

AS TO RAIN AND THE RAINMAKER.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

Although a layman, and confessedly unqualified to settle the main question in your initial article, August 1st number, yet perhaps I may get in under the "sincerity" clause, and call your attention to the following news item clipped from Council Bluffs (Ia.) Nonpareil of July 30th:

Pottawattamie County.

AVOCA, July 29.—The latter part of the week a subscription paper was circulated and enough money raised to buy 200 pounds of black powder, and Saturday afternoon the twelve-pound Parrott cannon, belonging to the town, was taken out two miles west, upon the ridge of hills and a cannonading was begun and continued until dark, the clouds in the meantime gathering continuously and rolling off to the north and northeast.

At dark it began to lighten and thunder, and at two o'clock this morning a heavy rain fell, sufficient to revive vegetation and to put new life into the corn crop. Pastures were drying up rapidly and many were feeding stock, and this rain will revive the fields and make pastures green again.

And now also, comes Rainmaker Wright with the following, from Omaha Bee of August 4th, 1901:

LINCOLN, Aug. 3.—The gathering clouds this morning filled Rainmaker W. F. Wright with ecstatic joy. For several days he has been discharging his mortars at the heavens, and when the clouds began to darken in the northwest, he claimed all the glory for his own. He said:

"This is my rain. My experiment has been a grand, a complete success. This is due to my efforts at inducing artificial rainfall. The weather bureau predicted that it would be fair today. The rain that really came is mine. It took the preachers twenty-four hours to bring it. I got mine in thirty-six hours. My experiment has been a success; my theories have been proven to be true."

There are skeptics in the land as to the merits of the "percussion theory" of inducing precipitation, as there are rationalists who hesitate to admit divine interposition in the natural order of material things. Since Elijah held his famous rain-service on Mt. Carmel, his example has been followed many times, with varied results. So whether prayer is effectual in varying the visible order of things is a mooted question. Perhaps, also, the modern rain-maker would deduce from the violence of the supplication of the prophets of Baal, a cause for the down-pour which so opportunely followed Elijah's service. It appears to be one of those interminable controversies that one century inherits from the preceding one; and better than courts of inquiry and ecumenical councils for the settlement of such questions, is Admiral Schley's "honor enough for all."

W. H. P.
Nebraska, City Neb., Aug. 5, 1901.

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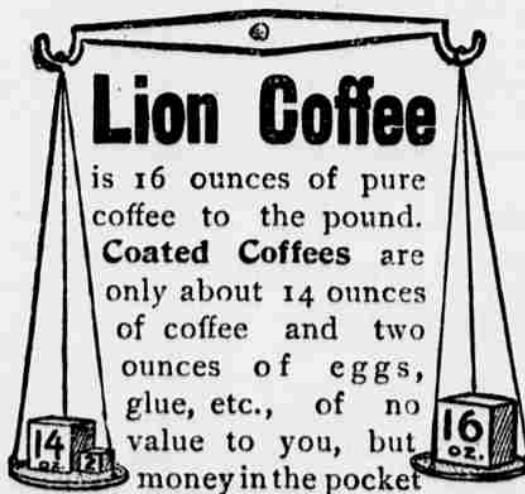


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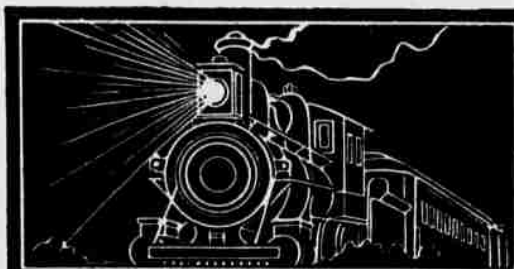
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