

Interesting Sketch.

Credulity; or the Dangers of Delusions.

"And fools rush in where Angels fear to tread." The present age is evidently a progressive one, and that it is so, is, generally speaking, a matter of exultation and congratulation. But there is sometimes false progress as well as real. Fanaticism often takes the place of truth, imposture that of science, and bigotry that of true religion. And hence it is that the isms of the day are so numerous, so varied and so remarkable. There are thousands and tens of thousands of the human family at this moment, who are mono-maniacs upon one subject or another, who are converts to false theories, enthusiasts of some delusion, and, in fact, insane upon some absurdity. Ever and anon a specious doctrine is started, and "troops of believers" are found among the weak and the credulous. But a little while has gone by since the "Miller mania," which fixed the expiration of time and the destruction of the world at a certain period, beguiled and deluded a considerable portion of the American people. Many surrendered their property, were deceived by the mercenary and base, and only aroused from the folly and infatuation, when they had reduced themselves to a condition of comparative beggary.

The great error of the time is a belief in spiritualism, or the communion between the invisible world and the material. The extent to which this prevails is incredible to those who do not pay any attention to the subject. Circles exist in most every town in the Union, regular meetings are held, lectures are delivered, and new ideas are occasionally promulgated by the master spirits, as well in the flesh as out. The most preposterous doctrines are sometimes disseminated, while at seasons madness rules the hour, and notions of a truly revolting character are promulgated. It is not our purpose to enter into an analytical examination of any of the isms and delusions that have exercised so much influence upon the human mind, but merely to admonish the susceptible, the excitable and the credulous.

There are in every community individuals who are constantly seeking out some novelty. They fancy that they were-born to make discoveries, to suggest and accomplish reforms. Nevertheless, too many of them lack all the essentials, are excitable, eager and impulsive, rather than calm, thoughtful and practical, and thus they may be found either advocating or participating in every delusion of the hour. The human mind, moreover, may readily lose its balance, and when once disordered through fanaticism, credulity, or imposture, the effects are sad indeed. The dangers of delusions are many and imminent. The victims may be counted by thousands. There is scarcely an individual in the community who cannot point out some sad case. In a business and social point of view, the error is one of a serious character. The merchant or mechanic who neglects his regular avocation, trifles with his friends or his credit for the purpose of mingling with every excitement that occurs, will very soon be looked upon with suspicion and distrust, and then treated with caution and coldness. Nothing, indeed, should be regarded as more important than common sense views, regular habits, calm opinions and deliberate purposes. The excitable and credulous are rarely reliable. They may be deceived and led away at any moment. Every new ism may captivate, occupy their time and attention, disturb the even tenor of their way, and induce them to neglect some positive duty. Look for example, at the itinerant adventurers of the day, who, possessed of fancy and talent, wander through the country, and advocate first one reform and then another. At the beginning they mean well, and are really benevolent, but as they go on, step by step, they become inflated with vanity, or maddened by notoriety, until at last they are willing to mingle in any cause, provided it shall serve to make them conspicuous. They are themselves deluded, and they endeavor to delude others.

In many cases, too, they adopt eccentricities of manner and of dress, and often of morals. In other words, they wander from the regular paths of life, and the ordinary usages of society, and in the end, fancy that peculiarities are indications of genius or philosophy, whereas they only betoken a tottering condition of intellect. The aspiring, the ambitious, and the weak, who endeavor to grasp subjects beyond their reach, or to penetrate mysteries that are wisely veiled by the Creator from mortal ken, too often become either infidels or monomaniacs, and instead of being guides and lights to mankind, they should serve as beacons to admonish and to warn. Many of the new doctrines of the day, are not only immoral, but they

are irreverent, mocking and blasphemous. They are, moreover, calculated to do infinitely more harm than good, and therefore they should be distrusted and discountenanced by all who wish well to the human family.

Miscellaneous.

SUPERSTITIONS ON ODD NUMBERS

The idea of virtue in odd numbers is very ancient. Virgil mentions it in his eighth Eclogue, where many spells and charms then practised are recorded. The whole subject is a curious one, and would make an interesting work if all the opinions in regard to it were given. Countrymen hold it an indispensable rule to use an odd number of eggs in setting a hen. Falstaff, in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," permits himself to be entrapped a third time, and remarks—"This is the third time. I hope good luck lies in odd numbers. Away—go. They say there is divinity in odd numbers, either in nativity chance or death." It is a very common belief at the present day, in this country, that the number thirteen is ominous, and that when thirteen persons meet in a room, one of them will die within a year. This superstition is supposed to have arisen from the paschal supper.

The seventh son of a seventh son is accounted an infallible doctor; and the number seven, by the way, is the most curious of all. The seventh day was appointed as the one of rest, and the seventh year was directed to be one of rest for all things. At the end of seven times seven years commenced the grand jubilee. Pharaoh's dream foretold seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Under the Jewish law, a man was commanded to forgive his enemies seven times; and under the christian dispensation, seventy times seven times. When Jericho was taken, they encompassed the city seven times. Elisha sends Naman to wash in Jordan seven times. Elijah, on the top of Carmel, sends his servant to look seven times for rain. Solomon was seven years building the Temple, at the dedication of which he fasted seven days. The children of Israel ate unleavened bread seven days. David, in bringing up the ark, offered seven bullocks and seven rams. The apostles chose seven deacons; and some inquiring persons, who have investigated this subject to a nicety, tates that the Savior spoke seven times from the cross, on which he remained seven hours; that he afterwards appeared seven times, and, in seven times seven days, sent the Holy Ghost.

The number nine is regarded with more or less superstition, particularly in connection with seven. Augustus Caesar was overjoyed when he passed his sixty-third year, because he considered it the climacteric one, and that then he was to live a long life.—This is nine times seven, and is said to bring great changes in the life of man. The whole belief in anything of this kind may be grossly superstitious, and yet we are not prepared to say that it is.—N. Y. Sunday Times.

BABY SHOWS.

The Pittsburg Gazette gets off some common sense remarks in view of the Baby Show in Ohio. It says—"For the sake of our common humanity, we are inclined to ask, have not these displays gone far enough? If the first one were intended as a joke, let it pass as such; but if it were meant as the initiative of a practice to be continued, we cry out against it. There is something inexplicably disgusting and loathsome in the idea of parading infants to the public gaze. One would as soon think of opening up the seclusion of the domestic circle to vulgar inspection and admiration as posting the contents of the cradle in a Fair to be judged of by the same standard as the inmates of the hog pen. It is a desecration of the amenities and proprieties of life, as they have been always understood; and the wranglings and heart-burnings caused by the awards at the Springfield Fair will operate, we trust, to prevent the repetition of any similar scene.

"Let parents love their offspring as it is meet they should; and think their infants the most beautiful and the most perfect in the world, as they have a right to; but let them not thrust their prodigies upon the unwilling gaze of those who do not look or judge with parent's eyes. They but expose themselves to the shock of a far less favorable judgment than their own; and may, perchance be mortified with the rude observations of scoffing and mocking men. Keep the little ones at the fireside, where they belong, and where they are truly regarded as treasures; and do not degrade them and the humanity to which they belong, by putting them on a level with Berkshire pigs and Shanghai chickens.

"Let the Springfield show be the last, as it was the first, of these morbid attempts to

improve the human race after the manner of beasts."

LIFE AFTER FREEZING.

It is said that the scientific men of France are now speculating on a recent instance of a young man brought to life after being frozen eleven months on the Alps. The blood of a living man was infused into the veins of the frozen youth, and he moved and spoke. The experiment was afterwards tried on a hare frozen for the purpose, with complete success.

It has been the practice at the hospice of St. Bernard, for the monks to keep the frozen bodies of unknown travelers for months, that they might be recognized, and in Norway—according to the recent work on that country, published in England by Professor James C. Forbes—the people, in some of the valleys, during the long weary Winters, keep the bodies of deceased persons in a frozen state until Spring, when they are borne to the church for the last time; but this is the first instance on record of resuscitation after death was for some time apparent.

In some parts of this State it is quite common to transfer fish from the waters of one locality to those of another, when they are frozen so hard so that they may be broken like a stick by bending. In this state the Otsego bass have been packed in straw and conveyed to a considerable distance, and after being placed in cold water, gradually thawed to life again. Nearly all the fresh fish brought to our markets, and forwarded hence into the interior, are packed in ice.—in this manner the Eastern people ship fish, meats, fruit, &c. to the East Indies, in their ice cargoes.

Some years ago an entire mammoth was found on the Northern coast of Russia, in an excellent state of preservation, to the very hide and hair, and after its discovery and displacement animals partook heartily of its flesh. The tusks were brought to St. Petersburg, where they are still to be seen.

The Mobile Tribune a few weeks since published an account of a negro in that city, who during the hottest weather of last summer was engaged in loading a barge with ice for the up country, and to cool himself laid down upon the large blocks which were thinly covered with sawdust, and soon fell into a profound sleep. How the icy coldness gradually diffused itself through his system and crept into his very marrow, he could not tell but when discovered, he was found to be quite stiffly frozen. By the use of prompt measures he was, in time, thoroughly thawed and ready for his usual routine of duties.

We need not now despair of Arctic voyagers, after years of absence; even the lost colony of Greenland may be found a thousand years hence, in a state of somolent, though frigid hybernation. We must not even be surprised to see "a living mammoth," and no humbug at that, advertised for exhibition, and Rip Van Winkle's prototype may thaw out after a sleep of years with the frogs, some fine March morning.—N. Y. Times.

PROVIDE A HOME.—Especially ought every married pair, says Fowler, to secure a permanent residence for themselves and children; for without it, one powerful mental faculty must suffer perpetual abrasion, and many more, diminished and interrupted action and pleasure. This "moving" is ruinously costly, alike destructive of property and pleasure, cripples husbandry, prevents planting trees and vines, and obliges tenants to frequent the grocery, with money in hand, for a thousand little things, which if land owners, they would raise. None can duly appreciate home, until having once owned and lost one; after being cast upon the stony-hearted landlords, they long to re-possess themselves of a comfortable domicile, again, to feast themselves upon the products of their own orchards. Father, mother, whoever, wherever thou art, heed this important advice—provide a home first whatever else you do, or leave undone, and however stringent your poverty, even as your best means of escaping it.

TWO GIRLS ELOPED WITH INDIANS.—The Columbus Fact states that recently a band of Indians gave performances in Somerset, O. and that two girls, sisters, were so captivated with the "dance and the whoop of these sons of nature," they asked permission to accompany them, which being gallantly granted, they proceeded as far as Putnam, where they were overtaken by the mother of the girls, a spy widow, who called on the police to aid her in recovering her "wild-going" daughters. But alas for woman's resistance to love's appeals, when pressed in that eloquence and simplicity which these native sons of the forest could bring to bear! After a little talk and a private interview with the chiefs, the mother discharged the police, and made a third willing heart to follow the Indian men to their western camp.

From the Buffalo Republican. A ADDRESS TO LAKE ERY.

Why stream! How your bosom swells and pants, And how you thp things! How wet you look, eh? What 'nirs' you put on when you get to blowing! Yes—in September, how proud you are 'Cause you can raise the wind, and kick up rows And fight the shore, and tear away lumber Yards! (That is you used to once.) But you're stop! How do you like that breakwater, you old fool! Doesn't that keep you respectable, and put Straps on your pants? Don't that stick in your crop? Why don't you try to fill up the canal? I should think you would catch cold, been made of such damp stuff.

Who are you, any how? Who's going to come of you? You're found out— You're going to leak out over the Falls, That's it! You needn't be uppish 'cause you're Nothing but min water; in spite of your nose You have to berry from other Lakes to keep Yourself from getting dry. Hey—you old bankrupt. Nitty stream, adios!

One man sucks an orange, and is choked by a pit; another swallows a pen-knife, and lives; one runs a thorn into his hand, and no skill can save him; another has a shaft of a gig driven completely thro' his body, and recovers; one is overturned on a smooth common, and breaks his neck; another is tossed out of a gig over Brighton Cliff, and survives; one walks out on a windy day and meets death by a brick bat; another is blown up in the air, like Lord Hatton in Guernsey Castle, and comes down uninjured. The escape of this nobleman was, indeed a miracle. An explosion of gunpowder, which killed his mother, wife, and some of his children, and many other persons, and blew up the whole fabric of the castle, lodged him in his bed on a wall overhanging a tremendous precipice. "Perceiving a mighty disorder, (as well he might,) he was going to step out of bed to see what the matter was, which if he had done, he had been irrecoverably lost; but, in the instant of his moving, a flash of lightning came and showed him the precipice, whereupon he lay still till the people came and took him down."

There's point in the following, if it was said by a child: "Our Georgy" is something over six years old, and has a keen eye for everything beautiful in nature, although he sometimes makes it ridiculous in attempting comments. The other day, we had a fine thunder storm with almost incessant flashes of lightning. "Georgy" and myself were sitting in the barn, admiring the lightning, which darted from cloud to cloud, and then to the ground; and he wanted to know what made it "go so," illustrating its zigzag motion with his hand. I could not explain it so that he could clearly understand, and was obliged to tell him I didn't know. He thought a moment and said: "L'spose God thinks it looks prettier crooking round in that way!" Presently there came a succession of tremendous crashes, and the little fellow jumped up and clapped his hands, exclaiming, "Aren't these good ones father? That's better than cannon, isn't it? You don't have to stop to load!"

THE BELLE AND THE STUDENT.—At a certain splendid evening party a haughty young beauty turned to a student who stood near her and said, "Cousin John, I understand your eccentric friend L.—is here, I have a great curiosity to see him. Do bring him here and introduce him to me."

The student went in search of his friend, and at length found him lounging on a sofa. "Come L.—," said he, "my beautiful cousin Catharine wishes to be introduced to you."

"Well, trot her out, John," drawled L.— with an affected yawn.

John returned to his cousin and advised her to defer the introduction till a more favorable time, repeating the answer he had received. The beauty bit her lip, but the next moment said, well, never fear! I shall insist upon being introduced.

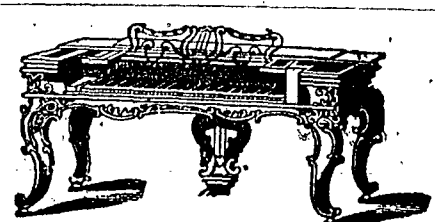
After some delay, L.— was led up and the ceremony of introduction performed.— Agreeably surprised by the beauty and commanding appearance of Catharine, L.— made a profound bow, but instead of returning it, she stepped backward, and raising her eye-glass, surveyed him deliberately from head to foot, then, waving the back of her hand toward him, drawled out, "Trot him off, John! trot him off! that is enough!"

KING KAMMEHAMA.—The king of the Sandwich Islands has got a better or more costly one. It cost about a million of dollars. There is a good deal of 'fuss and feathers' about it, for a considerable portion of it is made of rare feathers, procured from birds difficult to catch, and which have each of them only two feathers of the kind. The cost of procuring the feathers is nearly half a dollar each, and it takes a vast quantity to make such a cloak. If the Sandwich Islands are annexed to the United States, to whom will that cloak belong?

The great race between the night-mare and the clothes-horse (distance from pole to pole) came off yesterday, the two parties coming in neck and neck.

It is said since Benton called Pettit, of Indiana, a "dirty dog," the correspondence of the latter, in addressing him, affix a 'D.' to his name.

Philadelphia.



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