

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.

The London Times reproduces from an Australian paper a long and interesting account, which has all the appearance of authenticity, of a miraculous discovery made by Signor Rostura, a biologist, who has made a special study of South American flora for some years past. His discovery is nothing less than a process of suspending animation in animals for an indefinite period, and of restoring it at pleasure.

According to the accounts, Signor Rostura has been operating for some time, and with the most satisfactory results, in connection with Mr. Grant, who has a refrigerating establishment on one of the headlands of Sydney harbor, New South Wales. His experiments upon domestic animals have resulted in the most perfect success, and all question as to Signor Rostura's ability to do all that he claims appears to be at an end. The process is a very simple one, both to suspend and restore animation, and the two results are respectively produced by a vegetable poison and its antidote, both of which were discovered in South America. Two drops of the poison are injected in the ear with a hypodermic syringe, and in a few minutes vitality is suspended; the heart ceases to beat, the eyes become glazed and the body rigid as in death. It even seems that the ordinary process of decay supervenes as in case of actual death, and in order to prevent this, refrigeration has to be resorted to. The subject is frozen till it becomes as brittle as glass, and is laid away in a refrigerator for weeks, or months, till Signor Rostura chooses to resuscitate it. The subject is then placed in warm water until a normal blood heat is obtained, when a few drops of the antidote are injected. In a few minutes vitality is restored and the subject is returned to precisely the same condition of life that existed when animation was suspended. The practical result at which the inventor aimed, and which interested Mr. Grant in his experiments, was the transportation of live stock from Australia to Europe. The advantages of the process in this respect can be readily appreciated. But it is not in this connection that this wonderful discovery assumes its most interesting phase. It appears that the inventor has been induced by the success of his experiments on dumb animals to request the government to allow him to operate on a condemned criminal. This request, it seems, was granted, but while the experiment, by reason of fortuitous circumstances, failed to realize the results expected, still the failure served to prove the infallibility of the process, even more satisfactorily than complete success would have done. The facts of the case were, succinctly, as follows:

The person subjected to this treatment was a perfect animal, of splendid physique and development. In physical beauty, intellectual development and utter absence of moral sense he appears, from the account, to have been a sort of materialization of Bulwer's *Marquise*, the soulless man of "A Strange Story." His crimes were innumerable and of such atrocious and diabolical character, that the processes of the law, which had merely resulted in his condemnation to death, were the merciful means of protracting his existence. He was selected as the subject for the experiments of Signor Rostura for two reasons—first, because of the utter absence of any palliation for his crimes; and, secondly, because of his purely physical terror and fear of death, which, however, appeared to be attended by no sort of consciousness of his guilt or remorse for the atrocities he had perpetrated. The object of the Governor General, who could not release the criminal from the penalty of the law, in turning him over to Signor Rostura, appears to have been merely to allow him to escape from the absolute terror which possessed him, expecting him to be revived at the last moment to suffer the punishment he had incurred.

This was the understanding with Signor Rostura, and this was what the latter undertook to perform. The first process was a complete success, but, so great was the vitality of the subject, not until he had been subjected to a second injection. He was placed in the refrigerated room of Mr. Grant's establishment and frozen stiff and stark. Had he remained in this condition the experiment would have proven a complete success and the criminal would have suffered the penalty of his crimes. But it seems that Mr. Grant's system of refrigeration was defective. He did not use ice, but the same process which is used in our ice manufactories. His machinery broke down, or his supply of ammonia was exhausted. At any event, for several days he was unable to keep the temperature of the apartment below freezing, though, for not less than forty-eight hours preceding the day fixed for the resuscitation and execution of the criminal, he had again been frozen hard and stiff.

When the appointed time came Signor Rostura applied the antidote and succeeded in resuscitating the subject, but only after repeated efforts and with the utmost difficulty. The first indication of revival was the sudden and violent opening of the mouth, with a sudden and cracking sound, as if the lower jaw had been jerked down with violence. The tongue burst out of the mouth with a sort of explosion. A gleam of intelligence shot into the eye, only to be suffused instantly by a flow of yellow and offensive ichor. But the most wonderful thing was that a distinct articulation came from the throat, rather than the tongue of the unhappy creature. The sound was described as horrible in the sense of hearing the same effect on the sense of hearing that the corruption exuding from the body would have on the sense of touch. "Let me be! I am dead!" were the words that were uttered.

Scarcely had they been spoken when the process of resuscitation was completed, only to reach the horrible result. During the time that Mr. Grant's establishment was out of order, decay had taken place and, though suspended for the time, when animation was restored the effects manifested themselves. The man had scarcely spoken when his flesh slipped from the bones, and nothing but a loathsome mass of liquid, detestable putrescence was left in the hands of the operator.

The result in this experiment will recall the supposititious case drawn by Edgar A. Poe in the story of the "Case of Mr. Valdemar." It shows the wonderful genius of Poe, who foresaw a discovery of this kind, forty years before the rest of the world dreamed of it. Although Poe's story has generally been treated as a mere *jeu d'esprit*, it may be regarded, in the light of this discovery, as a case of wonderful foresight and presence on his part.

If Jack Cade had lived to this day he would see that every quart-box of strawberries holds a pint.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Office of New Orleans City Railroad Company.—No. 124 Canal street, New Orleans, June 14, 1879.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on the fourteenth instant, a dividend of TWO DOLLARS per share was declared, payable to the stockholders on and after TUESDAY, July 1, 1879. All transfers of stock for ten days previous to that day must be deposited with the Secretary.

Office of New Orleans and Red River Transportation Company.—No. 111 Gravier street, New Orleans, June 14, 1879.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on the fourteenth instant, a dividend of TWO DOLLARS per share was declared, payable to the stockholders on and after TUESDAY, July 1, 1879. All transfers of stock for ten days previous to that day must be deposited with the Secretary.

The Celtic Literary and Musical Society.—Will meet at the Hall, No. 28 Baronne street, on FRIDAY, Twentieth instant, at 7:30 p. m. Gentlemen will come accompanied with their lady friends, as the exercises will close with a hop and end by 11:30 p. m.

The Steamer Heroine Commences her new schedule June 15, 1879, making double trips excursions on Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and receives freight every day up to 4 p. m. See her advertisement.

The Woman's Christian Union will meet on the first and second TUESDAY in each month, at 11 a. m., at the Carondelet street Methodist church.

MRS. J. J. LYONS, President.
Mrs. H. J. Cooper, Secretary.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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NEW ORLEANS.

NOTICE TO STATE CREDITORS.

ROOMS COMMITTEE ON THE DEBT OF

the State, at the State House,

New Orleans, April 20, 1879.

The Committee on the Debt of the State, in accordance with a resolution of the Constitutional Convention, hereby give notice to the creditors of the State that the committee is prepared to receive propositions relative to the adjustment of the bonded and floating debt of the State.

Propositions should be submitted in writing to the chairman of the committee by a syndicate or agency, representing each particular class of indebtedness.

E. E. KIDD,
Chairman of Committee.

Address, New Orleans, La., State House.

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\$10 to \$1000 INVESTED IN WALL street Stocks make, for every month. Books sent free explaining every thing. Address BAXTER & CO., Bankers, 17 Wall street, N. Y.

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WANTS.

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WANTED—SECOND-HAND FURNITURE, Libraries, etc. Cash paid. Send list of what you have to lock box 645, New Orleans Postoffice.

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