

is an air of plausibility running invention, and the theories of the inventor, which make both very interesting. The World is not the first public journal to refer to the discovery, as it has been spoken of by the press before, and it seems to be pretty well established that Mr. Nickum has hit upon a new means of illumination. Whether it will prove as valuable to mankind as is represented, remains to be seen.

Mr. Nickum's rejection of the Newtonian theory of matter and gravitation, recalls the writings upon that subject of the late Apostle Orson Pratt, whose refutation of that theory, written when physical science was in its infancy, compared with its present status, has stood without a successful rejoinder. In some of the revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith there are passages that relate to and disclose hidden principles of physical science; and some of these passages are receiving extraordinary confirmation in recent discoveries.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Chairman Hitt of the committee on foreign affairs, made an extended statement on the Cuban situation when the general debate on the diplomatic bill opened this afternoon. He reviewed the course of the administration; the successful demands for the release of American citizens; the protest against the inhumane methods of war resulting in the removal of Weyler, and the effect of the concentration of Cubans in towns.

This showed what spirit animated the President and what might be expected of him. Mr. Hitt spoke of the autonomy plan and of the disposition of the executive to give it a fair trial, notwithstanding the many doubts heard throughout the country against the sincerity of the plan.

The President had pointed out, Mr. Hitt said, that the recognition of belligerency would in fact, weigh more heavily on the Cubans, and this fact disclosed the spirit animating the executive. With the declaration of belligerency, the Spanish cruisers were free beyond the three mile limit of Cuba to harass upon the high seas the ships carrying supplies to Cuba.

The Cubans themselves recognized that belligerency meant the cutting off of their supplies from this country, but they hoped and had so expressed themselves to Mr. Hitt, that it would bring a stray shot from a Spanish cruiser on the high seas directed against an American ship, which would inflame the American people and sweep the United States into a war with Spain.

Mr. Hitt referred to the critical condition in Havana, and the readiness of our warships for emergencies. What the next step would be, he could not foretell, but he appealed to all to uphold the hands of the President just as all voices united in upholding the President in the Venezuelan crisis at a moment when misaction was fraught with the profoundest responsibility.

Honolulu, Jan. 12, via San Francisco, Jan. 19.—A long and important cabinet meeting was held yesterday. The main subject under consideration was pardons to be granted on the 17th. It is understood that the council of state will be asked to restore civil rights to all who took part in the uprising in 1895. The men found guilty of participation in the rebellion have been at large on parole. An effort will now be made to make this pardon complete.

The difficulty between the master and sailors of the American Steamship W. T. Babcock was settled today by United States Consul General Haywood. After a thorough investigation

of the charges preferred by the men against Captain Graham and his mate, Mr. Haywood decided that there was enough merit in the complaints to warrant him in discharging the men from the vessel, although not sufficient evidence to cause the arrest of the alleged offenders.

Thirteen of the Babcock's sailors bore witness at the official inquiry as to the cruelty of the captain and mates. Each of them claimed to have been struck over the head with an iron belaying pin weighing nine pounds. The captain will ship a new crew here.

Ancona, Italy, Jan. 18.—The bread riots were renewed here today. The participants in the demonstration, having been expelled from the town, assembled outside the town gates, but the cavalry dispersed them.

A band of rioters wrecked and tried to burn the country house of a grain-dealer. The troops quenched the flames and dispersed the mob. Fifty persons have been arrested. The military bakers are distributing bread to persons without food.

Randsburg, Cal., Jan. 19.—Fire broke out early this morning in a vacant building on Rand street and spread so rapidly that more than thirty structures were consumed within an hour. Everything was swept clean on both sides of Rand street from Staley avenue to above the Elite theater and on a portion of Broadway. This includes the postoffice and some of the largest stores in the camp, and will entail a loss close onto \$100,000. The absence of wind prevented the destruction of the entire town and permitted the firemen and citizens to stop the fire by tearing down buildings and moving them out of the way. No persons were injured and all the mail was saved.

St. Louis, Jan. 19.—A transcript has been filed in the United States court of appeals from the U. S. circuit court that presents a peculiar insurance question.

Dr. Jeannie C. McClother took poison by mistake for a medicine at Kansas City. He had an accident insurance policy for \$5,000 in the Provident Mutual Accident company of Philadelphia. His widow brought suit to collect \$5,000, but it was decided against her on the ground that death from poisoning was not an accident within the meaning of the word of the policy. She has now taken recourse to the court of appeals to reverse the decision.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Mrs. Eliza Grazalski was 80 years old but she wanted to dance at her grand-daughter's wedding last night, so she put on an old silk gown that she brought from Poland and hobbled from her home at McReynolds and Paulina streets to the residence of her son, Anton, on North Winchester avenue.

The wedding guests were assembled, the feast was prepared and the bride was arrayed in her nuptial garments, when the grandmother arrived. But before the latter had been in the house more than a minute or two, she was seized with a pain in her left side and fell to the floor.

Her son Anton, father of the bride, lifted her up. The grandmother gasped for breath, clutched her son's hand, and looked despairingly around the room. "I am going to die," she replied; "not yet; I am going to dance at the wedding first, see—don't say I am going to die."

Mrs. Grazalski kicked one foot into the air and was about to follow it with the other when she fell in a faint and in a few minutes she was dead.

The wedding was not postponed, however, for the short time the body remained within the home a neighboring hall was brought into requisition, and after the remains were taken to the old woman's former home, the festivities were again resumed in the son's house and continued far into the night.

New York, Jan. 19.—The Clyde line steamer Cherokee, which arrived today from San Domingo ports, brings details of the earthquakes which have occurred with frequency since December 29 last. Great damage has been caused throughout the whole country and the inhabitants were driven from their homes in a panic.

At 6:43 on the morning of December 15, the people in the northern part of the island were startled by a very severe trembling of the earth, lasting fully 25 seconds. At Porto Plata and the inland town of Santiago, this first shock was most severely felt. Women and children rushed from their houses into the streets, crying out to be saved. The swaying of walls and the rocking of the earth caused a sensation of nausea.

The first shock was soon followed by another and still another in rapid succession. Then all was quiet until 2 p. m., when another slight movement was felt, which caused another stampede of the inhabitants. Many people say that the water from doused wells was seen to surge up level with the ground, and almost as rapidly disappear again. It is calculated that damage to the amount of \$25,000 was done in the small port of Porto Plata alone. The Central Domingo railroad suffered severely, traffic being interrupted since the occurrence of the earthquakes. The submarine cable to Haiti was affected by the seismic movement and communication was interrupted.

In Santiago, a number of churches were rendered dangerous for use, cemetery walls were ruined and a chapel fell as though it had been struck by a bomb shell. The government buildings were damaged to a great extent and will need extended repairs, if not complete rebuilding. The grand edifice of Santa Cerro, one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere, and dating from the time of Columbus, was entirely destroyed. Almost every day since December 26, there have been shocks, but of a comparatively harmless nature. As far as is known there has been no loss of human life. The shocks were perceptibly felt on board of vessels in the harbors of the island.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 18.—Forty persons were killed and eighteen injured by an explosion of gas in one of the mines of the Donezator company in the Tagenrog district, on the north shore of the Sea of Azov.

Colfax, Cal., Jan. 18.—The most disastrous train wreck known in this section was caused this evening by the westbound passenger train on the Central Pacific railroad jumping the track about half a mile east of Colfax. The train is known as the Pacific express No. 2, and carried a large number of overland passengers. As a result of the accident one engineer and one fireman were killed and a passenger was seriously injured, and three other trainmen badly hurt.

Lafayette, Colo., Jan. 19.—At a joint meeting of the four district coal miners' union, comprising Marshall, Louisville, Erie and Lafayette, held here resolution were adopted demanding the following prices: For shooting, loading and mining coal in the Lafayette district, 45 cents per ton after machines in rooms and fifty cents per ton in pillars; seventy-five cents per ton from pick work in rooms; sixty-five cents per ton, pick work in pillars.

All of the men in all the mines closes down the entire Northern Colorado coal fields and leaves about 1,200 men idle. A meeting of the coal mine operators will be held in Denver to discuss the situation.

Billy Woods and Mexican Pete Everett have signed articles for a 20-round bout at Cripple Creek, Colo., Feb. 12th, for a purse of \$500.