

**The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.**

**KNOTTS BROS.,**  
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A touch of peril makes all men kin.  
It is gratifying to note that the owners  
of the Missouri will present no bill for  
the trouble and loss they experienced in  
saying the Denmark's people. Even the  
cargo that was thrown overboard will be  
gladly paid for. This generous action  
is as worthy of praise as Captain Murrell's  
cool and heroic conduct.

The appointment of H. M. Dixon, of  
Mississippi, as a cadet at large at West  
Point serves to recall the fact that his  
grandfather cast the only vote for Lin-  
coln in his country, depositing the bal-  
lot with one hand while he held a revol-  
ver in the other. That was a long time  
ago, but it is still impossible in certain  
parts of the south for a man to vote the  
republican ticket with personal safety.  
—Globe Democrat.

**TOTAL DISABILITY.**  
Corporal Tanner, now pension com-  
missioner, excited the wrath of the democ-  
ratic economists by deciding that the  
term "total disability" as applied to a  
limb of a pensioner does not mean that  
he cannot use the limb for any purpose,  
but that it is totally disabled so far as its  
participation in work for the support of  
the pensioner is concerned.

But the interpretation is in the line of  
common sense. The total disability of  
the arm of a farmer occurs when he can-  
not use it for the ordinary work on the  
farm. If he knows no other trade in  
which he can make a living it is just as  
fatal to his power of self support as  
though the arm had been amputated at  
the shoulder. The words were inserted  
for practical application and not for  
technical objections.

In the case before him that elicited the  
decision, the pensioner was suffering  
from vertigo veins in his leg that pre-  
vented him from exercising his avoca-  
tion. It was not totally disabled, to the  
extent that he could not stand on it and  
walk more or less, but he could not stand  
or walk with it in the way he must in  
order to earn his bread.

If the predecessors of Commissioner  
Tanner have been construing the pension  
law otherwise, they have evidently sac-  
rificed its spirit to its letter. The govern-  
ment should never interpret laws in  
its favor in that way.—Lincoln Journal.

**THE SUGAR SUPPLY.**  
There is no man living who knows  
more about the sugar trade of the United  
States as it now is, as it might be, and  
as it is likely to be than Claus Speckles.  
And he has expressed his belief that the  
once potent sugar trust is in the hour  
and article of death. His belief is so  
firm that he ventures \$5,000,000 in an in-  
dependent refinery, against which the  
trust will have to contend, if the process  
of law leave it in possession of life  
enough to contend with anything.

But the most important of all the  
opinions which Mr. Speckles has expressed  
on the sugar question is that which  
affirms the capacity of the United States  
to supply itself with sugar and to have a  
residue for exportation. The supply of  
cane sugar will, it is true, be unequal to  
the needs of the home market, but Mr.  
Speckles says, and he has examined and  
experimented concerning the matter that  
California, Kansas, and the Central  
states can grow beet sugar in unlimited  
quantities. By way of trial, Mr. Speck-  
les invested \$440,000 in a beet sugar  
factory at Watsonville, Cal.; six friends  
admitted to "the ground floor" of the  
speculation swelled the capital to \$500,000.  
It netted a 5 per cent dividend in  
the first year, though the farmers had to  
be educated to the growth of the beet  
and the operatives to the process of man-  
ufacture, for, says Mr. Speckles, "I did  
not import a single laborer from Europe."  
It was a 5 per cent profit on the first  
year's effort toward supplying the Amer-  
ican market with sugar grown on Amer-  
ican soil and manufactured by American  
capital and labor.

The success of the Watsonville experi-  
ment has incited capitalists to construct  
refineries in Kansas. Illinois may be  
heard from before long. Ten new beet-  
sugar factories will be built in California  
during the year, each at a cost of \$500,000,  
by Mr. Speckles and his associates; these  
are additional to the refinery for cane  
sugar, which has cost \$3,000,000. Evidently  
the days and power of the sugar trust  
are numbered. No combination  
can control the price and product of an  
article which can be grown and made  
as beet sugar can, in more than three-  
fourths of all the states of the union.—  
Inter Ocean.

**MAGICIANS' TRICKS.**

MAKE-BELIEVE MIRACLES PERFORMED  
BY MODERN MORTALS.

The Mystifying Inventions of De Kolta.  
"Oriental Occultism" Easily Explained.  
The "Black Art" Is Very Simple When  
You Know How.

Magic art has undergone many remark-  
able transformations since Robert Houdin,  
the father of all modern magic, lived in  
Paris half a century ago. Perhaps no one  
could compare with him in celebrity,  
excepting the original Herrmann, who  
died at Carlsbad a couple of years ago,  
and from whom the Herrmann who at  
present perambulates America took his  
name and learned what he knows. The  
present Herrmann was known as Neuman,  
and was an assistant to his greater  
prototype. He was always remarkable  
for one thing, and that is his very great  
dexterity in sleight of hand tricks. To-  
day there is nobody that can compare  
with him in this line of work, what is  
known as palming. In fact anything  
that can be done with the hands alone,  
excepting a deaf mute who travels  
through the cheaper museums, and who  
is said to have even far greater ability  
in this line, but without the gift of express-  
ing himself.

**THE FLYING BIRD CAGE.**  
Herrmann, however, has never been  
an inventor. He finds his tricks ready  
made for him abroad and buys their  
secret. As a result he is compelled to  
travel around with a vast paraphernalia  
that the old magicians would have looked  
upon with great contempt. In fact, the  
tendency of modern magic has been the  
elaboration of the cumbersome, and  
Herrmann needs a whole roomful of fur-  
niture to carry out one of his illusions.

The brightest mind in magic at the  
present day is a prestidigitateur named  
De Kolta. He holds forth in Paris, and  
being almost a gentleman of leisure, only  
appears about three nights a week. He  
has made all the most important of mod-  
ern inventions in magic. The one that  
brought him first into prominence in the  
line of invention was the flying bird  
cage, which is now so familiar that it  
can be bought in magic stores for a few  
dollars, but it made a great sensation at  
the time. Kellar was the first to buy it  
from De Kolta, and took the trick to  
Australia, where he made some \$20,000  
out of it. He only paid \$500.

Two or three seasons ago in New York  
the Vanishing Lady was accepted as a  
very remarkable novelty. This was also  
an invention of De Kolta's. During the  
past year another of his inventions, the  
Cocoon, has been given in New York  
both by Kellar and by Herrmann.

But the one that is now most familiar  
and surprising De Kolta first brought out  
two years ago. We have seen it with  
Herrmann under the name of Black Art,  
and with Kellar under the name of Ori-  
ental Occultism. The trick is precisely  
the same with them both, and is merely  
an illusion of blackness. The whole  
stage is draped in the blackest of black;  
the magician, be it Kellar or Herrmann,  
is completely robed in white, so that he  
stands out clearly in the gloom surround-  
ing him. Then he orders various objects  
to appear, a cup, a sword, a table, a  
chair.

**MAGIC IS WAXING.**  
These things seem to suddenly start  
into being, and yet the device is of the  
simplest. The objects in question are  
concealed behind a black cloth until the  
order for them to appear is suddenly  
given. The cloth concealing them is  
dropped, and they seem to have come  
out of chaos. In the same manner Mrs.  
Herrmann or Mrs. Kellar stands on the  
stage draped in white, but holding up a  
black cloth between herself and the au-  
dience. At the word of the magician she  
drops the cloth and stands revealed. To  
the uninitiated the trick is most puzzling.  
It is the same way that the head de-  
tached from the trunk appears to be car-  
ried around the stage. The illusion is  
that the trunk is closed in black, and  
standing against the blackness of the  
scene, cannot be distinguished; the head  
being white, alone appears. This is per-  
haps the cleverest of all De Kolta's in-  
ventions.

Of mechanical tricks Maskelyne, of  
London, and Kellar are the most noted  
inventors. Psycho, or the hand that taps  
on a glass table in response to the ma-  
gician's command, is an invention of  
Kellar, and is simply a piece of very deli-  
cate and intricate machinery. It is very  
similar to the Clio of Maskelyne, and  
both have a family resemblance to Kellar's  
chess board, originally invented by  
Maskelyne. Magicians generally give  
the palm to Kellar for all tricks of a  
mathematical kind. He has a marvel-  
ously quick mind in this respect, and  
the most abstruse problems he can solve  
in a few seconds—apparently, of course,  
allowing it to be done by some mechani-  
cal figure.

Whether all this comes within the  
exact domain of magic does not so much  
matter as that such tricks are now ac-  
cepted in magical entertainments and  
vastly more enjoyed than the old pistol,  
card and rabbit tricks to which some  
magicians still adhere—tricks that neces-  
sitate the use of a confederate, and  
which are, therefore, of little account  
and at which even locals laugh.

The future of magic is hard to fore-  
tell. Everything in the sleight-of-hand  
way has become familiar, and outside of  
De Kolta there is no inventor of any-  
thing new. The result is that recent  
prestidigitateurs, such as Herrmann, are  
compelled to add to their own some sort  
of variety entertainment to fill out the  
evening. Even Kellar had to go back to  
the old Indian basket trick for a novelty.  
—New York Journal.

**The Little Circles.**  
Each one is bound to make the little  
circle in which he lives better and hap-  
pier. Each of us is bound to see that out  
of that small circle the widest good may  
flow. Each of us may have fixed in his  
mind the thought that out of a single  
household may flow influences that shall  
stimulate the whole commonwealth and  
the whole civilized world.—Dean Stanley.

**How Passover Bread Is Made.**

In the preparation of the Jewish Pass-  
over bread the kneading is done in the  
ordinary way. Pure gunpowder water  
is the only ingredient added. The time  
for the dough to be kneaded is reduced to  
the minimum. It is broken into flat cakes  
and then run between rollers into very  
thin sheets. Over these a workman rolls  
a pronged steel to perforate the dough,  
so that air holes may be seen in the baked  
cakes. A steel hoop cuts the dough into  
round, flat sheets, which are then ready  
for the oven. The baker stands with a  
paddle attached to a very long handle.  
With the aid of a boy he thrusts the cakes  
into the brick compartment, and in half  
a minute pulls them out ready for use.  
A matzath cake is round, about four feet  
in diameter, somewhat browned and hav-  
ing slight air hole projections on its sur-  
face. They have a rather pleasant taste,  
not unlike that of crackers, and make a  
good substitute for bread. In some places  
there is a demand throughout the entire  
year for the unleavened cakes by dyspep-  
tics. About eight cakes weigh a  
pound, which in large quantities sell at  
eight cents. The cakes are very brittle,  
and their pieces are ground up into fine  
meal. This is the substitute for wheat  
flour in the household during the Pass-  
over.—Baltimore Sun.

**Couldn't Fool the Barber.**  
Three young fellows were having a  
heap of fun with themselves a few days  
ago, aided by a twenty-dollar bill. About  
2:30 in the afternoon this trio went into  
a barber shop on North Clark street  
and got shaved. When the tonsorialist  
had been completed one of the young fel-  
lows produced a twenty-dollar bill and  
told the barber to get his pay out of  
that. The barber asked politely if the  
gentleman had nothing smaller, saying  
at the same time that he had no change.  
At this one of the chaps very foolishly  
laughed, and stated that that bill had  
been as good as a gold mine to them, for  
they had come all the way up Clark  
street from the bridge and had had all  
they wanted to eat and drink on that  
bill because no one could change it.  
This made the barber hot, and he said:  
"Well, you wasn't peat me like dot; you  
was pay for dose shaves, I pet me," and  
he called his dorky, saying to him: "Go  
over by the South Side and get some  
changes for dot pill, and you wasn't  
hurry too." The colored man under-  
stood the situation perfectly, for at 7  
o'clock in the evening the three young  
men still sat there in the barber shop  
waiting for their \$19.70.—Chicago  
Herald.

**When Davis Left Fortress Monroe.**  
George Alfred Townsend, who saw  
Davis leave Fortress Monroe for Rich-  
mond, says: "His pictures heroized him  
and gave him a classical profile and an  
eye of ruling decision, which now he did  
not show. Still, in this setting of Hamp-  
ton Roads, the man could not be less than  
the central figure. The great law of as-  
sociation made him the personage to  
which everything in view was subservient—  
the old fort which was the entering  
wedge into the late Confederacy; the  
yellow barrack peeping over the parapet  
where he had been imprisoned; the  
wrecks of the frigates sunk in the road-  
stead by his navy; the opposite cape  
where lurked that morning terrible as  
ever the superstition of the iron monster  
which had emerged thence for the delib-  
erate work of destruction at the com-  
mand of his will. And now he was the  
riddle and perplexity of his conqueror;  
this thin old man, just permitted to feel  
the breath of liberty, whose name for  
fear or wonder had gone round the world  
and earned from a cool head, even like  
Gladsstone, the opinion that 'Jefferson  
Davis had made a nation.'"—De Fontaine.

**An Honest Showman.**  
Lord Stowell, who went to see every  
exhibition, provided it did not cost more  
than a shilling, once presented himself  
at the door of a show where a snake of  
some more or less gaudy color was on  
view. But the sight of so good a custo-  
mer was too much for the conscience of  
the showman, who exclaimed, like Mrs.  
Cluppins, "My lord, I will not deceive  
you. It's only the old snake with a new  
coat of paint." The showman doubtless  
meant well, but he certainly acted ill.  
Harmless pleasures are not so common  
in life that even successful lawyers  
ought to be deprived of them without a  
cause. Lord Stowell would have gratified  
the last of his eyes without risking the  
salvation of his soul if only he had  
been permitted to gaze upon a skin  
where nature had been eclipsed by art.  
A certain amount of wholesome igno-  
rance is necessary to the enjoyment or  
even to the toleration of existence.—The  
Saturday Review.

**Jerrold's Joke.**  
The familiar inquiry, "Is it true that  
the first apple was eaten by the first  
pair?" is far fetched, but one cannot deny  
the humor of it. Again, in the conun-  
drum, "Why is blind man's buff like  
sympathy?" "Because it is a fellow feel-  
ing for a fellow creature," there is a di-  
rect application which is also unques-  
tionably humorous. Then, as another ex-  
ample of a pun which is absurdly appar-  
ent, there was Douglas Jerrold's remark  
about a man to whom he had repeatedly  
written in vain for some money. "I have  
written him," said Jerrold to an acquaint-  
ance, "but got nothing." "Strange," said  
the other, "for he is a man full of kind-  
ness." "Yes," rejoined Jerrold, "unre-  
mitting kindness."—All the Year Round.

**Beecher's Country Place.**  
Possibly, the country place of the late  
Henry Ward Beecher at Peckskill on the  
Hudson, has been sold to Mr. Butler of  
New York, for \$75,000. The house cost  
Mr. Beecher \$70,000, and he is said to  
have spent \$200,000 on the grounds. The  
larger part of this sum was spent on  
trees. Mr. Beecher planted over 8,000,  
including every variety native to the  
temperate zone. The whole place was  
substantially drained, and his trees,  
which protected his garden from the  
northwest winds, enabled him to have  
fruits and vegetables two or three weeks  
ahead of his neighbors.—Harper's Bazar.

**ANOTHER VIEW OF HIM.**

A Puritan Matron Protests Against the  
Assertions of Madame Lanza.  
I was pained to see in a recent issue of  
Once a Week an article by the Marquise  
Lanza, entitled "The Man Who Fasci-  
nates," for it so entirely ignored the  
moral element in the character of men  
and women, and presented for our con-  
sideration such low and unworthy  
standards of conduct as to shock all who  
have not become rouses or cynics. Briefly,  
Madame Lanza declares that women do  
not admire men for their goodness or  
nobility of character, but for their man-  
ners and the ability which they may  
possess to flatter, cajole and deceive the  
silly if not immoral creatures whom she  
makes women out to be. I pass over her  
assertion that women are fascinated by  
mere brute strength. Possibly some of  
them are; but it is no credit to them.  
Yet what I wish especially to protest  
against is the calm assumption on the  
part of the writer that all women ignore  
the question of character in a man. "The  
veriest scoundrel," she says, "that ever  
drew breath is apt to be a thousand fold  
more magnetic than he who, having  
marked out an ethical path for himself,  
proceeds religiously to follow it. All  
women like insinuating manners." And  
again: "A man who desires to please a  
woman should never tell the whole truth."  
Sincerity arouses and even  
retains respect, but that is a far different  
thing from fascination. It suggests the  
tradesman in a leather apron and smell-  
ing of garlic compared with a lovely  
woman made yet lovelier by the scent of  
rose leaves.

There you have it all. All women are  
either fools or worse; and in order to  
gain their attention men need only be  
outwardly charming. Lying and deceit  
will not only not hurt them in the esti-  
mation of the poor fools whom they wish  
to ensnare, but will actually help them.  
As for the rest, they may be as disol-  
ute and immoral as they please; women will  
still be fascinated by them, so long as  
they are disolutes in a charming way.  
Now, I ask in all seriousness, is that  
the highest outlook of our age on this  
great question of the relative relations  
of men and women? After all the pro-  
gress made by humanity in intelligence  
and morality, is that wretched and re-  
pulsive bit of boulevard cynicism all we  
have to show? I will not believe it. I  
deny that all women are so mindless, so  
vain, so utterly unable to appreciate or  
understand moral goodness and purity as  
this writer makes them out to be. I  
submit that Mrs. Lanza speaks only for  
the fashionable idlers of both sexes who  
in our great cities audaciously assume to  
be the only of good society. In reality,  
they are only the unhealthy and artifi-  
cial scum that floats on the surface of  
the great stream of human life. In  
thousands of happy homes in this city  
today, among both the lofty and the  
lowly, men and women are to be found  
who would repel with indignant scorn  
such a low and cynical view of our so-  
cial life. Thank God there is such a  
thing yet among us as a love of good-  
ness, and truth, and virtue in spite of  
our society cynics, and club rouses, and  
malicious erotic novelists. The women  
of this fair land are not yet so silly and  
vain as Mrs. Lanza considers them to  
be. With an exception here and there  
they are attracted by purity of life and  
nobility of soul in a man, and repelled  
by the rouse and the liar, however  
"charming" their manners may be.—A  
Puritan Matron in Once a Week.

**An April Fool.**  
A joke upon popular credulity was a  
trick perpetrated in London no longer  
ago than 1860. Thousands of persons  
received official looking invitations to be  
present on Sunday forenoon, April 1, "to  
witness the annual ceremony of the  
washing of the White Lions in the  
Tower." The favored recipients of these  
missives were instructed to present them-  
selves at the White Gate for admission.  
All that forenoon the streets near the  
Tower were thronged by hundreds of  
vehicles bearing people in earnest quest  
of the White Gate. Finally somebody  
a little less thick witted than the rest of  
the crowd remembered that there was  
no white gate to the tower, that there  
were no white lions, and that ceremonials  
under governmental auspices on Sunday  
were at least wildly improbable. Like  
an electric shock his reflections flashed  
through the throng of ceremony seekers,  
and their recognition of the fact that all  
were "April fools" sent them scurrying  
away in angry haste.—Belford's Maga-  
zine.

**The View from Mt. Hamilton.**  
Professor Whitney says that from the  
summit of Mt. Hamilton in California,  
more of the earth's surface can be seen  
than from any other spot on the globe,  
though it is only about 4,500 feet high.  
The view extends around in every direc-  
tion, and the snow capped range of the  
lofty Sierras can be plainly seen 200  
miles away against the northern sky.  
To the south, nearly as far away, the  
San Bernardino range limits the view,  
and between the two lies room for all  
the eastern states, with their rivers,  
lakes, mountains and sea coast. Twenty  
minutes before reaching the summit, a  
heavy white cloud floated up and treated  
us to a drenching shower of rain. We  
were well prepared, however, and did  
not suffer any inconvenience beyond loss  
of the view.—Worcester Spy.

**Proper Precaution.**  
Young Man (confidentially)—I want to  
see some of your solitary rings.  
Jeweler—Engagement ring, I pre-  
sume?  
Young Man—Yes, sir.  
Jeweler—Here's just the thing you  
want. Alaska stone, rolled plate and  
warranted for a year.  
Young Man—But I want a real stone.  
Jeweler—Of course. As I was going  
to say, we give one of the plated rings  
along with each real stone. They are  
exact duplicates. If the engagement is  
a success it is very easy to substitute  
the real for the imitation.—Terre Haute  
Express.

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Titles Examined, Abstracts Complied, In-  
surance Written, Real Estate Sold.  
Better Facilities for making Farm Loans than  
**Any Other Agency.**  
Plattsmouth, - Nebraska