

estate dealers would have special cause to rise up and call him blessed.

The inventor holds that steam can be applied to this system of railroad, but that electricity is the better motive power for it, and that the latter could be used from stationary power houses along the line or according to the storage battery plan.

It is claimed that railroad disasters would be reduced to a minimum under the proposed new system, as the cars could be sufficiently elevated to avoid collision with cattle, while at points where traveled roads intersected it, danger of striking teams, etc., could be avoided by reducing the level of the roads. Where it passed through cities the height of the line could be commensurately increased. He has not yet, however, taken into account the adventurous small boy who has not sufficient self-command to resist climbing every post that happens to catch his eye. Should he climb up into the framework of Mr. Shaffer's railroad line and then await the approach of a lightning express, the result would be terribly disastrous to the venturesome modicum of humanity. Perhaps the inventor will find some means of banishing any apprehension that might be felt by passengers lest the upper rail, from which the train must wholly suspend, snapping in twain on account of a fatal flaw or from its being impregnated with frost. A mishap resulting from such a cause, would be that the cars would dive earthward and join in a cumulate mass that might leave the travelers without sufficient time to find out what struck them before they took a sudden trip to a country from which they had not taken out a return ticket. Of course this liability would depend upon the strength of the rail and its supports.

One thing is clear in reference to this device—it exhibits remarkable originality on the part of the inventor, who is undoubtedly a genius in his way, and we hope he will have full opportunity of testing the feasibility of his interesting production. It has been examined by numbers of engineers, who all admit that Mr. Shaffer's system embodies principles of great value.

A DISORDERLY MEETING.

THE meetings being held in the tent by Mr. Lamb, the Adventist, are somewhat unruly and consequently unprofitable. The lecture last night was on Spiritualism. The lecturer excited the risibilities of the audience by a number of eccentric and, in the estimation of the listeners, incongruous statements. As an instance, he started out by reference to the temptation of Eve by the serpent. The latter, he asserted, gave the first exhibition of spiritualism. He quoted numerous passages from the Bible which had no particular reference to his theme, and made running comments upon them which had no logical connection. He told a little of his own experience with a spiritualistic medium, through whom it was claimed the spirit of Mr. Lamb's father spoke with him. He said it was not his father, however, but Satan. He reached the climax of this statement by asserting that the devil

had become acquainted with his father's life and conduct because he had been a faithful servant of his satanic majesty. These assertions created laughter, and Mr. Lamb lost the respect of his audience. Merriment was succeeded by desultory comment from some of the listeners and retorts from Mr. Lamb. In fact, the whole affair was devoid of dignity or profit, and therefore the attendance of decent people will soon diminish unless succeeding meetings are an improvement upon that of last night.

A PLEA FOR THE COYTE.

FROM an article that lately appeared in the Reno (Nevada) *Gazette*, it appears that the despised coyote is not entirely devoid of usefulness. This may be regarded as a recent discovery; heretofore that unsightly brute, which makes night hideous on the western plains, has been regarded as a mistake in nature. The writer referred to states through the *Gazette* that the coyote is a devourer of field mice, gophers and rabbits, and therefore a friend to the western farmer. While the coyote himself does some damage to the property of the granger, his destructive powers in that direction are small compared with those of the little pests to which he is a deadly foe. Here at last is a plea in behalf of an animal to which western people have always acted as natural enemies.

THAT SALT LAKE RAILROAD.

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* of September 24th has the following in the form of a dispatch from Sacramento:

"It looks as if Northern California will have another railroad. For some time there has been a good deal of talk about a new transcontinental railroad from Salt Lake, with its Eastern connections there. A tangible sign that now leads to the hope is the fact that a large corps of engineers are at work in Sacramento to-day laying out a feasible route. The party has headquarters at a camp near Peters ferry, below the city.

"This morning the chief engineer of the party called at City Surveyor Boyd's office and asked for data by which the city's monuments might be accurately known and located. The 'monuments' mark the lines of street intersections. The information was cordially supplied at the city surveyor's office. There seems to be no doubt that the party is here in the interest of the Great Salt Lake road."

ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN THE EAST.

DISPATCHES from eastern cities contain particulars of a rather sensational character in relation to religion. A few days ago a riot of a serious nature was precipitated in Cheyenne, Wyoming, because of religious ill-feeling. A lecturer, named Lyons, engaged a hall to discuss on the enormities of Roman Catholicism. Members of that creed attended and succeeded in breaking up the meeting. The lecturer was armed with two revolvers. He used one, and wounded three persons. The situation there is described as a sort of miniature civil war.

Public opinion will certainly go

against the Catholics in this instance. In the United States every citizen has a right to the free expression of thought. If anything libelous, indecent or ribald is said there is a civilized remedy. If false statements are made, meet them in the press, or on the forum. So Mr. Lyons, who, it is said, is an apostate Romanist, ought to be let alone, and the Catholics of Cheyenne have done themselves a greater injury by their own rash and ill-considered action, than ever Lyons could do them by his American Protective Association rubbish.

The Catholic church is, however, assuming quite a formidable front in the East. For the past week dispatches relating to German Catholic conventions, conferences, and congresses contain indications of aggressiveness on numerous questions. The Iowa Congress censured Senator Davis of Minnesota for his speech in the United States Senate on the occasion of the Chinese exclusion bill. The senator then stated that there was more danger to American institutions from such projects as the Cahensly idea—which had for its object the Germanizing of American schools and the suppression of the English language—than there was in the introduction of Chinese.

The German Catholics are numerous in Minnesota, and it appears their Lutheran countrymen endorse them in every particular. Bishop Ireland, who though a Roman Catholic of the rigid kind, is an American first, condemned the Germans, and told Senator Davis that he would support him against the Cahensly men.

Dr. Conway, editor of the *Catholic Chronicle*, published at St. Louis, also supports Senator Davis, and says that the Cahensly idea is down right treason to the United States. He was surprised that the Catholics at Dubuque should offer the resolution relating to Davis.

The German Catholics now assembled in congress at Newark, N. J., are quite pronounced in their attitude on the school question. A dispatch in this issue of the *Deseret News* gives a fair idea of the stand they have taken. But what seems anomalous in the present attitude of the Catholic church, is the fact that Germans are becoming its champions, defenders and propagators. The more orthodox of the Irish-American Catholics are also siding with them. But the school question will ultimately cause a slight schism in the church. It cannot be much, for the Germans, by reason of their capacity for organization, and their systematic method of working, will ultimately absorb the Bohemian, Austrian, Hungarian and Polish Catholics, and possibly make the German the language of the church.

ODESSA, Oct. 1.—Cholera is officially announced at Tiraspol, Bender, Kichineff, Nischneff. Troops patrol the towns to prevent disturbance. The government has ordered all fairs in South Russia closed for another month. Owing to the increase of cholera between Kieff and Odessa, five more large barracks for patients have been erected. All trains have invalid carriages attached.