

right leg—yet, when I try to analyze my sensations, I feel that leg there. Why, I feel the foot this minute more distinctly than I do the left one, which is there before my eyes. It (the phantom) hurts me, while the other does not. If I could not assure myself by the touch and sight of the stump, nothing could convince me that the right leg was gone. I am having constantly to reason with myself in order to convince myself of the unrealness of my sensations."

As may be expected, when the illusion is so clear, accidents cannot be avoided at all times. The story is told of a horseman who had lost an arm and thinking he was taking the reins in the hand he did not have, dropped them on the neck of the horse, which leapt to one side, threw the rider and badly injured him. Another story is related of a gentleman who had only one arm and while dressing one morning lost his equilibrium. Starting to fall he put out the phantom arm to steady himself and had a severe fall as a consequence.

The experience of an old soldier who had lost half of both feet is peculiar. The Druggist says:

"This man would sit for a half hour at a time rubbing the ends of his shoes, where his corns formerly were, and swearing at the pain the phantom corns were giving him. He would frequently declare, 'There's going to be a change of the weather—my corns are hurting me.' On being reminded that he had no corns, he would say, 'Never mind! I feel 'em all the same.'"

The common explanation of such phenomena is that any irritation of the nerve that formerly connected the limb with the brain is by the latter accounted for in the same way as it would be, were the missing limb there. To some this explanation has not seemed satisfactory. The subject has not yet received the attention it probably deserves. It may lead the investigator beyond the domain of matter into what Tennyson calls "the abyssal depths of personality" and furnish a key to psychological mysteries.

#### CAN NEWS BE COPYRIGHTED?

A suit in equity has been planted by the New York Herald against the San Francisco Chronicle to obtain an injunction prohibiting the latter paper from reproducing from the columns of the former news matter which the Herald has copyrighted. The defense of the Chronicle is based upon two grounds, the first of which is an editorial announcement contained in the issue of the Herald dated Feb. 27, 1898, as follows:

"As the Herald has stated over and over again, its news, with our compliments, is at the disposal of any paper fair and square enough to give credit for it."

The Chronicle claims that, after making such an announcement as that, the Herald is estopped from proceeding against any paper that has given due credit for news reproduced from its columns, and this the Chronicle claims always to have done. But the second ground of the Chronicle's defense raises a question of far more importance to the entire newspaper press of the country. It is the contention that news matter, narratives of facts and events, can not be copyrighted. This issue thus joined between these two wealthy and powerful journals, is fraught with the most profound interest to every newspaper in the United States.

If news can be copyrighted, the first

paper to print the facts relating to some startling event, such for example as the blowing up of the Maine, could prohibit any other paper in the whole country from publishing those facts without paying a royalty to be fixed by the newspaper lucky enough to have such a "scoop". The royalty would have to be paid or all the other papers in the Union would have to wait twenty-eight years, the period covered by a copyright, before giving the news, which by that time would be liable to exude an odor of staleness. The preposterous results ensuing from the copyright of news are thus described by the Chronicle of the 19th Inst.:

"It is now some fifteen years since the pretense was first set up that news could be copyrighted; yet, during the whole interval since the claim was put forth, no attempt has been made to enforce it. Does any one suppose for a moment that if it were possible for a newspaper, by the simple expedient of paying the fee of one dollar exacted for copyrighting anything capable of receiving the protection of the law pertaining to copyright, to secure the valuable privilege of monopolizing the circulation of a piece of news for twenty-eight years, the matter would not have long since been placed beyond all possibility of dispute? That the question is still an open one is *prima facie* evidence that no one believes that the claim that news can be copyrighted can be made to stick. That the Herald has no confidence in its ability to have the copyright law construed so as to cover news may be inferred from the admission which we find in the above quoted permission, that any paper is welcome to use its news that is fair and square enough to give credit for it.

"It is not necessary here to discuss what may be copyrighted further than to say that the law seems to be clear that it must be a product of the intellect, something in the nature of a creation, and that it must have the element of permanency of value. A piece of news has none of these characteristics. It is simply a relation of facts, and its value is destroyed by the very act of publication. There is no reason, therefore, why the protection of the law should be accorded to anything of the kind. On the contrary, public policy demands that no such restrictions should be placed upon the dissemination of intelligence. If the claim of the Herald were sound it would be possible for that or any other journal, by a resort to the copyright law, to prevent the publication by any other paper of, let us say, the President's message, if it happened to secure a copy in advance of its official publication. Indeed, the Herald goes a step farther and claims that if it cables the queen's speech or an address of the president of France to the United States, and copyrights the edition in which it appears, no other paper may print them, although they may have been generally circulated in the countries where they were originally delivered.

"To suggest such possibilities is to throw into plain relief the utter absurdity of the idea that news can be copyrighted. It is an attempt which every journal in the land has an interest in resisting, the Herald as well as five thousand other daily papers, whose proprietors would all be subjected to vexatious suits if the practice of copyrighting became general, for it must not be assumed for a moment that only the New York papers can resort to such a process. News originates in other parts of the world than in that city, and to attempt to confine its publication to the paper discovering it would constitute a muzzling of the press which Americans would never tolerate."

The argument that a paper which incurs the expense of first obtaining news, and has the enterprise to do this, ought to be protected by the copyright

law, is far more than offset by the arguments which show what the public would suffer and be deprived of were such protection granted. Every paper in the country, possibly barring some of the big eastern dailies, will hope to see the New York Herald defeated in this suit.

#### MAKE TIME TO WRITE.

It is a common complaint, often met with by missionaries and others abroad, that people who have emigrated to the New world are apt to forget their friends in the old home. At the moment of departure when tender ties were severed and the pangs of separation keenly felt, promises to remember and to write were given, no doubt honestly and in sincerity. New surroundings, new friends, feverish activity in the various lines of business were not anticipated. They came, however, and with them neglect, perhaps, of fulfilling sacred promises. This is wrong and often injurious in more directions than one.

In the eloquent language of Bishop Thorald, quoted by an eastern exchange:

"Is there an old acquaintance whom you seldom see, but whom you ought not to forget; who knew and loved you when you were both children together, and who still prizes your friendship, though it is of little use to him? Now and then write to him. 'Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not.' Is there a servant, retired from your service, who has nursed your children, been a kind and true friend to you in sad and dark hours, who is growing old, as you yourself some day will grow old, with few changes in a dull life, and few pleasures in a poor one? Occasionally send a message to that dear though humble friend, if not always in your own hand, at any rate, by your wife or child. It will stir thoughts of slumbering happiness in a kind heart that has loved you with a love as good as a rich man's love, and served you with a service that no mere wages could repay. Or have you aged parents, living far away, it may be, in some remote home, whose monotonous and ever-shortening life is never so pleasantly broken as by news of you; whose midnight thoughts and noontime musings are ever full of you; who grow young and brave in the thought of your success, and whose constant prayers have much more to do with it than you know of? Never let them feel that you are too busy to think of them, or too important to care for them. Visit them when you can; you will not have them much longer; but regularly make time to write."

#### THE PRATT DECISION.

A careful reading of the decision of the State Supreme court in the Pratt case confirms the belief that further resistance to the claims of the petitioner will not be offered by the defense, that no motion for a rehearing will be filed, and that the *de jure* chief of police will be allowed to enter upon the actual performance of the duties of his office without delay. There appears not the faintest possibility that the opponents of the chief can gain any advantage to themselves by prolonging the litigation, and there are many and cogent reasons why it should be dropped at once. The people of the city are tired of it and the police department is in urgent need of a recognized head.

The court maintains that the chief and also the members of the police department hold their positions during