

we is simply the bright line which is always on an every cylinder—a stove-pipe, for example, or even a common black-lead pencil. When we take the hair, however, and having a slice off of the end, examine this slice, we find that it is not a ring, as it would be if it were from the end of a tube, but a solid disk.

Another singular idea, which gained very general ground, is that the moons of Jupiter can be seen in a looking-glass; and if, some bright night, we try the experiment, we shall actually see Jupiter in the looking-glass, accompanied by a very faint star, which constantly maintains the same distance from the planet. Further examination will show us that every bright star presents the same appearance; and, if we reflect a little upon the phenomenon, we shall see that the so-called moon is only the faint image of the star or planet reflected from the surface of the glass, while the bright image reflected from the surface of the mercury is what we call the star itself. A lamp or candle held before a thick mirror will present precisely the same appearance. Simple though the explanation be, however, there are few errors that have taken a deeper hold on the minds of the pseudo-scientific than this.

Amongst popular fallacies, a prominent place must be given to those which arise from the actual deception of the senses; for neither our eyesight nor our sense of touch is to be absolutely depended upon. Thus, the beautiful phenomenon known as "the sun drawing water" is caused simply by the rays of the sun piercing a rift in the clouds, and rendered more intense by the prevailing gloom. Few people would believe that actual measurement of the sun and moon, when near the horizon at rising or setting, would fail to show that they are then much larger than at other times; and yet, allowing for the difference caused by refraction, and which is too slight to be measured by any but the finest instruments, actual measurement does show that not only their real, but their apparent sizes are precisely the same at all times.

Another fallacy which is very prevalent is that every drop of water contains millions of animalcules, and that every pebble, indeed, every fragment of solid matter on the face of the globe, is peopled with myriads of these small creatures. For this belief there is, however, no foundation whatever. So far as animalcules are concerned, most pebbles and fragments of rocks are barren deserts, especially when dry; and good spring-water is, so far as animal life is concerned, a liquid waste. A few stray animalcules may occasionally be found in the water that we drink; but if it is "filled" with animalcules, it is certainly not fit for human use, either as drink or in the preparation of food.

But while most of the fallacies which we have mentioned are due to simple ignorance, there is another class which is based upon a sort of quasi-scientific information, and which are far more dangerous. A good example of these is the opinion generally held by half-taught chemists, that it is to the silicious coating of the grasses and cereals that these plants owe their power of standing upright—in other words, that it is to this that they owe their stiffness. This opinion has been so firmly held by many, that they have advised the addition of silica to land for the purpose of giving stiffness to the straw, and thus preventing the lodging of the grain. Now, when we learn that almost all soil consists of at least one-half silica, we shall see the absurdity of such advice. The truth is, that the stiffness of straw is not due to the silica at all; for chemists have dissolved the silica by means of hydrofluoric acid, and removed it completely from the vegetable stem, without impairing the stiffness of the latter.

ART AND LITERATURE.

A monument to Bruce is to be erected on the esplanade of Stirling Castle.

Mlle. Rosa d'Erina has been enthusiastically received in the Lower Provinces.

Hassin Pasha, a bearded Turk of Constantinople, has written a comic opera, in two acts, in which he makes Mohammed play a part.

Michel Eujalbert, the French organist who officiated at the coronation of the First Napoleon, has just died at the age of 92 years.

Professor Huxley has made contracts with publishers to write certain works which will fully occupy his time for the next five years.

"Creola Ferretti" is spoken of enthusiastically by Louisianians as a young lady who is yet to be the greatest prima donna in the world.

A new magazine was to appear in London on the 1st of August, called the *Transatlantic*, containing a selection of American periodical literature.

Père Hyacinthe has in his possession the manuscript of a work by the late Count Montalembert, entitled "Spain and the Revolution," which he intends to publish shortly.

Madame Ratazzi has commenced the publication of her memoirs. The first part, in three volumes, has appeared under the title of "A Stormy Youth" ("Une Jeunesse Orageuse.")

Eminent composers have not always appreciative wives. Mme. Offenbach is said to detest music. Mme. Verdi shuns the opera. The conscience of Mme. Gounod will not allow her to attend the theatre.

Gounod, having in one short season appeared in public as composer, arranger, harmonizer, and conductor of an English choral society, has recently made his debut as a vocalist, or was announced to do so on the 15th of July.

Lord Elcho has just purchased a fine marble bust of Oliver Cromwell, taken from life, by the English sculptor, Edward Pearce. This artist was occupied largely with work for the City companies in and about the time of the Commonwealth.

A curious and interesting manuscript volume has been presented to the Gramplan Club for publication by Lord Houghton. It is the commonplace book of James Boswell, the friend and biographer of Dr. Johnson, and is in Boswell's own handwriting.

The first volume has just appeared at St. Petersburg of a Russian work, entitled "The Predecessors of Shakespeare." Its author, M. Nicholas Storozhenko, who has devoted several years to the study of our early literature, has given in it "a sketch of the development of the English drama, up to the time when it received, under the hand of Marlowe, an artistic organization." The second volume will treat of the works of the dramatists "who served, so to speak, as the connecting link between Marlowe and Shakespeare."

VARIETIES.

A double-headed cat in Iowa torments a very quiet neighbourhood with a double-headed howl.

An old lady bathing at Long Branch, with her spectacles on but without her wig, was taken for Mr. Greeley and drew a great crowd.

If the weather does not grow cooler very soon, Mr. Fahrenheit, in justice to his patrons, should at once add a second story with a Mansard roof to his thermometer.

A San Francisco paper says: "Two Chinamen collided with knives on Eagle Creek a few days ago. One of them has quit minding. His friend snuk a shaft, and put him in it."

In an article on a recent fair in that city, the editor of a Macon paper says a brother editor took a valuable premium, but a policeman made him put it back where he took it from.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* poetically remarks: "In Montgomery, Alabama, the other day, four negroes got on a spree, one took out his little jack-knife, and now there ain't but three."

A Chicago girl recently married her lover after he had been sent to jail, and to certain matrons who ridiculed her action, she retorted that she knew where her husband spent his nights, which was more than they could say of their husbands.

In Mexico, the custom is, when a duel has been fought, to erect a cross on the spot, and every one that passes by throws a stone at the cross. Some ingenious Yankees have taken advantage of the custom to clear stony land by erecting crosses where no duel has been fought.

An enterprising soap-maker in New York daubed the rocks all the way up the Hudson with the appeal, "Use Smith's Soap;" whereupon his rival, the still more enterprising Jones, after much cogitation, started his white-washer up the river to append to each of Mr. Smith's appeals: "If you can't get Jones'."

Good thing on General Sherman. While he and his suite were in the Caucasus they were invited to an elegant breakfast, at which they met a large number of official personages. When the visiting party came to leave they were presented with a bill for the breakfast, including all the expenses of every one who was present.

One Blodgett (Blo-jay, the elite pronounce it), of Detroit, bounced from his little couch on the morning of the Glorious Fourth, animated with the resolve to fire his old musket 1000 times that day. He did nobly until sundown, when the overstrained weapon flew into 1000 pieces, more or less, taking Blo-jay's scalp, nose, and one ear as trophies.

In the way of lucid "personals" we have seen nothing clearer than the following from a recent number of the London *Times*: "Kangaroo.—Any portion of the leopard or the bear would do, or part of the pig, but abstain from the leopard's heart and the parts next to it, for the candle would not be out then. The lion is too savage to be tamed. Don't forget the baboon's biscuits."

An instance of rare honesty, and showing how a dog may desire to pay his board bill, recently occurred in Fitchburg, Mass. A lady saw a dog frequently about her house picking up odd bits which had been thrown out, and one day she called him in and fed him. The next day he came back, and as she opened the door he walked in and placed an egg on the

floor, when he was again fed. The following day he brought another egg to pay for his dinner; and on the fourth day he brought the old hen herself, who it seems had failed to furnish the required egg!

By a squall in the Delaware Bay last week, while sailing in a yacht, two young men were overtaken. From the way things looked the capizing of their craft was very near inevitable. "Bill," said one to the other, "this is serious business; can you pray?" "No, I can't, I've heard it done, but can't do it myself." "Well, you can sing a hymn, can't you?" "For God's sake." "No; I can't sing here." "Well, we must do something religious. Take up a collection." To this Bill consented. In his companion's hat he deposited pennies, a cork-screw and a broken-bladed knife. As he did this the wind lulled, and the shallop made a successful landing.

A young man in Hoboken who hates mosquitoes and loves girls, discovered that a kerosene bath, taken every morning before breakfast, kept away flies and mosquitoes from the person. He took one, and that evening visited his heart's idol. When they had embraced, h. h. i. rang for the servant girl and said:—"Bessy, did you sweep this room out today?" "Yes, sir," said Bessy. "Well, then there must be a dead rat under the floor. I'll get Pa to-morrow to have the carpenters here and pull up the boards. I can't stand the stench." "Darling," said the inventive genius, "It isn't a dead rat. It's me. I—'Leave the house, sir, and never dare to enter it again. Bessy, sprinkle the room with cologne." The inventive genius has decided to put up with the bites in future.



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MONDAY, 5th Day of July, 1872.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Hon. the Minister of Customs, and under the provisions of the 5th Section of the Act 31st Vict., Cap. 6, in relation to "An Act respecting the Customs," His Excellency has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the Out Port of Customs established under the Order in Council of the 25th of May, 1872, and therein designated as the Out Port of "Salmon River," in the County of Albert, and Province of New Brunswick, shall hereforth be designated and known as the Out Port of "Alma," and that the said Order in Council be amended accordingly.

W. A. HIMSWORTH, Clerk, Privy Council.

CERTIFICATE FROM MR. ALFRED KNUCKLE, American House, St. Joseph Street.

DEAR SIR.—I was afflicted during the beginning of this winter with a most severe COLIC, attended with incessant COUGHING and DIFFICULTY OF BREATHING, which reduced me so low that many persons supposed I could never recover. I tried a great many things, which were given me both by my doctors and friends; but did not receive any benefit from anything until I commenced using your "HOARBOUNDED AND CHERRY BALSAM," which seemed to give me relief immediately. I continued using it until I was completely cured, and now I believe I am as well as I ever was in my life. I would gladly recommend it to any person suffering from a similar complaint. Almost anybody who knows me can certify to the above. ALFRED KNUCKLE. MR. RICHMOND SPENCER, Chemist, corner of McGill and Notre Dame Streets.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS addressed to the undersigned (endorsed Tender for Basins) will be received at this Office until Noon of SATURDAY, the 24th AUGUST instant, for the formation of two Basins, construction of Wharves, etc., at Montreal, on the north side of the La Chine Canal, between Wellington Street and St. Gabriel Lock.

Plans and Specifications can be seen at this Office, and at the La Chine Canal Office, Montreal, on and after Thursday, the 13th instant, where printed forms of tender may also be obtained. The signatures of two solvent and responsible persons willing to become sureties for the due performance of the work must be attached to each tender. The Department will not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, Ottawa, 6th August, 1872.

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