

STRANGE SHOWERS.

COINCIDENCES THAT ARE NOT FAIRY TALES.

Frogs Until Four Feet Deep of Fish That Have Also Fallen to the Earth.

Every singular phenomenon familiar to us as the "rain of frogs," has been explained and contradicted by some of the earliest narratives of the world. It is that communicated to the Academy by Professor Pontus in 1864 in which he gives an account of frogs near Toulouse, and that he himself saw numerous frogs on the cloaks of two gentlemen who were caught in the shower on the morning of the 21st of July. When the diligence in which they were traveling arrived at the place the storm burst, and the roads and the fields were absolutely full of frogs. In some places they appeared to be four feet deep, and the horses' heads were submerged during the passage through the spot.

It is a no less curious frog instance of a no less curious frog in our own country is related by the "Overland Monthly," who in the year 1864 he was with a party of other tourists traveling in the mountains of the West. The day being exceedingly hot, the party went to a pond. The day being exceedingly hot, the party went to a pond. The day being exceedingly hot, the party went to a pond.

than two minutes the grass was covered with these little creatures. They were of one size, about a quarter of an inch long, very lively and in the best condition. Their bodies were broken by the spring nature of the grass. All to the theory advanced by some that in such cases the frogs necessarily have arisen from the eggs of the writer says: "It is not probable that several hundred thousand, millions of frogs had suddenly been introduced into life by the rain, or, if they had, in their infantile glee, they would have been crushed by the top of our heads merely to be the game of leap-frog should have been. They came from above, with the rain, and this fact was established by holding out the hand and falling upon it, as well as finding upon our hats."

Several from a number of instances in Chambers' "Book of Days," it is noted that the cases of fish fall in the city, at least, outnumber those of a considerable degree. On the 10th of April, 1828, Major McKenzie, of Scotland, while walking in a garden, saw a great portion of the ground covered with herring fry, four inches in length, fresh and about two years later, in the county of Argyshire, after a very heavy rain, the inhabitants were obliged to find a large number of fish strewn over their fields. A weekly newspaper stated that a large quantity of the same fish were found scattered over the ground in that town. These, it is far more serious than the acquired form, from which it is distinguished by its earlier appearance, more rapid developments, greater severity and by being more frequently followed by other complications. Myopia is usually transmitted from the father to the daughter, and from the mother to the son. Bad hygienic surroundings are among the causes that favor its transmission, and if care is not taken by those in charge of the education of the young, acquired myopia will be transmitted to the children.

The Fly Won't Walk Downward. Put a fly on the window and up he goes toward the top; he can't be made to walk downward. A gentleman hit upon an idea. Why not use that habit against them? Forthwith he made a window screen divided in half. The upper half lapped over the lower, with an inch of space between. As soon as a fly would light on the screen he would proceed to travel upward, and would thus walk straight out of doors. On reaching the top of the lower half he would be outside. Not being able to walk down, he could not return to the room. By this means a room can be quickly cleared of flies, which always seek the light.—Piquette.

The Profit in Diamonds. "The biggest profits in the jewelry business are in diamonds," remarked a well-known dealer in precious stones to a friend the other day. "In no other branch of the trade are prices kept at such an inflated figure. No jeweler will tell a man outside the trade the true value of a stone. He may appraise it at a certain figure, with a guarantee to buy it back at that price any time less a small per cent. They can afford to do that, for the diamond loses nothing by age, and the chances are that the owner of the stone will not want to part with it."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Smart Goose. To call a stupid person a goose is a great injustice to the goose, for they have been known to show themselves very sensible, to wit: One goose that wasn't a bit of a goose, as the saying goes. This smart goose was quite a pet of the writer, and was very fond of feeding on soaked bread. However, it did not disdain a dry crust, which it would pick up and carry to a water trough and soak thoroughly before attempting to eat it.—Piquette.

Money of the Mormons. If you go into the principal office of the Tithing House, says a Salt Lake City letter to the Globe Democrat, you will see a tall young man handling what looks like money. He is behind a counter, and the counter is protected by a high railing. The man glances through the window, then looks down at the bills, and goes on thumbing them like a bank teller. He goes to and from a big safe carrying bundles done up just as bills are, with little bands of brown paper pinned about them. Sometimes the young man doesn't stop to count, but takes the amount on the brown slip as correct and passes out the bundle. This is Mormon money. It is a tithing script. It is used to facilitate the handling of the grain and live stock and produce which come in. If you pick up one of these bills you will find it very much like a bank note in its appearance. In one upper corner is the number of the bill. In the lower left-hand corner is the in hoc signo of Mormonism, a bee hive.

Points for Husbands. Do not jest with your wife upon a subject in which there is danger of wounding her feelings. Remember that she treasures every word you utter, though you never think of it again, says the Domestic Monthly. Do not speak of some virtue in another man's wife to remind your own of a fault. Do not reproach your wife with personal defects, for, if she has sensibility, you inflict a wound difficult to heal. Do not treat your wife with inattention in company. Do not upbraid her in the presence of a third person, nor entertain her with praising the beauty and accomplishments of other women. Do not be stern and silent in your house, and remarkable for sociability elsewhere. Remember that your wife has as much need of recreation as yourself, and devote a portion, at least, of your leisure hours to such society and amusements as she may enjoy. By so doing you will secure her smiles and increase her affection. Do not, being too exact in pecuniary matters, make your wife feel her dependence upon you. It tends to lessen her dignity of character and does not increase her esteem for you. If she is a sensible woman she should be acquainted with your business and know your income, that she may regulate her household expenses accordingly. Do not withhold this knowledge in order to cover your own extravagance. Women have a keen perception. Be sure she will discover your selfishness, and, though no word is spoken, from that moment her respect is lessened and her confidence diminished, pride wounded, and a thousand, perhaps unjust, suspicions created. From that moment is your domestic comfort on the wane.

Spirits for a Watch. "This watch of mine won't go. I want you to have it fixed up for me," said a gentleman recently to a jeweler, at the same time handing to him a handsome gold watch. "What have you been doing to this watch?" a reporter for the New York Mail and Express heard the jeweler ask. "Well, I was out rowing, and somehow or other I managed to drop the watch overboard. I've tried every way to make it go myself but have not succeeded."

Hereditary Myopia. The question of the heredity of shortsightedness has been carefully studied by D. Motais in 330 cases occurring in the young. He concludes that the hereditary influence is manifest, the families in 219 out of the 330 cases being afflicted with the same disease. Hereditary myopia is far more serious than the acquired form, from which it is distinguished by its earlier appearance, more rapid developments, greater severity and by being more frequently followed by other complications. Myopia is usually transmitted from the father to the daughter, and from the mother to the son. Bad hygienic surroundings are among the causes that favor its transmission, and if care is not taken by those in charge of the education of the young, acquired myopia will be transmitted to the children.

Ghastly Curiosities. Said a hair dealer "If you know where I can get any Indian scalps I shall be obliged to you for the information. Indian scalps, like buffalo heads, are becoming mighty scarce. You never can account for people's tastes. Now, about the last thing in the world that some want is an Indian scalp, and yet there are people who want just that sort of a curiosity. I had an Indian belt not long ago which had nine scalps hung to it, and I sold it to a man for \$35. I have a bunch of hair here—it isn't a scalp, as there is no skin attached to it, just a handful, as it were. It is worth \$5. Indians are not scalping as much as they used to, and that is why scalps are high. In fact, everything which Indians used to make are becoming scarcer and more valuable.

Paid With Beans. A singular circumstance recently occurred at Biddeford, Me., which reminds one of the days when people bartered in beads and wampum. Two men, one a small, slender person and the other of proportions in the neighborhood of 300 pounds, were employed by one of the women in that locality to dig a grave on her family lot. They worked rapidly, and ere they were aware, the excavation was so large and deep that the fat man was unable to get out of the hole. A machine was constructed, and after quite a struggle the big man was once more on top. In payment for their services the woman a short time after gave each of the two men five quarts of gray beans—enough to keep them out of the ground for quite a while if it came to the worst.

The Shah of Persia became infatuated with cape coats while in England and had a large number made of all colors and from various kinds of material.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE LESSON FOR DECEMBER 1.

"Dedication of the Temple," I Kings VIII, 54-63—Golden Text: Heb. II, 20

54. "And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord." Between the last lesson and this one we have passed over all the most interesting and instructive accounts of the building of the temple, and of the dedication of the temple. The throne on which Solomon sat at Jerusalem is called the Throne of Jehovah (I Chron. xix, 23; xlv, 11; II Chron. ix, 8). Jerusalem was the throne of Jehovah and the capital of the whole earth (Jer. li, 7). The site of the Temple in Jerusalem was Mount Moriah, where Abraham received Isaac back from the dead on the third day (I Chron. xiii, 13; II Chron. xiii, 19). Israel's resurrection on the third day will be the beginning of the restoration of Acts iii, 10-21; Hos. vi, 2; viii, 14; Ezek. xxxvii, 12-14.

Not "Stuck Up." Among the officers in the Northern army of the Civil War no one was gruffer, braver or more beloved by his men than General Stannard, who commanded a Vermont Brigade. He was always enraged by any attempt of the men whom he commanded to steal, or "forage," as they called it, on private property.

A private named Hicks, on the march to Gettysburg, remarked, chuckling to a companion, that there was "nothing 'stuck up' about old Stannard. He was not ashamed to converse sociably with a private."

"Has he been talking to you? What did he say?" "Told me if I didn't get out of them cherry trees, he'd kill me!" Another instance of Stannard's keen watchfulness is given by one of his soldiers. On the march to Frederick, the General knew that an attack was to be made on the regiment in a few minutes. The men were famishing with thirst, and coming to a well wished to stop and fill their canteens. "Stannard" set a gun rack over it and forbade them to break rank. A certain Lieutenant Brown, who had a wounded comrade, disobeyed the order, and going to the well, at the risk of his life, brought his friend some water. General Stannard put him under arrest and took his sword from him.

When the regiment reached Gettysburg, Brown, foreseeing a fierce conflict, asked the General to suffer him to carry his sword for the day, to be returned at night. It had, however, been sent with the baggage to the rear. Brown procured a tomahawk and carried it into the battle, and did such good service that General Stannard at night, though badly wounded, sent for him, gave him his own sword, and told him he richly deserved to carry it.—Youth's Companion.

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RELIGIOUS READING.

"Give me this day, dear Lord," I cried, "Some blessed station near Thy side."

This pleading, praying, up and down I wandered, searching field and town. Content on task, the very best, Eluding still my eager quest. And morn to noonday brightened; night Drew slowly toward the fading height, Till I, low kneeling at the throne With empty hands made weary moan: "Thou hast not any room for me! No work is mine, dear Christ, for Thee!" Then sudden on my blurring sight Swept majesty and love and light. The Master stood before me there In conscious answer to my prayer. He touched mine eyes, in shame I blushed, In shame my weak complaining hushed. For, lo! all day, the swift hours throughed The work, Christ-given, for me to do. In mine own hour had I slighted been, And I, convicted so of sin, Could only lift my look to His, The grace of pardon ask for this. That I wandered far and wide, Instead of watching at His side; That I had yet to learn how sweet The home tasks at the Master's feet.

THE POWER OF CONVICTION. This is the greatest need of the world. Has this power departed? Has it, in any serious degree, diminished in its practical effect? We should not answer these and kindred questions with undue haste. Our present field of Christian labor may be encompassed about with peculiar difficulties, such as require patient continuance in waiting for an extraordinary issue. Time may be requisite in order to break the crust of selfishness and indifference that has come upon the souls that we would save. Marked exhibitions of this divine power may seem to a weary worker to be wanting in our country, when in reality it is present. Under such circumstances let us never give way to discouragement.

INSPIRED BY THE GLORY OF JEHOVAH. The Rev. William Tennent of the Presbyterian church, after preaching one Sabbath morning, looked into the world and heard the intermission. He was reflecting on the infinite wisdom of God as manifested in all his works, and particularly in the wonderful method of salvation through the death and suffering of his beloved Son. This subject suddenly opened upon his mind with such a flood of light that his views on the glory and the infinite majesty of Jehovah were so great as to overwhelm him; and he fell almost insensible to the ground. When he had revived a little, all he could do was to raise a fervent prayer that God would withdraw himself from him, or he must perish under a view of His ineffable glory. Overstaying his time, some of the elders went in search of him, and found him prostrate on the ground, unable to rise, and incapable of informing them of the cause. They raised him up, and after a time took him to the church. He remained silent for a considerable time, earnestly supplicating Almighty God to hide himself from him, that he might be enabled to address His people. He then spoke to them as a man inspired.

Shall the glad, tender story of the coming of the royal babe to find and redeem His little ones of earth be brought before our children at the coming Christmas time? Or shall we celebrate the advent of merry Santa Claus and Kris Kringle? The question ought not to be a difficult one for a company of Christian teachers to decide. And yet it will be discussed—not presented in just this form indeed—and in fact, many are already discussing it. Santa Claus, will carry the day! Practical business will rule. "We must have as good an entertainment as our neighbors, or the people won't come, and the thing must be made to pay."

A beautiful young girl was found by a midnight missionary in a wretched dance house. Terrified at her own rapid descent, she listened to a friendly, earnestly supplicating Almighty God to hide himself from her, that he might be enabled to address His people. He then spoke to them as a man inspired.

MILWAUKEE'S "SOUVENIRS." It is generally assumed by Milwaukeeites that everyone visiting their city has been drawn there by a love of beer. Accordingly, on the recent arrival of the South and Central American excursionists, the Milwaukee Reception Committee boarded the train bearing their distinguished guests and presented them with souvenirs in the shape of small bottles containing lager beer. The next step, of course, was to hustle the travelers to the breweries themselves. Surely no one will deny that the dignity of the Republic was not fully sustained by the beer-loving Milwaukee City Fathers!—The Pioneer.

TEMPERANCE.

HIS EVENING WALK.

The rumrunner took his evening walk. Past the homes where his victims dwell; Where pale, weak women, of suffering talk, And children, of hunger tell.

He hummed a gay air as he passed them by, Nor thought of their hunger or cold; For little cared he for misery's cry, If it filled his pockets with gold. —George W. Cook.

THE BEER DELUSION. The claim that beer is a healthy drink is the greatest of all delusions. It does indeed make fat the drinker while sapping the strength of both body and mind. Even beer drinkers are fast finding this out. The Milwaukee Sentinel reports Theodore Roosevelt, former member of the New York Legislature, as saying: "Do you know," said Mr. Roosevelt, holding up his glass and looking through the amber liquid, "that there is not a thought in a hoghead of beer; that there is not an idea in a whole brewery? I mean," continued the New York politician, "that nothing of merit was ever written under the inspiration of lager beer. It stupifies without invigorating, and its effect upon the brain is to stagnate thought. Do not imagine that I am a temperance orator. I am simply comparing stimulants. Some of the brightest literary efforts have been made while under the influence of spirituous liquor, taken in the most overworked author to avoid a complete physical and mental collapse. I shall wait to see if any man can write anything who has a drop of beer in his system."

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Alcoholism and crime go hand in hand in other countries as well as our own. The report of the last International Congress for the Suppression of Alcoholism, which was held in Paris from July 29th to August 1st, 1893, affirms that criminality and mental aberration follow a march parallel with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. It appears that during the last fifty years the consumption of alcohol in France has tripled, the number of lunatics has quadrupled, and that crime and suicide are steadily increasing. It was stated that the number of crimes and offenses against morals is exactly in ratio with the consumption of alcohol. The one obvious lesson which the French people, and all others, must needs learn is the wisdom and utility of abstinence.—Temperance Advocate.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. For some time among the temperance men in this city there has been much talk of an International Temperance Convention to be held here in 1894 during the World's Fair. We are glad to see that the National Temperance Advocate is urging the project. By all means have the leaders from all over the world come together and compare methods and exchange ideas. It will do good. The National Temperance Society is the organization to push the project to success. Let it be the boys and we will all give a helping hand.—Fifer.

TEMPERANCE "GUNS AND NOTES." Five thousand children are connected with the Church (Eng.) Band of Hope. The Church of England has just compiled all its clergy who hold brewery stock to sell it out. Beer must be pretty bad for boys, when a boy only five years old had to be treated in a Berlin hospital for delirium tremens. The greatest treasure of a nation is manhood. Anything that destroys that is an immeasurable loss. And that is the size of the liquor cure. The W. C. T. U., of Montreal, Canada, reports 1000 children in that city under the influence of special temperance teaching in loyal legions and bands of hope. Dr. B. W. Richardson says: "Not one of the thousands wrong, physically or morally, is more certainly passed on to those yet unborn than the wrongs which are inflicted by alcohol." Mrs. Mary C. Leavitt, of Boston, who is on a temperance advocating tour around the world, has lately been the guest of John Bright's sister, Mrs. Lucas, in London. Mrs. Leavitt has traveled 70,000 miles since she set out in 1884. The Rev. Dr. Loring has returned to Chicago after a considerable tour in Europe. "In London," he says, "what struck me as most important was that there are no open saloons on Sunday, excepting for an hour in the middle of the day and an hour at night." Recent statistical reports of the causes of insanity, observed in the insane hospitals and asylums of England during the ten years from 1877 to 1887, show that 13,266 cases of insanity among men arise from intemperance, whereas the entire number of cases due to all kinds of mental trouble was only 13,304. John Roach, an old campaigner who draws a pension from the British Government, boasted in a Tomwaada (N. Y.) saloon that he could beat the world drinking whisky. On a wager Roach drank a quart of rye in just two and one-half minutes. He called it a pint more, but before it was measured he dropped dead.