

### The Wonderful Prophecies of Mother Shipton.

The newspapers which are reproducing the wonderful prophecies now current and ascribed to Mother Shipton, are simply the victims of cunning impostors, many of whom in this century have been playing upon the credulity of the people. There was a veritable Mother Shipton who lived in England several centuries ago, and who uttered various prophecies, some in prose and some in doggerel verse, that attracted much attention. The predictions were mostly vague or of such a general character that in almost every generation, not to say every year, some events would be found to fit them. But the more definite prophecies, supposed to be fulfilled in the use of steam on land and sea, the invention of the electric telegraph, balloons, tunnels through the mountains and under the sea, diving suits, the use of iron ships, the fresh discoveries of gold, winding up with the prediction that the earth shall come to an end in 1881, are all very modern forgeries. Take the following, which we clip from the Boston Journal of a few days since:

A Remarkable Prophecy.—The following which is known as "Mother Shipton's Prophecy," was first published in 1488, and republished in 1641. It will be noticed that all the events predicted in it, except that mentioned in the last two lines—which is still in the future—have already come to pass:

Carriages without horses shall go,  
And accidents fill the world with woe.  
Around the world thoughts shall fly  
In the twinkling of an eye.  
Water shall yet more wonders do,  
Now strange, yet shall be true.  
The world upside down shall be,  
And gold be found at root of tree.  
Through hills man shall ride,  
And no horse or ass be at his side.  
Under water men shall walk,  
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.  
In the air men shall be seen,  
In white, in black, in green.  
Iron in the water shall float  
As easy as a wooden boat.  
Gold shall be found and shown  
In a land that's now not known.  
Fire and water shall wonders do,  
England shall at last admit a Jew.  
The world to an end shall come  
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

The substance of the above is first found in what purported to be a fac simile reprint of the 1641 edition of Mother Shipton, "edited" by "Edwin Pearson" and published in London a few years ago. It has, however, been still further modernized since its then late issue, to include a hit at one of England's statesmen. The line which now reads:

England shall at last admit a Jew,  
read in the reprint we have cited—  
England shall at last admit a foe.

In the eighth line, "no horse or ass" has been extended at the expense of the metre to make it more pointed by the addition of the two words in italics; and the two lines—

Water shall yet more wonders do,  
Now strange, yet shall be true,

have been added by a poet who wrote a very lame hand indeed if this was his best.

The use of the word "carriages," as applied to a wheeled vehicle, totally unknown to the times of 1448, when the prophecy was dated, was sufficient to put any thoughtful critic on his guard, and few sensible men admitted the genuineness of the "remarkable" prophecy. A comparison of the reprint with an old edition of Mother Shipton showed that about a dozen of the most clever pieces in the later book were new. After a spirited discussion of their merits, Mr. Charles Hindley of Brighton, came before the public in a letter and acknowledged that the entire piece we have quoted above, and some ten others, more or less striking, contained in his reprint of 1862, were pure inventions of his own, composed to make the issue a successful business adventure. The whole of this "remarkable prophecy," therefore, which notes all the modern discoveries and proposes to wind up all mundane affairs in 1881, was first wrought, with many others of like character, out of the brains of Mr. Hindley in 1862.

Before closing we may notice another invention which was at first passed around as a veritable Mother Shipton prophecy:

When princes get tipsy on arrack,  
And farmers grow thin on cold meat;  
When soldiers look red in their barrack,  
And beggars look blue in the street;

When monarchs with purest intentions,  
To settle all national quarrels,  
Assemble in holy conventions,  
And study the prophets and psalms;

Strange things upon wet land and dry land,  
On wood land and waste land shall be,  
And oat land, and wheat land, and rye land  
Together be sunk in the sea!

After Mother Shipton had been hunted through in vain for this production, it was ascribed to "Nostradamus," but turned out to have been a clever hit at the subject under discussion, in a literary gathering, by the poet Præd.

No one can justify this style of literary forgery. Many a person has been greatly disturbed by the supposed fulfillment of all Mother Shipton's prophecies, save that which ends the world "in eighteen eighty-one." As the first part of these predictions was written only fifteen years ago, when all of it that has been realized was history, no great stress need to be laid on the last fearful warning!—*New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 5.*

COLORADO IS OURS.—Gen. Bela M. Hughes, of Denver, fully confirms, in the dispatch which will be found in *The Herald*, the reports of Mr. Butler that the State of Colorado has gone Democratic by from 400 to 700 majority. Gen. Bela M. Hughes is the Governor elect of the Centennial State. He is a gentleman whose high character and nice sense of honor are known to all men who know him at all. The editor of this paper has known that elegant gentleman and Democrat intimately for fifteen years. He is as incapable of telling a falsehood, as Joe Chaffee's telegraph operator in Denver is of telling the truth. And yet, under the embargo placed upon the Associated Press dispatches in Denver, this distinguished representative of the Democratic party of the United States in Colorado, a man whose character is above the suspicion of reproach, is not allowed a hearing in the Associated Press. Perhaps he may be heard in those dispatches before this article sees print, since we have demanded of William H. Smith, Associated Press agent of Chicago, as a right, and of Anson Stager, Superintendent of the Western Union, as a matter of justice, that they order Mr. Jerome B. Chaffee's telegraph operator in Denver to permit Gen. Hughes the privilege of sending his own version of the result of the Colorado election to the country through the Associated Press. We shall see what they will do about it, and, in case of refusal, we shall see, in certain events, what somebody else will do about it.

Our telegrams from Mr. Butler and Gen. Hughes leave no room to doubt the triumph of the Democracy in Colorado. Dispatches to the *Kansas City Times* show how and why this fact can no longer be disputed by anybody but wanton liars and suborned telegraph operators. The election of Gen. Hughes has been privately conceded in the *Republican* office of this city for three days, and yet its editor has the unblushing audacity to claim to the public that Hughes is defeated by 1,200 majority! We brand these miscreants as they deserve before all honest men, as professional libellers of truth, and they can not escape the brand.—*Omaha Herald, Oct. 8.*

—The *New York Herald* remarks, "In all the countries in which hard times are now oppressing the people writers on economy say that poverty comes from too great riches."

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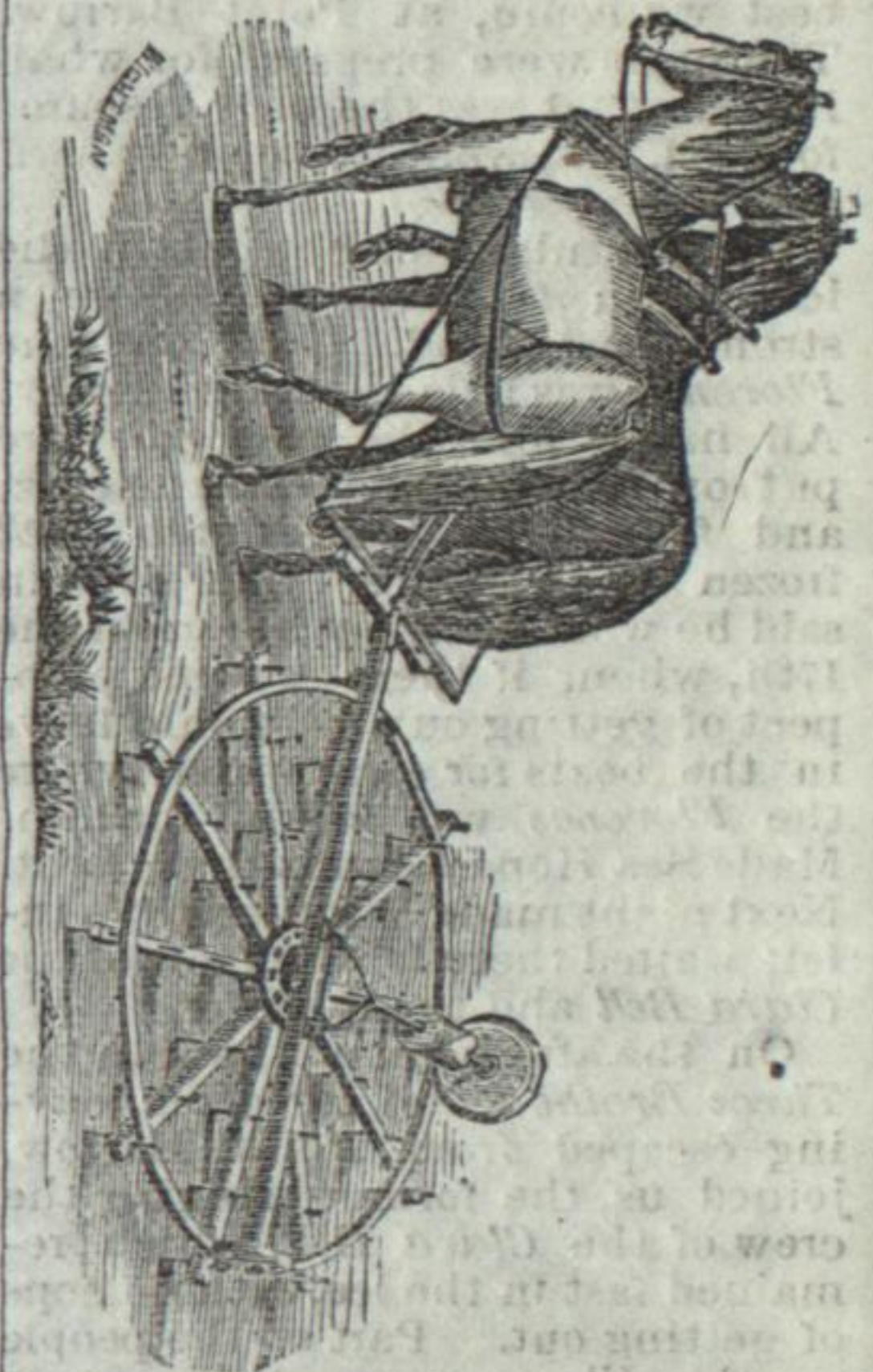
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