

## Maskeleyne and the Spiritualists.

Mr. Jennings, the London correspondent of the New York World, in describing the efforts of Prof. Lankester and Mr. Maskeleyne to expose the "medium" Slade, who performs the slate-writing trick, says:

"Perhaps some of your readers may ask, Who is the Mr. Maskeleyne mentioned above? He is a man that has made a fortune by inventing a little mechanical figure, an exact representation of which (slightly caricatured) appears in this week's Punch. Mr. Maskeleyne's dummy is dressed up like a Turk, has a glass pillar beneath him, and when you have walked all round him and seen that no wires connect him with an electrical or any other apparatus, the Turk plays a hand in a game of whist—three persons from the audience playing the other hands. Mr. Maskeleyne merely calls out each card as it is laid upon the table. The Turk draws his card from a little stand where his thirteen are arranged in front of him, and Mr. Maskeleyne takes it and puts it on the others. I went to see this prodigy the other day, and as all the scientific men in London have been there, and Mr. Maskeleyne has afforded them every facility for making a thorough examination of the figure, and as none of them have discovered the secret, I need not tell you that I am quite in the dark respecting it. The figure is completely isolated from curtains or machinery; electricity could not be employed, and any of the audience may pass a cane or umbrella beneath or round about it, or exercise it in any way. It is certainly a wonderful piece of mechanism—for mechanism Mr. Maskeleyne tells you distinctly it is—and he challenges all the world to find out how it is made, or by what means it is worked. I may add, as a curious fact, that the Spiritualists assert that Mr. Maskeleyne is himself a "medium" of uncommon powers, but that he chooses to deny it, and finds it more profitable to ascribe the wonderful actions of his "Psycho" (as the figure is called) to merely natural causes. Mr. Maskeleyne himself declares that he is a sworn foe to Spiritualism, and that he will never rest until he has covered all its disciples and prophets with shame and confusion. In the meantime he has found it necessary to give two performances every day; all the town flock to them, and it is necessary to secure seats a fortnight beforehand."

**THE SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY.**—Fremy and Dehérain have conducted a series of experiments to test the reasons of the decrease of richness of sugar-beets grown several years in succession on the same soil. They find two chief causes of the deterioration—the bad selection of stock or variety, and the excess of nitro-genous manures. They conclude that argillaceous, siliceous and calcareous soils differ but little in their effects upon the sugar in beets. A sterile soil, with no other manure than phosphate of lime and nitrate of potash, was able to produce normal roots weighing 700-800 grams (1½-1¾ pounds), and containing a large amount of sugar (16 per cent.). Excess of nitro-genous manures injured the formation of sugar.

The outlook for the sugar-beet industry in this country seems to be quite promising. It has already attained great importance in California, is reported as successful in Illinois, and is engaging earnest attention in Maine. The governor of the latter State devoted considerable attention to the matter in his last message to the legislature, and a company near Portland has already begun a thorough investigation of the probabilities of successful sugar-beet culture in that State.—Harper's Magazine.

**A HUNTER'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE DEVIL.**—Mr. Samuel Spaulding, of Springfield, Me., while hunting in the vicinity of that town recently, encountered the devil face to face. This he persistently and with trembling declares. In corroboration of his testimony there is a collateral fact: Whereas he was formerly a venerable Rip Van Winkle, passing a great part of his time in the woods with his gun, he now secludes himself at home, hardly venturing from his premises. All questioners obtain from him the same statement, accompanied

by a description of his Satanic majesty. For many years the story has been periodically revived of some strange creature in the woods, near Springfield, and lumbermen have seen it as far distant as the head of Musquash stream; but Mr. Spaulding is the first man bold enough to declare that it is the devil. If his story is true, and his manner and character are in his favor, he had a very near view and might have bagged the creature had he not been afraid to fire his gun. If it was really the devil, there are many who will never forgive him his remissness.—Cable's (Me.) Times.

**DISGRACEFUL SCENE AT A FUNERAL.**—A dispatch from Scranton, Pennsylvania, October 20, says: One of the most disgraceful scenes ever witnessed in this vicinity occurred at Dunmore, a short distance from this city, to-day, where two men, who were about to lower a coffin into the grave, wrangled and engaged in a desperate and bloody fight. There was a large assemblage in the grave yard at the time, and the friends of the deceased, disconsolate with grief, were weeping bitterly and bemoaning their bereavement, when the solemn scene was broken up by the revolting quarrel. The combatants, to make the matter still worse, were brothers-in-law, who had dug the grave into which the dead was about to be consigned, and the cause of the dispute was a difference of opinion as to its correct construction. After a few short, angry retorts they struck each other, and one of the men knocked his opponent into the grave. He was soon out again, however, and enraged to the point of desperation, rushed at his assailant, and, despite the protests and entreaties of the shocked and startled multitude, the fight was continued fiercely for some minutes until the bleeding combatants were eventually separated by main force.

A down-in-the-heel politician stood on the sidewalk last evening and thus addressed the lamp-post: "Are patriotism fled from this he-e land, and are we drifting to-rds a monarchy? It must be so, for this are the most unpatriotic campaign I've seed yet; I haven't been asked to drink by a single dog-goned candidate since the campaign opened. Whither are we driftin', anyhow?"—Ez.

"I understand you make very good cider?" "Yaw," said the Dutchman; "Hans, my boy, go and bring a mugful." Hans soon returned with a mug brimming full and handed it to the Dutchman, who drained it to the bottom in one draught; then turning to his astonished visitor said: "Dare, now, if you dosh not tink dat ish good cider, youst schmell of dat mug."

"Ladies and gentlemen," said an Irish manager to his audience of three, "as there is nobody here, I'll dismiss you all; the performance of this night will not be performed, but will be repeated to-morrow evening."

The papers relate an anecdote of a beautiful young lady, who had become blind having recovered her sight after marriage. It is no uncommon thing for people's eyes to be opened by matrimony.

On the Channel, where the voyage produces the usual effect. An economical lady cries: "What a pity! A breakfast that they charged so much for, too!"—Paris Paper.

A friend of M. de Girardin describes him as "a man who rises every day at 4 o'clock to make enemies."

A little boy had been sent to dry a towel before the nursery fireplace. "Mamma, is it done when it is brown?"

## To Trappers, Co-operative Stores and Others:

As numbers of our Patrons are already bringing and sending in MUSKRAT SKINS, we wish to state that those pelts are always of an Inferior Grade, when taken from animals which are trapped before about November 15th. We cannot, therefore, purchase Skins taken off prior to that date.

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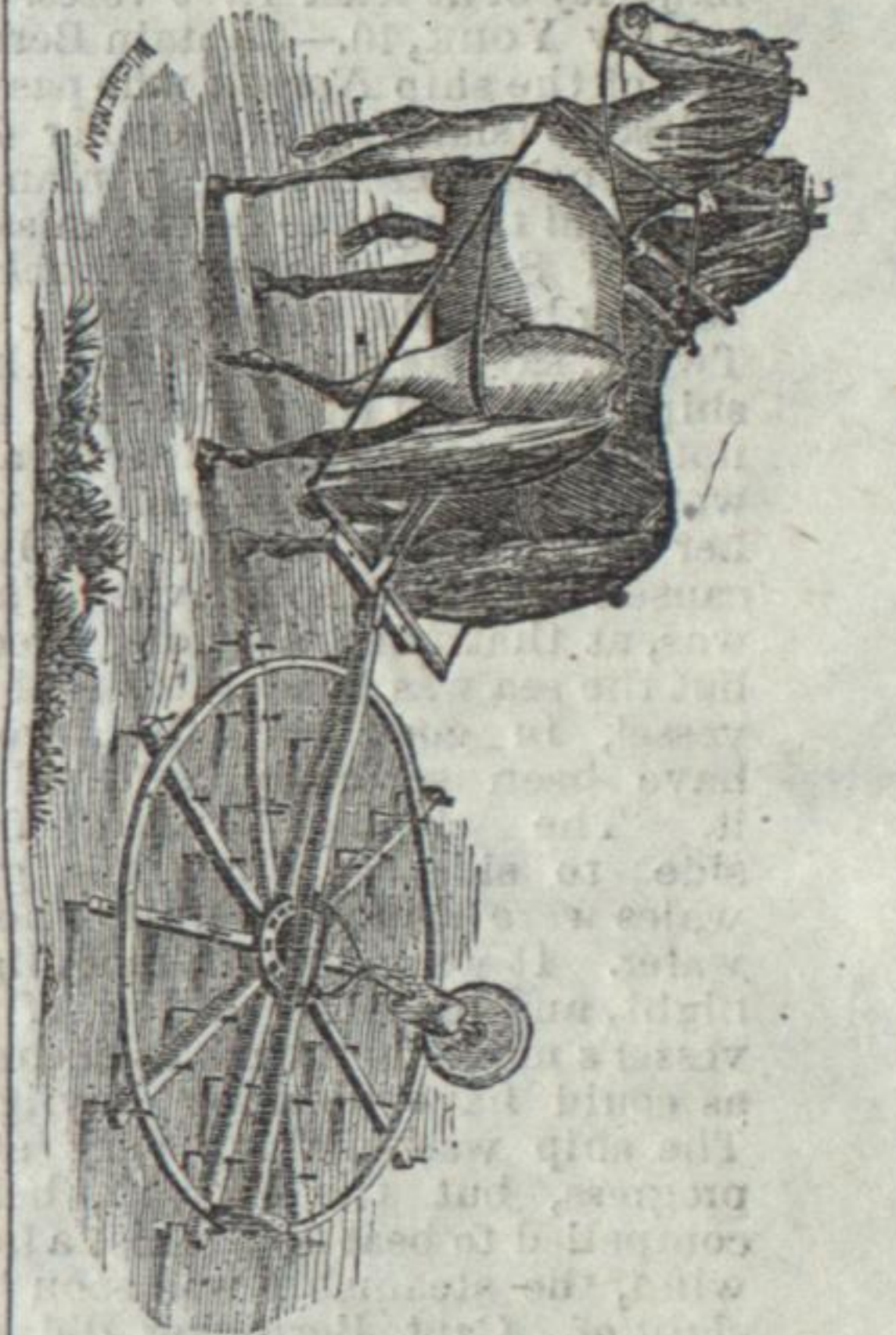
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