

THE SUPERNATURAL.

The Old Era of Superstition Still Finding Adherents.

Witchcraft Exerting its Influence Over a Farmer's Family—Strong Testimonials.

Special Dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer.

GERMANTOWN, Ohio, April 8.—The parties whose affidavits are given below are highly respected and well-to-do farmers, living three miles northwest of our city. They gave their statement freely and earnestly and truthfully, as I believe they are sincere in thinking that they are under the influence of a witch. They rely on God and their friend Kutz to help them out of their troubles.

When your correspondent drove into the yard the old gentleman greeted him in the most cordial manner, and when asked if he was out of his trouble yet, he said no, that he was very lame to-day. He said I should wait until his sons came, and they gave me a full statement, which is as follows: The State of Ohio, Montgomery County, ss.—Daniel B. Staver, of German township and county of Montgomery, being duly sworn, says that he could not rest at night for about four weeks before the holidays, or about the last of December, 1881. I was not sick, but was not able even to help feed the stock on the farm, and sometimes I could not sleep of nights. I saw a woman in front of my bed one night. I knew the woman; she was a single woman; she was a neighbor woman; she was standing in front of my bed when I awakened up. She disappeared suddenly and mysteriously. There was no light in the room at the time. She looked as though there was a light on her. She looked natural. I know her. Her name is Miss—. As near as I can tell, it was between midnight and daylight. I went to sleep after I saw her. Her appearance made no change in my condition as to ability to work. When I attempted to work I would tremble and shake all over. I had no rest anywhere, and when I attempted to go to work from the farm I could not do so. The trouble still afflicts me a little yet, once in a while. Sometimes the horses (which always did work before) would not work. They would stand still. I was at Dayton one day during the time of my worst troubles, and I wished myself home before I was half way there. The trouble came on me on the road, and I had no pleasure that day. There is a man in our neighborhood working on our troubles to remove them. His name is Isaac Kutz. Miss— told me she had already signed me over to the devil. And she told me that she could do any thing the devil could do, and that she was signed over to the devil. She said that she would not let me loose until I had spent more money than I would make this winter. God and Kutz told me that I should kill a black dog, a black cat and a black rooster and take them off the farm, and that would lose me from the devil. I did kill a black dog, cat and rooster and took them off of the farm. I can go off of the farm now, but have no pleasure any where; but as to the devil the spell is broken. But I am still in the clutches of Miss—. There was a strange blue (Maltese) cat here, and whoever of the family that walked behind the cat would get sick, if they attempted to chase her. Sometimes this cat was very large, at other times she was very small. We had to throw out all of our apples. There was no rest in the house until we would throw them out. Everything that was raised on the farm was saved. But whatever was bought must be destroyed. I saved the furniture in the house by just throwing my hat on the ground and stamping. Miss— compelled me to go with a girl (she was a good girl) that I had no thought of going with. Miss— said I was as good a fellow as was around; that I was too good for her (Miss—), and too honest. But the spell is broken as to go with, and I don't have to go with her. She (Miss—) said she would make me marry the girl within one year.

At the time Kutz was trying to get me loose from the devil; he could not manage it to get me loose, for Miss— was helping the devil; the harness was in the house. As I was approaching the stable with the harness to put on the horse, father reached for the collar. I said the horse had the collar on and the halter off. It was the collar that we always used on that horse. This was on Tuesday, and the collar had been taken off on Sunday at noon, or two days before. I am troubled with a cough Miss— brought on me. She said she would remove the cough this year. Kutz did his duty for my cough; he relieved it some. Something told me to take some cough drops that were in the house, and I did so, and set the bottle back in its place. When the same mysterious thing said to me, "Throw the bottle out and say, 'Here, devil, take this bottle, drops, cough and all.'" I did so. Again the voice said to me, "Go break the bottle;" but when I went out the bottle was gone and could not be found. Many other things happened that I would not like to tell. Miss— was up, and told Mr. Poorman "that she was a witch." I have not spoken to Mr. Poorman about the matter. Mr. Poorman did not tell me this, but the same mysterious voice told me.

Mr. Poorman told me that there were no such things as witches, and that he did not believe that either Miss— or Kutz knew anything about our troubles. He said he would believe it if Miss— would tell him herself. Miss— said that her mother learned her witchcraft. The Rev. Mr. Poorman is a good man.

DANIEL B. STAVER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of April, 1882.

LEONIDAS S. CRICKMORE, Notary Public, Montgomery County, Ohio.

The state of Ohio, Montgomery township, Montgomery county, Ohio, being duly sworn, says: The statement made by his son, Daniel B. Staver, is in substance, so far as it is possible for him to know, true, and that the hair came off of one of three horses' neck from the head back to the shoulders, and that the two lost their hair in spots; and that his other four horses were not so affected; that he chased the cat and got sick, nervous and trembled after chasing her. Kutz has not been here since last fall.

His DANIEL B. STAVER, Mark.

Attest: F. J. LEGETT, Sworn to and signed before me this 7th day of April, 1882.

LEONIDAS S. CRICKMORE, Notary Public, Montgomery Co., O.

The state of Ohio, Montgomery county, ss.: William B. Staver, being duly sworn, says that Daniel B. Staver is his brother, and that the statement made by him in his affidavit is true as near as he can possibly tell; that he saw the same blue cat, sometimes large and sometimes small; that Miss— appeared to me, but not certain; my brother told me that Miss— had made me sick. I was sick for a long time. I believe that Isaac Kutz is a witch-driver.

W. B. STAVER, Sworn to and signed before me this 7th day of April, 1882.

LEONIDAS S. CRICKMORE, Notary Public, Montgomery Co., O.

Test the Seed Corn.

There is quite a feeling of distrust among thinking farmers in regard to the condition of the seed corn raised last year. The matter is still more aggravated by the fact that some was left over from the crop of 1880. Last year the same difficulty was experienced in the county where the writer resides, and the shortage in the crop from poor seed was immense. In our immediate vicinity the first planting failed entirely. One of our neighbors made a good thing for himself, and did a very fine thing for the community around by offering his crib of corn, left over from the crop of 1879, for seed. It was eagerly bought up to the very last bushel, and it grew very finely. Probably the people in many other localities might relate similar experiences. But the difficulty now is that we have no such crib of sound, perfect corn in any part of the county, and reliance must be entirely placed upon corn which was regularly saved for seed. Great care should, therefore, be used in testing it before going to the labor and expense of planting—for all the vexations of a far life there are few more worrying and unsatisfactory than that of repanting a cornfield. Some experts are of the firm belief that they can determine the question of vitality in seed corn by carefully examining the germ or "chit," but this test is not by any means an infallible one, though some of our own neighbors rely upon it. But the safest and best plan is to take numerous samples from various parts of the quantity intended for seed, and sprout them. This can be done very easily, planting them in small boxes, and keeping them in a warm place—and this is the common mode in use among our neighbors. Ordinarily, if the conditions are all favorable, and the seed "strong" and good, the sprouts will begin to shoot in two or three days. If they do not appear in six or seven days, the corn should be rejected as worthless. If a part of it sprouts, and the other kernels appear unduly swollen and puffy, it should be rejected. A near neighbor of ours has a novel plan of testing his seed corn. He first puts on his spectacles, and selects it with the greatest circumspection, breaking the husk, discarding the kernels from the small ends and carefully examining the "chit." After the selection is duly made, he tests a kernel or two from fifty or a hundred ears in this way: He takes up a sod eighteen inches square, in some warm, sunny spot, and evenly spreads his sample of corn over the space below. The sod is then carefully replaced. If the conditions of moisture and temperature are all right, the corn sprouts readily in a couple of days. An examination can be made easily at any moment by lifting the sod, when the condition of each individual kernel can be seen at a glance. When good seed is used the appearance upon removing the sod after the corn begins to sprout is a very beautiful one. Not only are the sprouts rapidly shooting, but innumerable little rootlets which shine and glisten like silver will have been sent out in all directions after the moment by which the growing plant so quickly requires them. This manner of testing seed corn not only enables one to settle the question of its germinating power very speedily and satisfactorily, but it makes a most beautiful experiment, which will delight any observing person, and especially those who take an interest in botany.

The failures of the past year should not only inspire every farmer with a great degree of caution in regard to the quality of the corn he plants, but should also lead hereafter to extra care in the selection and preservation of seed. Many take no thought about this most important work at the proper season, but still rely upon taking it with very little selection from the crib. Even seasons after which the corn is unusually well matured this is but a poor, unthrifty and shiftless method, but seasons in which the corn failed to ripen perfectly it is worse than taking chances blindly. Although so much has been written on this subject there is still a great amount of missionary work to be done in inspiring the mass of farmers to resort to the most intelligent methods of securing and preserving seed corn. The experience of last year—thousands of grievous and annoying failures—raises the question in our mind whether it would not be well for every farmer to make it a rule to carry over year's supply of seed corn. The seed lack of our thrifty neighbor, who sold a whole cribful of the crop of 1880 in the spring of 1881, is certainly suggestive. The great trouble about this business is that seed corn

must be selected and saved at a very busy time, and it seems to be a task that can well enough be put off from day to day, and so it is neglected by the average farmer.

Profit, \$1,200. "To sum it up, six long years of bed-ridden sickness, costing \$200 per year, total \$1,200—all of this expense was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters, taken by my wife. She has done her own housework for a year since, without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it, for their benefit.—N. E. Farmer.

SODA WORKS.

Their Establishment at Laramie is Now a Settled Fact.

Where the Works Will be Located—A Few Facts About Soda.

Laramie Booming.

Last Thursday afternoon papers were filed in the office of the county clerk, transferring from Colonel S. W. Downey to Sidney Dillon the entire property known as the soda lakes, west of the city. Mr. Dillon, as agent for the Union Pacific, no controls the whole of that vast deposit of soda, and as the following will show, will make use of his newly acquired property in a manner whereby his company and our city will be mutually benefited.

During Mr. Downey's late visit to Omaha he met Mr. Kimball, and had quite a lengthy interview with him regarding the soda lakes and the establishment of reduction works here. Mr. Kimball assured him that it would be done, and at once. It is the intention of the company to erect their buildings, furnaces, put in machinery, etc., this summer, and their agent is now in Europe purchasing the necessary appliances to reduce the soda and prepare it for commerce. Mr. Kimball said that the works would be located on section 5, on the east side of the river near where the Laramie & North Park branch crosses it. A branch road will also be run from the works to the limestone quarries at the base of the mountains east of the city. We have no means of knowing how many men will be employed in carrying on the work of quarrying and reducing the soda and preparing it for the market, but the force will probably be pretty large.

From a letter written Mr. Downey by Mr. David J. Playfair, of Glasgow, Scotland, who has had years of experience in the business, we are able to lay before our readers some interesting facts relative to soda and its uses. The soda, as found in these lakes, is called sulphate of soda. Mr. Playfair says it might either be dried and sent to market in its natural state, there being an increasing demand for it among the Pittsburgh glass makers, or might first be converted into carbonate of soda or caustic soda. Most of the above kinds of soda used in this country is at present imported. The import duty on sulphate of soda is about twenty per cent. of its value; on carbonate of soda about \$5 per ton, and upon caustic soda about any strength about \$35 per ton. In making either caustic or carbonate of soda, the first three steps are the same for both. First, drying the sulphate of soda as it is taken from the lakes. Second, the black ash process, or converting the sulphate of soda into carbonate of soda. Third, the liquation of the black ash. Then if carbonate of soda, or soda ash is to be made, the solution from the black ash is evaporated and the resulting salts calcined in a carbonating furnace.

If, however, caustic soda is wanted, the solution from the black-ash is diluted, boiled with burnt lime, allowed to settle, run into pans and concentrated, settled again, and then finished in iron pots—the finishing process consisting in driving out the water, fusing the caustic soda at a bright red heat, oxidizing and sulphidizing that may be present by means of nitrate of soda, then allowing the caustic soda to settle and cool somewhat, and lastly packing it, while still liquid, in iron drums.

The uses to which alkali, in the form of caustic or carbonate of soda is put, are many. The more important ones are to make soap, paper, washing soda, bi-carbonate of soda and glass; to purify mineral oils; to make up the compounds of soda as sulphite, hypsulphite, borax, acetate, stannate, phosphate of soda; also bromide, iodide, etc., of sodium. It is used as a flux in treating some of the rare metals, and generally to neutralize acids and precipitate metallic oxides and carbonates.

In closing his letter Mr. Playfair says he thinks a soap factory, in connection with the soda works, would pay—that with plenty of tallow from our beaver, and caustic soda at hand, Laramie should be able to compete successfully with Chicago for the local and western trade. Glass works, also, could be worked to advantage.

In this connection, we give the following, from the Denver Republican: "Mr. N. K. Boswell, of Wyoming, was at exposition headquarters, yesterday, arranging for a soda display even larger than the celebrated lump he exhibited at the Centennial. Mr. Boswell has a deposit spread over some 400 acres, varying from five to twenty-one feet in thickness of mercuriable sulphate of soda. He had a block of about three tons weight at the Centennial, but promises to send us a pill of four tons weight for exhibition. He informs as that the people of Wyoming have heard of the exposition and are not wasting any time. As for himself he will display his soda and magnesia, and see that his neighbors show their riches."

Bucklin's Arnica Salve. The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Fetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Sore, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. Price, 25 cents per box. For sale by Schroter and Becht.

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BURDOCK'S BLOOD BITTERS. Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Pittsburg, Pa., writes: "I was suffering from general debility, want of appetite, constipation, etc., so that life was a burden; after using Burdock Blood Bitters I felt better than for years. I cannot praise your Bitters too much."

Mr. R. Gibbs, of Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "Four Burdock Blood Bitters, in chronic diseases of the blood, liver and kidneys, have been signally marked with success. I have used them myself with best results, for torpidity of the liver, and in case of a friend of mine suffering from dropsy, the effect was marvellous."

Bruce Turner, Rochester, N. Y., writes: "I have been subject to serious disorder of the kidneys, and unable to attend to business; Burdock Blood Bitters relieved me before half a bottle was used. I feel confident that they will entirely cure me."

A. Southall, Birmingham, N. Y., writes: "I suffered with a dull pain through my left lung and shoulder. Lost my spirits, appetite and color, and could with difficulty keep up all day. Took your Burdock Blood Bitters as directed, and have felt no pain since first week after using them."

Mr. Noah Bates, Elmira, N. Y., writes: "About four years ago I had an attack of illness fever, and never fully recovered. My digestive organs were weakened, and I would be completely prostrated each day. After using two bottles of your Burdock Blood Bitters the improvement was so visible that I was astonished. I can now, though 61 years of age, do a fair and reasonable day's work."

C. Blackett Robinson, proprietor of The Canada Prothieria, Toronto, Ont., writes: "For years I suffered greatly from oft-recurring headaches. I used your Burdock Blood Bitters with happiest results, and I now find myself in better health than for years past."

Mrs. Mrs. Wallace, Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters for nervous and bilious headaches, and can recommend it to anyone requiring a cure for biliousness."

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H. H. WARNER & CO. Dealers in the best quality of Kidney and Liver Cure or local affections attendant upon severe rheumatic attacks, and have always derived benefit therefrom. For sale by all druggists. Price 50 cents.

Proposals for the CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS. Office of City Engineer, 1020 Farnham St., Omaha, Neb., May 24, 1881.

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