### PULLING A COMET'S TAIL

Father Rigge Discourses Concerning Some Nctorious Celestials Tramps.

VAGARIES OF BIELA'S LAST COMET

Its Entity Destroyed and Its Nebulæ Dis pelled into a Floating Film of Cosmie Dust-Habits of Pirat-Ical Planets.

"On November 27 the earth will be due in s part of its orbit, which is strown with the debris from the tail of Biela's comet," said Father Rigge of Creighton college, it speaking of the astronomical situation that is now receiving so much attention.

"If the sorry remnants of a once clorious comet keep their engagement we may witness a magnificent display of falling stars emanating from the neighborhood of Andromnedge, or the Lady in the Chair, as that is precisely the direction in which the orbit of the dead comet runs down to cut the terrestrial track.

"No danger need be apprehended from the fiery missiles. Their motion is direct, or from west to east, and, consequently, as the earth travels in the same direction at a speed of eighteen miles per second, and the cosmic dust is hurled at the retreating planet at the slow rate of twelve falles per second, it will confine its pyrotechnics to the upper regions of the atmosphere.

Biela's Eventful History.

"Biela's history has been an eventful one. The comet was discovered in 1826 by Biela, an Austrian officer, and ten days later by the French astronomer, Gambart. Both observers computed its orbit. It was never visible to the naked eye, but in Sir John Herschel's great reflector it was described as a conspicuous nebuta of such tenuity that a knot of minute stars of the seventeenth magnitude was visible through the comet. Yet the depth of cometary matter through which such faint stellar rays penetrated undimmed was, near the central parts of the globe, not less than 50,000 miles.

First of the Calamity Comets.

"It is curious that this seemingly harmless pody gave occasion to the first of the since numerous 'comet scares.' Certain calculations published by Olbers showed that on October 29, 1832, a considerable portion of its nebulous tail would actually sweep over the spot which, a month later, would be occupied by the earth. It needed no more to set the popular mind in a forment.

"And yet the two bodies were never really within 15,000,000 miles of each other. At its next return in 1830, it failed to be observed, but it amply compensated astronomers by appearing double in 1845. The hairy star had actually split into two. The twin com-ets traveled along side by side for more than four months, on parallel tracks, as tranquilly as if nothing unusual had hap-pened; but internally both were intensely active, each developing a bright nucleus and anort tail, although their sire had exhibited neither of these signs of cometary vitality. Each alternately outshone the other, and threw out an are light across the intervening space. Once more, in September 1852, the cometary pair were detected by Father Secchi wandering away in divergent lines, then vanished shortly afterwards, and have never since been seen.

Brilliant Meteoric Shower.

"But the story is not yet ended. Scarcely had the sun set in western Europe on No-vember 27, 1872, and the earth was passing the old track of the lost comet when she encountered a wonderful meteoric shower. As Miss Clerke expresses it, 'it became evident that Biela's comet was sheeding over us the pulverized products of its disintegra-The meteors came in volleys from the foot of the chaired lady, their numbers being so great that Father Denza called it a 'real rain of fire,' not a few fireballs equal-ing the moon in diameter. The spectacle was magnificent. It continued uninterruptedly from sundown till midnight. Now it occurred to Processor Klinkerfues, who had watched the meteoric fusillate from his astronomical perch at Gottingen, that the old comet might be lying in ambush somewhere in the vicinity. He accordingly wired to Mr. Pogson, the Madras astronomer. Biela touched earth November 27; search near Theta Centauri. Sure enough, the count was there, just in the indicated position. In appearance it might have passed well enough for one of the Beila twins. It had no tail, but a de-cided nucleus. The next day a short tail was perceptible, but overcast skies supervened and it has never since been seen. Its iden-tity accordingly remained in doubt, as it might have been a third limb torn from the

Thirteen Year Affair.

"Yet the relics of Biela's comet keep on completing the accustomed route twice in thirteen years. On the same day and month of 1885 astronomers were on the alert for a renewal of the meteoric show of 1872, and they were not disappointed. The meteors were both larger and more numerous, being estimated in the densest part of the drift at 75,000 per hour. Yet these little bodies were found by Prof. Newton of Now Haven to be traveling twenty miles apart, thus presenting the dazzling effect of a numerous throng without jostling or confusion. For six hours the carth moved right through the compact con-tral battalior 100,000 miles in denth, with skirmishers thrown out to nearly 1,000,000 miles on either side, and yet not a single solid projectile fell upon the earth. This oughtto revive our spirits for the coming fray. The conclusion seems obvious that these meteors are formed of very soft ma-terials which expand while incandescent and are in mediately crampled and dissipated into exiguous dust.

Superstitious Fears of a Collision,

"In view of the fact that we encounter trains of meteors, or the shattered fragments of effete comets, every night, and are not even aware of the collision, we cannot suppress a smile at the fears created in former years by the advent of a new comet. Its appearance was supposed to forebode wacs and postulence, earthquakes and possible destruc-tion from a collision. The briliant comet of 1680 threw Europe into such consternation that a medal was struck to quiet the apprehension and bearing the inscription, "The Star Threatens Evil Things; Trust Only; God Will Turn Them to Good." In 1816 a report was current of the approaching end of the world. July 18, was the date fixed for the fatal event. A French wit quieted the minds by writing 'As it is now many centuries since a collision of the earth with a comet has taken place, and as with time the possibility increases. and as with time the possibility increases, it seems to me prudent to set about managing our affairs, for, in 3,000 or 4,000 years at the

our affairs, for, in 3,000 of 4,000 years at the latest, we shall see a new representation of this great tracedy.'

"A similar fear took possession of people's minds at the first calculated return of Biela's comel in 1832, and the return of the comet of Charles V in 1858, whoy, according to a fantastic production, the world was to have been tastic prediction, the world was to have been destroyed by fire, burnt by the terrible comet. But there is no stronger argument comet. But there is no stronger argument to convince beeple than plain facts. Now in 1861 the earth passed through 200,000 miles of a comet's tail, and no perceptible effect was produced by the meeting of the fifmsy appendage. No nor by the most remarkable meteoric shower on record, namely, that of 1823, when, in the language of an old lady, the sky looked like a great umbrella.

The Earth's Danger from Comets.

"It has been suppose that comets might do us harm in two ways—either by actually colliding with the earth or by falling into the sun, and thus producing such an increase of solar heat as to harn us up.

"As regards the possibility of a collision with a comet, it is to be admitted that such an event is possible. In fact, if the earth lasts long enough, it is practically sure to happen: for there are several comets' orbit which pass searer to the earth's orbit than the semi-diameter of the comet's head, and the simi-diameter of the comet's head, and at some time the earth and comet will certainly come together. Such encounters, bowever, will be very rare. If we accept the estimate of Babinet, they will occur the crimate or babinet, they will occur about once in 15,000,000 years. But what then would happen! Either the force or momentum of the comet would be equal to that of the carth, or it would be greater or less. If equal, we should do it as much harm as it would do us, action and reaction being equal; if greater, it would take us along equal; if greater, it would take us

with it; if less, we should take it along with us. If the theory propounded by Schiaparelli—namely, that comets are heaps of stones held together by gravitation—is true, everything depends on the size of the stones. If they weigh tons, the bembardment experienced by the earth when struck would be account of the stones.

be a serious matter, but it would be con-fined to one part of the earth, and the celeslial stones poited at us might be formed of gold and diamonds. If, as seems more likely, they are for the most part smaller than pin-heads, the result would be simply a meteoric shower. We have already said that such an occurrence took place in 1861 and 1872. The meeting was absolutely inoffensive.

"As regards the effect of the fall of a comet into the sun, it is undoubtedly possible that a comet may enter our solar system rom without, so accurately aimed that it will hit the sun. In that case the cometary stones would bury themselves in the solar atmosphere, and being vaporized would simply expand, slightly adding to the store of the sun's potential energy about as much heat as it ordinarily expends in a few hours.

Makeup of Comets. "Any person who will reflect but a moment upon the paysical constitution of comets will find no cause of apprehension in a friendly visit from a 'hairy star.' reasons lead us to suppose that the head of a comet is a swarm of meteoric stones widely separated, though whether these iron stoces are many feet in diameter, or only a few inches, or only a few thousandths of an inch, like particles of dust, no one can say. In fact, it now seems quite likely that the greatest portion of a comet's mass is made up of such particles of solid matter, carrying with them a certain quantity of enveloping gas. The tail is simply an assemblage of cometary dust particles repelled by both the comet and the sun. Tails are of three types, namely, long, straight rays probably composed of hydrogen, the curved, plunelike train of hydrocarbon gas, and the short, stubby brushes of iron vapor.

"If one has any difficulty in reconciling the theory of stone particles with the layers or tails of vapor, he must remember that vaporous masses such as clouds, fog and smoke are really composed of minute, gas. The tail is simply an assemblage of

and smoke are really composed of minute. separate particles of water or solid carbon, Hence it will appear that the tail which we see on one evening is not absolutely the same we saw the evening before, a portion of the latter having been dissipated while new matter has taken its place, as with the

stream of smoke from a chimney.
"There has been much discussion whether comets shine by light reflected or intrinsic. That their light must in some way be derived from the sun seems evident from the fluctuations of brilliancy they undergo as they approach and recede from the sun, and finally disappear from sheer faintness. If a comet shone with its own independent light, like a star, it would only growsmaller as it receded from the earth, not fainter. But while the light of a comet is undoubtedly reflected sunlight, it is not so altogether. For it often varies greatly and almost capriciously, blaz-ing out for an evening with un-wonted splendor and then collapsing, like a mind-reader, far below the normal state. This indicates an intrinsic light-evolving action, akin to phosphorescence, or, more correctly, electricity, which is excited between the cometary particles by the sun's influence. Comets are not then, it thus seems, bodies incandescent through solar heat, like glowing coals on the grate, but, as Prof. Newton expresses it, 'sandbanks,' that is, swarms of solid particles of unknown size, glowing by electricity and moving in a gazeous envelope. And this is compatible with a relatively low temperature. In part, the gaseous spectrum of comets is certainly due to reflected suntight; in part, it is likely to the ignition of minute solid particles.

The Origin of Comets. "Having thus disposed of the interesting question of the nature and light of comets. we may, by way of conclusion, say a word on he origin of comets. It is obvious that those which move in parabolic orbits cannot be citizens of our solar family. But as to Biela and other periodic visitors it is a question whether they are nativeborn or merely naturalized. Did they originate it our sys-tem or are they captives! When a come enters the system from an infinite distance and comes near a large planet, the chances are that it will deviate from its course to find itself numbered among the satellites of the planet. In this manner the comet Biela was added to the retinue of Jupiter.

"In a similar manner Neptune has cap-tured six, Uranus three; Saturn stands responsible for two and colossal Jove has a targe family of sixteen. If Proctor's theory were correct that the comets of Jupiter's family once formed a portion of its mass and were at some time ignominiously ejected with a velocity sufdicient to set them free in space, we might account for the roving disposition of the Bielas and look upon their reverses as the necessary consequences of early injuries and a shattered constitution. Naturally the comets are free and move in prodigiously long eilipses. This being so it follows that their condition previous to being attracted by the sun or kidnaped by planetary pirates, was one of relative ropose. Those were haleyon days when they shared the movement of translation through space of the solar family. The 'cosmical current,' which bears us with our sun to an unknown goal in space, carries also with it nebulous masses of undefined extent at an undefined distance. Detached fragments, continually entering the sphere of the sun's attraction, flit across our skies under the ferin of comets. These are, however, so far stangers to our system that they took no part in its fermation. They are, perhaps, survivals of a state of things anterior to our solar family, when the chaos from which sun and planets were, by divine decree, subsequently to emerge, had not as yet separately begun to be."

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Constipation and all trouble with the di gestive organs and the liver, are cured by Hood's pills. Unequalled as a dinner pill.

The Market House Question. OMAHA, Nov. 22 .- To the Editor of THE Bee: In your article in The Suxpay Bee regarding market houses you do myself and those interested with me an injustice by the assertion that we asked an exclusive franchise and free taxes. We asked nothing except the amendment of the present market house ordinance which was passed about 1880 for the purpose of allowing shed markets to be built on Capitol avenue, Tenth to Twelfth, with a district of three-eighths of a mile, thus allowing for the future a preposed second market on Capitol avenue west of Sixteenth, which was considered suf-ficiently ample for a city of 30,000 population. We intended to build permanent market houses of brick and stone specially designed houses of brick and stone specially designed for market house purposes—one south of Farnam, to cost \$105,000; a second one, if the field was not taken by other parties, in the vicinity of Twenty-fourth and Cuming, to cost about \$75,000, these houses to be built on private property for which we would be taxed the same as other property owners.

With a district limited to four blocks and the people of Omaha not being marketers, but patrons of delivery wagons and tele-

but patrous of delivery wagons and tele-phone orders, and the operation of the market for at least three years being done at ment of this amount of money would be warranted under the existing ordinance, but with a reasonable district being allowed we were ready to accept the ordinance and have at least one marnet beuse ready by July 1. The city atterney drew the amendment and compromised on the district by making it three-quarters of a mile. This was the amendment that was defeated by the council, and again put the market house question an indefinite one. The passage of this amendment, you will see by reading the original ment, you will see by reading the original

ordinance, gave us no more right than to another citizen or company who would first accept the terms of the ordinance and would indicate the proposed location of the plant in any part of the city.

It seems from the defeat of the proposition, which I think you or any citizen will acknowledge was fair in every respect, that home enterprise is not to be encouraged, and I now believe that if the proposition had been made by some New York or London corporation they would have been granted an exclusive franchise and voted a large boous.

It has now been decided that the lands lying close to Omaba in their wildness and bleakness shall remain so instead of being cultivated and thousands of people earning heir living by raising fruits and vegetables We are importing at the present time from Iowa, California and other states from lows, California and other states 95 per cent of the fruit and vegetables sold in this market and at least 25 per cent of these same fruits and vegetables that have been shipped bundreds of miles are unwholesome and are especially dangerous in a time of epidemic, when it is impossible for the Board of Health to follow and in-spect every nuckster wagen and examine every box of fruit offered for sale. Will you kindly, in your own way, correct

Will you kindly, in your own war, correct the impression conveyed by your article of Sunday that the amendment was defeated on account of our asking free taxes. The representations made to those with whom this matter was talked over were directly to the opposite, that we asked no favors except a reasonable district. Yours respectfully, J. A. LINAHAN, 3039 California Street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

in the "Burglar," Gus Tuomas' comedy drama, there is an excellent opportunity to witness the burglar's methods, from his stealthy entrance with the pullseye lamp and jimmy in hand, to his departure after discovery. The play is set in an environment of pretty home pictures and presented by a good company. The ladies' dressing is a conspicuous feature of the comedy drama. At the Farnam street theater four nights commencing Sunday matinee, N ovember 27 Matinee Wednesday.

George C. B oniface, who is now with the Katie Emmett company playing the old man in "Kularney," was well known in New York as "Handsome George" about thirty years ago. He is now nearly 70, but is still handsome and his well preserved and erect figure and schoreus voice might well be en vied by many a younger man. His portrayal of the unctuous old villam is one of the hits of the performance. Miss Emmett's engagement at the Boyd is for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday next.

"Kidnaped," which will be the attraction at the Farnam Street theater for three nights, is one of those thoroughly entertaining, sensational melo-dramas commanding the luterest of the people of all social grades The play throughout abounds in strong and teiling situations. The language is excellent and construction considerably above the regular order of sensational melo-dramas Mr. D. K. Higgins, assumes with credit the part of Louis Rhinecoid. The supporting mpany is far above the average. Matines

The management of Wonderland Bijou heater have a big surprise in store for their lady patrons this afternoon. It will be the regular weekly souvenir matince and each lady attendant will receive something in which she is always in need.

Think He is Captured. It is believed that the check operator who succeeded in working Max Meyer & Co. to the tune of \$225 has been captured, though the police and every one else concerned are making a stupendous mystery of the affair. He was introduced to Mr. Meyer by Mr. Harris of the late firm of Harris & Fisher, and Mr. Meyer says that with the same kind of an introduction he could probably do the same thing tomorrow.

A Four Name Firm.

When you find a four name firm you are pretty sure of an institution representing considerable responsibility. The firm of Hass, Harris, Brim & McLain, near Dawson, Georgia, is not an exception. It is, in fact, one of the most substantial business houses in Terroll county. The following is an extract from a recent letter from them: "Our customers say that Chamberlain Medicine Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, manufacture threa of the best medicines on earth, viz., Cham-berlain's colic, cholera and diarrheea remedy, for bowel complaints; Chamberlain's cough remedy, for colds, croup and whooping cough, and Chamberlain's pain balm for rheumatism." 50 cent bottles of each of these medicines for sale by druggists.

HAYDEN BROS.

Special Bargains on Sale Friday. 32 inches wide bedford cords 5c yard. Amoskeag Teasle cloth 5c yard.

Verona suiting 5c. Cord du Roi 5c. Flannelette suiting 5c.

Light or dark style, take your choice, in remnants or will cut full dress paterns from pieces. Maltese and fantaise chevron 7ic. Edinboro cords 7ic.

32-inch chalis 74c. 32-inch areyron cloth, 71c

32-inch pedford cords, 71c. All nice dark styles, this reason's latest designs, no such value ever offered, look them over. 18-inch fringed red bordered napkins,

worth \$1.00 dozen, now 5c each or 60c 18-42 all linen hemmed towels, reduced to 10c each, cheaper than crash. Unbleached cotton crash, 24c yard. Unbleached crash, all linen, 5c, 6c, 8c

and 10c yard. Bleached crash, all linen, 5c, 6c, 7c se, 10c and 12ic yard. New dark style in prints, fast colors.

All wool flannel skirt patterns, worth \$2.50, now \$1.50 each. 2-yard long fringed tablecloth, fancy

borders, dozen napkins to match, \$2.00 24-yard long fringed tablecloths, fancy borders, dozen napkins to match, \$2.50

We are showing extra value bleached nankins. 10-4 white blankets, 75c and \$1.00 pair. 5-pound white wool mixed blankets,

\$1,25 pair. 10-4 all wool silver gray blankets, only \$3.50 a pair. 11-4 XXX California white wool blankets, each pair in a box, at \$6.68 a pair; the best value in town.

6x6 elderdown comforts, were \$5.75 and \$6,50, tomorrow \$4.75 each; only a few of them left. All wool red twilled flannel, worth 40c, a sale tomorrow at 25c yard. We have purchased from one of the

largest blanket houses in Boston their sample line of blankets; red, gray, but most of them white blankets; they go on sale tomorrow. If you intend buying blankets it will pay you to look them

Have you seen Dr. Wilson's hygienic natural wool, all wool blankets? For sale at Haydens', \$3.38 a pair. HAYDEN BROS. The largest blanket dealers in the whole

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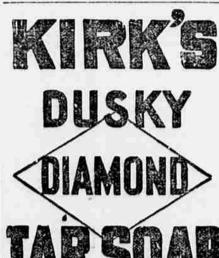
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By CON. T. MI RULY, Esq.

I desire to state to the public that Miss Katle F
met's new play. Killaries, which will be give
this city next sunday might is without doubt the by
representation of an Irish drama that has ever is
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is this country and is mounted in the most sumption
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BUY!BUY! BUY! BUY

and buy he has. For the past week we've been receiving case after case-load after load of overcoats-bought under value of manufacfacturers who'd rather have money and room than winter goods. Today they go on sale-at the very time you need them most-at February prices in November. Six hundred magnicent genuine chinchilla overcoats--lined with heavy double warp serge--with full velvet collar -- the same quality ofgarment which sold two weeks ago at nine dollars-go out in the cold world at

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Investigate our Method. Written guarantee to absolutely Cure all kinds of KUPTURE of both sexes without the use of kulfe or syringe, no matter of new long

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