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Prof. Tyndall's Address.

The late address of Prof. Tyndall at Belfast, if not the most important contribution to scientific literature made during the year, has confessedly produced more controversy and asperity among scientists, than any other production. It was a bombshell thrown from the entrenchments of science, causing great alarm, though doing but little execution. The chief cause of this quivering excitement is to be found in the fancied danger which a great name lends to a dangerous dogma. It is common to suppose that because a man has achieved eminence in a single line of investigation, his opinions are well nigh infallible in every other. It by no means follows that a successful investigator of material phenomena, will be equally successful in the realm of mind, and spiritual forces. The subjects in these two great realms and the processes of investigation in each being totally unlike, it is presumptively true that the man who by taste, bias, and hate has gained eminence in one of these directions, will be thereby disqualified for safe and trustworthy labors in the other. Universal knowledge and universal aptitude belong to no man, and the "*ne ultra crepidam*" is just as properly applied to Prof. Tyndall as to any other man. His claim to be heard and followed in one department, does not therefore establish his leadership in other departments of research.

A protest has been raised against the whole strain and tendency of the address, which is held to be one of materialism, and implicit denial of an intelligent Author of the material universe.

The purpose of this short article is to point out some of the more obvious shortcomings, and the inconclusiveness of parts of the address.

1. At the beginning of his address there is a "*suppressio veri*" which has all the effect of a misstatement of fact. The impression is sought to be conveyed, that the prevalence of anthropomorphism, in respect to the origin of the universe, forced the leaders of scientific speculation to adopt the "pregnant doctrine of atoms and molecules."

From the history of speculative thought it is evident that the earliest school of philosophy, the Ionic, was thoroughly materialistic. Synchronous with this and antagonistic to it, there arose another philosophy which denied that water, air, or fire were causes at all. It held in opposition to materialism, that the "*to apeiron*" or the "*nous*" was the efficient cause of all phenomena. Anthropomorphism as an element of philosophy, and as effecting the development of speculative thought was of much later date. From the earliest ages, the great doctrine, which ascribes the origin of all things to an infinite intelligence, commanded the homage of the ofttest intellects, such as Anaxagoras, Xenophanes, Socrates, Plato, etc., and as the stream descends it widens and deepens, refreshing and fertilizing the arid realm of metaphysical speculation.

This line of philosophical thought is entirely ignored by this eminent physicist in his sketch of the history of philosophy, and its studious suppression has the effect to mislead the uninformed.

2. As the notions commonly entertained with respect to the nature of matter, stand in the way of a belief which he is about to profess, he must needs modify and readjust them. Matter is no longer inert, lifeless, and subject only to mechanical laws, but it possesses a "potency to originate every form and quality of life." As if startled by so audacious an assertion he hastens at once to qualify and explain. Casting his eye beyond the boundaries of experiment, as he says, he discerns "a cosmic life" in which matter and soul have thin roots, and of this 'cosmic life' nothing can be known. The attempt would "be as futile as to try to lift one's self by his waistband". This "Power manifested in evolution is absolutely inscrutable to the intellect of man". This Power, or Life is confessed to be beyond the boundaries of experiment or observation, and belongs to the category of the Unknowable.

Now Science has to do, and only to do with that which may be known and verified; hence this "Power absolutely inscrutable" to us does not belong to the realm of Science at all, and why need Prof. Tyndall trouble himself about it? Why need he warn others off this ground when he has no title to an inch of it? So that after all there may be a God, an infinite intelligence, a cosmic life perchance he may be, an all devising, creative mind.

When, therefore, he "abandoned all disguise" and ostensibly announced a new doctrine and definition of matter, with such a flourish, he has really given us nothing new on the subject. The nature of matter is as mysterious as ever, and its capabilities to produce life of every quality are only conjectures, confessed with a simplicity that would be amusing were they not accepted by some as demonstrated and incontrovertible facts. Some things remain to be said on the nature of matter, as far as it is known to modern science, and on the evidences of design, or the teleological argument, as seen in nature, which must be reserved for another time.

A. R. B.

What Became of Him.

BY C. V. M.

[Concluded.]

CHAPTER V.

WHAT BECAME OF HIM.

After Dr. Manter and Gilbert Van Zandt had retired, Kelly made all possible haste to Wardlaw's. Rousing him at last, by knocking repeatedly, the door was unfastened and the two were soon engaged in an earnest consultation, the partial result of which we have already seen.

But they had, unfortunately for them reckoned without their host, as it were. For Dr. Manter had begun as soon as he entered his room, to look for a suitable place in which to secrete the precious parcel. Fearing, he hardly knew why, to

keep it about his person, he anxiously searched for some safe hiding place. All at once his look brightened; he stepped to the chimney, drew out the stove pipe, and then, as there was no flue guard, thrust the parcel into the unused flue of an adjacent room. In less than half a minute the pipe was replaced, and no casual observer would have noticed that it had ever been disturbed.

When the rancheros had done their work at the bridge, they returned, according to agreement, to the crossing of the trails below the old fort to meet Kelly and Wardlaw, where they were to deliver up the clothes of their victim, and receive compensation for their services. When they reached the meeting place, Diego gave the clothing to Kelly, who seized them eagerly and began to feel them all over, vainly searching, with many an oath for the coveted treasure. Diego demanded the money that was due to him. Kelly accused him of not having passed over to him all that had been taken from the body. Diego indignantly denied the charge. In his passion of mingled disappointment, suspicion, and anger, Kelly, losing all command of himself, threw the lie upon him, drawing his revolver. Immediately the report of a single shot rang out upon the air. By the next flash of lightening, that for a moment dispelled the darkness of the stormy night, could be seen a horse dashing away riderless over the prairie. Kelly had not fired.

When Dr. Manter came to himself again the almost resistless current of the river was bearing him rapidly down stream. The icy coldness of the water had restored his consciousness. And bewildered as he was, not even knowing in what manner he had met with his misfortune, he struck bravely out for the bank. Borne hither and thither by the eddying waters, now hurled against the rocks in the midst of the rapids, now imprisoned by masses of floating debris, again and again drawn beneath the surface by strong under-currents he finally struggled to the bank, and once more was safe. The cord, by which the weight had been attached to his body, had worked loose and had freed itself both from the stone and his feet. Scaling the steep bank he, with much difficulty found his way to the river trail, which he followed back to Tokoma as rapidly as his nearly exhausted strength would admit. Arriving at the house of a friend, he was cordially welcomed and was provided with comfortable clothing, food and shelter.

After his recovery from the ensuing illness, Dr. Manter heard of the discovery of Kelly's body and the disappearance of Diego and the rancheros. But so sudden had been the attack upon him, that had it not been for their subsequent course of action, he would have been utterly unable to fasten the deed upon the rancheros or even to identify any one of his would be murderers. As soon as he was able to leave his bed he returned to the hotel, and again was in possession of the treasure that had so nearly cost him his life. Drop-

ping a letter to his nephew, Zante, he straightened all his affairs, and made haste to follow his letter by the next stage. Two days and a half of jolting, jarring and rocking backwards, forwards and sideways, then with a few more days of steamboat and railroad travel, Dr. Manter found himself comfortably ensconced in Zante and Alvin's cosy suit of rooms.

But the strain had been too great. Month after month of a gradual but steady decline followed, and upon his graduation day Gilbert Van Zandt was the sole possessor of the ill-starred treasure.

The wedding was at Mrs. Galigni's. And the happy couple *did not* go to the continent. Zante had always had a desire to travel in Egypt; it was at last satisfied. Returning from the pyramids he fell a victim to the climate. Poor Madge had left her country a bride, returned a widow. But as the years rolled by, her old suitor, Alvin De Puy, sued again; and this time not in vain.

Many a cold winter night, as the family were all seated around the glowing hearth fire, has Alvin De Puy told the story of his college days to some chance visitor as Three Lives for One Fortune, or Drexel Manter and What Became of Him.

ECHOES FROM NORMAL HALL.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

Our Principal elect, Rev. A. Freeman, D. D., arrived Tuesday, Nov. 24. He will not take charge of the school, however, until the beginning of next term, Jan. 7.

Several of our students have left us in the last few weeks; most of them to teach.

The first anniversary of the dedication of the building which we now occupy was celebrated in Normal Hall, Dec. 2, and 3.

Wednesday evening, Dec. 2, we listened to four original productions prepared by the members of the "fourth year class" and to a declamation and select reading by two members of the "first year class."

Thursday evening the exercises were composed of the following: First, a report of the progress made by the school during the first term of this year, by Prof. Wilson, acting Principal. From the report we glean the following: Number of students in the Preparatory Department, 145; number in the Normal Department, 65; total number enrolled in both for this term, 210. Examining the catalogue for the year 1873-4, we find that during the entire year there were enrolled in the Preparatory Department, 144, and in the Normal, 80. The present year is only about one third gone, and yet our list shows but 14 less enrolled than during the entire year of 1873-4. Prof. Wilson said he had received a great many letters from young men and ladies on the frontier who had intended to come to the Normal this year but have been deterred from so doing because of the failure in crops. Had it not been for this, the building would have been crowded to its utmost.

Second, short addresses by the follow-