

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

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TO-DAY'S AMUSEMENTS.

BOOTH'S THEATRE—Handolph street, between
 Clark and LaSalle. Engagement of Tony Pastor's Va-
 riety-Troupe. Afternoon and evening.
 WICKICK'S THEATRE—Madison street, between
 Dearborn and State. Engagement of the Lizard
 Troupe. Afternoon and evening.
 ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Haled street, between Mad-
 ison and Monroe. Engagement of Davenport. An Irish
 Ariana and farce. Afternoon and evening.

EXPOSITION BUILDING—Lake shore, foot of Adams
 street. "Paris by Night." Afternoon and evening.

THIRTY-THIRD ST. BARS, LAKE GROUNDS—
 Championship game between the Baltimore and Chi-
 cago.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

WM. B. WARRIN LODGE, No. 28 A. F. & A. M.,
 Regular Communication, this Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock.
 Address: 101 N. LaSalle-st. Visitors wel-
 come. By order of the W. M. J. R. DUNLOP, Secretary.

The Chicago Tribune.

Saturday Morning, July 11, 1874.

The excitement in the city this month is a
 Chess Congress. The fact is eloquent. It tells
 more forcibly than words can of the dull devil
 which has entered into and possessed the world
 of amusements.

Seven days and twenty hours is the recorded
 time in which a new steamer recently made the
 passage across the Atlantic. Several steamers
 of the same line have gone to the bottom of
 the ocean in quick time. The motto of this
 company is "Speed and safety," not, as it should be,
 "Safety and speed."

Prof. Blane tested a new flying-machine in
 London yesterday. The experiment cost him his
 life. We are at a loss to account for the sci-
 entific principles which required the Professor to
 launch out from a balloon at a great height from
 the ground. Men with no nonsense about them
 would have taken a first departure from the
 top of a fence, and then looked to Providence
 for encouragement.

The number of emigrants from the United
 States to Europe is steadily increasing. Hard
 times and want of work are the causes of the
 movement, which has a counterpart in all the pan-
 ic seasons known to American history. We could
 have retained these men by issuing large quan-
 tities of paper-currency; and we could then
 have enjoyed the blessed privilege of all starv-
 ing together a few years afterward.

"Independent in nothing" is a very comical
 watchword for this day and generation, yet it
 has been given out by the party managers to the
 loyal press. Evidently a new reading of the
 lines has been agreed to. When the leading man
 said his devoted adherents, "Will ye be slaves?"
 they are expected to answer, "Will ye be slaves?"
 When he demands, "Will ye be freemen?" their
 reply must be, "We'll do first."

A good innovation in the postal system has
 been made by the authorities in this city. It is
 the attachment of letter-boxes to the street-
 cars. Statistics prepared under the direction
 of Assistant-Postmaster Squires show that
 these boxes have been a great convenience to
 the public, the number of deposits made have
 increased steadily from the start, and beyond all
 expectations. Thus, in October last, the first
 full month after their introduction, 39,980 let-
 ters were mailed in street-car boxes; and for
 June, 1874, the number was 164,113.

Railway property is in England, as in some
 parts of this country, not a very paying in-
 vestment at the present time. About six months
 ago railroad stocks began to decline there at an
 alarming rate, and they are still sinking. It is
 said that the dividends for the first half of the
 year 1874 of English railway stock will be un-
 satisfactory. The stocks have gone on declining, too,
 spite of the fact that the price of coal and iron
 has fallen very considerably. This fall in the
 value of railway stock is due to the diminished
 activity of trade.

A member of the Moderate Republican party
 in the French Assembly submitted a resolution
 yesterday calling for a clear statement of Mar-
 shall MacMahon's pretensions. The formal ques-
 tion is wrapped in words, so that the idea for
 the time eludes analysis; but the substance of
 it is as we have stated. Debate on this inter-
 section was postponed until the constitutional
 bill came up for discussion. It seems hardly
 necessary for the Marshal to repeat at this time
 what he has just said very clearly.

French representatives at the Brussels Con-
 gress will bring charges against the German
 Government for its conduct of the war of 1870-
 '71. Counter-charges will be made by the Ger-
 mans. If much rubbish of this description is
 shoved into the Congress, its deliberations will
 be of consequence one way or another. No
 Peace Congress can give to its regulations an ex-
 port facto operation. The sooner a definite un-
 derstanding about the meeting at Brussels be-
 comes spread abroad among the European Gov-
 ernments, the better for its prospects. The very
 vagueness of its intentions now threatens to de-
 feat whatever objects it may have been origi-
 nally designed to reach.

Mr. J. D. Ward, Member of Congress from the
 Second (West Division) District, has returned
 to the city, and yesterday expressed himself to
 our reporter in a manner that would have
 startled a stript party man a year or two ago.
 Mr. Ward says frankly that he wants to go back
 to Congress; that he professes to go under the
 auspices of the Republican party, but that he
 shall vote as he pleases; and, finally, intimates
 that if the Republican Convention does not see
 fit to renominate him, he will not hesitate, in case
 he feels so inclined, to make an independent
 race. Whatever people may have thought of
 some of Mr. Ward's former political actions,
 there are few men who will withhold admiration
 for his present independent spirit. He is one of
 a good many living examples that show how
 much "party" has been losing its hold within
 the past two years.

The Chicago produce markets were generally
 stronger yesterday, with more business doing
 in breadstuffs. Mess pork is in moderate de-
 mand and a shade firmer, closing at \$18.95@19.00
 cash, and \$18.90@18.95 seller August. Lard was
 quiet and firmer, closing at \$11.80@11.85

per 100 lbs cash, and \$11.37½ seller August.
 Meats were moderately active, and a shade
 firmer, at 6½¢@6½¢ for shoulders, 60¢@60¢
 for short ribs, 65¢ for short cost, and 10½¢@
 11¢ for sweet-pickled hams. Highwines were
 active and firm, at 75¢ per gallon. Lake
 freight was dull and easier, at 40¢ for corn to
 Buffalo. Flour was quiet and unchanged. Wheat
 was more active, and ½¢ higher, closing at
 \$1.14½ cash, and \$1.10 seller August. Corn
 was active and 10¢ higher, closing at 60½¢ cash,
 and 60½¢@60½¢ seller August. Oats were in
 good demand, and ½¢ higher, closing at 40½¢
 cash, 44¢ seller the month, and 39½¢ seller Au-
 gust. Rye was quiet and firmer at 86¢. Barley
 was excited and higher, closing at \$1.07 seller
 September. Hogs were active, and 10¢ higher,
 closing firm at \$5.00@5.35. Cattle and sheep
 were in fair request, and were firm.

The Commission appointed to govern the Dis-
 trict of Columbia temporarily has adopted a new
 order of things. Many clerks have been dis-
 charged, among them eleven assessors; the ex-
 ecutive quarters have been vacated; direction
 has been given for the sale of all the horses and
 carriages belonging to the District, and it has
 been made a rule that all contracts shall be let to the lowest
 responsible bidder. These changes have been
 made after a careful examination into the affairs
 of the District. They are tantamount to a con-
 viction of the Shepherd Ring by competent and
 honest men. If this were all, we should have
 gained nothing; for it would be useless work to
 prove the old District Government a gang of
 thieves.

A correspondent writes to be informed how
 much value should be attached to the theories
 about the comet's tail, which were published in
 THE TRIBUNE (as communications) on the 9th
 inst. We answer:

1. It is difficult to understand how we could
 "see" the tail if no such thing were in exist-
 ence.
 2. It is not now believed by scientific men
 that light is a substance which is capable of
 being warmed by friction. The attempted ex-
 planation of the immaterial theory must, there-
 fore, be rejected as fanciful and absurd.
 3. The theory is by no means new. Prof.
 William Mitchell, of Nantucket, advocated almost
 precisely those views very clearly, and at con-
 siderable length, in *Silliman's Journal*, nearly
 forty years ago.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has requested
 certain members of Plymouth Church and So-
 ciety to examine into "the rumors, insinuations,
 or charges" respecting his conduct, which
 have been made by Theodore Tilton. His let-
 ter to this end is dated June 27, two days after
 the publication of Tilton's letter in the *Golden Age*.
 The public will be surprised, and not altogether
 pleased, to learn that Mr. Beecher has named
 the men by whom he wishes the inquiry to be
 conducted. We should expect one perfectly
 innocent, and confident of his ability to establish
 his innocence, to lay the whole matter unreserv-
 edly before his church and society, and leave the
 result to them. Accused persons are not, in
 ordinary cases, allowed to choose the jurors who
 shall pass judgment upon them; and we are un-
 able to see in what respect Mr. Beecher's case is
 so peculiar as to demand a departure from usage.
 Another feature of the investigation which will
 be unfavorably commented on is the delay of
 the Committee in citing Theodore Tilton. He
 stands in the relation of prosecuting wit-
 ness, and should have been the first man
 summoned to give testimony. The fact is,
 however, that the investigation has been in
 progress several days, and will probably
 be concluded this week, yet Mr. Tilton has
 not been before the Committee. The objections
 which we have urged to the spirit of the inquiry
 are not fatal. It may be conducted fairly,
 and with good results. In any event there can be
 no doubt that Mr. Beecher has done wisely in
 accepting the situation, and demanding a prompt
 investigation.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS.

All over the country we hear the complaint
 of hard times, dull times, no profits in business,
 no money to be made. At the same time the rate
 of interest is uncommonly low, and the amount
 of money seeking investment unusually large.
 The dullness affects the lenders equally with the
 borrowers. Money has been offered in Chicago,
 on what is called cash security, at 5 per cent,
 without takers. What does it all mean? How
 does it happen that money is plenty and yet ev-
 erybody is complaining of hard times?

In order to answer this question we must go
 back to the period anterior to the panic. We
 shall then find a condition of great apparent
 prosperity, unwonted activity in every depart-
 ment of industry, with corresponding extrava-
 gance of living, and a lavish investment of
 capital in new enterprises—especially in rail-
 roads. In the midst of this exuberance and
 abandon came the failure of Jay Cooke & Co.,
 following in what is now known as the September
 panic. The panic—that is, the immediate terror
 —was not of long duration, but, being
 itself the effect of certain causes, the same
 causes have continued to pro-
 duce their grist, although the element
 of frenzied alarm no longer exists. The simple
 fact is, that there was less capital in the country
 last September by some hundreds of millions of
 dollars than was commonly supposed, for every
 dollar invested in an unproductive railway or
 other non-paying enterprise was for the time
 being sunk and obliterated as effectually as if
 it had been dropped in the middle of the ocean.
 It was the sudden discovery of the fact that
 there was a large amount of capital missing
 that caused the panic terror, and put nearly all
 the banks of the country into temporary suspen-
 sion.

When the panic subsided the fact remained,
 and it is that which still affects business. We
 have not got so much property as we supposed.
 A vast amount of what we thought we had is
 as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.
 There are railways, even in the older States of
 the Union, whose daily operating expenses ex-
 ceed their daily receipts. Nor has this lavish
 and wasteful expenditure been confined to new
 railways. It is but a few days since the start-
 ling report was made by a committee that the
 Great Western Railway of Canada, one of the
 oldest and most popular roads on the continent,
 had been "improved" up to a point where
 it could earn no more than the interest on
 its bonds—the improvements consisting of
 branch lines and extensions. In other words,
 the property of even this magnificent line has
 been temporarily lost to the world, for although
 the road still answers the purposes of transit
 for which it was constructed, it is like any other
 machine which consumes as much as it produces
 from day to day and yields no surplus to its
 owners. It is hardly possible that this particu-

lar road can long remain unproductive, but it is
 a fair illustration of the causes of these hard
 times. Nor have railroads been the only sin-
 ers. Public and private buildings have much
 to answer for. The whole country has over-
 built, and Chicago is not singular in this regard,
 though the results of overbuilding are rather
 more conspicuous here than elsewhere, by reason
 of the fire.

It's no use crying for split milk. What we
 have lost or put beyond our reach can only be
 recovered by labor, economy, and patience.
 Have we seen the worst of the strain, the hard-
 est of the hard times? It is not easy to answer
 this question. A theoretical answer cannot be
 given. We can only watch the course of busi-
 ness and note the improvement when it comes.
 Shortly before the 1st of July there was a very
 perceptible change for the better, which con-
 tinued until a few days ago, when the severe
 drought seemed to threaten the corn-crop.
 This had a depressing effect which has not yet
 been recovered from, although the recent rains
 have saved the corn and put the farm-
 ers in good humor. These beneficial show-
 ers have made all the difference between
 riches and poverty, between happiness and mis-
 ery; and it seems almost certain that the pres-
 ent dull summer will be succeeded by a fairly
 prosperous autumn. The economy practiced
 during the past nine months has left the coun-
 try nearly bare of all articles of consumption;
 and if the prices of cereals continue good there
 must be an active fall trade. The lesson re-
 ceived from the September panic will guarantee
 us against any more reckless investments for a
 long time to come, and as months and years go
 on, and the country grows up to the untimely rail-
 roads and buildings which are now, as it were,
 hanging in the air, the recovery will be all the
 more rapid by reason of their not having to be
 built again.

EXCURSIONS FOR POOR CHILDREN.

Late summer the free excursions organized in
 New York for the purpose of giving poor chil-
 dren a day's pleasure in the country attracted
 very general attention. The project received
 prompt approval throughout the country, and its
 results were more beneficial than even the pro-
 jectors could have expected. This year a move-
 ment has been set on foot in Chicago to the
 same end, and we venture the prediction that it
 will not be behind in the generosity of its organi-
 zation nor in the pleasure afforded to those for
 whose benefit it is organized. We print in our
 local columns a call for a preliminary meeting,
 which is signed by L. Z. Leiter, Gen. Stager, W.
 F. Coolbaugh, Robert Collyer, and many other
 gentlemen of large means or high position.

These gentlemen cannot afford to attach their
 names to a call of this kind without giving the
 project some of their personal attention. The
 success of the undertaking is therefore assured.
 The meeting is to be held at the office of the
 Republic Life Insurance Company, No. 157 and
 159 LaSalle street, on Monday morning next.
 The business men are invited, with a particular
 request that all friends of children be present.
 Our business men cannot ignore such an in-
 vitation. The opportunity of affording a day in
 the country to children who rarely have an
 hour's rest or a moment's pleasure, and many of
 whom have never been beyond the city's limits,
 must appeal to every man and woman who pos-
 sesses a penny to spare. After the preliminary
 organization shall have been formed, therefore,
 we suggest to the managers who shall take the
 excursions in hand to provide some place, easy
 of access, to which everybody may contribute
 his or her mite to the enterprise. The children
 of well-to-do parents may take down their little
 savings-banks and give part of their miniature
 capital for the benefit of other children who
 never have anything to save. Mothers who
 cherish fond recollections of children who have
 perished may wish to glad to part with some of
 their pin-money in such a cause. Indeed, it will
 be a hard heart and a scant purse that will not
 open at such an appeal.

There was never a time in the history of Chi-
 cago when excursions such as are proposed
 would have been more grateful to the poor chil-
 dren than they will be during the present
 summer. For some months the poor of this city,
 like all other large cities, have suffered greater
 deprivation than usual. The hard times and
 lack of employment have pressed them sorely,
 and their children have shared their want and
 troubles. Many a homely comfort has
 been taken away from them in the common
 necessity for retrenchment. The season so far
 has been unusually warm, and has more than
 likely brought weakness and disease among
 those classes huddled together in unsavory
 neighborhoods. More young children are hard-
 worked than rich and indulgent parents dream
 of. People who are compelled to be out late
 at night may not unfrequently encounter them,
 weary, worn, and dejected,—sometimes afraid
 to go home to cruel parents who will maltreat
 them for their inability to earn what was ex-
 pected of them. It is not alone the poor, but the
 children of the poor, that you have always with
 you; and their little bodies suffer the more for
 their weakness, and their little hearts pain
 harder for their lack of experience and philoso-
 phy. A day's rest, pure air, and uninterrupted
 fun this summer may save many a life and
 bring sunshine into many a little soul that has
 seen naught but darkness.

The proposed excursions, therefore, must be a
 success. And that they may be numerous and
 generous, let the meeting next Monday be well
 attended, and let some plan be adopted which
 will enable everybody to contribute in money,
 food, transportation, or what-not, according to
 his means. Our lake and handsome suburbs af-
 ford delightful opportunities for these excu-
 sions, and the generosity of our people will see
 that they are well improved.

THE JUDGES IN THE WINCONSIN RAILWAY CASE.

The New York *Daily Tribune* of the 8th has an
 article on the Wisconsin Railroad law, review-
 ing the decision of the Court that at Madison
 the decision of the Court that at Madison the
 of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway bond-
 holders to prevent the enforcement of the Potter
 law. We have said that the article in the *Bulletin*
 was a review of the decision. It would be more
 correct to say that it was an attack on the integrity
 and good faith of the Judges who gave it. The
Bulletin says that the Court did not, in their
 action, treat, or intend to treat, the question be-
 fore them upon its merits; and that the decision
 was only made to be expected considering the
 Granger influence in the West. It speaks of
 the Judges as dependent upon political move-
 ments, and accuses them of hav-
 ing shirked the issue, and evaded the responsi-
 bility of doing their duty. The action of the
 Court, it alleges, was such that it saved Judges
 Drummond and Hopkins the risk of appearing
 to oppose the Grangers. Judge Davis, it says,
 did not himself believe in his decision, and gives
 as a reason that he recommended that the case

should be carried immediately to the Supreme
 Court of the United States, and that the en-
 forcement of the law should, in the interim, be
 suspended. This recommendation it considers
 as proof that Judge Davis did not believe the
 decision made by Judge Drummond to be good
 law.

We are sorry to notice that any suspicion has
 been thrown on the Court. There is no ground
 whatever for such aspersions as those made in
 the *Bulletin*. In the first place, Judges of the
 United States Courts are not subject to political
 consequences like the State Judges. Federal
 Judges are appointed for life. Their salaries
 cannot be diminished after their nomination.
 They can be removed from the bench only by
 death or impeachment. It matters little to them
 what party is in power, Republican, Democratic,
 or Independent; whether the Granger or any
 other influence is for them or against them.
 This may be said of all the Judges of the United
 States, since the temptations to which they are
 subjected are reduced to a minimum by the
 Constitution. But to impute any motive
 other than the highest to the Judge who delivered
 the decision in this case is preposterous. Judge
 Drummond is so well known to the people
 of the West that if all the papers in the country
 where he is not known should unite with the
Bulletin to asperse him, it would be impossible
 to produce the slightest impression here. The
 Bar of Judge Drummond's circuit will testify
 unanimously to his judicial carefulness, probity,
 impartiality, and learning. He is what every
 Judge should be,—one of those who would do
 justice though the heavens should fall. Such is
 the witness borne by all who have known him
 since he began his distinguished career on the
 bench.

We did not, any more than the *Bulletin*, antici-
 pate the decision which was made in this case,
 and we doubt whether it is conducive to the
 prosperity of Wisconsin. It may be that the
 Supreme Court will not affirm Judge Drum-
 mond's decision, though we think it will; but,
 whether it does or not, no cloud will rest on the
 integrity of the Court that gave it.

Judge Davis' advice to the litigants was merely
 a friendly suggestion, and we think a wise one.
 To say that he did not concur in the decision
 when he sat on the same bench and heard it
 read and did not dissent, is as wild and weird of
 the mark as the suggestion that Judge Drum-
 mond was under the influence of the Grangers.

THE DEMOCRATS AND THE INDEPENDENTS.

The Rock Island *Argus*, whose editor, Mr.
 Danforth, is a member of the Democratic State
 Committee, noticing the discussions among the
 so-called Democratic papers as to the time and
 place for calling a State Convention, enters a
 protest against such a Convention. The *Argus*
 declares that there is no necessity for one, and
 trusts that there will be no meeting of the Com-
 mittee, and declares, among other things, that
 "West of Ohio there is no such party in the
 field as the Democratic party." The *Monmouth*
Review also opposes a Convention, and the
Oswego Spectator declares that if a Conven-
 tion be called no considerable portion of the
 Democrats will countenance it. All these pa-
 pers propose and urge, with more or less ear-
 nestness, that "there be no Democratic Con-
 vention, and no call for one; that there be an union
 with the Independent Reformers," and the sup-
 port of the Democrats be given to Messrs. Gor-
 and Elter, thereby carrying the State and defeat-
 ing the Republicans, as they think can be
 easily done.

Among the reasons given by the *Argus* for
 adopting this plan is that the Democratic Con-
 vention would be divided upon the currency and
 other questions, and might adopt an unmeaning
 platform, whereas, if such a Convention were
 held it ought to adopt a clear and distinct de-
 claration in favor of specie payments, the exchange
 of greenbacks for coin by the Treasury, opposi-
 tion to all legislation by Congress which can be
 done by the States, and opposition to legislation
 regulating the habits or restraining the free-
 dom of the people except for crime. This plat-
 form, the *Argus* fears, might not be adopted by
 the Convention, as it ought to be, while the nom-
 ination of a third ticket would result in electing
 the Republican ticket.

In the absence of any other authoritative de-
 claration on the currency question than that
 adopted by the Independent party, the adoption
 of its candidates will amount practically to an
 endorsement of the platform of that party. It is
 that very platform that has excited distrust
 and opposition, and driven a multitude of those
 disgusted with the Republican party away from
 the Independent organization. Nor can these
 people be made to vote in any way which will
 seem to endorse the policy of inflation and irredeem-
 able currency.

There is more at stake in this matter than the
 mere election of one set of candidates and the
 defeat of the other. The character and credit
 of the State are involved. The people of Illi-
 nois cannot afford to have their good name tar-
 nished by proclaiming themselves the advocates
 of perpetual slavery. Both public and indi-
 vidual credit would be impaired thereby, and
 this would be an expensive price to pay for the
 election of the two candidates nominated by the
 Independent Convention. It is not necessary
 that there should be a Democratic State Con-
 vention, nor that a third ticket should be nomi-
 nated, but there is a necessity, and a very urgent
 one, for a Convention which, even though it may
 conclude to vote for Messrs. Gorand Elter, shall
 also speak in unmistakable terms the language of
 good faith to the public creditors, and shall dis-
 tinctly affirm the true financial doctrine that
 there is and can be but one standard of money,
 and that the standard recognized by the civilized
 nations of the world. There must be a firm
 declaration in favor of a resumption of specie
 payments, and there should be as firm a protest
 against interference by the State with the social
 habits and personal freedom of the people.
 Having thus vindicated the character of the peo-
 ple of the State, the conclusion to vote for the
 candidates of the Independents will carry with it
 no offensive, false, or injurious implication of
 sympathy with inflation and with irredeemable,
 lying money. Such a Convention may be called,
 stating its object and purpose, and no one,
 Democrat or other, need attend or participate
 unless he is in sympathy with that object. Such
 action would in no way embarrass any proceed-
 ings in local districts having for their purpose
 an union to elect persons pledged to reform.

The wanton and unjustifiable destruction of
 the buffalo on the plains adds a parallel in the
 needless waste of life in the seal-fishing district.
 Thinking men have raised their voices in protest
 against the reckless destruction practiced by
 mankind upon all sorts of property, animal and
 vegetable, which threatens rapid extermination.
 The description given by Capt. Gray, of the
 steamer *Edipus*, of a battle of seals is a fright-
 ful revelation. A pack of seals having
 been sighted, the crews of five British

ships were let loose on them. In
 four days 10,000 seals had been killed,
 2,000 mortally wounded, making 12,000 old seals
 destroyed. The cubs which were killed by the
 massacre of their mothers, and left without
 sustenance, numbered 12,000 more. In all,
 24,000 animals were slaughtered for 300 tons of
 oil, half of them, at the least estimate, being
 wasted. Anything more sickening it would be
 difficult to conceive.

WALLACE ON SPIRITUALISM.

We have already called the attention of our
 readers to two remarkable papers which ap-
 peared in the *Fortnightly Review* from the pen
 of Mr. Alfred Wallace, the eminent naturalist,
 on the subject of Spiritualism. The fact that
 they are perhaps the ablest contributions ever
 made in advocacy of that strange creed, was suf-
 ficient to entitle them to notice. Mr. Wallace
 may have a bias towards Spiritualism. We be-
 lieve he has; but he has also a scientific mind,—
 one which, as a rule, does not accept that for
 which there is no ground. A writer in the *Lon-
 don Spectator* of June 6, who seems
 to have a very wide acquaintance with the lit-
 erature of Spiritualism, and who informs us
 that he has attended something like twenty
séances, some of them with celebrated mediums
 like Mr. Home and Mr. Foster, reviews Mr. Wal-
 lace's articles, and makes a few remarks about
 them which are evidently just. Like Mr. Wallace,
 he is evidently very much interested in the subject
 of Spiritualism. Like him, he has been very pains-
 taking to arrive at a rational explanation of its
 phenomena. Unlike him, however, he rejects
 the doctrine, not being able to discover any rea-
 son whatever why he should accept it. In all
 the *séances* which he attended, the writer in the
Spectator assures us he never witnessed any
 phenomenon which might not be accounted for
 on the "most ordinary and humdrum
 view of life." Still, he does not meet
 Mr. Wallace's challenge by the cry of "Incred-
 ible nonsense!" He is able to explain away
 all the so-called phenomena of Spiritualism that
 has come under his own immediate observation.
 Not so easily, however, the circumstances that
 men of undoubted soundness, earnestness, and
 honor testify to the existence of certain extraor-
 dinary and unexplained facts of a medium-
 istic nature. That men possessing such quali-
 ties should believe in the facts of Spiritualism
 and become converts to it, and that its newest
 converts should be men of a higher average
 caliber than the earlier ones, is the only sur-
 prising thing this writer notes in the whole history
 of Spiritualism, and he is ready to admit that
 this alone is sufficient to make it reason-
 able to inquire further and with greater
 care into the alleged wonders of modern
 Spiritualism. The question to be solved in the
 case of the intelligent and honest adherents of
 Spiritualism is how their illusion arises; and, as
 Mr. Wallace's critic remarks, a careful cross-
 examination by investigators of some of the lead-
 ing instances will be able to show how it does.

The alleged facts, if true at all, are highly im-
 portant ones, no matter what their explanation,
 whether they signify only a new physical force,
 a new field of volition, or a new evidence of im-
 mortality. The writer in the *Spectator* rightly finds fault
 with Wallace for saying that the reality of the
 facts he alleges are so indisputably proved that
 they do not want confirmation. Regarding Mr.
 Wallace's instances of spirit-photographs, he
 says that an excellent photographer has assured
 him that, so far as they depend on mere sci-
 entific guarantees, they are good for nothing
 and the purpose for which they are quoted; that
 he had himself examined the facts carefully, and
 discovered fraud at work in them time and
 again. However, it is with Mr. Wallace's asser-
 tion, that if Spiritualism be true it constitutes
 "a great moral agency which may yet regenerate
 the world," that his reviewer finds most
 fault. If, he argues, the phenomena
 alleged by Mr. Wallace do actually occur,
 and are due to the agency of spirits which once
 lived upon earth, the principal inference from
 the fact is "that ninety-nine hundredths of the
 communications come to us from the moral rub-
 bish of the unseen world." This, even Mr.
 Wallace does not deny, since he grants that "rub-
 bish" is the word which best expresses the intel-
 lectual and moral condition in which, perhaps,
 ninety-nine hundredths of those who are born into
 the world live. If this be not the explanation,
 we must, then, infer that the loss of bodily or-
 ganization imperishable rather than develops
 the faculties of spirits. A writer, Mr.
 Crookes, mentioned in our critic's article,
 remarks that the "intelligences which commu-
 nicate through mediums are possibly not human
 at all, but may come from some other race
 of beings—Ariels and Calibans—presumably below
 our level, not above it." That they may be such
 or anything is possible, since no effort was ever
 made to identify them with the individuals whom
 they represent themselves to be. Spiritualism
 at its best is but a faith in immortality, plus the
 excitement of receiving a series of absurd com-
 munications from the other side of the grave; and,
 as the writer in the *Spectator* shows, it is no great
 spiritual gain to believe that, after we have been
 shuffled off our mortal coil, we shall
 be endowed with the glorious facul-
 ty of knocking about our friends' tables, showering flowers upon them, or giving
 them a look of spiritual hair, appearing in a
 misty cylinder with our head just dimly visible
 at one end, of playing on a harmonium, ringing
 bells, untying knots, or making musical in-
 struments move about a darkened chamber. If the
 phenomena of Spiritualism prove anything,
 they testify to the existence only of a lot of in-
 visible beings distinguished as necromancers, simplo-
 tons, and liars, purporting to have been once
 men like ourselves, and to have been acquainted
 with ourselves, with our parents, friends, or first
 cousins. That men of genius like Wallace
 should believe in it proves of itself nothing,—ex-
 cept, perhaps, that genius is no safeguard against
 deception.

If Mr. Anthony Comstock, the amateur detec-
 tive, had happened in Georgia last week, he
 would