

SOME QUEER BELIEFS.

STARTLING THOUGHT SEETHING BE- NEATH A PRACTICAL SURFACE.

Theosophy, the Re-embodiment Theory and Other Strange Ideas Now in Vogue in the Metropolitan-Christian Scientists. The Will Power People.

Curious beliefs abound in this city just now. The big, busy, commercial part of New York would be completely taken off its feet did it know of the startling thought that is seething underneath an apparently practical surface.

The men and women who fairly reel with knowledge of the unknown are not found among the common people. They are not of the clammy and long haired variety so rife in New York years ago, and who became known over the whole country as having to do with tables and spirits.

At the mention of theosophy everybody quite naturally thinks of Mme. Blavatsky, author and founder of this phase of belief, and presumably "one of the greatest and most successful impostors of all times."

The world and wonderful things are believed in by various theosophists of this city even unto this day. They are pictures of two of them in the possession of mighty be- lievers. They are regarded as more sacred than life itself, and are kept secure from profane and skeptical eyes under the "midnight locks."

There are two or three persons here who claim to have seen the late Balwer, as described in wonder working, etc. as "The Coming Race." These witnesses, and Balwer believed the things he described, and who defend themselves by saying they are not "mediums" but "psychics."

And there are both men and women who go about all puffed up with what they firmly believe is the secret of eternal youth. One man who has been quite prominent in his day, and is now tottering into his eighties, says that he possessed it, but lost it because he told it.

The mental or Christian scientists have opinions similar to hers on that question. They believe that the day is near at hand when the last enemy to be destroyed is death. The business of doing what we have heretofore claimed as reality is going on briskly.

Plain spiritualists who stick to table tipping and other forms of "physical manifestations" are left far in the rear, if not thrown quite into the distance by the new system of metaphysics, the higher spiritual- ity.

There are two kinds of men who tell stories. One talks for humor you, de uder talks ter "name hisse." It won't be hard for you ter "cde, which one does de mos' talkin'."

THE LESSON OF THE FLOWERS.

These flowers are God's own syllables; They plead so lovingly, they lead So gently upward to His hills!

If we might only learn to read! If we might only learn to read and know Christ's book of eighteen hundred years ago! I think we then should all rejoice.

AN OLD SCHEME REVIVED.

A Fruitless Effort to Make the Forbid- ding No. 13 Bring Luck.

"I see," said Mr. J. H. Newton, "I see that old 13 advertising scheme has come around again." "What is it?" "Why, a merchant announces in his ad- vertisements that, since the number 13 has always been regarded as an unlucky number, he will undertake the task of making it a lucky number.

"How did it pan out?" "I was going to tell you. It was when I first started in business, and I thought it would be a capital advertising scheme for me. It ran along all right for about a week, and several persons got their purchases free. Of course every one of them advertised me by telling it all over town, and I regarded it as the smartest scheme that had ever been hatched.

"He has miscounted," I said to myself, and I stooped under the counter to smile, as I thought how sick he would feel when he saw the next purchaser walk off with the prize.

"Sure enough a woman came in pretty soon and bought \$1 worth of sugar, which, of course, she got for nothing. I smiled a little toward the chap who had been waiting all this time, but he never let on. He had just walked up, bought a dime's worth of wintergreen lozenges and walked away.

"Injure the pier, did you say? Oh, dear me, in this connection I may instance a new feature in the construction, which I have worked out myself. Instead of having a course to the usual system of projecting or underhanging girders, and instead of gradually constructing from the pier outward one-half of the span until it meets the other half midway, where both halves are con- joined, I got a whole span of ironwork man- ufactured on shore.

"The bridge, then, will be thirty meters wide, and have four railway lines, beside a road for foot passengers, vehicles and in- spectors. Bases for cranes and shunting lines will be established at stated distances. Each pier will be provided with a powerful electric light, beside sirens and alarm-bells for foggy weather.

"The superstructure on the pier towers will, of course, rise to a height sufficient to allow the tallest ships to ride under it at ease say between fifty and sixty meters. Irons like the screw can be slowly sinking, bringing the superstructure at both extremities on a line level with the flat surface of the piers. The whole mass is then gradually raised as the iron pier towers are built up.

"There is nothing absolutely extraordinary in the construction of the new viaduct, unless it be its length, which would make of it the largest in the world. When, however, bridges have been built two miles long, as they often have, there is no reason why one thirty-five kilometers in length should not be con- structed. The only real difficulty, as regards the construction, consists in laying the founda- tions on cases, which, on shallow water, are placed at regular points to show the way at night to approaching ships, so that these may sail through the broad arches without danger of colliding with the piers.

"There is, however, one vital point deserving our best consideration. The proposal to construct a viaduct between France and England raises a question similar to that yet forward against the boring of a submarine tunnel. It would be, of course, the ex- isting lines of Great Britain, and no con- siderable, however important, could justify the legislature, it is alleged, in making such a sacrifice. England, in a word, is unwilling to throw away or impair the one great military advantage she possesses over all her rivals.

"What the advocates of the present project ask the British nation to do is, in effect, to bridge over the channel. For the present, the weight of military opinion is against the scheme. The fear of invasion is upper- most. Yet there is one easy way of allay- ing the scruples of the most timorous. At each end of the viaduct—as well on the English as on the French coast, for invasion in- volves counter-invasion—we intend establish- ing a swivel bridge. At the first signal of alarm, you have only to swing the swivel bridge to interrupt all communication between the two countries. A gap then exists as effective as if no viaduct had ever been built. The advantage of such an ar- rangement over a submarine tunnel is ob- vious, as the tunnel, inter alia, if it could be blocked in by water in three minutes, could not be pumped dry again for three months, an operation, as you are aware, of a most costly nature."—Paris Cor. New York Mail and Express.

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BRIDGING THE CHANNEL.

CHAT WITH A FRENCH EX-MINIS- TER OF MARINE.

What Admiral Cloze Says Concerning the Scheme for Building a Bridge Across the British Channel—Some of the Ob- jections that are Urged.

The "missing link" of a railway communi- cation between France and England—pro- vided always that England is willing—seems to be on the eve of realization, not by means of the channel, as most people suppose, but by means of a viaduct, to which Vice-Admiral Cloze, formerly French minister of marine and a member of the bureau of longitudes, lends the authority of his name.

"What kind of a bridge we propose to build" said the admiral, "Well, not a sus- pension bridge, as some might think an- gered. The first norwester would blow it clear away from its moorings. No. But a solid viaduct, built up on stout piers from the bed of the sea, with a massive super- structure.

"The starting point would be Ambleteuse, which has the advantage of its solid rock, which on the French coast. The bridge is to form one continuous way, and to extend in a northerly direction as far as Folkestone. Its length? Thirty-five kilometers. A slight bend will occur at two points, where reefs afford splendid opportunities for abutments and spandrels. These reefs are in mbl- channel, and indicated on our naval maps as the rocks of Colbart and Varne.

"As you see, we do not take the shortest, but the best and the shallowest route. The sea depths vary between fifty and twelve meters, the deepest water being on the French side of the channel. The piers are to be built of hard concrete and masonry, and to measure each about fifty meters long by thirty meters wide. They are to rise ten meters above the waves, and to support lofty pier- towers, on whose iron framework the super- structure will rest. The interval between two piers will be from 500 to 600 meters, an enormous span, since the superincumbent weight of the ironwork would amount at least to 25,000 tons. I don't know," added the gallant admiral, with a smile, "whether you quite realize what such a mass of iron may mean. At any rate, you may remain convinced that all the four winds of heaven combined may blow upon it in vain.

A NEW FEATURE.

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WEALTH IN MERE DIRT

HOW UNCLE SAM MAKES MONEY BY LOOKING AFTER LITTLE THINGS.

How Gold and Silver is Lost and Found Again in the Assay Office—Methods Employed for the Recovery of Escaped Metal.

During the year 1887 over \$18,000,000 in gold and nearly \$7,000,000 in silver passed through the assay office in this city to be melted, refined and cast into bars. All this vast quantity of metal is passed through a complicated process to separate it from alloys and base metals, and even to separate the gold from the silver. It is melted in fur- naces, treated with acids and chemicals, re- duced to a liquid state, washed in many waters, cast into molds, baked in ovens and carried from one portion of the building to another a dozen times before the process is completed that turns the golden and silver grains into bars of standard fineness, on which is put the government stamp of the number, weight and value.

"The actual loss is of course but a small per- centage of the whole amount handled, but the aggregate amounts to a considerable sum, and every possible effort is made to re- duce the amount of loss to the lowest possible figure. The care that is taken may be understood by the fact that even before the floors of the assay building are swept thoroughly and the sweepings, placed in bar- rels until a sufficient quantity is gathered to put it through a process to extract such por- tion of the metal as is possible without too much expense. But, even after that, the refuse or tailings are not thrown away, but sold to what are known as sweep and an- other men who purchase the sweepings from jewelry workers, as well as the assay office, and by their more expensive, but perfect, method of fusion, are able to extract even another small percentage from the unpromising material.

LOST IN THE DRAINS.

Another means employed to obtain escap- ing particles is by the drains running from the buildings. All the drain pipes and ex- cesses are conducted into one large main drain pipe, which is provided with a series of "S" traps, containing a deep settling pocket at the lower bend, into which the metals fall by force of gravitation. All the water used in the building, from the washing of the metals to the scrubbing of the floors, even that in which the employees have performed their operations, is in case of the regular wash that every employe shall carefully wash his hands before leaving the building, passes through this drain. The settling pockets are cleaned out once or twice a year, and the recovery from this source amounts to several hundred dollars—even as high as \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year. Still some of the lighter particles escape the traps, and pass out into the main sewer, and find their way into the East river, where no doubt quite a mine, or placer diggings, has been formed at the mouth of the sewer.

But the most important operation for the recovery of escaped metal is the annual clean- ing up, when every old crucible and the fur- naces in which the smelting is done, and even a large part of the flues and chimneys are taken down, ground up, and such of the metal as had adhered to them is extracted. But even in this case there is still a propor- tion that is carried out in the open air, and naturally settles down on the adjacent roofs and streets. Occasionally the roof of the assay building is swept off, but this more as a matter of curiosity to see what amount of gold and silver that may have been lost could be recovered from that source. A little gold and still more silver is always found in these deposits, but not enough to pay for the trouble of gathering.

DIRT FROM THE ROOF GUTTERS.

The other day, however, while some repairs were in progress at the sub-treasury building, it became necessary to clean out the roof gutters with the dirt and dust that had gathered for the two or three years preceding. The workmen shoveled the dirt down into the main sewer, and the two buildings, when Assistant Superintendent Martin, of the assay office, who is always on the lookout for lost particles and possible recoveries, caused a sample of dirt to be assayed, and found it to be worth something over \$20 per ton. There was about half a ton of this earth, which was at once conveyed to the barrels where the sweepings are thrown, and the government is just about \$15 ahead on the transaction. Other buildings in the neighborhood which have not been cleaned off in years, doubtless, contain pay dirt even richer than that from the sub-treasury building.

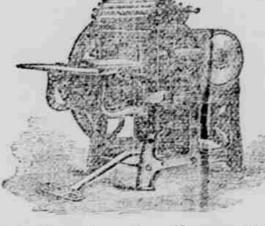
Mr. Andrew Mason, superintendent of the assay office, laughed when he was asked if there was any chance of the metal on the roof, and he wanted to inquire if it would be the future policy of the city to ignore the "60" as in o'clock and o'clock; also if the big "Q" was to be left off the names of O'Brien, O'Sullivan, etc.

"Dat ar' de policy of de club, Kernal Smith," replied Brother Gardner. "Dis club has got den foolin' wid de English language, an' den dis time out it ar' gwine right down from de shucks to de kernel. If Mr. Erien's name ain't good nuff widout a big '60' befo' it, den neither ar' nobody else's name. If I don't need one befo' mine he kin git along widout his. If it ar' proper to say o'clock, den it ar' proper to say 'Ize gwine to take de o'clock kyar down to de o'bank to draw an o'clock for seben o'clocks.' De policy of dis club will be to knock de lines cluster off de English language nuff 'gic right at de meat of it, an' to spell our words in de easiest way, no matter what Webster nor any other white man thinks about it. If a pussa has got k-tar why not say so widout ramblin' all ober de kentry to spell it, an' if everybody ar' gwine to call it 'slugger' why not put de 'i' in dar'?"

"At de kloze of de las' meetin' m'n pussa to me unknown knocked my ping hat off de hook an' stept on ber. Sich an odder circum- stance will result in de utmost dreedness for de offender. Let us now break up de meetin' an' go hum."—Detroit Free Press.

SEWNETT KEEPS TENNESSEE - SORGHUM - MOLASSES Pure New Orleans Molasses, Maple Syrup, Rock Candy Drips, HONEY DRIPS AND Syrup in Kegs and Pails I. D. Bennett.

The Plattsmouth Herald Is enjoying a Room in both its DAILY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS. The Year 1888 Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of Political, Commercial and Social Transactions of this year and would keep pace with the times should SUBSCRIBE FOR EITHER THE Daily or Weekly Herald. Now while we have the subject before the people we will venture to speak of our JOB DEPARTMENT.



Which is first-class in all respects and from which our job printers are turning out much satisfactory work. PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA.