two weeks were as follows:

	Stock Exchange.		Consolidated.	
Week ended—	Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.
Opening	.....	53½	53	53¾
Highest	.....	53¾	53	54
Lowest	.....	53¼	51¾	53¾
Final	.....	53¾	52¾	54
Sales barrels	.....	14,000	49,000	20,000

Refined petroleum was dull and unchanged at 5.40 cents per gallon in barrels and 2.90 cents in bulk at New-York and 5.35 cents in barrels and 2.85 cents in bulk at Philadelphia and Baltimore. Cases were quoted at 6.25 cents per gallon. Crude oil was unchanged also at 5.35 cents in barrels and 2.85 cents in bulk. Washington crude being 50 points under these quotations. Naphtha was unchanged at 5.25 cents per gallon.

Foreign quotations were: Antwerp, 12¾ francs per 100 kilos; Bremen, 5.50 marks per 50 kilos, and London, 4½s 4 9-16d per Imperial gallon.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

FEATURES OF NEW-YORK DEALINGS.

The sales of future wheat deliveries at the Produce Exchange on Saturday aggregated only 345,000 bushels. The market was easy in tone, notwithstanding firm cable accounts, and closing prices indicated a decline of ⅛@⅝ cent for the day. January sold at 78, February at 79⅛, March at 80⅝, May at 82⅝@82 13-16, and July at 83⅝@83⅞ cents. Spot prices were reduced ⅛@⅜ cent, in sympathy with options. The sales were 64,000 bushels, including 56,000 bush taken by exporters.

Corn futures sympathized with wheat, and declined ⅛@⅜ cent. The sales indicated local realizing. Cable accounts are firm. January sold at 50⅞@50⅝, February at 51⅛@51 7-16, and May at 52⅝@52⅞ cents. There were sales of only 8,000 bushels on the spot. Spot prices were reduced ¼@¼ cent, in sympathy with options.

In oats there was very little business accomplished and prices were without quotable change. The sales were 35,000 bushels futures and 28,000 bushels on the spot.

The final official quotations on Saturday were as follows: Wheat—January, 78, February 79⅛, March 80⅝, May 82⅝, June 82⅞, July 83⅝ cents.

Corn—January 50⅞, February 51⅛, March 51⅝, May 52⅝ cents.

Oats—January 37⅛, February 38, May 39⅛ cents.

Lard—January $11 10, March $10 85, May $10 85.

The receipts of grain and flour reported on Saturday at New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston were as follows: Wheat, 13,300 bushels; corn, 62,800 bushels; oats, 53,200 bushels; total grain, 129,780 bushels; flour, 43,175 barrels. At Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis the arrivals were: Wheat, 30,219 bushels; corn, 334,627 bushels; oats, 261,295 bushels; total grain, 599,151 bushels; flour, 15,692 barrels.

THE TRADE IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Jan. 8 (Special).—The mystery of the provision pit is over. It seemed to be apparent to every one yesterday that the buying of product, which has not only maintained prices but advanced them in spite of enormous selling by Cudahy, Wright and other holders, was for ARMOUR. Thousands of barrels of pork were sold today by Wright. It was all absorbed and the price advanced. One authority estimated that Armour's purchases of pork in these days had been not less than 75,000 barrels. There were the same sort of sensational figures behind the lards. He was buying 25,000 hogs, the estimate for Monday was 30,000; the estimate for last week, 145,000. Prices out there were up 10@15 cents, heavy hogs touching $7 80. The record of the packing to date showed the total 3,900,000—to be a million hogs under the same period last year. May pork sold between $18 25 and $18 75, and closed at $18 70. May lard between $10 52 and $10 77, and closed at $10 75. May ribs between $9 75 and $9 90, and closed at $9 87. The market was "cliqued" to such a degree that the fluctuation was kept all the session within ½ cent. The Cudahy interest would not allow the May price to get over 79⅝ cents nor below 78⅝. May sold from 79⅛ to 78⅝, and closed at 78⅞ cents. As the day wore on the crowd began to be a little nervous over the news regarding the Hatch bill. It is expected that the visible supply Monday will increase about 1,000,000 bushels. The Northwest had 476 cars; here there were 275; the estimate for Monday was 250. Corn was easier, with some little selling by the provision crowd. May sold from 46⅝ to 46¼, and closed at 46½ cents. The receipts were 247 cars; the estimate for Monday 180. While it is supposed to be long quite a line of corn through Minneapolis, 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 bushels. Oats spened and closed at the same price, 34⅝ cents for May. Flaxseed was dull but unchanged; May, $1 15½.

EUROPEAN PRODUCE MARKETS.

Liverpool, Jan. 7, 2 p. m.—Beef and pork—Holders offer moderately. Hams—Holders offer sparingly; shoulders, about 14 to 16 ℔, strong at 60s. Bacon—Holders offer sparingly; Cumberland cut, about 28 to 30 ℔, strong at 43s; short rib, about 25 ℔, strong at 52s 6d; long clear middles, about 45 ℔, strong at 52s; long and short clear middles, about 55 ℔, strong at 51s. Shoulders, about 12 to 18 ℔, strong at 47s. Cheese—Holders offer moderately. Tallow—Supply is poor. Spirits of turpentine—Holders offer sparingly. Rosin—Holders offer moderately. Lard—Spot—Holders offer moderately; American refined, pail, offering; prime Western spot firm at 51s 6d. Wheat—Holders offer moderately. No. 2 red winter steady at 7s 9½d; No 2 red spring steady at 6s. Flour—Holders offer moderately. Corn—Spot and futures—Holders offer sparingly; mixed Western, January, old, firm at 4s 3½d; January, new, firm at 4s 2½d; February, new, firm at 4s 2½d. Hops at London—Pacific Coast—Holders offer moderately.

THE MARKETS.

TOTAL RECEIPTS.

B. W. Flour, pkgs	25	Hops, bales	999
Beans, bbls	191	Molasses, bbls	409
Buckwheat, bush	5,425	Spirits turp., bbls	129
Cotton, bales	8,158	Rosin, bbls	853
Cotton seed oil, bbls	411	Tar, bbls	230
Cotton seed, bags	150	Oil cake, pkgs	2,045
Grain, bush	104	Pork, pkgs	552
Eggs, cases	1,809	Beef, pkgs	599
Flour, pkgs	23,607	Cutmeats, pkgs	1,938
Cornmeal, bbls	370	Lard, pkgs	1,158
Cornmeal, bags	905	Tallow, pkgs	980
Wheat, bush	8,325	Butter, pkgs	4,316
Corn, bush	18,400	Cheese, pkgs	2,534
Oats, bush	44,100	Dressed hogs, No	79
Malt, bush	5,250	Rice, pkgs	1,205
Barley, bush	10,850	Rice chaff, bags	400
Peas, bush	5,500	Sugar, bbls	321
Oatmeal, bbls	758	Soap stock, pkgs	200
Grease, pkgs	141	Salts, bales	26
Grass seed, bags	188	Tallow, pkgs	133
Hides, bales	328	Whiskey, bbls	590

GENERAL MARKET REPORT.

COFFEE—For Brazil growths the market ruled dull, as is usually the case on Saturday, but the tone was easier, the market closing at 18½c for No 7; mild grades also ruled dull. The option market showed a fair movement, the sales aggregating 42,750 bags, while prices closed 5@15 points higher. The day was a holiday at Rio. The receipts there were 5,000 bags, and at Santos 12,000 bags; receipts at Rio, July 1, 1892, to January 6, 1893, 1,775,000 bags; same time 1892, 2,267,000 bags; same time 1891, 1,418,000 bags; receipts at Santos July 1, 1892, to January 6, 1893, 2,062,000 bags; same time 1892, 2,100,000 bags; same time 1891, 2,038,000 bags. Warehouse deliveries since January 1, 1892: New-York, 41,022 bags; Baltimore, 3,011 bags; New-Orleans, 2,067 bags; total, 46,703 bags.

Months.	Closing prices.	Highest.	Lowest.	Sales.
January	9.85@15.95	15.90	15.80	500
February	15.75@15.80	15.80	15.70	4,000
March	15.70@15.75	15.75	15.60	16,750
April	15.55@15.65	15.50	15.50	3,000
May	15.55@	15.55	15.40	8,250
June	15.50@15.60	15.40	15.40	750
July	15.50@15.60	15.45	15.45	500
August	15.50@15.60	.....	.....	.....
September	15.55@15.60	15.60	15.40	7,000
October	15.45@15.55	.....	.....	.....
November	15.45@15.55	.....	.....	.....
December	15.45@15.55	15.55	15.40	2,000

COTTON—The spot market ruled dull and prices were not changed. The sales were 140 bales to spinners. Quotations are based on American standard of classification.

	Uplands.	Gulf.
Ordinary	7 9-16	7 13-16
Strict Ordinary	7 15-16	8 3-16
Good Ordinary	8 13-16	9 1-16
Strict Good Ordinary	9⅛	9⅜
Low Middling	9½	9¾
Strict Low Middling	9¾	10
Middling	10 15-16	10 3-16
Good Middling	10¼	10½
Strict Good Middling	10 7-16	10 11-16
Middling Fair	10 13-16	11 1-16
Fair	11 3-16	11 7-16

STAINED.

Good Ordinary	7 1-16	Low Middling	8 9-16
Strict Good Ordinary	7 11-16	Middling	9½

Liverpool telegrams, 1 p. m.—Receipts, 25,000 bales; of which American, 20,000 bales. Sales, 7,000 bales, of which for speculation and export, 1,000 bales; American, 5,000 bales. Spot market quiet and steady. Middling uplands, 5⅝d.

The port receipts on Friday were 15,023 bales, comparing with 20,744 bales this day last week, and 31,334 bales for the corresponding day last year. Since September 1, the receipts have been 3,652,319 bales, against 4,950,457 bales during the corresponding period a year ago. The figures appended show the week's crop movement:

	1893.	1892.
Visible supply	4,300,019	4,707,557
Receipts 7 days	121,307	203,012
Exports to Great Britain 7 days	27,552	103,653
Exports to France 7 days	20,509	28,236
Exports to Continent 7 days	54,655	67,875
Stock in New-York in licensed warehouses, counted daily	301,243	327,523
In other places (estimated)	4,077	25,812
Total stock in New-York, by running count	305,320	353,335
Stock in all United States ports	1,127,164	1,256,557

The option trading was dull and weak. The market opened at a decline of 5@9 points and closed barely steady at a further decline of 2 points. Sales, 94,700 bales.

Months.	Closing prices.	Highest.	Lowest.	Sales.
January	9.57@9.64	9.61	9.62	700
February	9.75@9.76	9.80	9.75	8,900
March	9.88@9.90	9.91	9.86	49,900
April	9.95@9.96	10.00	9.95	14,000
May	10.01@10.05	10.09	10.04	17,900
June	10.12@10.14	10.16	10.14	2,500
July	10.20@10.22	10.24	10.19	800
August	10.21@10.23	10.25	10.23	100

FLOUR AND MEAL—FLOUR—The tone was well maintained, but quotations remain unchanged. The sales included 3,000 bbls Kansas dour at $3 30 in sacks for clear, and $3 50 for straights. There was also a forced sale for winter patents to clear the dock at $3 65@$4 65; other sales included 500 bbls winter straights at $3 65; 450 bbls spring patents at $4 35@$4 55, and 1,000 bbls spring bakers' at $3@$4 10. The total sales were 7,500 bbls. Quotations: City mill patent, $4 25@$4 50; clear, $3 90@$4; fine sacks and bbls, $1 75@$1 90; superfine, sacks and bbls, $2 10 and 200 spring, bbls, fine, $1 90@$2 10; superfine, $1 80@$2. No. 2, $2@$2 15; No. 3, $1 60@$1 70; rye mixed, $3 50; straights, $3 60@$4; patents, $4 25@$4 55; winter, bbls, fine, $1 90@$2 15; superfine, $2 35@$2 60; No. 2, $2 20@$2 25; No. 1, $2 35@$3; clear, $3 15@$3 60; straights, $3 60@$3 85; patents, $4 00@$4 20. BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Dull at $1 60@$1 75 for the entire range. BUCKWHEAT—Quiet. State and Canada quoted at 50@57c for buckwheat. RYE—Dull. Steady; superfine, $3@$3 25; sales, 75 bbls at $3@$3 25.

CORNMEAL—Dull; Brandywine, $2 90; yellow Western, $2 65@$2 85.

GRAIN—WHEAT—The market on Saturday was little better than nominal, there being little interest shown in the speculation by either foreigners or the home trade, notwithstanding firm cable accounts. The sales of options aggregated only 345,000 bush. Closing prices indicated a decline of ⅛@⅜c for the day. The receipts at the Atlantic seaboard were 13,300 bush spring and 216,517 bush winter wheat, comparing with 347,833 and 88,812 bush spring and winter respectively for the corresponding day last year. At the seaboard the arrivals were 13,097 bush, comparing with 102,817 bush for January 7, 1892, and making the total receipts, interior and seaboard, 618,005 bush, against 929,042 bush. The clearances from the Atlantic seaboard were 87,842 bush on Friday, comparing with 284,000 bush last year. Spot prices were reduced ⅛@⅜c in sympathy with options. The sales were 64,000 bush, of which exporters took 56,000 bush, including No. 3 hard winter at 6c under May and No. 2 Northern on private terms in store. No. 2 red winter, 79½c elevator, 80c afloat, 78⅞@79⅛c for c. i. f. No. 1 Northern spring, 83c. No. 2 do, 79½c; No. 3 Chicago spring, 74½c; No. 1 hard, 88½; No. 2 do, January, 78c, closing at 78⅞c; do February, 79⅛c, closing at 79⅛c; do March, 80⅝c, closing at 80⅝c; do May, 82⅝@82 13-16c, closing at 82⅝c; do June, closing at 82⅞c; do July, 83⅝@83⅞c, closing at 83⅝c. CORN—In the face of firmer cable accounts option prices were reduced ⅛@⅜c as a result of the day's business due largely to local realizing sales. Spot prices were reduced ¼c from in sympathy. Sales, 168,000 bush futures, 8,000 bush spot, including No 2 mixed, 50¼c elevator, 51¼c afloat; No 2 January, 50⅛@50⅜c, closing at 50⅛c; do February, 51