

indignation is pointed at his portrait. Popular indignation is as great against the would-be murderer, as when it rolled in overwhelming streams against the murderous assassin Guiteau. "Guiteau," he says, "is a fool, and an exception to the American nation,"—thanks for his kindness,—“but Mason is not.” Absurd! God forbid that he be considered a representative of the Americans, or the prototype of the glorious army of the now strongly united Republic. He next turns his attention to the letter of General Sherman, in whom there is the very soul of honor. Apparently, he is too obtuse to understand what was said by General Sherman in his communication relative to the crime of Mason. Many other assertions of minor importance, equally false and foreign to the subject, “*Les Écoles sans Dieu*,” were advanced; but, owing to our very limited time and space, we are obliged to forego refutation. If the editor of *La Vérité* took the trouble to inform himself more thoroughly of the state of American affairs at present, he would not have inserted that article, at once so insulting and disparaging to the citizens of the United States. 'Tis, indeed, a noble and prolific subject, the *able* amplification of which would interest and instruct the multitude desirous of knowing the truth. Let him, then, “*try it again*,” but let him treat it in a manner more worthy and Catholic.

DIVERSA.

—Mr. Dumas, the distinguished chemist, gave lately, in a *séance* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a most interesting account of the liquification and solidification of those gases that have been considered until lately as incoercible. He stated that the specimen of solid oxygen produced by Mr. Pictet, of Geneva, had the size of a hen's egg and resembled snow; whilst in the liquid state it looked very much like water. It was further stated that liquid oxygen has the density of water.

As regards hydrogen Mr. Dumas explained that it was liquified under a pressure of nearly 5 tons (exactly 650 atmospheres) with cold minus 140° C.; and by rapidly evaporating the liquid thus obtained the solid condition showing the color of blue steel was arrived at. This would tend to prove the correctness of the theory of Graham, who, several years ago, maintained that hydrogen is a metal, and proposed for it the name of hydrogenium. It is certain that hydrogen is absorbed or occluded, as scientists say—by several metals in large quantities. For instance palladium absorbs no less than 930 times its volume of hydrogen; and thus forming a substance which is apparently an alloy in which hydrogen is supposed to be as a metal in a solid state with a specific gravity of 2.

—We do not wish to detract aught from the just tribute of admiration which the scientific world pays to the genius of the great physicist,

Benjamin Franklin. His analysis of the Leyden jar, his discovery of the power of points, his demonstration of the identity of lightning and the electric fluid, so-called; and, finally, his admirable invention of the lightning-rod place him in the front rank of the most illustrious benefactors of humanity. These are titles of nobility and glory the splendor of which nothing can dim or diminish. The very idea of attempting to seek lightning from the bosom of the clouds by means of a kite is one of the boldest and most ingenious which zeal for scientific researches has ever inspired. However, it is but just and proper to say that he, Benjamin Franklin, was neither the only one, nor indeed the first, to conceive such a hazardous enterprise. He, himself, fixes, in one of his letters, the date of his famous experiment with a kite to the month of September, 1752; but it is now proved beyond dispute that the physicist de Romas, a Frenchman, announced, as early as the 12th of July of the same year, his intention of using a kite to draw the electric fluid from the clouds. We must then conclude that de Romas did not borrow from Franklin the idea of the kite experiment; but that he had conceived it two or three months before him.

When we carefully consider the means which Dr. Franklin employed in his famous electric kite experiment we cannot but acknowledge that he displayed little foresight in attempting it; for it is a wonder that his experiment did not actually prove fatal to him. And, in fact, he chose a hempen cord which is a poor conductor of electricity; although by its getting wet in the rain it became a tolerably good one. He held in his hand but a short, thick ribbon, which was undoubtedly a great imprudence, and finally he used his fingers to draw sparks, which was a positive fool-hardiness, instead of making use of a discharger of some kind. But then “*quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus*.”

—Mark Twain, speaking of a new mosquito netting writes: “The day is coming when we shall sit under our nets in church and slumber peacefully, while the discomforted flies club together and take it out of the minister.”

—Said a philosopher: “My friend conducted his future wife to the altar—and here his leadership came to an end.”

—A cigarette-smoking scion of one of the first families on the west side came into this office to request that a notice of his coming nuptials might be inserted in the paper. “Don't say, however,” said the young man, earnestly, “that I am about to lead to the hymeneal altar the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mr. So and so, because that kind of slush is too old, and beside we all know that nobody can lead a woman, and then again it's leap-year. Better make it read that I have consented to be her'n.” He was assured that it would be done, and left.