

to be derived from an immediate knowledge that "flour has fallen," and "fish is going up," I endeavored to give some account of the electrical machine and its appurtenances.

And here, I must confess, I experienced not a little disappointment; to be sure, I was only a tyro in lecturing, or the mischance could not have happened. The night was very cold, and, of course, the cylinder and other glass articles became very cold also; and on carrying them into the warm room, the steaming breath of the crowd was quickly condensed on the glass; so, when I prepared to "manipulate, I found, to my chagrin, that there was something wrong—the bells would not ring, the pith balls moved feebly, and the dancers absolutely refused to budge, and an incipient murmur of disappointment (which, however was quickly suppressed by the rest of my well-disposed and most indulgent audience) issued from some Philistines in the darkest corner of the room. My presence of mind did not entirely fail me, however; I dexterously rubbed up my cylinder with a silk handkerchief; I discarded the bells and dancers as a bad job, and applied myself vigorously to charge the leyden jar, which I had failed to accomplish before. I was again beginning to fear that the lecture would come to an abortive conclusion, as no electricity showed itself, when, incautiously placing my hand where I ought not to have placed it, I received a shock which dispelled my apprehensions, though the sensation, which I very much dislike, was only balanced by the pleasure of knowing that the affair was not to end in a fizzle.

Then the fun commenced in reality. This was something all could enjoy. Half a dozen at a time held hands and touched the jar, according to directions, and received the *shock*, and went off rubbing their elbows, to the great amusement of the others. At last I had electrified nearly the whole assembly, and had got a pain in my own elbow from grinding out the electric supply. Then, having formed an insulating stand by placing a piece of board on three tumblers, I took sparks from numerous noses; and with this last experiment, and a few words expressive of the hope that this, though the *first*, would not be the *last* "Electric Telegraph" we should see in Cape Dove, the proceedings terminated, and all went their ways rejoicing.

Such was my first lecture on Electricity. My difficulties, such as they were, were in a great measure overcome by a little perseverance, and I enjoyed an ample return in the knowledge that I had given an evening's amusement, as well as a few new ideas, to a number of people who were very grateful for the little trouble I had taken.

I will not be so bold as to say to others, go and do likewise; but I would wish to convey a hint to the effect that even a very elementary knowledge of a science may be utilised in this way, in lonely districts, where there is little to break the monotony of the dreary winter, where lecturers are few, and where critics do not flourish.

In such places the undisguised wonder at what is *new*, the pleased attention, and the respectful good humour of his audience, will be sure to reward the Lecturer.

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