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The Nature of Light.

The straight lines in which light [illegible] rays. So [illegible] placed in front of a luminous [illegible] at once cuts off the light. At the same time the side of the object turned toward the light is illuminated, while the opposite side remains dark. Consequently the image of a body falling upon a [illegible] surface, as the ground, is called a shadow. The shadow, however, as [illegible] visible at any point behind the body and on the plane.

A shadow is only a portion of a space in which there are no light vibrations, and consequently its intensity varies with the intensity of the source of light. The tallow candle makes a very faint shadow, whose outlines are not well defined, while an intense light, like the electric lamp or the sun, makes a [illegible] shadow because the contrast between the illuminated objects and the darkness is very great. In open daylight, indeed, the diffused daylight everywhere present modifies the intensity of the shadow, so that natural shadows have no very marked edges.

The shape of the shadows is plainly the same as the shape of the objects casting them, while their size depends upon the distance of the objects from the light. Besides, when the light is smaller than the body the shadow constantly increases in size.

The connection of a shadow with mirrors deserves special notice. The sun is the luminous body, and is many times the size of the body casting the shadow. Lines drawn tangent to the sun and the opaque body determine the shadow, which is now a cone. When one opaque body moves into the shadow of another all the light is cut off from it, and it is eclipsed, while the sun is hidden from it and is also eclipsed.

The light that falls upon the illuminated side of any object is reflected from it in all directions. This enables us to see the object from any point, and combined with the shadow enables us to judge of its shape and size. It also enables us to see the dimmed light of our rooms when if objects could be seen only by direct sunlight, and our rooms would be totally dark except when the sun rays entered them, while the contrast between light and shade would be much more marked.

[illegible] light only in a single direction. This is an image of the object which casts the light and forms a plane mirror. A perfect mirror would be invisible, and would only show the light placed so far behind it as the light is in front of it. But none of our mirrors are perfect, and all give sufficient diffused light to be seen readily. A curved mirror is only an infinite number of plane mirrors inclined so as to reflect all the light to a single point. Curved mirrors are employed in reflecting a beam of light to illuminate the track in front of a locomotive, when the inside of a hollow cone is used, and to collect the rayed light from a distant object, as in the reflecting telescope, when the mirror is a hollow sphere.

The laws of reflection are the same for all rays, and apply only to each ray by itself. They are two in number:

1. The incident ray, the perpendicular to the surface at the point where the ray meets it, and the reflected ray are all in the same plane.

2. The angle between the incident ray and the perpendicular, called the angle of incidence, equals the angle between the perpendicular and the reflected ray, and is called the angle of reflection.—*Dalton Robinson.*

Who Are Seasick.

The disposition to seasickness is not so general as one might think; at least I have met a good many people who said they had never been subject to it. In this respect I noticed a remarkable difference between English people and Australian colonists. That disposition appeared to be less, not only with such of the latter who had made the voyage to their new homes at the antipodes many years ago, but also with such of them as were born in Australia and had never been to sea before. As a rule, thin people show less disposition than stout ones. The agonies of the latter surpass anything met with in the former. So consumptive people are less subject to seasickness, and, although on my last voyage I had a whole ship full of invalids of this description, I did not see any of the serious consequences of seasickness, that might have been presumed, such as wasting, hemorrhage, etc. The absence of the latter was the more remarkable, as I subsequently had to do with a sort of hemorrhagic epidemic among consumptive as well as non-consumptive persons.—*Dr. C. W. Fisher, in the Practitioner.*

FRIED BREAD.—Slices of toasted bread dipped in milk or wine and fried in honey are excellent. Then, instead of calling them "fried bread," they are *torrejas*, an excellent Spanish delicacy. Please understand there is neither butter nor lard. Simply melt the honey in a pan, and when it is very hot put in the bread, which is served hot also after becoming nicely browned.

Riches without charity are nothing. They are a blessing only to him who makes them a blessing to others.—*Fielding.*

GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY.

A foolish lad residing in the family of a butcher at Gorham, Maine, was left in charge of an infant, and imitating what he had seen, he killed the child, skinned the body, and cut and hung it up....At Fort Snelling, Dec. 7th, James McCann, formerly a soldier belonging to company H, 20th United States Infantry, committed suicide by throwing his head on a buzz saw. He was serving out a term of military imprisonment for desertion....The large boiler of Frost's wooden-ware works in Detroit exploded, Dec. 7th, killing one man and badly injuring two others. Loss $25,000 in damage to building. Two hundred men are thrown out of employment....Jack McCann, for the murder of "Wild Bill" in the Black Hills last spring, tried at Yankton, has been found guilty and sentenced to be hung.

Several fires in Cleveland during the last week destroyed considerable property—the most destructive burned the Cleveland & Newburg Company's stables and adjoining property. Loss, $25,000; insurance, $12,000....A gale on the Chesapeake, Dec. 9th, was the most severe for several years. Several oyster boats were driven ashore, and a captain and two men, of one of the boats, were frozen to death, and others of the crew were so badly frozen that they had to be taken to the hospital....The eighth and last assessement on the stock of the Bank of California was paid in a few days ago, and the capital now is $5,000,000 paid in full.

On the morning of Dec. 8th, the Adelphi Theatre at Albany, N. Y., was entirely consumed by fire....According to the report of Secretary Chandler, 524,328 acres of public land were disposed of during the last fiscal year, for which the cash receipts were $1,717,215.85. During the year 21,866,617.25 acres were surveyed, leaving yet to be surveyed 1,132,065,244.53 acres....Up to Dec. 8th, 258 bodies had been taken from the burned theatre in Brooklyn, leaving 70 persons still missing whose remains were supposed to be still in the ruins.

During a gale, Dec. 9th, M. Marion and child were killed while attempting to escape from their house in Amsterdam, N. Y., the roof of the house being blown off. Mrs. Marion was seriously injured....Three young ladies and one gentleman were drowned in a mill pond, ten miles from Olmsted, Ky., Dec. 9th....On the night of Dec. 8th four men and one lady were drowned near Louisville, Ky....A fire at Chicago Junction, Ohio, Dec. 8th, consumed eighteen buildings....December 9th a grain elevator in New York was demolished by a gale and Edward Looney, watchman, was killed....A new boiler in the shoe factory of Winslow & Rogers, Salem, Mass., exploded while being tested, Dec. 9th, and J. H. Mills, its inventor, was killed, Winslow and Rogers were seriously injured.

Six thousand dollars have been contributed in Brooklyn for the relief of the sufferers by the recent calamity....An inspection of theatres and public halls in various cities is being made, and improvements in the means of egress ordered....An explosion of a boiler near Texarkana, Ark., Dec. 11th, caused the death of nine men....A rush of ice in the river at St. Louis, Dec. 12th, caused great damages to steamers....Manager's Tivoli Building, in Terre Haute, Ind., covering extensive wine cellars, burned Dec. 12th. Loss, $70,000; insurance, $25,000....The Colorado legislature has elected Henry M. Miller United States Senator for six years, from the 4th of March next.

Among the losses by the moving of the ice at St. Louis, was that caused by the sinking of the Centennial, a new steamer of two thousand tons burden, and built at a cost of $125,000. She had never made a trip, and it is said there was no insurance on her, except a fire risk....The boiler in the engine house at Copperas Mine, on Green Pond Mountain, N. J., exploded on the night of Dec. 12th, blowing the house to pieces. Two men were instantly killed, another fatally injured, and a fourth terribly mutilated....The Third National Bank of New York recently paid a forged check for $25,000, purporting to be drawn on Winslow, Lanier & Co.... Joshua W. Bailey, who in 1869 fled from the country as a defaulter in his accounts with the government as Internal Revenue Collector of the 32d district, N. Y., has returned and made good his deficit, and received from the President a full pardon.

BROILING MEATS.—When meats are broiling on a gridiron over hot coals, the sudden heat applied sears the outside, which shuts in the juices and the rapid application of heat soon cooks the meat through, if in moderately thin pieces. It is then tender, juicy and palatable. Those who never broil their fresh meat, fish or poultry, do not know the excellence of a properly-cooked dish of animal food.

Gail Hamilton has but one eye. The other was destroyed by an arrow shot by her brother. But the eye she has is keen enough to make up the loss.

Men leave their riches either to their kindred or their friends, and moderate portions prosper best in both.—*Bacon.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

It is generally believed that the conference will result in peace....A Vienna dispatch says it is understood that Russia does not admit that she is under any obligation to Servia and Montenegro because of their sacrifices in the Slavonic cause, consequently she does not espouse Servia's claim to an extension of territory or Montenegro's demand to be represented in the conference. If Montenegro and Servia eventually receive anything they must take it as a boon, not as a right....A telegram from Bucharest says a panic has seized the population of Roumania, and especially in towns on the Danube. Many families have fled, fearing immediate invasion by the Turks....A special to the London *Standard* from Constantinople, says a conspiracy to depose the present sultan has been discovered. The conspirators, six of whom were found in the police, and arrested, had planned to carry off the Ex-sultan Murad in a steamer which they had already engaged, to Athens. When there they intended to proclaim that Murad had recovered his reason, and that the Sultan Hamid was consequently a usurper.

It is announced that in the event the Russians pass through Roumania the Romanian army will neither join nor oppose them, but will retire into a portion of the principality not touched by the Russian or Roumanian governments, and will at the same time record a formal protest against such a breach of neutrality....Queen Victoria has issued a proclamation proroguing Parliament until Feb. 8th....The London *Times* has a telegram that Russia does not intend to effect any territorial changes. She will not consider herself at war with Turkey, unless the latter forcibly opposes occupation. At the annual fete of St. George, celebrated at St. Petersburg, the Czar, as usual, spoke of Emperor William, who is the oldest Knight of the Order, in complimentary and friendly terms. He also expressed the hope of a peaceable settlement of the Eastern question....Advices from Mexico state that President Lerdo and his cabinet have been captured by the Revolutionists near the city of Nuncan. Gen. Escobado, Secretary of War, was shot, with several others. The government of Lerdo is undoubtedly overthrown. Monterey and Saltillo have declared in favor of Iglesias, and surrendered without fighting. The whole northern frontier of Mexico, except Matamoras, is in possession of Iglesias....Advices from Constantinople state that a fresh war tax of fifteen piasters has been levied upon all males between the ages of five and sixty years.

Cardinal Simeon has taken the oath of allegiance to the Pope, and assumed the office of Secretary of State as the successor of Cardinal Antonelli....Brent, the Louisville forger, was arrested in London, Dec. 7th....The Roumanian government have ordered 50,000 Chassepot rifles and the necessary ammunition. The Servians have also ordered fresh arms from abroad....The Russian war officers have decided not to permit correspondents to join the army of occupation until it has crossed the frontier. A proposition to subject their reports to a species of censorship was rejected by the Czar himself.

At an informal meeting of plenipotentiaries held at the Russian Embassy in Constantinople, Dec. 11th, there was an exchange of views which is understood to have been a favorable augury for a peaceful result of the conference....The political situation in France is regarded with much anxiety....To obtain the necessary sinews of war the Russian government has issued notices that from and after the 1st of January next, the import duties must be paid in gold.

The bark Robert Kelly came in collision on the morning of Dec. 12th, with the bark Huddersfield, of Liverpool, off Start Point. The Huddersfield sank, and fifteen persons on board were drowned....During a snow storm, Dec. 12th, the barge Westwood went ashore at Herring Cove, Halifax, and four seamen were drowned....A great fire destroyed a part of Valparaiso on the 14th and 15th of November....Mrs. Collins, a widow, while temporarily insane, Dec. 12th, at Bryson, Ontario, drowned two of her children in the canal....A Vienna dispatch says that great activity is reported to prevail at Widdin. The Turks have captured 40 dismantled vessels with which to construct a bridge, and four monitors there. The town is crowded with irregular troops....Chas O'Brien, the Louisville forger, is to be delivered to the American detectives.

Speaking for the Church of England Temperance Society, the Rev. Basil Wilberforce, (son of the late Bishop) said that two clergymen had come to his door reduced to beggary by drunkenness, and he knew of others who had been sent by bishops to inebriate establishments. He complained of ladies drinking too much, and said he knew of a young lady who takes her seventeen glasses of port daily.

CORN CAKES.—Three cups of corn meal, one cup of Graham flour, two teaspoons of yeast powder sifted together, one cup of cream, half cup of milk, one egg well beaten; stir all together well and quickly and put into a quickoven.

XLIVth. CONGRESS—IInd SESSION

House.

FRIDAY, Dec. 8.—The committee on judiciary agreed to report favorably on the resolution offered by Mr. McCrary yesterday, providing for the appointment of a committee to act in conjunction with a committee from the senate to count the electoral votes, and a determination of disputed questions by a tribunal whose authority is not in question, and whose decisions will be acquiesced in. Mr. Baker of Indiana introduced a bill proposing a constitutional amendment forbidding the payment of any claim growing out of the loss of property during the late rebellion. The pension appropriation bill was passed. Mr. Lamoyne offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Serious differences may arise between the two houses of Congress touching jurisdiction and powers in joint session in counting the electoral vote, and the questions involved being questions of law,

Resolved, That the Speaker be requested to act with a committee of five to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, in presenting to the Supreme Court such questions as either of said committees may deem important in this crisis, and asking the members of the Supreme Court to give Congress an opinion thereon. Laid over under the rule.

Mr. Wood called up his resolution asking the President for copies of instructions to and reports from the military officers in the South since August—Adopted. Mr. Pipes introduced a bill establishing the Territory of the Black Hills and providing a temporary form of government therefor—referred. Mr. Mills offered a resolution calling on the President for information, whether a cavalry force had been recently removed from the Texas frontier. Adjourned.

Senate.

Senator Ingalls reported a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to report immediately what efforts had been made to remove the Sioux from the Black Hills reservation to the Indian Territory, and what negotiations are now pending, and what is the object thereof—agreed to. Senator Morrill's resolution relating the investigations of circumstances affecting the appointment of Cronin as Presidential elector by the Governor of Oregon—Referred. Senator Hagan's bill introduced last session, making the silver dollar a legal tender, and providing for the issue of silver coin, was referred to the committee on finance. Three members were added to the election committee, to assist in the southern investigations, provided for by Senator Edmunds's resolution. Senator Harvey submitted a resolution for a select committee to examine into the several branches of the civil service. Senator Edmunds moved to take up the joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment for the count of the electoral vote by the Supreme Court. Senator Morrison objected on account of the 21st joint rule, which provides that unfinished business of the preceding session shall not be taken up for action until six days after the beginning of the subsequent session. The chair overruled the point, announcing the joint rule not in force, besides the 52d Senate rule provides that at the commencement of the second session, business shall be resumed and proceeded with, as though no adjournment had occurred. Senator Morrison appealed from the decision. This led to some debate, in which Senators Morrison, Johnstone, Edmund Sargent, Davis, Wright, Morton and Bayard participated. Senator Bayard said the 22d rule was only objectionable at the last session; he attempted to secure the passage of a law regulating the electoral count outside of the joint rule. He recited his previous opinion, that the rule could be terminated at the direction of either house. The decision of the chair was sustained—50 to 4. Senator Withers introduced a bill for the relief of the owners and purchasers of land sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary States—referred. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution concerning the electoral count was read, after which the Senate adjourned till Monday.

House.

MONDAY, Dec. 11.—The judiciary committee further discussed the question of seating the member from Colorado, and adjourned with an understanding that action be taken to-morrow. The Speaker announced the appointment of Cluver, of Pennsylvania, to fill the vacancy in the committee on appropriations, caused by the retirement of Randall. The chairmanship of the committee remains with Holman. Mr. Hunter introduced a bill for the purchase of silver bullion and its coinage in dollars, which are to be legal tender for all debts, public and private, including duties and coin interest. Mr. Cannon introduced a bill to promote commerce and cheaper railroad transportation between the Atlantic seaboard and the West by chartering the American Midland Railway Company. Mr. Gaze offered a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire and report the legality of a circular letter, issued by the Attorney General during the late Presidential campaign, to United States marshals in relation to their power and duties in such election—adopted. Mr. Spencer moved to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire what intimidation has been practiced on government employees, during the late election to compel them to contribute to the election of any political party, and what legislation is needed to abate the evil. Lost; yeas, 134; nays, 74; not two-thirds. Bills were introduced and referred as follows: By Mr. Ames, reducing letter postage to two cents. By Mr. Cox, fixing the compensation of letter carriers in cities of 50,000 population at $800 the first year, $900 the second, and $1,000 the third; in cities of less than 50,000, from $800 to $900 at the Postmaster-General's discretion. By Mr. Darnell, to apply the proceeds of the sales of public lands to popular education. By Mr. Glover, for the protection of the states against domestic violence. By Mr. Kasson, to establish a discriminating duty of 25 per cent. on sugar which is the growth or product of slave labor. By Mr. Oliver, to amend the act granting land to Iowa for railroads. Mr. Banning asked unanimous consent to offer a resolution recting the eulogium passed on J. Madison Wells, of the Louisiana returning board, in the report of Senator Sherman and others, and requesting the president to furnish from the War Department copies of all papers, correspondence, reports &c., connected with the removal of Wells from the parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne, La.—Agreed to, yeas, 150, nays, 57. Mr. Kasson objected. Mr. Banning moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution. Lost, yeas, 141, nays, 91, not two-thirds in the affirmative. Adjourned.

Senate.

The House bill appropriating $15,000 for the purchase of a special vault for the use of the Supreme Court was passed. Mr. Baker introduced a bill proposing a square for the erection of a suitable Senate chamber, and for other purposes—referred to the committee on public buildings. Senators Edmunds and Boreman presented the report of the Democratic committee which attended the Louisiana Returning Board sessions. Objections were made to printing it on the grounds that it was irregularly presented and did not come under the rules. After debate it was decided that Senators Bogy, Stevenson and McDonald should prepare a memorial embracing the papers, and it could be printed. Senator Mitchell, from the elections committee, reported favorably on the resolution authorizing an investigation into the eligibility of Watts, Hermann and Carter. Senator Cragin objected to its present consideration, and it was postponed. Senator Cameron, with unprecedented promptitude for the reform party of great haste, and proving that the United States could, after a moment's notice, pass legal tender notes at par for all interest and revenue purposes due government, introduced and Senator Bayard offered a resolution directing the Attorney General to furnish immediately to the Senate the total number of deputy marshals employed throughout the United States, pursuant to with the election held Nov. 7th, 1876, stating the number so employed in each state and at each voting precinct, and the length of time they were so employed—laid over. Mr. Morton submitted a resolution providing that the various subcommittees of the election committee authorized to inquire about certain southern elections be known as the subcommittee of the Senate, and that the chairman have power to administer oaths—agreed to. Senator Spencer presented a petition from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston asking the removal of his political disabilities. Senator Edmunds's constitutional amendment providing the Supreme Court to count the electoral votes was taken up, and the judiciary committee's amendment providing that the electors shall vote *viva voce* instead of by ballot—agreed to. Senator Morrill gave notice of his amendment making any Supreme Court Justice ineligible to appointment to any office under the United States government, and to be elected President or Vice President until four years after he ceases being such. Justice—ordered printed. Senator Morton submitted the resolution fixing the per diem of witnesses before the Senate or any of its committees at $4 per diem and 50 cents mileage—referred. Also transferring $5,000 from the Senate contingent fund to the fund of the election committee, returnable when the appropriations to defray the expenses of that committee are made—agreed to. The chair announced Senator Oglesby as a member of the election committee, vice Burnwell, excused. Adjourned.

House.

TUESDAY, Dec. 12.—Mr. Blair introduced a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture of distilled liquors as a beverage after the year 1900—referred. Mr. Bland called for a resumption of unfinished business of the last session, under the 21st joint rule. The Speaker, after having the rule read, decided that it was imperative that the unfinished business of the last house of the preceding session must have the preference. After some debate the Speaker decided that the 21st rule was in existence and binding. The house therefore proceeded to unfinished business, Mr. Bland's Silver bill. After some discussion the bill was laid over. Mr. Hooper, chairman of the committee on appropriations, reported the post-office appropriation bill, which was made the special order for to-morrow after the morning hour. The bill recommends the appropriation of $32,950,317. The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of Smith, Ely, jr., as representative from New York, Land of the public. The select committee to visit New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Philadelphia, was announced. Mr. Cox is chairman. The post-office and fortification appropriation bills were reported, and the House adjourned.

Senate.

Senator Morrison submitted a resolution providing for an additional Senate rule permitting the river and harbor appropriation bill and amendments proposing appropriations, to be referred to the commerce committee, who shall, before reporting them back, refer them to the Secretary of War and Chief of Engineers, for inquiry, and a report to the committee concerning the expediency of the proposed improvements—referred. Senator Bogy presented a memorial embracing the report of the democratic committee which visited New Orleans—ordered printed. Senator Bayard's resolution, asking the Attorney-General to inform the Senate as to the number of U. S. marshals employed on election day, was agreed to, with Senator Edmunds' amendment, requesting also a full statement of the necessity for employing them and the nature of their duties. Senator Merrimon introduced a bill amending section 130 of the Revised Statutes, concerning vacancies in the offices of President and Vice-President. The bill provides that the Secretary of State, or in the case of his death, the Secretary of the Treasury, shall succeed to the Presidency in the event of the death, removal, or resignation of both President and Vice President. The Senate proceeded to discuss Senator Mitchell's resolution for inquiring into the Cronin appointment as Elector in Oregon. Pending the discussion, Senator Edmunds demanded the regular order, being the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution so as to have the electoral vote counted by the Supreme Court. Senator West submitted a joint resolution extending the time for making the report of the commissioner to inquire into the feasibility of reducing the army after January 20th, 1877—agreed to. The Senate resumed the consideration of the regular order demanded by Senator Edmunds. A lengthy debate then ensued in regard to the Oregon elector, and Senator Edmunds' resolution in relation to counting the electoral vote. Senator Oglesby introduced a bill to amend the act of August 11th, 1876, for the sale of the Osage mixed lands in Kansas to actual settlers—referred. After executive session the Senate adjourned.

House.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 13.—Mr. Kasson, for the Territory of Colorado, asked special leave for the House to consider a bill authorizing the people of Colorado to cut and make use of timber, coal, stone, and other materials on the public domain, for mining, manufacturing and domestic purposes—objected to. The House then considered Hunter's bill providing for the purchase of silver bullion and its coinage into legal tender for all debts, public and private, except where the contract or grant is required by law. The bill proposes to make the Burlington & Missouri River Railway Company in Nebraska a branch of the Union Pacific Railway, was adopted. Several amendments were offered, after which the bill was recommitted. Adjourned.

Senate.

Numerous memorials and numerous petitions were presented, praying for the Sunday-closing of saloons, for the abolition of slavery, for the repeal of the Bankrupt law, for the printing national currency, for the protection of the laborers in the forests of Maine, for the relief of Indian traders, etc. Senator Morrill from the committee on public lands, reported back the House bill to provide for the sale of the Osage mixed lands in Kansas to actual settlers—passed