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PANTHEISM IN NEW FORM.

A new religious movement is noted in Germany, and it is said to be making rapid progress. The organization that is its center is called the Monistenbund. It is an association of Monists, endeavoring to establish religious services to propagate their views.

From the notices we have seen of the new movement, it is an attempt to get away from the cold conception that regards the material world as a mechanical contrivance without "soul"—the result of chance. The world, in this view, is an object of reverence, of worship. "The God of the old faith," we are told, "is regarded as a visionary conception; and science still adheres to the tenet that a transcendental God can not exist. Rather the world itself, the whole universe, is God, and accordingly the soul has now again an object to which it can consecrate itself." According to this new theory:

"A place for religion has again been made; indeed, an understanding for the sphere and function of religion, and even the necessity of a religion is now a demand of science. A feeling for that which is great, exalted, infinite, and mysterious, and the need of devotion to these objects, and even consecration to them, are made matters of prominence in scientific discussions. The human soul, we are told, must die at the idea of its isolation; it accordingly, in sacred reverence, is exalted at the idea of being born and supported by the Deity. This new religion is not identical with the old, which in childlike confidence trusted the fatherly love of God; but religion has been entirely humanized and is no longer a faith in transcendental things. Religion has been restored to mankind; and this is the religion of the modern man on the basis of the pantheistic teachings of modern science. The result is the 'religious common sense' of the modern thinker, which is to take the place of the former absence of all religions. . . . It teaches a divine immanence in nature and is a kind of pantheism."

It is rather strange that the human mind, notwithstanding centuries of research and speculation, has been unable to arrive at any degree of certainty regarding its conceptions of the Deity, except as far as it has accepted of the revealed truth. We find the best thought of mankind constantly attracted in various directions. Pantheism, polytheism, atheism, theism, deism, etc., each claims its followers, and it frequently happens that any new theory is found to be only a restatement of one or other of the old ones that seem to go back to the remotest ages. The German movement, for instance, is clearly but a new form of pantheism, which, in the main, identifies God and the universe, including man. There is no stronger proof of the necessity of revelation as a source of knowledge of God. Our Savior told Peter that his knowledge of the divine nature and mission of the Son of God had been obtained through revelation, and that is, clearly, the only way in which such knowledge can be obtained. It is a matter of evidence and testimony, not of speculation. It is a matter of devout faith, rather than speculative philosophy.

The scriptures tell us that God is the free personal cause, the Creator of all things both visible and invisible; that He is eternal, spiritual, all-powerful; that "of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things." In Him we live, move, and exist. But the same Scriptures also tell us that man is made in His image; that He has "appeared" to His children; that He has parts, and passions; that He can "speak," and partake of food, and so on.

Whether, in this existence, we can fully understand and reconcile these apparently contradictory representations of the divine nature and attributes, or not, it is our duty to accept the revealed truth, and humbly wait for further light.

In the preparatory classes of a great institute of learning training and teaching are sometimes imparted, the import of which the pupil, in his first stage of search for knowledge, may deem unintelligible, perhaps absurd; but later he will find the key to the mysteries, and all will be clear to him. We are in the preparatory class. Our duty is to accept all that God has revealed and all that He may yet reveal.

Most of the errors in which the world is involved, are due to the fact that its thinkers arbitrarily reject whatever they fail to comprehend. That is not a safe course in any field of research. It is fatal to truth in theology as in any other science.

SCHOOL FRATERNITIES.

The news that the Denver school board, following the action of other school boards throughout the country, has decided to suppress the student fraternities, should strengthen the hands of their board in this city in its recent action in the same direction.

It is said and is no doubt true that these fraternities cultivate a spirit of clannishness, of selfishness, of pseudo-aristocracy, which is objectionable in any public institution but particularly in schools, where each boy and girl is supposed to stand on an equality.

Our own observation of the actual workings of these societies, while it has been limited, tends to confirm the truth of these allegations. The formation of select circles, especially among the older and more influential students, has been repeatedly demonstrated before our eyes, and we do not think they can be successfully disputed. And if this fact is true, no other qualities or compensations that such organizations could possibly promote, would be a real set-off for this result.

We have heard of all sorts of mere tricks, some of them dangerous to the lives or limbs of other students, and not a few of them brutal and cowardly, that directly have their origin in the school fraternities. On the other hand, we have not been shown any of the supposed good that comes out of them that would not be better produced in school organizations sanctioned and encouraged by the principal and the teaching force.

We are in sympathy with the movement to do away with the aristocratic strife breeders that pass under the name of the ordinary school fraternity.

LESSONS OF THE CRISIS.

It is as difficult to discover the primary causes of a financial panic as to find the origin of a disease. The secondary causes may be clear enough, but the beginning generally remains a mystery. Why a multitude should become panic stricken, without apparent reason, and assail a bank against which there is no suspicion, remains a riddle of human nature.

When the present crisis first commenced, it was regarded as a panic among millionaires; a Wall street brain-storm; it was almost looked upon as a joke. But as time went on the disturbances in the great commercial center became felt throughout the world. It has once more been demonstrated that the interests of the business world are so closely interwoven that injury to one reacts upon all. Not only has the discount rate in foreign countries risen to panic figures, but banks everywhere, in this country found it necessary to suspend cash payments, while in many places the wheels of industry have been brought to a standstill, and thousands of laborers are without work for the time being.

The issue of circulating checks instead of cash payments is a device that is said to have originated in Birmingham, Ala., in the panic year 1893. There, it is said, with the suspension of cash payments by the banks, circulating checks began to be used in payment of wages and of purchases at stores, printed at first in denominations of $5 and over. But people would then present checks at stores for small purchases in order to obtain cash by way of change, and the merchants were short of cash. So they appealed to the banks also to put out circulating checks of fractional denominations, as low as 25 cents, and in this way small retail business was conducted as other transactions were.

Well, that expediency is all right if thereby disaster can be averted. In the meantime, the people will have an object lesson on the necessity of a currency reform by which the circulating medium is rendered so elastic that it can readily be adjusted to the needs of the business of the country.

REDEEMING THE DESERT.

Investigation of the soils, the climate, and the crops suited to alkaline or arid regions, may solve the problem of reclaiming for the use of civilization the deserts of the West.

Millions of acres of the semi-arid land are yet open to the public for settlement. Dry farms have already rendered valuable many of these areas. It is thought that hundreds of thousands of square miles can yet be brought under cultivation through methods of agriculture peculiar to the dry regions.

The soil of the desert is naturally fertile. It contains the elements of plant food in unusual abundance. This is because the rainfall is not sufficient to wash out the mineral constituents and to carry them away in streams. The only difficulty is to secure water enough for the successful growth of crops.

This problem is being solved in two ways. The first way is by constructing large reservoirs. Some of these are built through the agencies of the federal government, but more by private or corporate action.

The other way is by means of dry farming. A recent writer notes that dry farming ought to be a very profitable business. Most dry farms will yield 15 and many will yield 30 or more bushels of wheat per acre, which at the usual price of wheat, will pay for the cultivation and yield a large profit besides.

The arid lands may yet be sought out by innumerable homeseekers. Towns may yet flourish where the sagebrush grows in places that are now too dry for much other vegetation.

ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

The illness of the Austrian Emperor is said to have caused some apprehension in Europe for the future preservation of the peace of the continent. This is on account of the uncertainty as to what would be the course of Hungary in case of the decease of the aged monarch. If the Czechs should declare their independence, would not the German Emperor declare himself in favor of pan-Germanism, and extend the domain of the Empire to the waters of the Adriatic? If so, it is declared in Paris, there would be war.

The Germans, however, deny any intention of absorbing German Austria. It is pointed out that the entrance of the Austrians into the German Bund would, in all probability, revive the old animosity between Prussia and Austria. It is further argued that the process of German unification is not so far advanced that the German states of Austria could be taken in with safety to interests not yet too firmly established. It is known also that the Hohenzollern dynastic influences are against a course of action which might increase the numbers and strength of the Catholic party in Germany.

But, notwithstanding these considerations, the probability is that the separation between Hungary and Austria, an event looking for whenever the present Emperor is summoned to another sphere of action, would furnish a strong incentive to Germany to attempt a union with Austria. The power and prestige this would give the Empire would be immense.

Incidentally, the fears and apprehensions of European statesmen accounts for the failure of the Hague congress to accomplish very much in the interest of peace. As long as conditions exists that seem to make war inevitable, there will be no serious effort at limitation of armaments. And as long as nations are conscious of the injustice of the arrangements by which weaker nations are held in subjugation by stronger neighbors, they will not consent to peaceful adjudication for fear of an exposure of the injustice. When nations are grouped, not according to the arbitrary agreements written in blood upon fields of battle, but according to kinship, historical connection and languages, peace will be possible, but not before. What has been won by the sword must be maintained by the sword. That is one reason why statesmen cannot see their way clear to peace and arbitration.

BOSTON AS AN ILLUSTRATION.

The management of the affairs of other large cities is a subject that may profitably be studied, by citizens who, after all, are responsible for the men in whom they place confidence.

Boston furnishes an illustration. According to Collier's Weekly the Mayor, though, when he was elected, he found a debt-burdened city spent considerable energy on devising new means of increasing the burden, instead of decreasing it.

To pay the political debt he placed an undertaker in charge of the department of supplies, but he resigned because he knew nothing about the duties of that department. Revelations followed.

It was found that the law requiring the advertising of, and competition for, contracts had been disregarded; barge loads of coal in transit from Philadelphia swelled several hundred tons; "anything that was black and would make steam" was accepted; "coal which the United States government would not accept at any price had been paid for by the city at the highest figures;" and "the awarding of these contracts, with the approval of the Mayor in writing, were not inadvertent acts, but done deliberately." Three firms supplied coal to the city. The manager of one was arrested for fraud. The head of another was a cousin by marriage of the Mayor—in eighteen months he drew $150,000 from Boston's treasury. On purchases amounting to $88,000 the city paid without a protest an overcharge of $35,000. The items chosen are typical. "They show," Collier's remarks, "how politicians make their trade pay."

But citizens are slow to learn when only public funds are involved. They do not realize that their labor pays for the dishonesty of their officials. They do not realize that the plundered treasury box must be replenished from their hard-earned wages, because they pay a great portion of it indirectly, in the added cost of living.

INNOCENT AND GRATEFUL.

A few days ago, an Italian, Raffaele Cascone, was seen walking barefoot through the crowded streets of New York. He was performing a pilgrimage of gratitude to the holy Virgin, because he had escaped the electric chair.

The poor foreigner was indicted for murder several years ago, on June 9, 1903. He has spent thirty-three months in the death-house in Sing Sing. He saw seventeen men taken out for execution. His conviction was reversed by the Court of Appeals and a new trial which lasted seven weeks resulted in an acquittal. He was declared innocent, after years of suffering and agony.

"Raffaele Cascone," the New York World remarks, "is of course unaware that all our machinery of justice moves with the greatest deliberation under the weight of technicalities. Any lawyer would have told him that our tribunals are years behindhand in their calendars; that the chances are in favor of a miscarriage of justice owing to death, removal or loss of memory on the part of witnesses; that criminal and civil proceedings are every day settled in a manner unsatisfactory to both sides, who prefer dicker to delay; that hundreds of individuals wait trial in our city prisons; that offenses are constantly condoned because the injured party will not submit to repeated and unnecessary forced appearances. Raffaele Cascone might not know what you referred to if you mentioned the Bastile. Nor is he aware that some of the nations of Continental Europe—for instance, Germany and Norway—are willing to indemnify a man who has been unjustly accused, while in France it is provided that a decision declaring the accused to be innocent must be posted in the town where he resides and published in the official journal and, if requested, in five other newspapers."

No, he may not know this, but he is nevertheless thankful to heaven for having escaped execution for a crime which the courts declare he did not commit, and he does not, probably, even realize the keen sarcasm of his pilgrimage in bare feet upon the pavements upon the great city of New York. It should not be possible in this country, to keep an innocent man incarcerated for years, and then turn him lose without an apology, without some compensation. There should be some redress for that class of wrongs. Every man should have a right to a speedy as well as impartial trial.

Freddy Dubois' Scimitar hews close to the line, the Idaho line.

The Duchess of Marlborough's favorite dog is a Blenheim spaniel.

In these tight times pussy is the only living thing that wants a corner.

Secretary Taft must be a man of hope else he would not travel in a Rainbow.

There was enough bluster yesterday to make one think winter was not far off.

Charles T. Barney soon ended his sea of troubles but not with a bare bodkin.

It is a condition and not a theory that confronts the Central American peace conference.

That Professor Drake of the Michigan law school who favors a king for this country is a goose.

Kentucky may go "dry" or she may go "wet," but the Caleb Powers trial seems to go on forever.

To endorse the clearing house checks it is not necessary to write your name across the back; just accept them.

Nothing could be more absurd and contrary to common sense than to call a murderer a man of good character.

Upton Sinclair says that he is the victim of sensationalism. That isn't so bad a thing for a sensational novelist.

The man who balks at accepting clearing house certificates simply doesn't know a good thing when he sees it.

The German balloon Pommern, which won the St. Louis race, has become, by change of ownership, a Thomas flyer.

Mr. Bryan says that he would accept but not seek a nomination as candidate for President. His announcement confirms a long pent up popular suspicion.

Some of the Michigan constitution makers think they can make a horse drink after leading him to the water. Else why the proposition to make voters vote?

There was Barney Barnatto who jumped overboard and there is Charles T. Barney who shot himself. Evidently high finance is not for the Barneys.

It is hardly likely that the Utes on the Cheyenne River reservation will do anything worse than have a few festive war dances. Winter is a good time for such pleasures.

Walter Damrosch in the near future will give a symphony concert in which all the musicians will be invisible. If it proves as popular as "The Choir Invisible" did, he can congratulate himself.

A vast civic organization has been formed in Chicago to beautify that city. It is one of the greatest undertakings ever attempted by any set of men. Nothing but Spartan courage can urge men to such a task.

"It is so easy to make little slips. A dozen or so newspapers have had something to say lately about 'George Washington's descendants,'" says the Washington Herald. No slip at all. Wasn't Washington the father of his country?

It only remains for the organ of the "American" party to charge the Mormon Church with being responsible for the bubonic plague and the sleeping sickness. The organ has charged all the other evils of the world to it.

As mentioned in these columns some time ago, an officer in the British East African service predicts the outbreak of Mohammedan "holy war." It will be brought about, he thinks, through the agency of the Mohammedan secret society, the Senussia, which has long been preparing for a life-and-death struggle between the dark-skinned races of Africa and the white invaders. This sect was founded in 1835 by the Sheik Senussi and it is today a powerful organization, with branches in almost every Mohammedan country in the world. The doctrines which the founder preached were: The freeing of the Moslem faith from all its corruptions and abuses, its restoration to its early purity, under a universal leader, and the deliverance of all Moslem countries, but especially those of Africa, from the yoke of the infidels, to which end he inculcated undying hostility to every Christian. These ends can be accomplished only by the declaration of a "Jehad," or holy war.

JUST FOR FUN.

One of the Drifters.

"There should be more investigations of cases where graft seems probable," remarked the energetic citizen.

"I don't know," answered Farmer Corntossel; "investigations never yet added much to my peace of mind. I'm one of those fool people who would rather go on suspecting the worst than have it proved."—Washington Star.

Advising a Statesman.

"If you must monkey with restrictive legislation, Abner, why not go in for something popular?"

"Can such legislation be popular?"

"It can. Make it a penal offense for a man to ask for a hair-cut on Saturday afternoon?"—Washington Herald.

All in the Cemetery.

"Have you any children?" demanded the landlord.

"Yes," replied the would-be tenant solemnly, "six—all in the cemetery."

"Better there than here," said the landlord consolingly; and proceeded to execute the desired lease.

In due time the children returned from the cemetery, whither they had been sent to play, but it was too late to annual the contract.—Tit-Bits.

Hopeful.

"I begin to realize," said young Mr. Callow, "that I am no longer a mere youth, now that I've got a little hair on my lip."

"Yes," said Miss Pert, "and I suppose in a month or so you'll have another one."—Philadelphia Press.

A Syndicate Lady.

The Census Taker—Your names, mum?

"I don't know."

"Beg pardon, mum?

"I've been divorced. At present my name is Mrs. Jones in this state. In several states it is Miss Smith, my maiden name, and in three states it is Mrs. Brown, my first husband's name."

"This your residence, mum?"

"I eat and sleep here, but I have a trunk in a neighboring state, where I am getting a divorce from my present husband."

"Then you're married at present."

"I'm married in Texas, New York and Massachusetts, divorced in South Dakota, Missouri, Alaska, Oklahoma and California; a bigamist in three other states and a single woman in eight others."—Chicago Tribune.

A Little Anxious.

A physician writes to the London Spectator that he was recently attending a patient whose husband came to see him concerning her condition, and greeted him with the words, "Mr. Irving, do you think there is any need for any unnecessary anxiety about my wife?"—Woman's Home Companion.

Gathered On The Battlefield of Thought.

The Future of The Airship Now Secured. It may be trite, but it is none the less true to say of the airship, as we have so often said of the bicycle and the automobile, "It has come to stay." What has been done in the United States in the last year alone is enough to convince me that practical navigation of the air has arrived. Some idea of how important a position aeronautic occupies in the world today may be gained by following the press of the world. Hardly a day passes that does not record a flight in some part of the world, government experiments to perfect the airship for purposes of war, the organization and practical exposition by clubs of amateur aeronauts of the feasibility of this subject for sport, and so on indefinitely. Walter Wellman's illtimed and consequently unsuccessful attempt to accomplish the long-sought discovery of the North Pole through the medium of an airship is but another evidence of the importance of the subject. His airship worked splendidly, but gales and driving snowstorms rendered the expedition impossible. The Sunday papers of this country, as well as our magzines and the papers of all Europe, are filled with accounts of the progress already attained or that may reasonably be anticipated. What effect the use of the airship as an engine of destruction will have on modern warfare is already made the subject of international discussion. The Hague Conference, made up of profound scholars and leading statesmen from nearly all civilized nations, has taken up the question of warfare in space, and alive to its illimitable possibilities, has drafted rules governing the uses to which military balloons, aeroplanes and like navigators of the air shall be put, as follows: That only dirigible balloons, manned by trained military aeronauts, be used, and that the dropping of explosives from the skies onto defenseless cities and the discharge of death-dealing gases, except over ports and military camps, be prohibited—William A. Baldwin in Recreation.

What We Owe To the Negroes In This Country. You will find no Johann Most, Emma Goldman, Czolgosz, or Guiteau among the negroes. In the struggle which may be expected to come between order and anarchy may it not be that these people, grateful to the nation for their liberty and to the good people of the land for their uplift in knowledge, purity, and social standing, will prove themselves a mighty force upholding law, order, and the supremacy of the nation? Stranger things have happened than that these people, crushed and wronged for generations, should become at last strong defenders of the nation and the community at whose hands they have hitherto received mainly injustice. They are here as citizens. Whatever temporary restrictions may be placed upon their approach to the ballot box, the time will come when all barriers will be broken down and they will enjoy everywhere the full rights of citizenship. But ignorant citizens are the prey and the sport of every demagogue who appeals to their passions, and if one-ninth of our citizens are so exposed the whole life of the nation is in peril. So we stand before the American people and say, Here is one-ninth of our population coming out from the ignorance and immorality of slavery. We are making its uplift our business. We are striving to train the hand and the mind and to fill the heart with a love of purity and a sense of the beauty of holiness. As we are faithful in this work we feel that we make a strong appeal to the nation's assistance and gratitude, and we know that we shall hear our Master's voice: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."—Justice David J. Brewer in Leslie's Weekly.

What is Wrong With Theaters And Players? Managers no less than critics and players seem to be arriving at the conclusion that the theater in America has reached a period of decline. A variety of reasons are advanced for this deplorable conclusion. William Winter lays the blame at the door of a frivolous public and of the manager who in his worship of the golden calf has divorced art and the actor's profession. Managers and playwrights on the other hand blame the actor alone for the degeneration of his craft. "A good actor," remarks one playwright, "is rarer than a good Indian." Apparently it has not occurred to any to question whether stage conditions in America have in reality reached the low ebb of which Mr. Winter speaks with such conviction. The last season, with its splendid successes of American and foreign playwrights, with Forbes Robertson's impersonation of Caesar and Mansfield's swan song in Peer Gynt, was artistically its own justification. The present season is too young to attempt a just valuation, but, judging from the present outlook, it yields promise of being inferior in no way to the theatrical productions in London, in Paris and in Berlin. We have straw and chaff, but we also have plays excellently acted and planned. Shaw was played here before he was played in England. New York's appreciation of the Norwegian master of the Irish playwright is keener than that of London. It was left to two American actors to interpret Shakespeare adequately to his own countrymen. The theater on the continent is more autre than ours, but not necessarily of superior excellence, and the suggestion is not impertinent whether despite this discussion there is anything seriously the matter with the American stage.—Current Literature.

The Present Age One of Romance And Wonders. To our forefathers each new manifestation was a matter of ocular excitement. The fingers of the cotton gin took the place of human fingers. At the coming of ether an amputation was transformed from a scene of torture to a placid process in mechanics. Crowds gathered to see Fulton's devil-boat churn its way slowly up the Hudson, or to watch the first locomotive puffing and clanking through the meadows. Even with the development of electricity wires stretched taut against the sky; the strand of cable might be seen as it began its plunge beneath the Atlantic. Yet it has remained for the matter-of-fact utilization of wireless telegraphy to bring us, in science, the height of romance. Today a merchant wishes to telegraph to his buyer in London; forthwith his half-dozen words are shot to the tip of a pole beside the seashore, flicked into the sky, and sucked out of space to a lonely spar on the coast of Ireland. There is here as much magic of romance as the world has ever seen.—Collier's Weekly.

Mature Woman Has a Beauty All Her Own. There is a beauty quite apart from youth—the beauty of the mature woman. Some there are that maintain that beauty doth not reach its zenith under the age of thirty-five or forty. In a measure this is borne out by the events of the antique past which may likewise be paralleled with instances of our own day. Helen of Troy appeared on the scene at the age of forty. Cleopatra was past thirty when she met Anthony. Aspasia, married to Pericles when she was thirty-six, was a figure brilliant in her world for thirty years after. When Diane de Poictiers was past thirty-six she won the heart of Henry II, and he but half her age. Anne of Austria was thirty-eight when described as the most beautiful woman of Europe. Mme Mar was heralded as the greatest of beauties at forty-five, and Mme. Recamier was at her best between the ages of thirty-five and fifty. Mme. de Maintenon was forty-three when united to Louis, and Catherine of Russia thirty-three when she took seat on the throne which she occupied for thirty-five years. All these women were world-famed for their beauty and gave the lie direct to that toothless old saw which buzzes the power of sweet sixteen. The dew of youth and a complexion of roses it must be admitted sometimes combine in a face that is unmoving, irresponsive, utterly lacking in that expression which goes to the making of a perfectly molded visage.—From "The Dominance of American Beauty," by Perriton Maxwell, in the Bohemian for November.

Tainted Food As an Indian Looks at It. Under the cliff opposite our camp in the Canyon de Chelly, was the corral of a mixed flock of sheep and goats, and it was a picturesque sight on our first evening to see them come home in the twilight and swarm into their primitive fold—their little Navajo David meanwhile making the echoes ring with some wild song of his people. He was a grave faced little fellow moccasined and blanketed, and paid us a visit the next morning as his flock grazed about our camp. He leaned silently upon his staff, watching us breakfasting, and we offered him bacon and coffee, than which the Navajo knows no greater luxury. Instead of accepting the proffered hospitality, he looked at our camp-fire and asked where the wood came from. Red owned to some sticks of it having been gathered from the debris about the dwellings of the dead-and-gone cliff people above us. Now that which is of the dead is to the Navajo chin-di—possessed of evil spirits—and the wood of a dead man's house, if burned, makes evil all that is cooked with it. So in David's philosophy our breakfast was of the devil, and Red's choicest arguments in Navajo were powerless to make him touch a morsel of it. "Chin-di," was all he said, as he rolled his blanket more closely about him, and passed on after his bleating flock.—The Travel Magazine.

In the Depths Of the Earth, Taking Out Coal. In the third "day" or aeon of creation, when, although the gradual cooling of the earth was slowly proceeding, yet the surface was still warm, and heavy mists still obscured the direct rays of the sun, generation after generation of wildly luxuriant and prolific vegetation was accomplishing the formation of those coal-measures which now form the priceless fuel which is now so indispensable to civilized countries. And yet until a comparatively recent period in the world's history that invaluable heat-producer was practically disregarded. To the ancients it is believed to have been unknown; and when in the dark ages of England an attempt was made to utilize it, a royal proclamation was issued forbidding its use. To those unaccustomed to descend into the depths of the earth a visit to a coal mine is a somewhat startling experience. Provided with a "Davy" lamp, giving less light than an old fashioned rush-light, (electric light, however, is now doubtless employed) the visitor, having donned a "sou-wester" and a pea-jacket, accompanied by a guide, steps upon a square platform without any protecting sides, and grips hold of the rope to which it is attached. At the word of command the descent commences. Down, down, ever down into the blackness of darkness. Still down, lower and yet lower, deeper and yet deeper, for an apparently interminable period—though the descent probably did not actually occupy more than about a quarter of an hour. At length the bottom is reached, and after a long walk in cimmerian darkness, ankle deep in coal dust, mostly along narrow passages, the workings are reached. Men all sides black, grimy creatures, many lying on their sides in the cleft of a narrow seam, wielding a short pickaxe, and, as they remove the coal, wriggling further into the cleft; many, in Stygian darkness, burrowing into the depths and fissures of an abysmally black chasm; many hurrying to and fro like shadowy sprites or merry earth-gnomes holding revel in the swarthy, lurid gloom or delving for treasure midst the flitting hither and thither of dim, lusterless sparks of light. And yet when work is over and they have emerged once more into the light of day, all these ethiop-hued, dusky toilers are in a short time transformed into healthy, clean, and honest-looking mortals. And surely in the sight of heaven it is the same with ourselves. For when we emerge from the darkness and gloom of unbelief and the contamination of sin, we too are transformed into beings meet to be associates and companions of the angels of light in His realms of glory.—A. Banker.

Emigration From Russia To Galveston. A movement has recently been started under Jewish auspices, to deflect emigration from Russia to Roumania to Galveston, where adequate preparation has been made to receive immigrants and upon their arrival to promptly forward them to divers points in the great American Hinterland, extending from the Gulf to the Dominion line, from the Mississippi to the Pacific. No difficulty is being found to find, for all who reach there, remunerative employment at numerous centers. In fact, the new comers are rather eagerly sought after, throughout this territory. Galveston with its system of railroads extending in every direction like the five fingers of the hands, is admirably situated as a point of entry and distribution. New Orleans, Mobile and some of the South Atlantic ports could no doubt be utilized to advantage for the further extension of a movement, which has for its purpose a deflection of the stream of immigration from the North Atlantic seaports and a distribution of the new comers over the large inland area, where there is not alone better and more room for them, but where they are eagerly wanted and where they would be much better satisfied, than they are likely to be in the overcrowded tenements of New York and other near-by coast towns.—Jacob H. Schiff in November Charities and The Commons.

THE VELOCITY OF LIGHT.

Youth's Companion.

Nearly fifty years have elapsed since Uriah A. Boyden, a Boston engineer, deposited $1,000 with the trustees of the Franklin Institute to be awarded as a prize for determining by experiment whether all rays of light and other physical rays are transmitted with the same velocity. It was not until this summer that the prize was won. Mr. Boyden doubted the accuracy of the experiments of Baron van Wrede in 1840, tending to show that light and radiant heat travel at different rates of speed, and he hoped to have the matter established by a more careful series of tests. Dr. Paul R. Heyl of the Central High school of Philadelphia experimented on the rays of Algol, a variable star in the constellation Perseus, and established to his own satisfaction and to the satisfaction of a committee of expert physicists that the visible and the ultra-violet rays of the spectrum travel with the same degree of speed, and the prize has been awarded to him. His paper on the subject was printed in the Journal of the Franklin Institute for August. The accumulation of the fund for nearly fifty years remains, and the judges in the contest have recommended that the sum be set aside as a prize for similar successful experiments regarding the speed of the infra-red rays.

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