

THE eastern telegraphic dispatches have contained occasional allusions to the Danish treaty, but they have been so vague and so far from the truth, that the general reader, conveying to him beyond the fact that a treaty had been formed at some time between the Danish Government and the United States, for the purchase from the former by the latter of the islands of St. Thomas, in the West Indies. This treaty has given rise to considerable comment and discussion in diplomatic and literary circles, some being in favor of its ratification, others strenuously opposing it.

A marked feature in the policy of the late Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, was the enlargement of the United States' territory. Under his administration Russian America was purchased by the United States; others were made for Cuba, Greenland, and St. Thomas, and if he had continued in office, and had been able to carry out his peculiar views in this respect, the utmost limits of American ambition might, in time, have been gratified, and the territory of the United States have included "all creation."

Different views are, seemingly, entertained by the present Administration, and instead of helping to deplete the national treasury by the purchase of additional territory, the order of the day seems to be retrenchment and the establishment of a rigorous system of economy in the administration of the Government, so that the burdens of taxation may be lightened and the producing powers of the nation be assisted and accelerated.

The cause originally assigned for the purchase of the Danish West India Islands, was that they would be of such great importance as a coaling station for United States vessels in time of war; and it has been asserted, that during the progress of the rebellion, the Danish King, seeing of what vast utility they would be to the United States, generously offered to sell them. The disclosure of the real facts in the case, however, show that this ebullition of kindly sympathy with the Republic is entirely fictitious.

Mr. Parton, the talented and popular writer, in a work of his, recently issued, entitled, "The Danish Islands: are We Bound in Honor to Pay for Them," gives a history of this transaction, and he seems to be of the opinion that this treaty should be ratified by the United States Senate. The main facts of the transaction, as developed by Mr. Parton, are, that the negotiations were commenced between Mr. Seward, and Rasmussen, the Danish Minister, while attending a dinner party given at Washington in January '95, by the French Minister. Immediately after this interview between the two dignitaries the Danish Minister communicated the proposition to the King of Denmark who, in the beginning of the following April sent a positive refusal.

The assassination of President Lincoln and the attack on Seward were perpetrated immediately after this and the negotiations were discontinued until the following December, when they were renewed, this time, on the part of Denmark, and were continued for over a year and a half, during which period Mr. Seward, after his recovery, visited the West Indies. The price asked by Denmark for the three islands was twenty-five millions of dollars. This offer was not entertained at all by our government, and no specified sum was offered by Secretary Seward until sometime in '98, when he offered five millions. This, of course, was not entertained by Denmark, and the negotiations were suspended for several months.

In the Spring of '97 they were again renewed by Denmark, when the three islands were offered to the United States for fifteen millions, or two of them for ten millions. The United States refused this offer, and a few weeks later, Mr. Seward offered seven and a half millions, which was finally accepted; and towards the close of October, '97, the treaty was signed on the part of Denmark, with the understanding that it had to be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the United States' Senate, and that the purchase money could not be paid unless appropriated by Congress; and by Mr. Seward, with the understanding that it would not be binding unless ratified by the Danish parliament; and then sanctioned by a vote of the majority of the people of the islands purchased.

These are the main facts connected with this case, and upon these grounds it has been strongly urged by many that the United States is in honor bound to ratify the treaty and pay the money. When it is recollected, however, that the negotiations were conducted, and the treaty signed on Mr. Seward's own responsibility, or at least without being authorized by the Senate, without the sanction of which, no treaty is valid; and that the importance of these West India Islands have been greatly overrated, it is rather difficult to see where in the honor of the nation will be injured by a refusal on the part of the Senate to ratify this contract. This seems to be the view taken by that body as a decided disposition not to ratify has been evinced by them. At a time like the present, when reform and economy in the administration of the government are so necessary, and so imperatively demanded by the people at large, it is to be hoped that these principles will prevail, and that the efforts of any "ring," or others who may be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in having an enormous sum of the people's money appropriated for the purchase of comparatively useless territory will be frustrated.

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# ORACLES.

Truth in astrology? There may be, probably if there were not nobody would believe it. It is the surface of gold on the spurious coin which makes it possible to pass it; the die in which the gold is made is as good steel as that of the mint; the workman who is as good as the metal he is making the coin is as good as the metal of its kind, but the coin is bad. Even if the coin were made of the purest gold it is made without authority; the man who makes it is a traitor to the commonwealth, and the man who utters it is a felon. The question is, is any proposed science beneficial to man which obliterates his free agency, which takes away from him the prerogative of governing this planet and its inhabitants; which claims to be superior to all human institutions, and converts man into a mere automaton? That the "light" has "infinite" power over themselves is at least as reasonable to suppose as that of the individual influence; that, in the midst of the great family of worlds, they set upon each other is reasonable; but that they control my actions is unreasonable. That the light of the planets impinging upon objects may produce effects upon them, or that the light of the moon may possess qualities which that of the sun does not, is very probable; but that that light should have power to cause men to do evil or good, is, to say the least, very improbable.

What wonderful effects have been produced by very subtle elements, both upon mind and body, history and experience teach. The Oracle of Delphi can be advanced as one among many evidences of the kind in ancient times. The inhalation of nitrous oxide may be advanced as a "physical" and the magnetic passes of the "biologist" and mesmerizer, as among the more ethereal elements used in our own day. But in all these cases there is a constant influence exerted in a manner which, if the cause is beyond our reach, the effects never vary. The intoxicating or "inspiring" fumes which made the "oracles" give forth "unintelligible utterances," which were construed into sober sense, or nonsense, as the case might be, by the priests of the oracle, would inspire any one else who breathed them. Nitrous oxide, or "laughing gas," may cause one to dance, another to sing, and perhaps another to pray; but they produce effects which are analogous. As to the "passes" of the mesmerist, they do not produce like effects upon different individuals, but this is only a question of degree; some require a higher intensity of the "magnetic" influence to subdue them; or, the operator himself may be influenced "positively" by the "patient." In these cases there is a similarity of effect produced which is reducible to a law which all may understand—"all men are more or less subject to the same influences."

How is it with regard to planetary influence? Astrologers say one is susceptible of impressions from the light or influence of Jupiter, another from that of Mars, etc. If there is this influence in the beautiful light of the planet Jupiter, it is reasonable to suppose that all are alike benefited by it. Not so, as the astrologer understands it: the individual who is born under the influence of that planet is the favorite of "greater fortune," as that planet is called; the poor creature who happens to be born, perhaps through a protracted labor, too late to get the blessing, may come into existence under the dominion of Saturn, (ominous name), and unless Jupiter is in "trine" or "sextile," to the "greater infortune" (Saturn), or Venus, (the next best of the good planets), the "native" (the person born), will be a poor, miserable, sickly, cowardly drudge throughout all his existence, unless "Saturn is not in his dignities," that is, weak, by reason of his position in the zodiac.

This is all very pretty in theory, but is it true? Strange that mankind should have made observations and recorded their experience as the ancients did, for thousands of years, to try to establish the infallibility of the stars as oracles, and then have failed. No system, which has been the subject of human investigation, has been so thoroughly tested, and has failed so completely. Why was it so well examined? Men wanted it to be true; they wanted to take the veil which hides the future from mortals to gratify their vanity and to give them power over their fellows. Who does not know this who is free from the desire that this pseudo-science should be true, for to him who desires it, it is true. The man who sincerely believes he is under the dominion of Saturn, or Jupiter, or any other being, is controlled; he is subject to an influence whose way is despotic, just in proportion to the intensity of his convictions.

Now, what are the facts? A man believes in astrology, or planchette, or "intuition," or magic, or clairvoyance, or mesmerism, or any other "ism"—it is his oracle. He bows before it and it becomes his idol; the more fully he is convinced of the truthfulness or reliability of his idol, the more he will reverence it. Will he seek the true God? No. He will be weaned from any former attachment, when he comes to drink of the "sacred milk of the word." To him there is no prophet but his oracle, no God but his. He may not have descended to this depth to-day, but it is only a question of time. Who consults any of these oracles to do good? What are the motives which actuate men to seek for information? "I want to be great, to be rich, to know who loves me," or "who hates me," or "who wrongs me." Do any consult them with a view to be more useful members of society; to enable them to become better men and women socially, intellectually, morally? None.

Where, then, is the good of such "sciences" falsely so-called? If you are afraid to go to law unless the planets are propitious it is because your course is unjust; if you are afraid to marry for the reason that "Venus is not well aspected" in the heavens, it is because you have doubt concerning the Venerable you have chosen on earth; if you are afraid to plant to-day, because the configuration of the planets says no, it shows you lack confidence in the Being who causes the plants to grow. But have the planets no influence on earth? The influence of light which flows upon this earth from countless myriads of suns, planets, and stars, systems, helps to sustain life both in animals and vegetables. Who can deny by no means the only luminary which is engaged in illuminating this earth? It is highly probable that the light derived from those planets circulating in this solar system, although only reflected light, may bring with it some of the qualities of the planet from which it is reflected. Perhaps those "hot and dry," and "watery and cold" qualities which the ancients noticed as qualities of certain planets are really a stimulus to the perpetuation of the plant life. All events we may be assured of this: He who "made all things well," and pronounced everything very good, did not create any withering, pernicious influences, such as are ascribed to the rays of light which innocently fall upon the earth from the planets of our system.

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## ADDRESS TO ELDER G. WALLACE.

ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE LYDIA. Brother Wallace! I would fain present The heartfelt tribute of a friend sincere In this your hour of bereavement, and I kindly say, Mourn not that she is gone To mansions of delight, and blessed rest. The gentle and true "first love" of earth. But let not our better grief be deepened. The grave that holds thy dear departed wife. She was a wife in deed and truth faithful. Enduring, loving to the end of life. And, if permitted, she would have been a guardian around your life on earth. She was a Mother, whose sweet soul was bound In love's eternal tie to those who loved her. Her children were the "apple of her eye." Her love and her ambition centred there! Will she not hover round your youthful steps? Methinks she will, in such employment As bestowed upon the enraptured soul! For all his heart was earnest, fond and true. Griefs, in his heart now immortalized, need I say that she was a saint in every sense. The virtuous domestic comprised a saint, a host, and that full word, which signifies, a friend. Enough is said. She is by you comforted. Oh! friends and brothers, heed this life is short: Let us prepare to follow her who's gone. Before us lies a path, which we do not see. Like her, be ready for the change—prepared To meet our loved ones! Oh! exulting thought! The loved and lost on earth in Heaven reunited. This gives us strength to cry, "The will be done!" March 18, 1898. HANNAH T. KIRK.

## Special Notices.

I have received, by express, this morning, a choice assortment of the latest styles in hats, Bonnets, Bangles, Rings, Blouses, Flowers and Fancy Trimmings. Call at Danford & Sons, and examine their Stock of Boots, Shoes and Hats, which they are determined to sell at prices which will suit everybody. FOR SALE—Yarmouth Herring, salted, Codfish, Haddock, White Fish, Salmon, Red Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Red Top Seed, Round and Oval Bolls, also a choice assortment of Candles, wholesale, at Geo. Goddard's. 1212 1/2 W. LATH RAIL SALE by J. D. Lyon, plasterer, 12th Ward. 1212 1/2 W. FOR SALE—A Horse and buggy. Enquire of A. C. Pyper, 1000. Just received from the East, a large assortment of Clocks, by Carl C. Andersen, next door to the Post Office, Salt Lake City. WANTED IMMEDIATELY—One hundred pounds of Good Bird Wood in the Paper Mill, Sugar House Ward, Salt Lake City. Having lately received extensive additions to our already large and varied stock, in the lines of type, presses, &c., our facilities for executing all kinds of Job Work in the business most improved styles have been greatly increased. Co-operative and other establishments can be supplied with plain or tinted Order and Receipt Books, Certificates or orders, and every kind of work. Orders from the city and the country are promptly and respectfully attended to. We have received one of the latest improved ruling machines, and are, therefore, prepared to do all kinds of ruling, according to order, on the shortest notice.

## MEGEATH & CO.,

FORWARDING AND COMMISSION HOUSE, CHEYENNE, D. T. And TERMINUS U. P. R. R. Receive and Forward Goods to the Territories of COLORADO, UTAH, MONTANA, ARIZONA, and NEW MEXICO. Charges for Advancing, Storing and Forwarding, made at reasonable rates. To the Merchants and Business of Cheyenne, Denver, and Salt Lake City generally. KIMBALL & LAWRENCE, AGENTS, S. L. CITY.

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## THEATRE.

Woodmansee & Bro., Last Appearance.

Of the Talented Young American Actress, LUCILLE WESTERN.

YACHTING, THEATRE, TIAS.

MR. J. A. HERNE General Merchandise.

MISS ANNIE LOCKHART.

A GREAT CAST OF THE COMPANY.

This Evening.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1909.

Of the THRILLING DRAMATIC RENAISSANCE, in a Prologue and Act, entitled.

THE SCUTTLED SHIP.

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