

THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST.

The American journalist must be spicy, lively and bright. He must know how not merely to report, but to relate in a racy, catching style, an accident, a trial, a conflagration, and be able to make up an article of one or two columns upon the most insignificant incident. He must be interesting, readable. His eyes and ears must always be open, every one of his five senses on the alert, for he must keep ahead in this wild demand for news. He must be a good conversationalist on most subjects, so as to bring back from his interviews with different people a good story of materials. He must be a man of courage, to brave rebuffs. He must be a philosopher, to pocket abuse. He must be a man of honor, and I have always found him so. Whenever I have begged an American reporter to kindly abstain from mentioning this or that which might have been said in conversation with him, I have invariably found that he kept his word. But if the matter is of public interest, he is, before all and above all, the servant of the public. So, never challenge his spirit of enterprise, or he will leave no stone unturned until he has found your secret and exhibited it to the public. —Max O'Rell in *North American Review*.

A MARVELOUS MACHINE.

The visit of a French count, says a London paper, has given us much to think of beyond the limits of the disease, both mental and bodily, by which we have been assailed. This Count P., who, strange to say, seeks no publicity, is one of the most learned men of the century. His studies have been followed in participation with the experiments of the great experimentalist the late Ruhmkorff.

The latter was generous to own that it was under the direction of Count P. that he accomplished most of his greatest inventions. The wondrous reel invented by the count is still considered the most marvelous conquest of science. Upon this reel is wound a length of silver wire measuring 75,000 meters. The magnetic needles crossing each other in a contrary direction are fixed upon the reel and suspended by a slender thread. The apparatus works under glass like a watch, so that no tampering with the mechanism is possible. It is mounted, however, on a high stand. The count takes hold of the two conductors, to which are attached the two ends of the silver thread rolled upon the reel, and bids you order the machine to move to the right or left, according to your will. Under this power alone, hitherto misunderstood—this, the mightiest power in the universe, according to Count P., the power of the human will—the machine will act without the contact of touch. To right to left will the reel revolve, according to the fancy of the visitor.

Without speech, without touch,

by the mere mental influence alone, will the machine move in obedience to the unexpressed command. But not in all cases does the machine answer unreservedly. It is to the powerful will alone—the concentrated determination—that it can be made to reply. Ruhmkorff used to laugh immoderately at the vacillating movement of Count P.'s machine when the savans of the academic were induced to try the experiment. With some the wire would tremble and vibrate, then start to one side, then move toward the other; while with others it would refuse to move at all, but confine its vibration to one spot. The experiments made by Count P. in London have all been exhibited strictly in private. His object in coming here is merely to obtain wire more firmly spun than any he has hitherto been able to get in Paris. They say that, contrary to the general rule, the count, from having been all his life a confirmed materialist, has been converted to the highest degree of religious faith, to conviction of the lofty destinies of man, and his connection with the divinity; man has abused his gifts and delivered himself to evil, but the divine essence is still within him. so fearful has the philosopher been of the pursuit of the fashionable coteries who under pretext of scientific inquiry merely seek to derive amusement from the most serious experiments in science that he has sought a retreat in a convent near London, and his excuse for being compelled to return thither by 8 o'clock is made to reply to all invitations to dinner, as to "small and earlies" with which the fine ladies of London would seek to overwhelm him.

AN ELECTRIFIED TREE.

The residents in the vicinity of Tenth and Shipley streets are agitated over the peculiar actions of an aged maple tree which stands on Tenth Street, just in front of Kelley's saloon. Small boys approach this tree with mingled feelings of awe and fear. The colored people in the vicinity are thoroughly alarmed and look upon the staid old maple with superstition. They declare that the tree is "conjured," and they warn all persons to keep away from it.

The first man who discovered that this tree was acting strangely was Thomas H. Crisson, a level-headed young butcher, who holds forth in the Second Street market. One night last week, as Crisson was walking out Tenth Street, he chanced to stop in front of the tree to engage in some conversation with a friend. While talking he leaned against the trunk, and was surprised to feel a tingling sensation all through his back. He became alarmed, and thought that he had received a stroke of paralysis. As he turned around and glanced upward he saw numerous bright lights flickering all through the branches of the tree. This very strange phenomenon caused him to leave.

He notified Mr. Kelly that something was the matter with the tree, and Kelly investigated the matter. As he placed his hands upon the tree he felt a sharp sensation all through his body. He immediately concluded that the tree was a very unpleasant neighbor; and it was immediately noised through the neighborhood.

A syndicate of small boys discussing the mandamus case gathered near this tree the other night. One of them placed his hands against the bark and he was almost knocked down. He turned and fled, leaving the other boys standing aghast in astonishment. A belated traveler, who had imbibed too much, stumbled up against the tree one night. He felt the sensation, and with a yell started off as fast as his legs could carry him. A colored woman, carrying a big basket of clothes, came in contact with the tree the other morning. She was so shocked and surprised that she started off, leaving her clothes standing in front of Kelly's.

Deputy Coroner Barnhill visited the tree one evening for the purpose of holding an inquest on its dead branches. As he touched the body of the tree his hand was so shocked that he concluded the tree was possessed by a demon. Captain E. L. Rice, Jr., of troop B, recently gave the tree a military investigation, and he claims it is charged with electricity. City Solicitor Turner daily passes the tree, but he says he is not alarmed and fears no evil from it.

Through the branches of the tree and touching some of them are fifteen insulated electric wires. The insulation has probably become saturated with water, and the tree being also wet the electricity has been carried down the tree by the water into the ground. As soon as the tree dies the wood will become a non-conductor again.

The current which passes down the tree is, of course not enough to injure a person, as the current from the wires themselves would not do that. The continuous wet weather has saturated the tree, otherwise the shocks would not have occurred. —*Washington News*.

THE SPEAKER'S UNPRECEDENTED POWERS.

These new rules go far beyond all precedent here or elsewhere, and confer upon the Speaker the absolute power to refuse to entertain any motion whatever if he chooses to consider it dilatory, although the motion itself may be clearly in order and expressly authorized by the very rules under which he is acting. For instance, when a motion is under debate, the following motions are expressly provided for: to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to refer, to amend, and to postpone indefinitely. These motions are always in order when any matter of legislation is under consideration, and yet by the new clause—inserted at the instance of the Speaker himself—he is authorized to refuse