THE FALSE MESSIAHS

A Number of Recent Instances Where Revelations Have Been Claimed.

DELUSION AND IMPOSTURE.

Bright Men and Women as Well as Ignorant Negroes Duped.

TENNESSEE'S QUEER FANATICS.

A Negro Proclaiming Himself Christ Had Many Followers.

SCORES WORSHIPED FALSE CHRISTS

The Indian is not alone in his expectation of an early appearance of a new Messiah, as numerous instances are on record where, within the last two or three years, the more civilized and better-educated white men and black men of America have professed to have received revelations, and, in some cases, to be the Christ Himself.

It was only in the summer of 1888 that one Patterson, of Tennessee, went around preaching that a wonderful thing was to happen; and when he thought the times were ripe he declared that the second advent of Christ had come, in the person of A. J. Brown, who had served as Patterson's assistant. These two fanatics secured a large following as they went forth preaching their new doctrine, promising to forgive sins and heal all diseases. It was finally announced that Brown must go up into the mountains and fast for 40 days and nights in order that he might be fittingly prepared for the mission intrusted to his hands. He suddenly disappeared, and nothing was seen of him for many days. When the prescribed period had passed, on a Sabbath morning in June, his followers went out toward the hills and suddenly he appeared before them clothed in white, with his hands uplifted. A great shout went up and the people rushed toward him, falling upon their knees and kissing his feet. Many who were ill declared themselves healed by his touch. So great was the fanaticism of these people that one girl declared she was ready to die to prove her faith, and the non-believers around the town of Soddy, where these things happened, became so fearful that human life would be sacrificed that they sent for the Sheriff, at Chattanooga, and it required all his power to compel Patterson and Brown to leave the neighborhood, that quiet might be restored.

COLORED PEOPLE DUPED.

A year later, in 1889, occurred that remarkable series of impositions upon the credulity of the colored people, where one man after another proclaimed himself as the Christ, promised miracles, drew crowds of excited men and women from their labors, and created consternation in those portions of the South where their performances were carried on. In one case a man nearly white, who gave his name as Bell, went among the negroes who lived along the Savannah river and proclaimed himself as the returned Christ, crying out that those who hoped to be saved must give up everything and follow him.

Hundreds believed him, left the cotton fields, the sawmills, and the turpentine stills, and followed Bell, obeying his lightest word and ready to fall down at his feet in worship. So great was the disturbance that the authorities were led to arrest Bell, and when he was taken his followers would have torn his captors to pieces and rescued him had he given the word. He told them to be patient, declaring that an angel would come to him and break his prison doors by night, and that he could not be harmed. As he had some money in his possession he was not held for vagrancy, and although thought not to be in his right mind was soon discharged from custody. He then continued his preaching, followed by even greater crowds than before; announced that the world would come to an end on August 16; that all white men would then turn black and all black men white, and that he could supply all who wished to ascend on the last day with wings at $5 a pair.

When Bell was finally sent to his proper place—an insane asylum—Edward James, a colored Justice of the Peace in the same neighborhood, announced himself as the Messiah and proceeded to put forward claims as extravagant as those of Bell. He repeated the declaration of Bell that the end of the world was coming August 16, preached that money was no longer of any use in the world, and prevented the employers of labor in that section from obtaining needed help. James was finally arrested and sent to the State Insane Asylum at Milledgeville. Yet another negro appeared in Cherokee county with the same pretensions; another in Camden, and a woman in Brunswick attempted the performance of miracles. In each of these cases the excitement was short-lived, but fanatical ignorance was provided in sufficient portions to make trouble while it lasted.

THE SCHWEINFURTH CRAZE.

A very marked example of imposition upon the one side and blind credulity upon the other, the basis being a claim of the visible Christhood in the flesh, is furnished in the career of George J. Sweinfurth, at Rockford, Ill. In the cases above cited the claimants were obscure and ignorant men, while the dupes were of the lowliest among the freedmen, who were guided only by their emotions and had no help from culture and education, either in themselves or in the community around them. Vastly different was the Rockford delusion, springing up in the most intelligent section of the West, at the behest of the wife of a Congregational minister, who preached that in her own person were the attributes of the risen Lord. It is some 16 years since Mrs. Dora Beckman advanced this claim, and her followers were at first few in number, but they were strong in faith, and they located their church at Bryan, near Rockford, and went zealously to work. Mr. Beckman, not believing in the new doctrine, was torn by conflicting doctrines until finally he found relief in insanity and an asylum.

Among the converts finally came Schweinfurth, a young Methodist minister of pleasing address and appearance and of some mental power. He was soon installed as Bishop and sent forth upon mission labor. After a time, as in the case of Ann Lee, the founder of Shakerism, Mrs. Beckman's claim of immortal life was disproved by her death, and the shrewd Bishop stepped into the breach, declaring that the divine spirit had passed from their former leader to himself. The claim was allowed, and to-day he is worshiped by hundreds, not merely as the Christ returned to the flesh, but as the maker and ruler of the earth as well.

These claims, made in the open light of the nineteenth century and allowed by people who have the means of finding the truth by a little investigation, show that men are about what they always have been, and furnish an excuse for the wonderful spiritual impostors of the past. The various performances of the Faith Cures might also be cited in illustration of the same point.

MANY SIMILAR INSTANCES.

The impositions and vagaries above mentioned have been the performances of a class, and to enumerate all the religious fanaticisms and delusions of individuals recorded in America even in the last two years would demand an unreasonable expansion of space. One noted instance was that of Mrs. Pauline King, the colored woman of Oakridge Park, Ill., who advertised that, as she fasted 40 days, she would publicly turn water into wine, as had been done at the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee. When the people had gathered on the appointed day she had a jar filled with water from a neighboring well; led in a hymn, and prayed, and then tested the contents of the jar and found nothing but water; and her leadership was gone, even though her faith remained.

A brother and sister named Boland at High Prarie, Kan., became so excited at a religious revival that they went home and built a fire on the floor of their house, danced around it, and would have burned to death had not the neighbors come to the rescue. John Kuhnl, a quiet laborer in a Wisconsin cheese factory, could not convert his room mate, and so he killed him, because he would be better dead than alive; cut out his heart to see if it was black, and buried it separately from the rest of the body, that it might not cause the whole body to go to hell. The people of a certain portion of North Carolina were greatly stirred up early this year by the preaching of a number of Baptist ministers that the world would come to an end before the end of the year. In Alabama certain churches of the Shermanite denomination had the end set for a certain day in February, and when it arrived they met at their various places of worship and spent the forenoon in singing and praying, and only went home when sunset showed them that some one made a serious miscalculation in the date.

DRINKERS OF HUMAN BLOOD.

Early in 1888 one Silas Wilcox made his appearance in Western Missouri, preaching but one doctrine—the care of the sick. Of course, he soon gathered a little band around him, the members of which took unto themselves the name Samaritans. As his influence extended his creed expanded, and he finally declared that the drinking of blood would heal all manner of diseases, because the Bible declared that the blood was the life. In many cases children were found who had been bled that their elders might be restored, and the strong arm of the law had to be evoked before the practice was suppressed. Before the Rev. Stephen Nolan, of Kentucky, died, in January last, he declared that he had had three bodily visitations from Christ. In Indiana, in April, Clyde Long, a boy of 17, declared that he was Christ, and must be crucified. He erected a cross and begged to be nailed upon it, and when refused took a knife and cut himself in a fearful manner.

Another instance was that remarkable exodus from Oakland, Cal., last April, when Mrs. Woodworth prophesied that many cities would be buried by earthquakes and tidal waves on the 14th, and many persons became so impressed that they packed their goods into wagons and fled to the hills, where they sat down to wait for the destruction that never came. Patrick Gorman set out to starve himself in a Connecticut jail because, he said, God had ordered him so to do, and for many days kept it resolutely up. William Thompson, of Kansas, attended Adventist meetings in El Dorado to such purpose that he went home and attempted to put his family out of the world a little before the end that he believed was near, but was overpowered and kept under restraint until the excitement wore away.

COULD CURE BY TOUCH.

James Baily was arrested in Alabama only three months ago for obtaining money from the colored people upon the pretense that he was high priest of the queen of heaven and could cure an ill by a touch. Mrs. Sullivan, of Springfield, O., became exceedingly devout, sat up at night and read her Bible, talked and thought of nothing but religion, and finally constructed an altar in her house, upon which she prepared to sacrifice her 6-month-old babe. She stripped it naked, placed it upon the altar and reached for a knife, when the opportune entrance of other persons saved its life.

In October the newspapers told the fearful story of that religious-crazed son and daughter in Michigan who determined that their bedridden mother needed to be baptized, and poured water over her until she died. Mrs. Woodworth, who was responsible for the Oakland exodus, moved her tent to St. Louis and for weeks kept up a scene of religious frenzy, scores falling unconscious each evening, seeing visions, receiving communications from the dead, and being cured of physical evils.

None of these events—and scores of like characters might be added—bears testimony against true and reasonable religion, but they plainly show what human belief can be led to, and the harm that can be done by unscrupulous or misguided men and women. The recent Indian craze is only a portion of that mysterious wave that has swept over the human emotions from the beginning of time—the Indian showing that he is neither stronger nor weaker than his brother of other hues.

CHEWING STALE GUM.

A Teacher Condemns the Habit as Injurious to the System.

"Gum chewing may be good for indigestion," remarked a school teacher yesterday, "but I think it is injurious to chew the same piece a second time. I have seen girls, when called to recite, pull out a big wad and slap it against a chair or desk, and when they have finished their recitations deliberately pull off the elastic stuff, taking paint and all from the woodwork, and resume the chewing operation on the entire mass. But I do not object so much to the paint and dirt, which are comparatively not injurious, but after the gum has been mauled for a time between the teeth it becomes impregnated with saliva and other substances which soon decay. The color of the gum, if you will notice, becomes blue, and then it is really harmful to chew it. It is not necessary for one to be a physician to understand my meaning. It must be patent to everybody without going into details. It is always well to leave something to the imagination.

"Some claim that chewing gum excessively makes people thin. Possibly it does, but oh, Lord, deliver me from the man or woman who will grind the same piece over and over again until it is reeking."

NAMING HIS FORCE.

County Controller-Elect Greer Makes His Appointment of Clerks.

James A. Greer, County Controller-elect, yesterday made his appointments of clerks in his office. They are: D. W. McBryar, of Elizabeth, chief clerk; Robert R. Moore, of Sharpsburg, bookkeeper; John M. Aderson, Fourteenth ward, bond clerk; E. N. Randolph, Twenty-first ward, register clerk; F. W. Edwards, Braddock township, docket clerk.

FOR breaking up a cold use Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, which subdues the inflammation and heals the soreness, relieving throat and lungs.

Fifty Per Cent Increase the Past Year

Shows plainer than all else where we stand in public estimation. We will not send out any but strictly first-class beers and ales. Families supplied direct.

THE IRON CITY BREWING COMPANY, Telephone 1186.

Original Ideas.

Kennedy always has a new notion of something to serve at eucher parties, receptions, teas, etc. When preparing for entertaining go and see him. Sixth and Duquesne way. TTSU

Ready for Christmas.

Fresh shipments each day, now, of Royal Dresden, Coalton, Crown Derby, Doulton, Royal Worcester and Royal Stafford in new shapes and decorations.

DURBIN & MCWATTY, Jewelers and Silversmiths, 53 Fifth avenue.

TuSu

Now is the Time.

To have your pictures taken and avoid the holiday rush. Cabinet photos $1 00 per dozen. Life size crayon portraits, with handsome frames, $7 00.

LIES' POPULAR GALLERY, 10, 12 Sixth st

TTSU

BARGAINS in dress goods from 25c a yard upward during our great holiday and clearing sale. [TTSSu] HUGUS & HACKE.

DECEMBER PLANETS.

There is Now No Rival to Jupiter in the Heavenly Skies

OF INTEREST TO ASTRONOMERS.

A Pretty Picture at the Conjunction of Planets This Month.

THE POSITION OF MARS AND SATURN

The sun gets to the extreme southern limit of its journey December 21 and astronomical winter begins. This point in his course is called the solstice, and, as the word implies, the sun seems to stand still for a few days before starting north to ripen both our wits and our crops. Months will pass, however, before we can appreciate the increase in light and heat, and we shall, no doubt, have practical proof of the old saying that as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen.

In the days of the old heathen nations the year began when the sun started north, says a writer in the New York *Times*. It was the jubilee of the year to their simple natures, the long-looked-forward-to hour when, with music, dancing and festive offerings, they paid homage to the rude deities they worshiped, and in whose power they had implicit faith. To them the sun was the great representative deity, and the winter solstice the time peculiarly devoted to religious worship. Our own festivities and thanksgivings at Christmas time are no more genuine than were the simple faith and trust that were symbolized by the observances of the ancients at the time when old Sol turned his face northward. December 11 there is a central eclipse of the sun, which is the last for the year, but which is of little interest to us, as we can see nothing of it. People living in the latitude of Auckland or Mauritius will have a fine chance for observation, and our scientists will have to depend upon their observations for additional data.

THE CONJUNCTIONS.

The last quarter of the present moon is on December 4, the new moon comes on the 11th, first quarter on the 18th, and full moon on Christmas. The age of the moon at the beginning of the year gives us the exact number, 20, which in the church calendar is a very important number to remember. The moon is in conjunction with a planet when the center of the moon and the center of the planet are in the same right ascension or longitude. The moon at that time may be, and generally is, north or south of the planet. The conjunctions for the month begin with Saturn on the 4th and end with the same planet on the last day of the year. Neither of these is sufficiently close to attract particular attention. The second conjunction is with Uranus on the 8th, but, as we can seldom see the planet, this meeting also has but little significance. Venus is too close to the sun when her turn comes, and Mercury can be included in the same remark. December 15 and 16, however, there will be a conjunction with Jupiter and with Mars, and, if the evenings are bright and clear, there will be a very pretty picture. Although the celestial bodies are not very close together, their positions in relation to each other afford a fine tableau.

The full moon in December is high in northern declination, so that for two or three nights we shall have its round, smiling face throughout the night. It was only a few weeks ago that in the midst of the peculiar tint of yellow green so brilliant in the western sky soon after the sun had touched the horizon Venus could be seen shining serene and bright, but gradually it faded from view, as getting nearer and nearer the sun it was absorbed by the more powerful light. Almost the entire year Venus has proved the chief attraction of the evening planets. We have watched it emerge from the glare of the sunlight, challenge Jupiter, and, coming out triumphant from the contest, reign unrivaled in the most brilliant gem in the celestial vault. But, like the ball secured to the end of a rubber and thrown out from the hand to return to it on the rebound, so Venus, having receded to its limit—about 45 degrees—from the sun, is drawn by irresistible force back once again toward the center of the solar system, with which it is in inferior conjunction on the 3d.

VENUS, JUPITER AND MARS.

According to the ancients, Venus had two names—Hesperus when it was evening star, and Phosphorus when it was morning star. As it now joins the latter group and will be west of the sun, we shall next see it appear in the east before sunrise, where it will shine long after the rest of night's candles have burned out. Venus's diameter is getting smaller and smaller, and a year hence it will hardly be one-sixth its present size. At the beginning of December the planet will be found in the constellation of the Scorpion.

Jupiter is now without a rival in the evening sky and can be seen just before the sun disappears. He is well south in declination and is coming to our meridian earlier and earlier as the distance it has separates him from the sun is gradually lessening. About the middle of February the two will be in conjunction, and when next we see the giant planet it will be as morning star. He is chasing Venus, and early in April he will overtake and pass her. The conjunction will be close and interesting, although it will be somewhat too early in the morning for the majority of star gazers. The right ascension of Jupiter on the 1st is 20 hours 44 minutes, his declination is 18 degrees 54 minutes south, and he is to be found in the constellation of Capricorn.

Mars, whose approach to Jupiter and departure from that planet formed so interesting a study for several weeks, is also an evening star. At present he is not quite three-quarters of an hour behind his neighbor, but before the month closes the interval will be increased to almost to one hour and three-quarters, and will continue to get wider and wider in the course of the coming year. Just at present there is no heavenly body that gives rise to more speculation as to its composition, inhabitants, artificial charges, and so forth, than Mars. Scientists await with impatience the approach of the planet to a favorable location for observation in order that if possible some light may be thrown on many of the vexed questions that are dividing our astronomers into factions and producing the wildest speculations as to what really does exist upon the surface of our warlike neighbors.

POSITION OF URANUS.

Neptune and Uranus are at so very great a distance that they fail to attract the attention of the amateur student of the evening skies. We are denied our usual monthly privilege of finding Uranus by his proximity to the moon, as at the time of conjunction the waning moon is not visible in the evening. Uranus was at first thought to be a star, but closer observations of its disc showed that it was not a star; so it was then taken for a comet, and a study of its orbit was made. This resulted in its being proved a planet, whose nearest distance to the sun was at least 14 times that of the earth from the sun.

Mercury is evening star, and as he is growing larger and getting further from the sun we shall be able to see him in the southwestern skies shortly after sunset a little to the southward of the point at which the sun disappears. The spring of the year is more favorable for seeing the planet than the autumn; but if one looks steadily at the point referred to he will find Mercury shining with a brilliant white light, brighter than any fixed star, except Sirius. It does not seem so bright as it really is, because it can never be seen except when very near the horizon; then, too, its brilliancy varies considerably, owing to the great eccentricity of its orbit and the great changes in its distance from the earth.

Saturn is now the fair star that gems the glittering corsolet of morn. He rises about six hours in advance of the sun, and is larger and more beautiful than at any time since the early months of the year. He is in the constellation of the Lion, not very far from the brightest star of that group, Regulus. Early risers will find him well up in the northeast section of the heavens, where his brightness renders him unmistakable, and not to be confounded with any twinkler in his vicinity. Saturn is twice in conjunction with the moon in the course of the month.

BRILLIANT DECEMBER STARS.

The December heavens have many of the most brilliant stars of the firmament. Some of the summer groups we miss, but their places as points of attraction are filled by others of equal interest, although we may have to look in some other position of the sky to find them. An interesting discovery was made a few months ago in the constellation of the Great Bear, or, as we more familiarly call it, the Dipper. Mizar, the middle star of the three forming the handle, is of the second magnitude, and even to the naked eye is observed to be double. Alcor, its partner, is of the fifth magnitude, and the Arabs considered it a good test of the eyesight to discern the pair. Prof. Pickering, of Harvard, found by the telescope that Mizar itself is double at regular periods of 52 days and the inference is that Mizar consists of two immense suns revolving around each other, sometimes appearing as one and sometimes as two stars. The period of revolution of each sun around the common center of gravity is estimated at 104 days and their maximum velocity is 100 miles a second.

As we look toward the south we see high up toward the zenith the three stars forming the head of Aries (the Ram). Aries is one of the constellations of the Zodiac and was formerly the first of the 12, but the same change that has shifted the pole from the Dragon to the Little Bear has shifted the Ram from its former position. The constellation Ariadnus is seen to the left of the south, passing on a winding course, such as a river would follow, to the southern horizon. In the east are the Lesser Dog, the Twins, the Charioteer, and, approaching the point overhead, the stars of Perseus. Orion has passed over to the east-southeast, and above his head lie the principal stars of the Bull. Sirius and Procyon, Betelgeux and Rigel, Aldebaran and Capella, all beautiful stars of the first magnitude, are visible in the eastern heavens, as are also gems of lesser brilliancy, such as Bellatrix, Castor and Pollux, while to the westward there are Pegasus, Andromeda, Aquarius, and Cygnus, and still lower down the smaller constellations of Equuleus and Delphinus.

A YEAR'S CHARITY.

Annual Meeting of the Pittsburg Society for the Improvement of the Poor—The Old Officers All Re-Elected — Anniversary Meeting Next Sunday.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Improvement of the Poor, its friends and contributors, was held yesterday afternoon in their rooms, on Sixth avenue. The President, Mrs. W. A. Herron, occupied the chair. The Secretary and Superintendent of the association, Mrs. S. E. Lippincott, read the reports of the work done during the past year, showing an increase in the number of applicants for charity, an extension of the field of work and the successful accomplishment of their labor in relieving want and distress. The donations of money and the contributions of food and clothing were all reported, and manifested the hearty support of the charitable. The reports of the association proper, the temporary home and of the disposal of the fresh air fund were all approved.

The old officers were re-elected as follows: Mrs. Herron, President; Mrs. Theo. Ewing, Mrs. L. M. Harding and Mrs. William Thaw, Vice Presidents; Mrs. S. E. Lippincott, Secretary and Superintendent, and Miss A. L. Wilmarth, Assistant Superintendent, a new office. The present Board of Managers was re-elected, and Mrs. Lawrence Dilworth was chosen to fill the place made vacant by the death of Mrs. W. P. Shinn.

The anniversary meeting of the association will be held next Sabbath evening at 7:45 o'clock in Rev. E. Belfour's First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Grant street, near Sixth avenue. The addresses will be made by Rev. John H. Prugh and Rev. E. Belfour. The reports of the association will then be read and given to the public.

THE CHIEF'S CASE AGAIN.

Evidence of the Prosecution Against Robert Jones Heard Yesterday Morning—A Large Slice of Testimony Ruled Out—More to Come To-Morrow.

The adjourned hearing in the case of Chief Jones, of Allegheny, charged by William Winn with certain irregularities, was called up yesterday and after several witnesses were examined the defense rested and the case was postponed until to-morrow morning.

Ex-Chief of Police Kirschler stated that numerous reports were made of boxes being out of order and false runs being made; that the box which gave the most trouble was No. 224, the one the Chief is charged with having pulled. Turnkey Hamilton testified that he sent the wagon to box 224 a number of times, but it always proved a false run. He says he complained to Chief Jones but got no satisfaction.

Controller James Brown produced the original voucher for $200, dated December 1, 1889, made out to William Winn, and signed by Robert Jones that the work had been done.

Officer William McKelvey, of the police force, formerly drove the patrol wagon, and said he had answered numerous false runs, but did not know the reason.

City Clerk White was called, but Mayor Wyman ruled out the testimony wanted from him, and the hearing adjourned.

PAYING INJURED FIREMEN.

Warrants on the Disability Fund Ordered Drawn by the Board.

The Disability Board met yesterday and ordered warrants drawn on the disability fund in favor of the following firemen who have sustained injuries during the past month:

Peter Wilkinson, injured by falling stack at brickyard fire, Nineteenth ward.

John Langdon, nail in foot at the same fire as above.

Bryce Feester, struck by a ladder answering an alarm.

John Keenan, ankle sprained answering an alarm.

Joseph Hook, caught and squeezed between truck and hose carriage at a fire.

John Gillespie, injured by a fall.

The Secretary, Crosby Gray, reported that the balance on hand to date was $14,853 67.

A RAILROAD DEAL.

The Burlington Secures the Dubuque, Iowa and Davenport.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA., Dec. 1.—For some time there have been rumors to the effect that the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern road had secured control of the Dubuque, Iowa and Davenport road. Officials of the Burlington road confirm the report. The former line buys the bonds of the latter company, takes with them the stock held by the bondholders and assumes control of the road under a lease.

Be on Time!

Excellent advice always. Adopt it in the treatment of kidney and bladder inactivity and you will avoid danger. Healthfully, but moderately, impel these organs, if sluggish, to act by the early use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, no less a diuretic than a tonic and general alterative. Don't forget, also, the timely aid it affords when malarial, liver and rheumatic complaints manifest themselves.

See Our $5 Pattern Bonnets

And hats that sold at $8 to $15.

HORNE & WARD, 41 Fifth avenue,

BARGAINS in lace curtains; 200 pairs Nottingham lace curtains reduced from $6 50 to $3 75 per pair during our clearing sale.

TTSSu HUGUS & HACKE.

26-Inch Gloria

Cover, natural wood handle, the best value ever shown at $1 25; 28 in. same at $1 50.

HORNE & WARD, 41 Fifth avenue.

THE NEW CONDITION

Of Economy That is Confronting the People of This Country,

AND THE ATTENTION IT CLAIMS.

Phenomena of Business Life Present Methods Have Resulted In.

A PEACEFUL MOVEMENT UNDER WAY

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—"For ten years I have not known a season so dull as this one has been, extending over the last three months," said a business man to me to-day.

"I appears to me the people have stopped eating and drinking," said the keeper of the restaurant where I sometimes take a frugal luncheon.

"I have a piece of real estate for which I paid $40,000 a year ago, and everybody thought I had a bargain," said a wealthy and shrewd real estate dealer this afternoon. "I attempted the other day to borrow $10,000 on this piece of property and was refused by men who had money to loan in any sum a few months ago. I went to the banks and got the same reply. They were not loaning any money, but were calling in their loans."

So goes the story all around. Everybody has the same cry. There is more money in the country than there has been at any time within its history, but it is hoarded in the banks, in holes and corners, in old stockings, and all for fear of a panic. The fellow who has no property to lose, and not more than $500 to his name, and who has a small but assured salary, hangs on to that $500 as though he too would go down in the crash if a crash were to come. It is this timidity that is making way for a panic. The banks, institutions that are so convenient for the transaction of the business of the world, are, by their course, contributing more than all other influences to the very climax they say they wish to avert, by refusing to lend money on good securities to those to whom they have been accustomed to lend. They say they must be secured against a possible "run," and to secure themselves they are driving borrowers, which is nearly everybody, to the wall and hastening the very thing all would avoid.

ROOT OF THE MATTER.

This is only a natural result of methods of doing business. It is secondary. The root of the matter lies far back of that. The chastisement of the result may lead us to look more closely into the mysteries of the cause. We may not have a panic. Let us all hope we will not. But we have already had so bad a fright that we must be sobered from our dissipation of speculation sufficiently to try to get at the beginning of these evil episodes of business life.

When a house like the Baring Brothers, 200 years old, without a taint upon its name, is saved from ruin only by the extraordinary, not to say astounding, proceeding of being assisted out of its "hole" by rival banks, and even by the world-renowned Bank of England, the most indifferent must be led to pause and ask if there is no safer way of producing and distributing the requirements of life than that way which is as sure to produce frequent periods of elation and as many corresponding periods of depression as the sun is sure to rise and set.

These phenomena of business life have grown immensely with the growth of modern methods of doing business, modern appliances, which induce rapid transactions, the craze of competition and speculation, which is a natural lunacy of the conditions, and the concentration of money power which enables a few individuals to absolutely control the ebb and flow of trade of a country.

NEW SCHOOL OF ECONOMY.

These prosaic remarks are a word of prelude to the statement that the new practical economy is rapidly producing a new school of theoretical economists that are, with amazing rapidity, revolutionizing the economical thought of the world. Even this statement is a "chestnut," so fast are we rushing toward great political changes.

It is but a few years since the Grangers and the Greenbackers, backed in a way by some of the labor organizations, were merely actuated by blind hatred of "monopolists," and expected relief from some rearrangement of the financial system. They had no conception of the primal cause of the evils they complained of. They would not listen to a suggestion that the only hope lay in the people taking and operating the means of production and distribution for themselves. The labor organizations looked upon their employers as their natural and implacable enemy, and their whole study was to circumvent in some way their masters and prevent a depression and seek an increase of wages.

Here in the national capital is perhaps the best place in the country to study the progress of the philosophical economic thought that ignores all half way suggestions, that cares nothing for measures of mere temporary relief. Here are the official representatives of all of the organizations of the discontented, watching every movement of the national legislators, suggesting occasionally something palliative, but always with the argument that it is only palliative, and never concealing for a moment that it is their aim to induce the Government, in other words the people, to take the grand machinery which is now in the hands of the monopolists, and employ it for the good of the whole mass without profit or charge, except for the purpose of covering expenses of operating.

INTELLIGENCE OF THE DISCONTENTED.

"Look at the headquarters of all these people," said a member of Congress, as we walked to the Capitol to-day. "Here are the Knights of Labor, the Federation of Labor, the Farmers' Alliance, and even the local organizations of the working people have their "legislative committees," which haunt the Capitol during every session and take a hand in everything that bears upon their interests; and they are beginning to find out that pretty nearly everything bears upon their interests. And what a lot of well-informed fellows they are! There are not half a dozen Congressmen out of the whole body that can talk as intelligently on economical questions as these representatives of the discontented classes.

"Now, I am known as a sort of a crank on these subjects, simply because I have made it a point to study the tendency of the times, and I tell you that I would not be surprised to see a revolution in political feeling within the next two years that will put into the Presidential chair a man in perfect sympathy with the idea of the Government conducting the banking and money-loaning business of the country, and committed to the acquirement immediately of the great trunk lines of railroads and telegraphs. I do not say that he will be the nominee of the farmers and workingmen's organizations, but I believe both of the old parties will be forced to adopt plat-orms and pledge themselves to these and other ideas that are thought to be basic and reformatory, and that the Congress and administration then brought into power, no matter of which party, will be compelled to take prompt steps in the direction of the new economy.

"A great financial crash would help the cause of these people amazingly, and I would not be surprised to see that crash come soon. Should that occur it would be impossible for the country to recover from the effects before the next national election, and either the old parties would be overwhelmed as a result, or pledged to carry out all of the ideas of the progressists, as we might call these people.

A MOVEMENT OF PEACE.

"Let me tell you moreover," continued the frank Congressman, who is a real being and not one of my imagination, as you might be led to suspect; "let me tell you that this new economical movement is not only one that seeks to go to the root of things and do everything in an equitable and scientific manner, but it is one of peace. Look at the Socialists in my State of New York. A few years ago we looked upon them as a howling mob, without aim or reason. Now we find them opposing strikes as the machinery of waste and misery; opposing violence, as productive of reaction, retarding rather than accelerating the movement, taking up a State ticket and gaining for it about 12,000 votes.

"The most radical and aggressive element advocates no other means of redress than the ballot. They abuse neither employers nor monopolists, who, they recognize, are merely products of the conditions. 'Change the conditions which produce these evils,' they say, 'and the abnormal things will disappear of themselves.' Let it once be understood that these new economists are philosophers and not cut-throats, and see how they will grow.

"I tell you," concluded my Congressman, "we are on the eve of changes to which the war and its results will bear no comparison, and the present deep depression of trade, the whole financial world trembling for fear of a crash, is one of the supreme factors that are hastening us toward the change; for the situation must compel even a fool to try to invent some better method than the present of satisfying the demands of humanity."

E. W. L.

NO DECISION YET.

The Settlement of a Vexed Question to be Made—Oil-Boring Companies and Their Duties as to the Disposal of Salt Water.

An erroneous impression prevails quite extensively regarding the suits against the oil-boring companies that allow salt water to escape and get into surrounding springs, well and streams. New trials being refused in a number of cases by Judge Ewing where judgment had been gotten, and executions having been ordered made, some people think the decisions were final and that an extensive salivation of the companies would begin at once.

The fact is that the Supreme Court has not yet made a deliverance, and will not before the January term. There was one case taken up, and it remains to be seen whether or no the supreme tribunal will regard it as it did the case of the Pennsylvania Coal Company against the lady in Scranton. There it was held that the work of coal mining being necessary a company could not be held liable for the pollution of streams where the overflow from the shaft or mine was allowed to follow the natural outlet. Justice Clark, in the opinion rendered, however, did not undertake to say that if pollution interfered with the enjoyment and health of a large community the case would be united on the same principle as in the case under consideration, and Judge Ewing intimated in these oil-boring-salt-water caser, that as the strata and trend of subterranean streams was better understood now than formerly, and as there was evidence to show that the mischief complained of might have been obviated by an expenditure of $50 to $250, the offending company might be required to make that expenditure or be mulcted for the consequences of refusal.

It is supposed that the cases noted in which the execution was ordered will be appealed also.

WORKING ON OVERTIME.

Judges Collier and Slagle Hearing a Celebrated Braddock Case.

Judges Collier and Slagle made each an hour and a half overtime, in the Common Pleas, yesterday, listening to the contention between the Braddock and Turtle Creek Electric Railway Company and the borough of Braddock. This is the "home protection" company that knocked out all competitors, one hot night last summer, and there has been considerable bad blood in the borough since, and the fact that a rival company has since obtained right of way on another street, has not been an emollient.

The borough claims the power to supervise the putting up of the poles and fix the location thereof, at least in the case of three of them, and the B. & T. E. R. R. Co. denies the jurisdiction of the Street Committee in the premises. The committee insists that three certain poles must be placed diagonally, as it is contended that if they are not they will injure some business property. The company claims that the zigzag placing of the poles will interfere with the working of the line, and to this the borough answers that there are parallel cases on lines of other roads, and they are managed without trouble, and finally, that the borough has the same power to superintend the placing of the poles as it has the laying of the rails.

Messrs Rodgers and Gost appeared for the Company, and Borough Solicitor A. B. Stevenson for the borough. The argument will be continued to-day.

PAYING FOR DRINKS.

Supplementary Assessment of the Water Bureau for the Present Year.

The supplementary report of the Bureau of Water Assessments was filed with the Controller by Superintendent George Miller yesterday, and the City Treasurer is now receiving the taxes therefor. The total amount from the 23 wards is $12,314 25. The report shows a gratifying increase in the revenues of the city, for, while the Finance Committee only estimated $540,000 as the receipts from the Water Assessment Bureau in the preparation of the appropriation ordinance for this year, the regular assessment footed up over $630,000, the supplementary adds $12,314 25, and there have been received in cash nearly $10,000 from water rent of contractors who used water in the work of erecting new buildings. It is expected that the actual receipts from the Water Assessment Bureau will run nearly $100,000 over the estimate before the end of the present fiscal year.

The various wards contributed to the supplementary assessment as follows:

1st ward	$2,228 00	13th ward	$ 846 75
2d ward	210 50	14th ward	706 50
3d ward	822 00	15th ward	266 75
4th ward	184 75	16th ward	469 25
5th ward	51 00	17th ward	313 00
6th ward	289 00	18th ward	240 75
7th ward	32 75	19th ward	955 25
8th ward	332 00	20th ward	840 25
9th ward	1,207 50	21st ward	766 00
10th ward	33 50	22d ward	259 75
11th ward	487 75	23d ward	428 00
12th ward	359 25		
		Total	$12,314 25

THE LION-SLAYER'S VICTIM.

He Reaches Out and Gathers in an One-Eared Rabbit.

There is a lion-slaying ape at a local museum which knows a good thing when he sees it. A strong iron box brought him to this city, where he was resting yesterday preparatory to being transferred to the large cage which is to be his home while on exhibition. The front of the iron box is covered with steel bars, with an opening of about two inches between each, in order that the lion slayer may get a little air. In the Zoological Garden where the cage rested dwelt two rabbits, remarkable for the fact that each of them was minus an ear. They were quite tame, and as a consequence were allowed to roam around the room at will.

One of them roamed a little too near the cage of the lion slayer yesterday. There was a long black paw quickly extended outward; there was a wild screech that alarmed all the animals of the house, as well as the humans. Fur showered in the air for an instant; there was a crunching of bones, and then all was still. The great jaws of the monster closed, and he rested serenely in his cage. A museum manager now mourns the loss of his pet; the lion slayer had swallowed the little rabbit whole.

CATTLE THIEVES LYNCHED.

Two Men Strung Up by a South Dakota Vigilance Committee.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 1.—The *Journal's*, Chamberlain, S. D., correspondent, says: Two men living on Bad river were lynched by a vigilance committee several days ago. Cattle stealing has been going on, and investigation pointed to the squaw men as the guilty parties. The vigilance committee has been carrying matters with a high hand for some time, and there is considerable excitement.

SAME AS PITTSBURG.

The Granite State Provident Branch in Cleveland Also

SEEMS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

The Stockholders Devising Means to Recover Their Money.

EASTERN OFFICE TO BE INVESTIGATED

CLEVELAND, Dec. 1.—Last Tuesday the Cleveland office of the Granite State Provident Association was locked by the agents, Max Fuerst and Maurice Maitus, to be reopened by a keeper from a justice court. A number of attachment suits were brought by stockholders of the local branch of the association and other persons against the agents, who disappeared. The agents came here four or five months ago, rented an office in the Blackstone building, hired a stenographer, and bought fine furniture. Then they began business, and in the course of a few months, by plausible talk, induced 316 persons to subscribe for shares of stock.

The association was ostensibly organized to present and operate a "mutual benefit" plan in the form of a rent purchase of property. By its methods it was promised that any person who could pay rent for a house could easily pay for and own a home. All persons desiring to join the association were to make application for stock and pay monthly dues for six months from the date of the certificates of shares before being entitled to apply for property. An illustration will serve best to show the plan of operation. Five shares would purchase, in time, property worth $800, the member paying $10 monthly. For the first six months $1 per month on each share was paid, and at

THE END OF THAT TIME

the stockholder was to borrow $800 for building a house. After the money was loaned him he paid $2 a share per month. The total expense of obtaining an $800 loan was $930, payable monthly in installments as explained.

The agents here appear to have done a good business, and 316 stockholders were obtained. It is claimed that about $12,000 has been paid to the agents in monthly dues. The headquarters of the association are in Manchester, N. H., but since the disappearance of the agents nothing has been heard from the home office, and the stockholders have become anxious to learn if their money has been invested in a bona fide institution, or if they have been defrauded. To discuss the situation a meeting of the local branch shareholders was held in the office in the Blackstone block yesterday afternoon. Nearly 200 stockholders expressed their interest by attending the meeting, which was held with closed doors.

J. F. Grether was elected chairman and J. C. Foster secretary. The first business transacted was to adopt a vigorous rule to exclude newspaper reporters. The justice's keeper, W. H. Hudson, was appointed sergeant-at-arms and ordered to guard the door and plug up the keyholes. A statement issued by the home office on September 1, 1890, showing the assets of the association to be $116,969 06, was read by Stockholder Kessell. Somebody asked if anybody knew that there was such an institution as a home office or a chartered association. Nobody knew, but one or two th