

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

The New York Tribune explains the received theories of electricity and the use of lightning rods in an able and extended article, from which we condense as follows:

The most important law of electricity is that it seeks to a state of equilibrium; that is, if we consider it a fluid, it tends to diffuse in equal proportions throughout all matter; or, if we choose to adopt the theory of two distinct fluids, then that these two fluids tend to unite in equal proportions everywhere. When electricity is so diffused, or (if there be two fluids) when they are so united, no electrical effects are observable, and there is then a state of rest or equilibrium. But this state of rest is constantly disturbed by the operations of nature—by evaporation, changes in temperature, friction, motion of all kinds, even the movement of our bodies; and currents of electricity are immediately set in motion to neutralize the disturbance. These currents may be of such low tension as to admit of detection only by the aid of the most delicate apparatus; or they may be developed with such spasmodic irregularity and force as to interfere with the use of the telegraph, or again, with such constancy of direction and tension as to be made use of in sending messages on the wires. Finally, in a state of extreme tension, they exhibit themselves in the form of explosions or discharges of lightning.

The insulation of lightning rods is not only an absurdity, but is a grave error; because the insulator, to some extent, arrests the flow of currents of electricity, which it is intended to conduct to the ground. On the other hand, the insulator amounts to nothing as a barrier against a discharge of lightning, which can either pass through the insulator or leap the short distance between the rod and building.

Lightning-rod men frequently refer to the insulation of telegraph wires as showing the necessity of insulating lightning rods. This is entirely wrong, for the telegraph wires are insulated to prevent the currents from taking the shortest course from pole to pole of the lightning-rod; whereas the purpose of a lightning-rod is to promote the restoration of the equilibrium as rapidly as possible. If the rod were insulated, it would be a barrier against the discharge of lightning, which can either pass through the insulator or leap the short distance between the rod and building.

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To prevent a discharge from leaving the rod and passing through the building, something must be done that will attempt to keep it out of erecting such a flimsy and insignificant barrier. The rod must be arranged so as to present points for the reception and discharge of electricity at the extremities of the building, both above and below, and the different terminations in the ground must be connected by rods lying outside the roof, so that lightning can be provided with a path in a horizontal direction; which, being continuous, will be preferred to any series of detached masses of conducting matter contained within the building.

In constructing and application, lightning rods should be simple, substantial and durable; and any metal is sufficiently good conductor for this purpose. If a rod of any metal be rightly connected and judiciously applied, there is no danger of a discharge of lightning leaving it for any less perfect conductor within the building, and it is only those substances which are poorer conductors than the metal that are injured by the passage of electricity upon them.

Every one can understand why the upper extremity of a rod is pointed, and on reflection should easily perceive the usefulness of other points at intervals along the line of the rod. The operation of the points is substantially the same whether the currents of electricity are flowing from the earth to the atmosphere and clouds, or vice versa; and those currents tend to circulate with the greatest rapidity and intensity just previous to a discharge of lightning. The lightning-rod, therefore, should have an intimate connection with all matter in the vicinity, and be so contrived as to have the greatest attainable capacity to promote and facilitate the circulation of electricity, so far as possible, to forestall the discharge by restoring the equilibrium silently.

State Politics. The Bellenciose Republican says: We take it for granted that Judge Williams, who is already upon the Bench, will be our candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court. We are satisfied that no better man than Judge Williams can be found for the position. The contest for the position has narrowed down to two candidates. Our present excellent Governor, General John W. Geary and General John F. Hartranft, now Auditor General of the State. They are both good men, and either of them, if nominated, shall have our most enthusiastic support; but we cannot refrain from giving it to the opinion that General Hartranft would make the strongest candidate, and give us the State by an unprecedented majority.

Governor Geary has made good, no more; he has made good for a long time during his administration; but the debt during his administration that he has inherited from his predecessors, and the tax-payers of this State, are now being asked to pay. We are satisfied that we can, General Hartranft, but not so easily as we can General Hartranft.

To Clear a Row of Mosquitoes. A writer in a Southern Carolina paper says: "I have tried the following, and it works like a charm: Take of gum camphor a piece about one-third the size of an egg, and evaporate it by placing it in a vessel holding three or four gallons of water. The camphor does not ignite, but it will soon fill the room and expel the mosquitoes. One might be terribly annoyed by them, though it is very annoying to them, which I never saw heard them that night, and next morning there was not one to be found in the room, though the windows had been left open all night."

Arrived—The twentieth day of April—Anne Donald one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

Editorial. A. W. GARDNER, President of the Association, writes to his friends in Massachusetts that the worst accounts of the barbarity of Lopez are indeed true; but he is indeed a great man, and his talents are considerable. He has been a great man, and his talents are considerable. He has been a great man, and his talents are considerable. He has been a great man, and his talents are considerable.

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DOCTOR'S PULMONIC SYRUP

DR. J. C. HENNESSY'S PULMONIC SYRUP. This medicine is used in the treatment of all diseases of the lungs, such as consumption, cough, and asthma. It is a most effective remedy, and is recommended by all the best authorities on the subject.

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AMUSEMENTS

NEW OPERA HOUSE. SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING. MAFFEI & BARTHOLOMEW. Grand Old Performances, and the Comic Trick Fantome of JEAN NETT and JEANOTT.

PITTSBURGH THEATRE. H. W. WILLIAMS, Lessee and Manager. LADIES' GRAND MATINEE AT 3:30 P. M.

FAIR AND FESTIVAL. The Fair and Festival for the benefit of the SEVENTH U. P. CONGREGATION of Pittsburgh, (formerly Lawrenceville.)

ORDINANCES. AN ORDINANCE For Opening Highfield street from Forty-Fourth to Jackson street.

ORDINANCE. Authorizing the Grading, Paving and Curbing of Apple alley from Van Buren street to the intersection of First street.

ORDINANCE. Authorizing the Opening of Hill street from the intersection of Second street to the intersection of Third street.

ORDINANCE. For Opening Devilvers street from the intersection of Second street to the intersection of Third street.

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