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HE published accounts of that terrible event in the Mull of Cantyre are very inaccurate, but I should have let them pass underordinary eircumstances. My poor friend, Prof. Quintus Extremus Se-

quita, cared nothing for popular opinion-indeed, he never looked at a newspaper while living, and it seems unlikely he would adopt the practice now. But I observe that the scientific journals quite misapprehend the story of his sad fate-and that he would feel acutely. All the lesson of it may be lost unless the facts be made plain. No one can perform that service for the dead but myself, and I regard it as a

Even the motive of his retirement to the Mull of Cantyre is misunderstood. It has been hinted in society, I hear, that an impatient scorn of his contemporaries drove that great soul to make his dwelling in a barren spot, far from the haunts of men. In other words, Prof. Sequita-the simplest of human beings, whose whole mind was absorbed in projects for the happiness and advancement of the race-was a misanthrope! Persons more charitable if not much better informed have stated that his nerves became so irritable under the pressure of those tremendous studies and calculations that he felt stifled as by a crowd, even in his lonely house on Epsom Downs. There is some faint truth in this. He said to me once that every day seemed to be Derby day when he shut his eyes. But a mind so well balanced, so reasonable, would never have been tempted to withdraw into the desert-for such was his abode on the Mull of Cantyre-by fancies like these. The reluctance to move which is natural to such dispositions would have checked him. The truth is that Prof. Sequita had long foreseen the necessity of securing a habitation in which he could carry through his last decisive processes without fear of harming anyone besides himself. This fact I have under his own hand, in a letter dated July 7 last year. I had heard of his journey to Cantyre-as who did not?the movements of such a world-wide genius are chronicled at the antipodes. In answer to my inquiries, the professor wrote:

"It is quite true that I have built a little house at Ratholin; you shall come and see it for yourself if all goes well-about this time next year, so far as I can calculate. It is true also that 1 have built it secretly-that is, Scot, my lawyer, made all the arrangements without naming me. But the statement that I have paid many visits to assure myself that the laboratory, etc., is properly constructed, that I mean to which you retail, are grotesquely act. There is no laboratory, I had never seen the house till last week, and I have not thought of living in it except for a day or two at rare intervals. It is five years since I perceived that a time would come, if my researches led me to the result which they seemed to indicate, when it would be advisable to have a 'pied a terre' in some unpeopled neighborhood. I consulted Scot, in the strictest confidence, who advised Ratholin. He has carried out my wishes admirably. The little house is comfortable enough for me, and for you too, I hope. As for the main point, there is but one human dwelling within five miles, and the occupants of that, a shepherd's family, are more than willing to turn out for the day upon pay-



"I CONSULTED SCOT."

ment of a sovereign. If you wish to know more, come to me at Epsom as soon as you please, on condition that you stop a week. I have some very curious novelties to show you." Clearly there was no "accident" in

this case. If my poor friend did not know what would happen, he foresaw at least grave danger. In truth, the circumstances published prove so much to anyone who considers them thoughtfully. It would have been an accident indeed, and a strange one, if a man of Prof. Sequita's character and habits had been left alone in the house, unless by his express desire. Of course, he did not send away that admirable woman to whom savants all over the world are offering respectful sympathy. Nor did he volunteer permission to the servants. Watkins and his wife, to attend the festivity at Broath. With the same patient ingenuity which led him to such marvelous inventions-we used to call it cunning in the domestic sphere-he contrived that Mrs. Sequita should go on a visit two days before, and that the butcher should call, in his tax cart, upon the way to Br ath, thus tempting the servants. It appears even that he rode out upon his pony in the direc- diana. Iowa and Kansas lacked but tion of Kay's hut-the shepherd of seven of the number of divorces whom he wrote me. Doubtless he granted in France; Ohio, Texas, Pennreached it, with the intention of sen sylvania, New York and Wisconsin ing that family to Broath also, with a jointly equaled Germany; Austria had

DEATH OF PROF. SEQUITA consequences what they might-Prof. Sequita, the giory of English science, the dear friend of so many among his confreres, undertook that last operation which should crown, and, as it were, sum up all the labors of the

human intellect, in all ages. What was that operation? I cannot tell precisely. Mrs. Sequita has found very little to assist conjecture in the study at Epsom, and of his papers at Ratholin not the tiniest fragment remains. It would be quite consistent with the professor's other arrangements to destroy every hint of his purpose before leaving home. For if the operation succeeded, he designed, 1 know, to make a public announcement instantly; but if it failed, he would be anxious to prevent others following the same deadly course of experiment. Therefore, it is scarcely to be hoped

that detailed memoranda survive. But although unable to give any exact information, I can furnish some hints. Prof. Sequita chatted to mea friend from boyhood, ignorant of technical science-more freely, perhaps, than to his brother savants, upon the final purpose of his investigations. There is no harm, I think, in sketching the general idea which those conversations left on my mind. Everyone knows that the higher properties of electricity were his special study of late years. After inventing its fullest vitality. He turned to the all those wondrous applications of the power which have made his name immortal and gained him such wealth, he sought, in his own words, the First Cause. Of his conclusions upon that matter, up to a very recent date, there is no secret-they will be published shortly. But this inquiry led him, by a parallel course, to speculate on the mechanics of electricity. That it is the only force of nature, as we say, the



I VISITED THE SPOT.

professor had demonstrated long ago. That it is life, not only the principle of life, and that men possess intelligence in proportion to the volume or the activity of electric matter within them will be shown in the work forthcoming. From these conditions it follows that if electricity could be stored in the human body, every mental or physical capacity would be strengthened to a degree only limited by the amount which it could hold. "Visions of glory crowd the aching sight," murmured my live there, and all the other gossip poor friend many a time as in broken, thoughtful phrases he hinted rather than spoke to me of the theme that absorbed him. The feeblest mind would soar to the heights of genius; genius would rise to the level of angels. Air and water would be as familiar to man as earth. No limits would bound his forces or his enterprise. And he could live unchanged for ever.

But how to charge the body with this elixir, and how to retain it? Such were the problems which held Prof. Sequita enthralled daily and nightly for ten years past. He never confided the resuit of his labors to me, and if any were dropped, I had not knowledge enough to grasp them. Gradually, however, I came to perceive that his course was growing plainer. He thought at least that he had a clew. It must have been about that time Mr. Scot received instructions to build a little house in some unpeopled spot.

I am rejuctant to name the idea that formed itself in my mind, because it may do the professor injustice; but your readers will understand that it is entirely my own. I fancied then that he had the project of reducing electricity to a form which might be inhaled, or by some such means taken into the body, like gas-not, as at present, by a series of shocks which must kill before any great quantity has been absorbed. How it was to be retained, I have no suspicion. Once, however, I touched upon that point, and he auswered laughingly: "If the genie doesn't tear me to pieces, I will force it into the bottle-and trust me to keep it there!" This was the operation, I make no

doubt, which shocked the universe by its terrible result. Everyone has heard how the merrymakers of Arbroath were tossed headlong on a sudden in heaps, how the farm buildings were unroofed, and a tidal wave swept the coast. To speak of an "explosion" is singularly inacurate. All agree that no sound was heard, no wind felt, no movement of the earth. Prof. Sequita was torn to pieces by the genie he had raised. Of his cottage, and all in it, not a trace remains; but the soil beneath is undisturbed, the foundation walls are shaved off, as it were, at the level of the ground. I have visited the spot-how sadly unlike the visit to which I had looked forward-and in truth superstitious persons might think that some Divine vengeance had fallen on it! Had Prof. Sequita's design succeeded, men would have neer as godsboundless in their forces and capacities -immortal. Is there a point at which dread powers stand armed to arrest the triumphal march of science? Did our lost friend, suspecting only material dangers, touch that point? Sometimes

I think so. -In 1866 the states of Illinois, Insovereign to spend; but they had three more than Kentucky; Italy had to every four hundred and seventy-nine said the collier, squaring up to the noalready left. And then-assured that two more than Connecticut; Belgium marriages in the United States. none but himself would suffer, be the bad twenty-nine more than Georgia

## WEBSTER'S ORATORY.

Glimpses of the Great American in His Best Moments

The writer heard Webster speak many times during the last ten years the general policy of the whig party in the gatherings of that party in the work that did Choate, or go over the ground with that thoroughness of detail in argument that did Winthrop. Mr. Webster seemed to need more of men and their treatment of women. an occasion to arouse him. His audiences always went wild in his welcome, and would be enthusiastic at the least possible incentive to enthusiasm in his speech, but he was apt to be rather heavy and dull, though to the average man it seemed to be a gratification to be in the presence of Webster which compensated for lack of effort on his part. An occasion which has been referred to by other writers is well remembered by the present one. Webster was arguing in Faneuil hall rather tamely, as regards animation of manner, against the Mexican war, which was then going on. Some one in the gallery called out: "Who voted for it?" Instantly his eye flashed, and his whole form seemed inspired with place in the gallery from which the interruption came, and bowed with a majestic deliberation all his own three or four times before he spoke. Then he thundered out: "Nobody voted for it!" and proceeded in a torrent of denunciation of the authorities who made the war a fact before there was opportunity to pass upon its justice in congress, thus compelling himself and others to vote for its continuance or withhold supplies to our soldiers. Here was Webster in his complete combative strength. There was no effort at eloquence, but there was a thoroughly-aroused lion. It was a scene never to be forgotten. Another scene in Faneuil hall is re-

membered which more than parallels this one. It was something more than four years later, we think. A whig state convention had sat there all day. The extreme anti-clavery section of the party, under the lead of Stephen C. Phillips, had been very active. It had really controled the body. As night approached many delegates had gone home. The most important vote of all, intended to commit the party her favorite horse Chocolate. She against the support of any candidate swims, and shoots with unerring aim, satisfactory to its southern section, was to be taken. Webster was in the foils-all this without sacrificing any city, and at this juncture the conservative party managers sent for him. Sud- elegance. denly it seemed to pervade the gathering that he was at the door. He literally marched up the hall to the platthey were grandly impressive. Among from Queen Victoria's real estate in them was the expression that "In the New York. dark and troubled night" of our national affairs, the only "star of hope" to his vision was the "united whig party." That speech settled the action of the convention. No effort to counteract its effect was made. The anti-slavery resolutions were defeated.

These were the times in which the another in which he seemed like a lion in his new house."-Inter-Ocean. at bay. It was without that complete confidence of manner of the others. The scene was in Bowdoin square in front of the Revere house. Webster she doesn't look well preserved."-N. there addressed the public from a car- Y. Press. riage. It was on the occasion of his return to Boston after he had made his seventh of March speech of 1850. Webster looked older then; he was comparatively worn, and had something of an anxious, hunted look. He explained briefly his position in this seventh of March speech, and then drew himself up to his full majesty and declared, with defiant utterane: "I shall take no step backward!" The pity of it was to those who admired Webster that the assurance, always evident in his previous speeches, that Massachusetts was sustaining him, was zone from this one.

The last time the writer saw Webster was when he passed in a procession to his honor through Boston after the time."-Washington Star. Whig national convention of 1852. It was one of the most memorably hot days of record. He was yet more aged and worn. The seal of death was infield the next day and died .- Boston Herald.

# Origin of a Common Practice.

A well-bred man puts his hand over his mouth when he yawns, but not one well-bred man in ten thousand knows why. The reason is this: Four or five hundred years ago there was a superstition common in Europe that the devil was always lying in wait to enter a man's body and take possession of him. Satan generally went in by the mouth, but when he had waited a reasonable time and the man did not open his mouth the devil made him vawn. and while his mouth was open jumped down his throat. So many cases of this kind occurred that the people age from Ireland the lady treated the learned to make the sign of the cross over their mouths whenever they vawned in order to scare away the devil. The peasantry in Italy and Spain still adhere to this method, but most other people have dispensed with | useful."-London Truth. the cross sign and keep out the devil by simply placing the hand before the lips. It is a most remarkable survival of a practice after the significance has knew he was walking on his land. perished. - St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

-Cherubini copied all his own sccres, and that with such care that the manuscript looks as though printed. He even copied all the orchestral parts, for, as he said, "there is always something to be learned in copying music."

-According to the statistics of Mr. Carroll D. Wright there is one divorce

### PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

-"Authors are always foolish to strive to secure popularity," writes Edgar Fawcett. "It is like the wind that bloweth. The great secret of contentof his life. During the early part of ment on the part of a writer is to asthis period he was called on to defend sure himself that he has got out of his pen the best work it can perform."

-Besides her recent volume of short Massachusetts. He did this effectively, stories Miss Olive Schreiner has writbut he did not pusthat enthusiasm into | ten a longer work, the title of which probably will be "From Man to Man." It is described as a study in the comparative ethics of men's treatment of

-John D. Rockefeller, the Standard oil millionaire, got along in business very well as plain John Rockefeller until he began to get rich. Then he appropriated the letter D as a middle initial. Nobody knows what this letter D stands for, and nobody ever will.

-Thorny Lafore, a negro, whose will was recently probated in New Orleans, leaves an estate worth nearly, if not quite, \$500,000, and as only heir a bedridden sister. He devised enough to her to keep her comfortable and left the rest to individua's and charitable Some That Are Curious and Interesting

-Francis Parkman, the historian, left an estate valued at \$195,950. This Newcastle, N. H., copyrights and stereerty at \$140,850.

-In 1835 the Austrian press censor refused to sanction the publication of two books one of which was "Principles of Trigonometry," which, he said, discussed the Trinity, a forbidden subject. The other was a scientific which he imagined made a concealed attack on the church.

gland, a Catholic priest who spent three years in a missionary journey through South America, from Panama to Patagonia, addressed the students of Johns Hopkins university the other day on the subject of his adventures. The journey was made on muleback, on the backs of Indians, in canoes, in hammocks and on foot.

-Princess Helen of Orleans is golden haired, blue eyed, tall and very lovely. She is a magnificent equestrienne, and is a familiar figure on many an English hunting field with and is most skillful with the sculls and of her dainty femininity or Parisian

-William Lane Booker, the British consul-general, who has just been knighted, remains thoroughly British form, attended by an escort of several in outward aspect after nearly forty of Boston's leading men, and the con- years' residence in this country. He is vention made way for his passage. He above the medium height, neither at once took the platform. The shades stout or spare, ruddy, grizzled, blueof an autumn evening were falling, and eyed and slightly bent at the shoulthe atmosphere of the hall was sombre. ders. He walks rapidly, and pays little Webster stood out in it before the con- attention to persons and things upon vention a magnificent Rembrandtesque the street. It used to be said that one figure. He said but few words, but of his duties was to receive the rents

## HUMOROUS.

your wife speak?" "Three-French. German and the one she talks to the baby."-Tit-Bits.

-"Are you certain that Hale is going writer remembers Webster in his full- to marry Miss Frost, of Boston?" "Yes; est grandeur of oratory. There was he's having steam heat and stoves both

-"There's a peculiar thing about Mrs. Frett." "What is it?" "She has been in a pickle all her life, and yet

-Benedict-"Why won't she marry you? Is there another man in the case?" Singleton-"I'm afraid there is." "That so? Do you know who it is?" "Yes-her father."-Boston Traveller.

-She-"Do you really and truly love me, Harry?" He-"Love you? Why I even have a fondness for that nuisance of a brother of yours." She-"Oh, Harry! You have made me so happy!" -Boston Transcript.

-"Do you think," said Willie Wishington, "that it actually hurts a man to be hit with one of Cupid's arrows?" "No," replied Belle Pepperton; "as a rule he merely becomes senseless for a

-The Emperor Francis I. of Austria was once present while two of his sons were quarreling violently. At last one of them said; "You are the greatest deed on his face. He went to Marsh- ass in Vienna." "Hush!" said the emperor, "you forget that I am here."-To-Day.

-Fogg-"Ther's an example of the bottle working a man's ruin." Fygg-"Humph! Whisky?" Fogg-"Nep; ink. Jury awarded the girl fifty thousand dollars damages in a breach of promise suit on the strength of the letters he wrote, and it took every cent

he had to pay it."-Buffalo Courier. -Irish viceroys are stripped of their sovereign attributes as soon as they reack English waters. The following story is told of Lord Houghton and a lady with whom he was acquainted. They both found themselves on board the Holyhead packet. During the voyviceroy with ceremonies respect. So soon, however, as the packet entered Holyhead harbor she said to him. "Now, Bobby, you are no longer a viceroy, so take my bag and male yourself

-The earl of Derby, while walking on his own land, once met a collier. His lordship inquired if the collier Thy land? Well, I've got no land and looked at mysel'." was the reply, "and I'm like to walk on somebody's. Wheer did tha' get it fro'?" "Oh," explained his lordship, "I got it from my ancestors." "Au' wheer did they get it fro'?" queried the collier. "They got it from their ancestors," was the reply. "And wheer did their ancestors get it fro'?" ble carl, "I'll feight thee for it!"

# FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

A FELLOW'S SISTER.

A fellow's sister." said blue-eved Steve. " Is a fellow's best friend, I'd have you believe 'Cepting it might be his mother. She loves you, oh! just like everything, And her voice is filled with the sweetest ring As she soft-like says: 'Little brother.'

"No matter that a fellow's outgrown the

name
By five-foot-ten. It's just the same, She fairly makes him smother With her love and kisses, when he's come To visit her in her far-away home And he finds she still says: 'Little brother.'

I just pity the fellow who's not even on

Of the dearest sisters under the sun, For he knows not the joy of another Who's blest with love so pure and true; For of sisters dear God gave me two. And they both love-like say: 'Little brother.'

Were ever sweeter home words given, Fraught with a very glimpse of Heaven, Than father, sisters, mother? Naught to a fellow's heart, I trow.

Unless it's those words I hear ringing now-· Dearly we love you, little brother.' -Nellie Hawks, in Housekeeper.

### OPTICAL ILLUSIONS.

to Young and Old.

We are more or less familiar with curious optical deceptions produced by did not include a summer estate at means of contrasting forms and lines; but there are other illusions quite as otype plates and contracts, these being curious, of a somewhat different sort, of uncertain value. The real estate is in which the little ones, and even chilvalued at \$55,000 and the personal prop- dren of a larger growth, will be interested.

Roll a piece of music or stiff paper into a tube, grasp it with the right hand, and hold up the left hand edgewise to it, as shown in illustration No. 1. The result will be that if you turn to the light and look steadily through treatise on the destruction of insects, the tube, with both eyes open, it will appear to you as though the palm of your left hand were transparent, and -Father Kenelm Vaughan, of En- you could see through it. The position



of the left hand must be adjusted to the visual angle of the person trying the experiment, and it needs to be brought nearer to the eves in some cases than in others. At the proper point the illusion will be perfect.

The same illusion can be produced by holding the hand with the inside edge placed against and laid along the bridge of the nose and the forehead, and the whole hand held stiff and inclined a little way either to the right or left from a right angle with the plane of the face.

The solution of this curious illusion is, of course, that the images formed in -"How many foreign languages can the eyes overlap each other, and the space shut off on one side is pictured by that eve from which the scene or object looked at is not shut off by the interposing hand.

If a card perforated by a pin hole be placed close to the face, resting against the nose, as shown in illustration No. 2, and a pin be held by the point in such a



way that its head comes between the eye and the pin hole in the card, the pin being held close to the eye, the former, strange to say, will appear on the other side of the pin hole, reversed and magnified. You see the pin, in fact, through the perforation, on the outer side of the card.

It will be found necessary, unless you have exceptionally firm nerves, to



the difficulty is foration in the

fess my inability to satisfactorily explain this illusion, nor have I seen any explanation that seemed to meet the case fully gnd at every point.

one white on a black ground, the other

black on white ground. If either be takeh into strong sanlight steadily for a period, the eyes when withdrawn and cast upon a blank white surface will project

an image in which what is dark in the original will become light, and what is the objects, for this experiment, and Globe.

intensity of the secondary image depend upon the constitution of the eyes of the experimenter.

No. 5 affords a very curious optical illusion. Place a card on edge length-



wise on the dotted line between the cage and the squirrel, turn toward the light so the eard will not throw a shadow, then place the middle of the end of the nose on the upper edge of the card, and after a moment's steady looking the squirrel will appear to enter the cage.-Demorest's Magazine.

#### ANIMAL BAROMETERS.

Tortoises, Cathirds and Other Creatures Foretell Rainstorms.

The tortoise is not an animal one would naturally fix upon as likely to be afraid of rain, but it is singularly so. Twenty-four hours or more before rain falls the Galapagos tortoise makes for some convenient shelter. On a bright, clear morning, when not a cloud is to be seen, the denizens of a tortoise farm on the African coast may be seen sometimes heading for the nearest overhanging rocks.

When that happens the proprietor knows that rain will come down during the day, and as a rule it comesdown in torrents. The sign never fails.

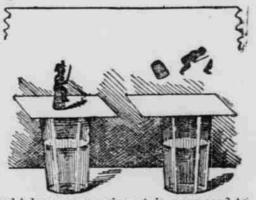
This presensation, to coin a word, which exists in many birds and beasts, may be explained partly from the increasing weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming, partly by habits of living, and partly from the need of moisture which is shared by all.

The catbird gives warning of an approaching thunderstorm by sitting on the low branches of a tree, uttering curious notes. Other birds, including the familiar robin, it is said, give similar evidence of an impending change in the weather.

### AMUSING SCIENCE.

An Innocent Plot Which Combines Mysticism with Fun.

Take an ordinary drinking glass and fill about three-quarters full of water or any other liquid. Let the rim of the glass be quite dry. Place on top of it, as if to protect from dust, an ordinary playing card, with its face downward. The card should be large enough to project slightly beyond the edge of the glass at each side. Let the card remain thus for about half an hour. At the end of that time you will find that the humidity arising from the liquid has caused a slight depression in the middle of the card and curved the edges so that they no longer rest upon the glass. This is the stage at



which your experiment is supposed to begin. Lift the card carefully by one corner and place it face upward on the glass. Have ready a small cork stopper, in the top of which you have inserted a little paper manikin. Place this stopper carefully on top of the card just where the surface appears to be swollen. Let it rest a few minutes, until, by the action of the humidity of the air in the glass, the effect first produced on the card is reversed. With a sudden, sharp sound the slight elevation on which the manikin sits enthroned sinks into a hollow and both cork and figure are projected into the air. The spectators, having no clew to the trick, are mystified at this apparently inexplicable phenomenon .-Once a Week.

# STORY OF A BELL.

How a Stalk of Corn Contributed Largely to a Great Purpose. In the church tower of the little town

of Grosslaswitz, in the north of Germany, hangs a bell, and on it is engraved its history, surmounted by a bas-relief, representing a six-eared not as you hold it in your hand, but stalk of corn, and the date October 15, 1729. This is the story of the bell: At the beginning of the last century the only church bell at Grosslaswitz was so small that its tones were not suffirest the hand cient to penetrate to the ends of the holding the pin village. A second bell was badly against the wanted, but the village was poor, and cheek bone, for where was the money to come from? Every one offered to give what he to get the pin could, but the united offerings did not head directly amount to nearly enough for the purbetween your pose. One Sunday when the schooleye and the per- master, Gottfried Hayn, was going to church, he noticed growing out of the card, and to hold churchyard wall a flourishing green it there without wavering. I must con- stalk of corn, the seed of which must have been dropped there by a passing bird. The idea suddenly struck him that perhaps this one stalk of corncould be made the means of producing Illustrations 3 and 4 show two stars, the second bell they wanted so much-He waited till the corn was ripe, and then he plucked the six ears on it and sowed them in his own garden. The next year he gathered the little crop thus produced, and sowed it acain, till at last he had not enough room in his garden for the crop, and so he divided it among a certain number of farmers, who went on sowing the ears until, in the eighth year, the crop was so large that when it was put together and sold they found that they had enough money to buy a beautiful bell, with ite story and its birthday engraved woon light will become dark. The necessary it, and a cast of the corn stalk to period for keeping the eye fixed upon which it owed its existence .- London