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The state of the s

Two peculiarly painful cases of suicide appear in the papers. At Woolwich a young man named Edward Pattison, engaged to be married, spent between £30 and £40 upon furniture, but as his sweetheart was dissatisfied with a portion of it he resolved to endeavour to exchange it. He did not succeed in effecting this object, and, according to a letter found in his pocket, the failure broke his heart. He then put an end to his existence by taking spirits of salts. There was evidently no obstacle to the union of the young folks excepting that which the deceased imagined he saw in his inability to get other furniture, and the marriage was to have taken place immediately. place immediately.

The second case relates to the unhappy The second case relates to the unhappy death of Charles Humphreys, aged 23, a painter, late of Stratford, Essex. Agnes Rogers, aged 16, living at 40 Waddington street, Stratford, who had kept company with the deceased for the last three years, stated that he had tea at her house on Sunday last. They had quarrelled, and he left the house, saying "Don't be surprised, Agnes, if you never see me again." He offered her a ring, but she refused to have it. She followed him, and at the gate of Temple Mills found him crying. He then said to her, "Take the ring, or you will have to ask some one else for it." She pushed it back on his finger, when he randown the bank, and shortly afterwards she heard a splash. She was going to follow, but thought of her poor mother, who she believed would follow her. Witness here cried bitterly. George Cordale, manager to a farmer at Hackney-marsh, said he heard last witness exclaim "My Charlie is going to drown himself," and on going to the spot saw deceased deliberately jump into the river Lea. The girl was about to follow him, when he prevented her. The follow him, when he prevented her. The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst ina state of unsound mind. DIPHTHERIA.

DIFHTHERIA.

As everything relating to this terrible complaint is interesting just now, we extract the following from the British Medical Journal: Professor Klebe, of Prague, has recently performed a series of experiments on himself and other persons, to test the efficacy of benzoate of soda in destroying the formation of microscopic fungi in the body. He has found that it procured relief in several cases of gastric catarrh and other diseases which are often noticed in persons who work a great deal among decomposed organic substances. In order, composed organic substances. In order, however, to be certain of the antiseptic or however, to be certain of the antiseptic or antimycetic power of this drug, it was necessary to find out whether, when introduced into the body of a healthy animal, it would enable it to resist infection. Dipheheritic membranes were accordingly soaked for some time in Buchholtz's solution; then mixed with benzoate of soda and innoculated upon the surface of several healthy animals, of which some had previously received a hypodermic injection of the above-mentioned substance. It was then shown that, in those animals which had had the injection, the diphtheritic membrane was destroyed in ten minutes, whilst it still could be seen in the eyes of the others two hours after the operation. Klebs has administered benzoate of soda in doses varying from five grammes to his patients, who never experienced the least inconvenience from it.

THE ENGLISH MAIL

Liverpool Dates to Dec. 21st.

enience from it.

AN EASILY DUPED BANK. AN EASILY DUPED BANK.

This is what the English papers are calling a "Clever bank swindle." A better heading would be, "Remarkable stupidity of a bank cashier." A well-dressed stranger entered the Commercial Bank at Greenock, and intimated that he desired to open an account with the branch, and thereupon he deposited £15, and asked to be furnished with a chequebook. This was given him, when it appears he proceeded to Edinburgh by the first train, and going to the British Linen Company's Bank there, said he desired to open an account there, paying in some small sum and handing a Commercial Bank cheque on the Greenock branch for a large amount, and requesting that the sum be placed to his credit. He then stated that placed to his credit. He then stated that for immediate use he would draw several hundred pounds, which was paid to him. On the cheque being presented at the Greenock branch of the Commercial the swindle was exposed, and for the large amount paid by the British Linen, the Commercial handed over the £15 lodged with them by the swindler, who managed to escape, and served the bank right, too.

A PROPHET IN TROUBLE.

A PROPHET IN TROUBLE.

Edward Byrne Madden has been brought Edward Byrne Madden has been brought up on remand at Bow street, charged with having addressed letters to Mr. Cross and Mr. Adolphus Liddell, the Secretary and Permanent Under-Secretary for the Home Department, containing threats against the life of the Queen. Evidence proving that the letters were in Madden's handwriting having been given, he was committed for trial. The following is one of the letters read in Court:—

having been given, he was committed for trial. The following is one of the letters read in Court:—

OFFICE OF THE MODERN PROPHET, 9, COUR DE LA FERNE ST. LAZARE, PARIS, May 26th, 1878.

RIGHT HON. SIR,—Abdication of the Queen Victoria,—By order of the Holy Spirit, and also by order of the Prince Albert and his prophet, E. B. Madden, presently in his heavenly office, and by the grace of God, we proclaim the resignation of her Most Gracious Majesty in favour of the Prince of Wales as King of Great Britain, &c. Done in the office of the Modern Prophet, and with the authorization of the Saviour of Mankind. Some century and centuries had passed, it was in the evening of one of those long days which are the days of God, and my soul was absorbed in a deep stupor and troubled in itself, when a voice descended from Heaven said to me, "Modern Prophet, what do you see?" and as I did not answer at all, it said to me, "Go and receive £1,000 at the office of his Excellency Lord Lyons, 39, Rue du Faubourg St. Honore. By order of Monsieur the Right Bon. Cross, year 1860, by order of the Queen Victoria, and by Royal commands to your predecessor, I, the modern prophet, have been four years at the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum without insanity. The Rev. Dodwell was not insane. Give orders, if you please, by telegraph immediately to pay me to-morrow the £1,000 in question, otherwise I will start at once for Balmorat to see her Majesty the Queen, and change the form of government. Have the kindness to remit to the post the enclosed letters, if you please, and I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you in London officially. For the present receive, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my profound respect and the whole of my devotedness.

E. B. MADDEN, Modern Prophet.

P. S.—Answer immediately; it is the will of God.

E. B. MADDEN, Modern Prophet.

P. S.—Answer immediately; it is the will of God.

E. B. MADDEN.

The Times in an additional the Modern Prophet.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRISIS AND CANADA. The Times, in an editorial takes exactly

The Times, in an editorial takes exactly the same views as those we recently expressed in The Mail respecting the measures proposed by Mr. Berry. It observes:—"The suggestion with respect to controverted measures, that they should be submitted to the popular vote, according to the system known in Switzerland as the Referendum, is still more opposed to English ideas and examples. Plebiscitary government has not been very successful anywhere, and in a community swayed by the democratic spirit it would be inconsistent with the dignity and authority of Parliament. In the opinion of many who do not at all sympathise with the Council in its stubborn and the opinion of many who do not at all sympathise with the Council in its stubborn and unyielding defiance of the colonial democracy, the plan of a piebiscite is radically bad. If a great innovation is needed to make deadlocks impossible, there is much more to be said for the 'Norwegian system," under which the two Houses of the more to be said for the 'Norwegian system," under which the two Houses of the Legislature, after disagreement about any measure, would be compelled to meet and debate and divide upon it as a single Chamber, the victory being thus secured for the popular branch, if it had a majority of two-thirds, but not otherwise. It is doubtful whether a change in the constitution of the Upper House substituting a nominated for an elective body, and giving the Governor power to call up new members at a difficult crisis—a power analogous to the Royal prerogative of creating peers—would not be the best corrective of all. Canada had experience of elective Upper Houses, and found that they did not easily consent to accept the limitations to which in practice the House of Lords submits. Accordingly, the Dominion Act of 1867 made the Senate a nominated body."

We read in the London Globe :- " An