

the least alarmingly peculiar. Several authentic instances of this freak of human action are on record, and the theory of duality has been advanced to account for some of the many mysterious disappearances which annually occur among humanity in large cities. The last known instance of this disease proved that a man left his home and business without reason, wandered to a strange city, engaged for some months in a new pursuit, and finally awoke to the fact that he was not responsible for what he had done. What terrible results might occur if this disease were not extremely rare is a thought too unpleasant to dwell upon. The ludicrous possibilities are entirely overwhelmed by the tragic and the pathetic.

SEA SERPENTS.

PUBLIC attention has once more been drawn to the mystical denizen of the deep known by the convenient but wholly unscientific name of the "Sea Serpent." This time it is not the impoverished reporter who fills up a deficiency of MS. with a highly-coloured romance regarding the marine monster, but no less a scientist than Professor Proctor, who revives the old theory of Gosse and others, and argues with his usual ability in favour of present examples of old Saurian forms of life still inhabiting the waters of the earth. Professor Owen inclined to the belief that the sea-serpent described by the captain of H. M. S. *Dædalus* in 1848 was merely a large seal. Others believed it to be a huge shark or whale. A few referred it to floating wreckage; and a large majority opined it a case of mistaken identity. However, many instances of the appearance of huge marine animals have from time to time been recorded on oath by seafaring men, and, taking one consideration with another, these stories are not all mere yarns to be told to the marines. Professor Wilson inclines to the theory that sea-serpents do exist, but are probably only abnormal and gigantic members of groups of marine animals already known, such as sea-snakes, ribbon-fish, etc. At present, owing to the disinclination of the unknown leviathan to capture and classification, either of the theories advanced may be taken by those who dislike to be in doubt. Perhaps they are all wrong; but time will doubtless reveal the identity of this very old riddle of sea-life, which has caused Olaus Magnus, Pliny, DeMontfort, Pontoppidan and others so much speculation. At present, as the animal is marine, there cannot be any harm in taking its dimensions *cum grano salis*.

THE JESUITS.

It is to be hoped that the Dominion of Canada will not assist in carrying out the probable scheme for settling the old claim of the Jesuits, which no doubt underlies their recent application for incorporation. It is not unlikely that the Quebec Government will be willing enough to submit to the pressure brought upon it by the Society, and to pay whatever compensation may be demanded; but the Dominion should deal firmly with the matter, and decline to refund to Quebec any part of the money that may be awarded. The history of the Jesuits is a history altogether

unique. The most signal failures have ever overtaken their most determined plans for success. They have been suspected and feared, not only by opponents of their doctrines and practices outside the Romish Church, but also by their co-religionists, from the very beginning of their order. The countries, both civilized and savage, which they have sought to dominate, have in every instance cast them out, and however powerful their personal influences may still be, the potency of their policy as a Christianizing and civilizing agency has departed. They have exercised great influence at striking periods of the Old World's history; but the result of their policy has neither been beneficial nor lasting. As missionaries they have attained heroism by personal sacrifices; but when the motives of their religious adventures are analyzed there is little to admire beyond their blind devotion to the will of their superiors. The present age is not suited to the spirit of the Society, and it would be unwise to foster so sinister an influence by undoing that which was necessary three quarters of a century ago.

THE "SATURDAY REVIEW" ON THE FISHERIES.

DURING the thirty years of its existence the *Saturday Review* has probably done more to embitter public feeling in the United States against Great Britain than all the other trans-Atlantic periodicals combined. Everybody who has reached middle age remembers the bitter, sneering contemptuous tone it adopted towards the North all through the Great Rebellion. It had one or more articles on some phase of the subject every week. They were all clever and sprightly, but nothing more grossly unfair towards a great nation passing through a supreme hour of trial was ever written. The *Saturday* never had a wide circulation in the States, but its hostile articles were copied by the American press as specimens of English sympathy, and thus became known to pretty nearly the entire reading public. By this means numerous dragon's teeth were sown, and they have regularly yielded more or less of a crop. The tone of the paper has ever since been uniformly hostile to everything American. It has neglected no opportunity of saying unpleasant and uncomplimentary things; of commenting upon the eagle's screech and the flapping of the wings of the bird of freedom. Within the last week it has published a most offensive article on the attitude of the United States in the matter of the Canadian fisheries. It represents the American people as "striving to fasten a quarrel on an unconscious nation." Now, we in Canada are decidedly of opinion that we have the best of the argument with reference to this vexed question of the fisheries, and we are disposed, if need be, to stand by our rights. But we are not of opinion that the leaders who direct the administration of affairs in the neighbouring republic are a gang of bullies and swashbucklers, eager to take advantage of our weakness, and of the unenviable state of Great Britain with regard to Ireland. Nor do we believe that American statesmen have deliberately set up against us a claim which they know to have no equitable foundation. It is incredible that the *Saturday's* article is an honest