

NOT QUITE SO BAD.

Fearful Forebodings of a New Jersey Scientist Made Light of.

SCOUTED BY MR. ASHBURNER.

He Does Not Fear Either the Wrecking of a Continent or of the Globe

BY THE EXHAUSTION OF NATURAL GAS

The doom of Western Pennsylvania was predicted and explained to a New York Herald reporter the other day by J. E. Thickston, who the Herald says "is a well-known scientist and astronomer living at Metuchen, N. J." While speaking of the Johnstown horror, he said:

"The news from Central Pennsylvania is awful, but this may be only a very little thing compared with what may yet occur. Near and west of the Alleghenies a great opening within the earth's crust must be made somewhere by the escape of natural gas. Will the earth settle and fill the empty places or will air pass in and thereby make it possible for the immense reservoirs of gas, stored away no one knows how far, to explode and make an upheaval?"

Many people believe there is gas enough under Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio to blow the country from Lake Erie to the Monongahela.

INTO PROMISCUOUS FRAGMENTS.

"When oil was struck at Oil Creek in 1859, timid folks feared a collapse and a sinking of the oil field, but the danger was obviated by water running into the wells as the oil ran out. The dreaded vacuum never came, as water took the place of the removed oil. It is not so in this case. Water is not filling up the gas wells except to a limited extent. What the outcome may be is not really a very enjoyable thing to revolve in our minds these pleasant June mornings."

"A submerged valley lined with the bones of 15,000 men, women and children is a fearful thing in the history of the human race, but what of that compared with a wrecked continent? What of that compared with a world blown open or blown to fragments? I am not an alarmist or a sensational Wigwag. I do not believe Old Mother Earth is about to be shot into smithereens, but there may be danger ahead in this direction, and although we grieve over the Conemaugh catastrophe, let us be thankful that there has not been a natural gas explosion out West, and that there are not two rings instead of one set of asteroids in the material heavens."

PITTSBURGH'S GEOLOGIST SMILES.

A reporter of THE DISPATCH took the above to the Westinghouse building yesterday and had Mr. Chas. A. Ashburner, of the Pennsylvania and United States Geological Surveys, read the clipping. He laughed and replied:

"The statement that the Johnstown disaster was not anything compared with what may happen by the blowing up of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio into promiscuous fragments through the exploitation of our natural gas supplies is simply preposterous. Still, this fear of what may occur in our natural gas regions has gotten such a hold upon many intelligent people not familiar with the facts that it calls for the most positive condemnation. In the first place, no cavity exists under Western Pennsylvania where natural gas is obtained of appreciable size, that is, of a size sufficiently great for the smallest insect, if other conditions made it possible, to descend one of our natural gas wells, pass through channels in the gas reservoir rock from the bottom of this well to the bottom of an adjoining well 100 feet distant and return to the surface through the second well, and yet this same gas reservoir rock is sufficiently porous to contain in every acre of surface under which it lies with a thickness of 100 feet, and with the gas at pressures frequently found between 25,000 and 40,000 cubic feet of natural gas. In this case the porosity of the gas reservoir rock is hardly noticeable to an ordinary eye, and about the same as the porosity of the ordinary fine grained sandstones used for building purposes around Pittsburgh."

SOME PERSONAL EXPERIMENTS.

"Some of our oil and gas sands are very much more open and some very much more compact than the case cited, and therefore contain more or less gas per cubic foot of rock, still of the same order of magnitude. I have examined I have never seen one with as large pores or cavities in it as one frequently observes in many of the open grained and porous sandstones and conglomerates which are being constantly used for structural purposes, so that it is simply absurd to think of any of the gas reservoir rocks giving way under the weight of the superincumbent strata."

"Several years ago I was under the careful records of the production of oil wells that many of our oil sands have produced 900,000 barrels of oil per square mile of surface, and from examinations made of the oil sands themselves, it is found that only one-tenth of the oil contained in the sands can be obtained through wells, the other nine-tenths being held by capillary attraction in the pores and so that in many sections of our oil regions the gas is held under one square mile of surface 9,000,000 barrels of petroleum. These sands vary from 20 to 50 feet thick, and it might be supposed by some who had not investigated the facts that it would hold this immense bulk of oil, that very large caves would have to exist in the oil sand, but such is not the fact since the oil sands are identical in structure and porosity with the gas sands. An eminent Scotch geologist has recently made extensive experiments in the porosity of many of our building stones and their capacity to hold water under different pressures and the results of his experiments prove that oil and natural gas sand beds are not exceptionally porous."

AN EXPLOSION IMPOSSIBLE.

"The eminent astronomer and scientist claims that if the space of the earth in our natural gas districts does not cave in, producing a tremendous earthquake, that then the crust over the exhausted reservoirs will be blown up by air mixing with the natural gas as the reservoir becomes exhausted. Now any one familiar with the physical conditions of our gas wells knows this to be impossible. As long as the gas wells discharge natural gas under a pressure exceeding that of the air at the mouth of the well (about 15 pounds to the square inch) air cannot get into the gas well to mix with the gas to form an explosive mixture, much less get into the gas reservoir rock from 800 to 2,000 feet below the top of the well. It requires from 9 to 14 volumes of air to one volume of natural gas to produce an explosive mixture, and long before the pressure of the gas could get so low as to permit nine volumes of air to enter the well and gas sand, with one volume of oil gas, both the gas sand and well will have been flooded with water, which would have sealed both the gas sand and the well, preventing the flowing out of any more natural gas until a pressure might be accumulated to exceed the pressure of the water."

Apollinaris

"THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS."

"People cannot hearken too earnestly to the WARNINGS already sounded by medical men against the indiscriminate use of the ALLEGHENY WATER at this time."

"L. N. T. English said: 'It cannot be too long how long the water will be temperate, it may be for months.'"

(Pittsburgh Dispatch, June 4th, 1889.)

"The purity of APOLLINARIS offers the best security against the dangers which are common to most of the ordinary drinking waters." London Medical Record.

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water, which in such a case would rarely take place and absolutely preventing the flowing in of any air.

"The whole proposition as a basis of alarm to the residents of our natural gas districts is simply preposterous and absurd, and the sooner scientists unfamiliar with the facts abandon foolish speculations on the subject the less risk they will run of drawing discredit to their profession and ruining their reputation."

SEMI-SCIENTIFIC SPECULATION.

From the above it will be seen that Mr. Ashburner's sleep isn't disturbed by the Jerseyman's warning. Semi-scientists have from time to time since 1860 imagined many vain things regarding the exhaustion of petroleum. Some have held, as a result of a smattering education on physical science, that infinitely placed petroleum in the bowels of the earth to lubricate the earth's axis and that when human greed had extracted it might refuse to revolve. As the consequence would be dire, they were excusable for entering a protest.

A street preacher, a "Christian Scientist," in 1861, with bowels bursting with compassion for the remains of his ancestors, dilated on the heinousness of using the oil of the "ante-divilians" carcasses for illuminating purposes. In his view there might be some excuse for the Parsees in using it to maintain the sacred fire, but none for American greed which was no more excusable than the practice of the French in making candles out of the tallow of their ancestors found in the catacombs of Paris, a story set afloat by some newspaper romancer about that time.

CLARA BELLE, in to-morrow's DISPATCH, relates in a breezy manner the trials and adventures of a young woman traveling alone.

Marriage Licenses Granted Yesterday.

Name	Residence
Harry Little	Pittsburg
Barbara Steigman	Pittsburg
Alfred Grundmann	Pittsburg
Matilda Arani	Pittsburg

MARRIED.

MANNING-SULLY—On Thursday evening, 20th inst., by the Rev. D. J. Devlin, M. A. M., daughter of John D. Sully, to CHARLES T. MANNING, of Baltimore.

DIED.

BRACKENRIDGE—At her residence, Brackenridge homestead, W. F. R. R., at 4:30 A. M., June 21, PHILLIPINE S. BRACKENRIDGE, relict of the late Benjamin Morgan Brackenridge, aged 50 years.

Funeral services on SUNDAY, June 23, at 2 P. M., at her late residence. Interment private at a later hour. Church train leaves West Penn R. R. depot, Allegheny City, at 12:30 P. M.

BECKER—On Friday morning, June 21, 1889, IDA MAY, youngest daughter of Chris and Lena Becker, aged 8 months and 20 days.

Funeral from parents' residence, No. 80 McClure avenue, Allegheny City, on SATURDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

EBERLE—On Friday, June 21, 1889, at 4:30 P. M., MARY EBERLE, in the 48th year of her age.

Notice of funeral in evening papers.

FERST—On Friday, June 21, at 4:30 A. M., CATHERINE FERST, aged 65 years, 8 months and 28 days.

Funeral takes place from her late residence, No. 12 Grove street, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. Friends of family are respectfully invited to attend.

FINK—On Friday, June 21, 1889, at 10 o'clock A. M., CHRISTIAN FINK, aged 56 years.

Funeral from his late residence, Merrimac avenue, Mount Washington, on SUNDAY, June 23, at 2:30 o'clock P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

GRAHAM—At his residence, No. 45 Irwin avenue, Allegheny City, on Thursday evening, June 20, at 7:20 o'clock, JAMES CROSSAN GRAHAM.

Funeral services at Emmanuel Church, corner North and Allegheny avenues, Allegheny City, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at 2:30 o'clock. Interment private at later hour. Please omit flowers.

HOWARD—Thursday, June 20, 1889, at 7:45 A. M., HARTLEY HOWARD, son of A. U. Howard, aged 20 years.

Funeral services at Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty, on SATURDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. Interment private at later hour.

JONES—At her residence, 1711 Penn avenue, at 4:30 P. M., on June 21, 1889, MATILDA JERRE JONES, aged 22 years.

Notice of funeral in evening papers.

LONG—At Kansas City, June 7, 1889, of typhoid fever, P. M. LONG, son of Mrs. M. J. Long, of Allegheny.

MORAN—On Friday, June 21, 1889, at 4:30 A. M., RICHARD MORAN, in his 56th year.

Funeral from his late residence, No. 18 Mercer street, on SUNDAY, June 23, at 2:30 P. M. Friends of the family are requested to attend.

[New York papers please copy.]

MCFARLAND—On Wednesday, June 19, 1889, at 4:30 P. M., WILLIAM JAY, son of John and Belle McFarland.

Funeral from the residence of his parents at Mansfield, Pa., on SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. All members of the Sister Council and of the St. and Jr. U. U. A. M. are invited to attend.

MILLER—On June 21, 1889, ELIZABETH MILLER, only daughter of John and Annie Miller, Second avenue, Solo.

Funeral on SATURDAY at 2 o'clock.

STEGGERT—On Friday, June 21, 1889, at 4:30 P. M., LILLIAN J., youngest daughter of John and M. L. Stegert, aged 2 years 3 months and 22 days.

Funeral from the residence of her parents, 1904 Lawrence street, on SUNDAY at 3:30 P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

SMITH—On Thursday, June 20, at 6 P. M., MARY JOSEPHINE, daughter of John and the late Annie Smith, aged 6 months and 9 days.

Funeral takes place from grandparents' residence, No. 482 Forbes street, on SATURDAY MORNING, June 22, at 9 o'clock. Friends of family are respectfully invited to attend.

JAMES ARCHIBALD & SONS, LIVERY AND SALE STABLES, 117, 119 and 121 Third avenue, two doors below Smithfield st., next door to Central Hotel. Carriages for funerals, etc. Carriages for opera, parties, etc., at the lowest rates. All new carriages. Telephone communication. my11-17-89

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—AND—

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TO-DAY,

Saturday, June 22.

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This is our final opening for the season, and we have reserved our best attractions for the last. Our floral souvenirs on this occasion will be natural roses. Every lady visiting our stores to-day will have her choice of a White or Red Rose, hence the name

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OUR WHITE OPENING

refers to our special sale of White Goods, Muslins, Linens, Towels, Napkins, Laces, Embroideries, Handkerchiefs, Ladies and Misses' Muslin Underwear, Aprons, Infants' Outfits, Millinery, Ladies and Children's Neckwear, White Chinaware, etc.

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Boggs & Buhl,

115, 117, 119, 121

Federal Street, Allegheny.

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B. & B.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22.

GENTLEMEN—We want to interest you to-day. We solicit your patronage for our departments devoted to your needs and promise you will profit by giving it to us.

Here you find the varieties. Here you find the best. The prices are the lowest.

NECKWEAR.

5c to \$1 50 is the range. Wind-sors, 25c to 50c and 75c. Fisk, Clark & Flagg's Pure Linen 4-in-Hands, 40c. Special adjustable and silk bow at 50c.

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Plenty of those \$1 25 Flannel Shirts now. You never saw their equal under \$1 25.

Our 50c Flannel Shirt (felled seams and yokes) is a bargain. Fine Silk-stripe Flannel, Silk-stripe Cashmere and Pure Silk Shirts up to \$5 each.

For Flannel Blazers see ours. Very select and choice, but not burdened with fancy prices—\$3 50. Caps to match at 50c.

Before we leave Flannels would remind the men and those interested of our extensive Flannel Department.

24-inch English Flannellettes, 10c, 12½c and 20c.

28-inch and 30-inch Tennis Flannels, 12½c to 50c.

33-inch Silk-stripe Flannels at 65c.

36-inch Fancy Stripe Flannel Suits at 50c.

Many persons buy their Flannels and have them made up. We undoubtedly furnish them with the best and most extensive choice and at the lowest prices. Those quoted are very general—meant to be.

UNDERWEAR—100 dozen suits Balbriggans at 50c or 25c a garment—a specialty.

Fine French Balbriggan, 35c, 40c and 50c a garment.

Fine French double finished seam Underwear at 75c. Silk finish Undershirts, 50c.

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Gentlemen buy things when they happen to need them. Many instances in the Umbrellas yesterday, and there will be probably as many more today if the weather is threatening.

There are offers in our Umbrellas to make business even in dry weather.

See that \$2 Gloria Umbrella, 24-inch.

With both go nice alpaca cases, silk cord and tassels. The handles are elaborate and handsome oxidized metal, exact imitation of the \$6 and \$7 line.

There are many other Umbrellas here for ladies and gentlemen, the value and prices of which defy competition.

Night Shirts, plain and fancy, 50c, 75c and \$1.

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Our \$2 and \$3 Unlaundered White Shirt.

New line of fine full dress shirts for to-morrow, open back and front, plain and embroidered bosoms, \$1, \$1 50, \$2.