

he is, stealing a leg of my chicken! Go on, old fellow; eat the whole of the chicken if you choose, for I hope that my miserable corpus will never eat or drink again. I felt neither surprise nor vexation; I simply stated facts with indifference. Hello! said I, there is my wife going to Lucerne, and she told me that she would not leave before tomorrow, or after tomorrow. They are five before the hotel of Lungern. Well, wife, I am a dead man. Good-by.

"I must confess that I did not call dear the one who has always been very dear to me, and that I felt neither regret nor joy at leaving her. My only regret was that I could not cut the string. In vain I traveled through so beautiful worlds that earth became insignificant. I had only two wishes: the certitude of not returning to earth and the discovery of my next glorious body, without which I felt powerless. I could not be happy because the thread, though thinner than ever, was not cut, and the wished-for body was still invisible to my searching looks.

"Suddenly a shock stopped my ascension, and I felt that somebody was pulling and pulling the balloon down. My grief was measureless. The fact was that while my young friends threw snowballs at each other our guide had discovered and administered to my body the well-known remedy, rubbing with snow; but as I was cold and stiff as ice, he dared not roll me for fear of breaking my hands still near the cigar. I could neither see nor hear any more, but I could measure my way down, and when I reached my body again I had a last hope—the balloon seemed much too big for the mouth.

"Suddenly I uttered the awful roar of a wild beast—the corpse swallowed the balloon, and Bertrand was Bertrand again, though for a time worse than before.

"I never felt more violent irritation. At last I could say to my poor guide: 'Because you are a fool you take me for a fool, while my body alone is sick. Ah! if you had simply cut the string.'

"The string? What string? You were nearly dead?"

"Dead! I was less dead than you are now, and the proof is, that I saw you going up the Titlis by the right, while you promised me to go by the left."

"The man staggered before replying, 'Because the snow was soft and there was no danger of slipping.'

"You say that because you thought me far away. You went up by the right and allowed two young men to put aside the rope. Who is a fool? You—not I. Now show me my bottle of Madeira, and we will see if it is full."

"The blow was such that his hands left my body and he fell down.

"Oh," said I brutally, "you may fall down and stare at me as much as you please, and give your poor explanations, but you cannot prove that my chicken has two legs, because you stole one."

"This was too much for the good man. He got up, emptied his knapsack while muttering a kind of confession, and then flew away.

"When I arrived in Lucerne I asked my wife why she had left Interlaken sooner than she had told me.

"Because I was afraid of another accident and wanted to be nearer."

"Were you five in the carriage and did you stop at the Lungren hotel?"

"Yes." And I went away laughing.

These narrations are, to say the least, exceedingly interesting. Coming from such sources, they will occasion much thought in circles where purely theological questions are seldom discussed. They go to prove that the spirit and the body, which are the soul of man, are separate organisms

though joined in mortal life; that the spirit can live when the body is lifeless; that the body without the spirit is dead; that when "the silver cord is loosed," the spirit can return to give an account to the God who gave it, while "the dust returns to the earth as it was."

These experiences, which are not entirely new to many persons, will be treated by the intensely skeptical as dreams or vain imaginations. But they will confirm the faith of those who believe in the Christian religion, and to the Latter-day Saints will be additional evidences of the truth of the doctrines they have received concerning the immortality and eternal life of man.

THE CHINESE WILL NOT GO.

It has already been published that the six companies which control the Chinese element on the Pacific Coast have instructed their subjects to ignore absolutely the provisions of the Geary law. The *San Francisco Chronicle* says that so far only one Chinaman in the whole United States has complied with the law, and he has been boycotted and driven from business by his countrymen. In San Francisco nine persons applied for registration, but afterward withdrew their application.

Collector Quinn of San Francisco wrote to the sea companies informing them of the provisions of the new law, and the consequence arising from non-compliance. He was informed in reply: That the law is unconstitutional, as it is discriminating against the Chinese and imposes unusual punishment; that it is contrary to treaty agreement; and that it lays the Chinese merchants open to blackmail, as they can be arrested at every hamlet in the United States, and subjected to heavy expense.

The Collector has forwarded a copy of the reply to the treasury department. Nothing can be done until May 8th, next, when the penal clauses of the law can be enforced. Then the Collector says he will arrest every Chinaman who has not complied with the law.

THE PROGRESS OF RECIPROCITY.

CENTRAL America comprises five political divisions, known as Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Two of these, Salvador and Guatemala, have entered into reciprocity arrangements with the United States. Costa Rica has just completed its treaty in this line, Nicaragua is waiting for its Congress to assemble to enter also, and Honduras, now in a state of political turbulence, is expected when quiet is restored to come in with her sisters.

Costa Rica is a prosperous little republic. The President is elected quadrennially. He is assisted by four ministers whom he appoints himself. He is chosen by an electoral assembly, which body also elects the members of the House of Representatives.

The Supreme Court is composed of eleven judges by Congress every four years. There are also criminal courts and subordinate judges generally called mayors. The country is divided

into five provinces and two territories, each under a governor appointed by the President.

According to the *Handbook of American Republics* the area of Costa Rica is 23,233 square miles (English), and the population 213,785. The principal city, San Jose, has a population of 25,000. The country is rich in minerals and forests. Coffee and bananas are the chief products, and are largely exported. In 1890, 161½ miles of railroad were in operation, and since then new developments have been made.

Under the new treaty with the United States, the usual reciprocity arrangements have been entered into. Great Britain has been, until the present, the chief commercial trader with Costa Rica. Germany and France had also large interests there. The United States did fairly heretofore, but under this treaty it is believed that she will become the first in trade with that country. The tariff on flour is \$2.50 per 100 pounds, and on cereals of all kinds 35 cents a bushel. These imposts will be removed from United States goods, and also all machinery, agricultural and mining, from this country will be admitted free.

ON THE VERGE OF DISASTER.

"LAND AND WATER," a Journal published in London, England, speaking of the recent financial upheavals in that country, says:

"The financial crisis, which first found serious expression in the Baring collapse, is becoming more acute. The situation is rendered worse by the artificial efforts made during the last two years to postpone the inevitable result. Within the last twenty-four hours seven clubs in the West End have been definitely closed. Several London journals are on the verge of disaster, five of the largest and most important estates in England are shortly to be sold, several commercial firms of hitherto good reputation are now distrusted, and the number of well known men prominent as society entertainers is vanishing."

THE NEW MARSHAL.

THE appointment of Mr. Irvine A. Benton to the office of United States Marshal for Utah seems to give general satisfaction. Mr. Benton has made an excellent postmaster. In this he has shown good executive ability and has been so painstaking and diligent that his course has recommended him to the notice of the President. Of course, the duties of his new position are altogether different to those which he is about to relinquish. But the ability he has exhibited in the one office will be valuable in the other, and his integrity, which seems to be unquestioned, is a consideration in any office. We congratulate Mr. Benton on the confidence reposed in him by this appointment. We are glad that the choice has been made of a straight Republican rather than a so-called "Liberal," and take it as an indication of the views of the President and his cabinet in regard to this local question.