THE Weekly Chronicle

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Weekly Almanack.

DECEMBER.	S. R.	S.	MOON.	H	W.
17 Saturday,	7 33	5	2 3	7	20
18 Sunday,	7 33	5	3 11	8	20
19 Monday,	7 34	5	4 19	9	9
20 Tuesday,	7 34	5	5 26	9	53
21 Wednesday,	7 35	5	6 32	10	33
22 Thursday,	7 35	5	rises.	11	12
23 Friday.	7 36	5	4 22	11	48

Last Quarter, 30th, 11h. 14m ev.

Public Institutions.

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.—Solomon Nichols, Esq. President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 3 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount Days.—Director next week: N. Merritt, Esq

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Miscellany.

From the Diary of a London Clergyman.

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC.

[CONCLUDED.]

My next visit.—Mr. C——'s disappointment.—His malady.—His mysterious visitor.—He receives the sacrament.—Strange dialogue.—An unexpected visitor.—A communication.—The result.—A reconciliation.—Their union.

At my next visit, I found Mr. C—— exceedingly low; but as he was anxious to renew the subject, I became a patient and willing listener.

"For some weeks after my disappointment," he resumed, "I was in a state of mental torment beyond description dreadful. I had sustained a loss in the fair object of my affections which nothing could replace. Had she been removed from me by death, I should have borne it without a murmur, because it is the common lot of man, and one to which we must all submit. I should then, too, have had the sweet consolation, that, though I lost her, I had never been deprived of her affections; and to have received her last sigh upon my lips would have been a boon, compared to the privation, and utter desolation of heart which followed upon her abandonment. Oh! if she had died, I would have consoled myself that she was in heaven, looking down upon me from the habitation of her glory with a sympathy allied to the love entertained for me during life. I could have held silent communion with her departed spirit, and have lingered behind with a sweet reliance of hope that I should be eventually united to her in that blessed inheritance of the good, where there is peace which passeth knowledge,—a repose which alone belongs to immortality.

"After a while, though my sufferings did not subside, I grew reconciled to her desertion of me, so far that my wounded feelings had settled from a state of almost constant effervescence into one of general placidity; but I became occasionally subject to fits of nervous excitement, extremely harassing. My sleep, too, was generally perturbed, and seldom refreshing; and this continual tension of the fine chords of emotion gradually brought me into a state of morbid sensibility, which ended in that peculiar malady the effects of which you have several times witnessed.

"Daily do I fancy that I am visited by that dear girl, still dear, though she has so sorely wrung my heart; and, though I am fully sensible that it is but the phantom of a nervous conjuration, her form, nevertheless, becomes so distinct, every feature of her bright countenance is so vividly impressed upon my senses, that it has all the truth of palpable life. I seem to hear her voice; we discourse together as we did in the fondest moments of our love's delirium; and, strange as it may seem, when the vision is before me I never think of the loss to which its prototype has subjected me,—but our intercourse appears what it was when I looked forward to a union with her.

"It is this singular visitation which keeps me alive; but the most extraordinary part of the matter is, that though I am conscious of labouring under a delirium, it does not in the slightest degree abate the substantive fruition of which I am perceptable; while the shadowy resemblance of one I so ardently loved is present with me, I have as positive an enjoyment of her conversation as if she were breathing beside me; but no sooner does the vision vanish, than a trying re-action generally takes place, bringing on a depression that sometimes produces alienation of mind. You have occasionally witnessed my wanderings during those moments of abstraction. For months this imaginary intercourse has continued, and I am not only sensible that is a malady, but that it is draining the fountain of life. The dejection which follows these delusions cannot be much longer withstood; and yet I would not be restored to health for the wealth of worlds, to live and mourn my desolation. I feel my disease to be a boon, and shall die blessing God for his mercy, in having thought me an object fit for his chastening hand."

He here closed his narrative; and though I saw that he was an intense sufferer, I was glad to perceive a resignation to the Divine will, which I had not anticipated upon my introduction to him. From the first conversation I held with him relative to his religious belief, I expected that he was not likely to be weaned from prejudices, probably long encouraged,—but I was deceived. During our frequent intercourse, I found many of his hasty conclusions give way. He became sensible that he had often judged upon the faith of others, and had not investigated for himself. He sought God's blessing upon his endeavours, and, at length the blessing of conviction came. It is probable that, had not his mind been disciplined by the visitation which had fallen upon him, he would have made religion a mere speculation, and lived on under the sad delusion—that creeds are made for men, and not men for creeds. But the low state to which his spirit was brought, by the perpetual sappings of his malady, rendered it less repugnant to conviction, and I had the satisfaction, within a few weeks, of perceiving his opinion concerning the Bible completely changed.

When I first saw him, he had never received the sacrament, and I had no difficulty in persuading him of the spiritual benefit to be derived from a solemn participation of it. I at length, however, prevailed; and one Sunday morning he took it with his aged mother and sister. From that time his faith appeared to be confirmed. He frequently confessed to me the comfort he derived from it, and henceforward received it regularly every month. It had a great effect upon him; his spirits at times revived for a considerable interval. The fits of hypochrondriasis became less frequent and less severe; though the phantom upon which his heart fed, with craving appetency, still continued to visit him. His friends, nevertheless, persuaded themselves that the periods of those visitations were beginning to diminish.

A few days after he had given me the short narrative of his life, I happened to call during the interval of his delusion; and as the broken conversation was singular, I made a memorandum of it, as well as my recollection enabled me to do, after I got home. When I entered the room he appeared particularly animated:—

"Well, my dearest Jane, as you like: why should I oppose a desire so just?"

"Nay, you do yourself an injustice, believe me: I never gave you credit for qualities which I do not well know you to possess; and truth is not flattery."

"Well, think so, if you please; but it will be a difficult matter to make me a convert to your belief."

"Ay, I thought so. It struck me there was a mental reservation."

"But you know ours is not the affection of a day; it has grown with our growth, and is, therefore, I trust, a portion of our nature. For my part, I feel that I could no more cease to love you, than I could cease to breathe."

"There I can't agree with you: the love of a child may be evanescent, and liable to be diverted; but when the child's love gradually grown into that of the woman, I should say it is fixed as the everlasting sun in the bright firmament."

"Why do you argue thus;—for surely you do not draw your conclusions from your own experience?"

"Ah, my dear girl, when we reason in matters of the affections, without taking our hearts into previous consultation, depend upon it our reasonings are likely not only to be inconclusive, but altogether false."

This sort of conversation was carried on for some time; and as the replies to his observations merely passed in his own mind, it was impossible to supply them; but it appeared evident that his thoughts were, at this moment, tending to the change of the lady's feelings towards him, which had been the sole cause of his malady.

As he proceeded with the conversation, his motion became occasionally violent; and this morning's visit of the vision had been decidedly less gratifying than I had ever before beheld it. At length he said, with a violent effort,—"She's gone!" and sank back upon his couch in a state of exhaustion. This was succeeded by one of his low moody fits; but in the course of a couple of hours he rallied, and became tolerably composed.

For several days after this he was better. The visits of the phantom were neither so long nor so exciting as usual, and his family thought that he was improving in health; but occasionally a violent paroxysm came on, which again overthrew their hopes; and they were still in a state of equipose between expectation and apprehension, when a very unlooked-for event occurred, which gave a new colour to his future life, and raised him from a bed of sickness, to a new existence of happiness.

One morning, a lady, who said that she had a particular communication to make to me, was shown into my sitting room by the servant, and, having politely desired her to be seated, I was rather struck by her appearance, as it brought to my mind a description with which it remarkably corresponded. She was an extremely pretty woman, apparently about thirty, dark as a hazle-nut, with bright expressive eyes, and one of the most animated countenances I had ever seen. In an instant it occurred to me, that she was the lady by whom my poor friends mind had been so sadly overthrown. I was right.—She began by telling me, that knowing I was the friend of Mr. C——, and trusing to the sanctity of my professional character, she had called to learn from me if what she had heard were true,—that her cousin was lying in a state of helpless sufferihg, likely to terminate in death.

"Madam," said I gravely, "my friend has for some time been pronounced by his medical man to be dying. The unkindness of one to whom for years he had resigned his heart, will probably prove his doom."

She burst into tears. "I am, indeed a wretch!" she cried. "I knew not the worth of what I was forsaking. I was unworthy of so much love. Oh, sir! I was unacquainted with my own heart; it had strayed into a wilderness, but has fondly and faithfully returned to its first impressions: yet," she continued, sobbing hysterically, "he would never endure me now. How could a woman so wrong a man,—such a man, too,—and expect to be forgiven!"

I endeavoured to pacify her, and rejoiced to think that my friend might yet be restored to that society of which he was likely to be so bright an ornament.

When my visiter had recovered her composure, finding I was acquainted with her history, she related to me, that when she quitted the family of Mr. C——, she took up her abode with the mother of the youth to whom she had so rashly resigned her affections. Their marriage was delayed for a few months until he should be settled in a partnership in trade which promised to be lucrative. During this interval, the vulgarity of the mother, the homely familiarity of the sisters and other members of the family, the very common sort of people with whom they associated, and above all, the want of refinement in the young man himself, which she had now leisure to discover, satisfied her that the change she was now about to make would be a change to unhappiness; at the same time, recalling the home and the man she had quitted for those by which they were about to be replaced, her false dreams vanished. She made up her mind to relinquish her new admirer, and return to a long tried and ardent attachment. Acting upon this determination, she declared her intention to the family who threatened prosecution for breach of contract. This only rendered her the more resolute; and she left them to seek reconciliation with the object of her first affection.

I immediately called, and communicated to Mrs. C—— the unexpected return of her former ward. After the first expressions of surprise, it was thought prudent that the lady should not be suddenly introduced to her cousin, least the shock might produce mischief upon his shattered frame. As soon as the usual fit came on, she was brought into the room and seated beside him. He talked as usual,—but she continued silent,—his imagination furnished the replies. After a while, she gently took his hand; he started,—and the illusion vanished.

"Heaven!" he cried, "there is something more than a vision here." He opened his arms, and the object of his fond heart's attachment immediately fell upon his bosom. The whole matter was briefly unfolded to him. He had a strong hysterical paroxysm of some duration; and after this had subsided, he was composed.

There was now no rapture in his manner; he seemed no longer to possess that confidence which had been so cruelly disappointed. He talked of the misery he had endured with some bitterness of spirit, and said that the shock of disappointment was bearing him rapidly to the grave. The lady wept bitterly. He was moved,—and it ended in unconditional forgiveness. From this time, the vision ceased to haunt him, as he had the living original before his eyes. The cause of his nervous excitement being removed, he strengthened daily, and within the lapse of a month, was completely restored to health and peace of mind. He was now once more the happiest of men. His confidence in the affections of his interesting cousin returned, and after the short delay of a few weeks, I united them. Nothing has since occurred to mar their happiness; on the contrary, he has become a delighted father, and his cup of joy is full.

I frequently call to mind the singular events in this brief episode of man's life, as evincing one among the infinite variety of modes in which the divine chastenings are administered. I have witnessed many strange afflictions to which humanity has been subjected by the wise determinations of an Omnipotent will, but never yet saw anything so remarkable as those which were brought before my observation in Mr. C——'s malady. He has had no return of it, but has become a healthy and even a hearty man, with as strong a relish for life as an ardent youth in the very prime of his boyhood.

THE WHALE FISHERY.

The increasing use of gas, for the purposes of illumination, has so reduced this fishery, as to render it of comparatively minor importance in a commercial point of view. But it is not always by the pounds, shillings, and pence profit that we are to estimate the value of *all* employments of talent and capital. When we consider the increased knowledge we have obtained of the physical geography, natural productions, and meteorological phenomena of the Arctic regions, mainly through the Whale-fishery, it must ever be a source of interest to us. Independently, also, of the still-existing demand for the various products of this high northern latitudes, the hazardous and precarious nature of it, and the daring and talent requisite for its pursuit, invest it with a charm which will ever induce men to engage in this occupation even with less hope of profit then they might reasonably indulge, when pursuing surer, but less-exciting sources of gain.

The circumstances just alluded to render every account of this fishery so interesting, that there are few who are not acquainted with its general features; for the purpose, therefore of giving novelty to ours, we shall waive entering into any statistical details, or general descriptions, and give a fictious history* of a whaling voyage, in which the principal characteristics of this occupation will be embodied.

The ship Endeavour, of 370 tons, sailed from Whitby in March 183—, amply provided with every necessary for the object of her voyage and for the comfort of her crew. She was well *doubled* and *fortified*, that is, she had extra planking on her frame, and was strengthened at her bows, interiorly by additional timbers, and outwardly by iron-plates, &c., to enable her to resist the tremendous pressure of the ice in which she might be enclosed. She was so rigged as to admit of rapid and easy manœuvering, it frequently happening that but a few men are left on board at a time, when every resource of skilful navigation must be employed either to keep in sight of the boats, or to avoid impending danger from ice.

Her first destination was the harbour of Lerwick in the mainland of the Shetland Isles, where most Whalers stop for the purpose of completing their complement of hands, of receiving their final equipment of stores, and of making several arrangements for their ulterior object, such as taking down all useless appendages to the masts and rigging, and setting up a crow's nest†.

Having completed these preparations, the Endeavour finally sailed on the 3d of April with a favourable wind, and proceeded on her course for Davis's Straits. The locality for the fishery having been recently changed in consequence of the animal being driven by so long a period of persecution, to abandon its haunts off the eastern coast of Greenland and neighbouring seas, while the fact of its still abounding in Baffin's Bay had been ascertained by the several voyages of discovery made in that region within the last fifteen or twenty years.

As soon as they had arrived in the latitude where they expected to meet with *fish*, the boats were got in readiness for instant use, and every preparation made for action.

The boats were arranged three on each side, and sling from the davits, so that any one, or all, could be lowered in a minute, on a signal being given that a Whale was in sight. The Whale-boat is from twenty-four to thirty feet in length; it is built to unite the properties of being easily managed and rowed with speed, and yet to endure considerable strain and heavy seas. A boat's crew consists of seven or nine men, and carries from seven to eight hundred weight of whale-lines and implements: the boats are broad in proportion, to resist the effort of the animal when diving, which would otherwise drag them under water, an accident of not uncommon occurrence notwithstanding.

Each boat, when equipped for use, is provided with two harpoons, six or eight lances, and five or seven oars; a small flag to be set up at the stern as a signal when a Whale is struck; a *tail-knife* used for cutting the fins of a dead Whale; a rest, on which the harpoon is laid to be ready for instant service; an axe, to sever the line if necessary; a small bucket for baling the boat and holding water to wet the running line, to prevent the friction from setting the boat on fire; a grapnel, boat-hooks, snow-shovel, and a few other articles. The largest boats are also furnished with a small windlass fixed across the thwarts for the purpose of winding up the line which has been carried out by a Whale, after the animal is killed. Sometimes a harpoon-gun for discharging the weapon from is used, this being a short gun mounted on a swivel near the bows of the boat; but it is by no means generally used, even in the best appointed vessels.

The harpoon is prepared for use by having a piece of rope eight or nine yards long spliced round the shank, the swelling of which, made to receive the handle or *stock*, keeps the rope from slipping off. The other end of this rope is made fast to the stock, which being put into the shank with sufficient firmness to retain its place during the cast, is nevertheless shaken out by the motions of the wounded Whale. The object of this arrangement is that the hold of the barbed harpoon, may not be endangered by the motion of a long lever like the stock, and this latter, by being fastened to the harpoon, helps to indicate the situation of the Whale beneath the water, as it floats on the surface and is not lost.

Every harpoon is stamped with the name of the ship, that in case the Whale gets away and the harpoon is recovered by some other vessel taking the animal, the right of ownership may be determined. After these preliminaries the point and barbs are cleaned and sharpened, and covered with canvass or oiled paper to preserve it so till it is put into the boat, and attached to the line for immediate use.—A weapon thus prepared is said to be *spanned in*.

The Whale-lines are made of the best hemp and in the most careful manner. They are about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and are in lengths of 120 fathoms, six of which spliced together are put on board each boat, making a total length of 4320 yards. The harpoon being attached at one end, the rest of the line is coiled with the utmost regularity in the compartments of the boat, and the end is provided with an eye or loop, to allow of another length being added on from another boat if necessary.

The Wales are most abundant about the month of June, and though found in every situation, the largest are generally met with near the edges of fields, floes, or packs‡ of ice.

There are two species of Whales met with in the Arctic seas. The *Balæna mysticetus*, or common Greenland Whale, averages from fifty-five to sixty feet in length, and about thirty or forty in girth; its skin is smooth and dark-coloured; the tail, though short, is often twenty or twentyfive feet broad; the head is enormously large, and has no neck; the upper jaw is furnished with a series of laminæ, attached to the bone, instead of teeth. These, which are the whale-bone of commerce, are fringed at their lower extremity with hair, and form when the animal partly closes its mouth, a kind of screen, or sieve which allows the exit of the water, but retains the small molluscous animals and fish which it drew into the cavity, and which constitute its food. The eye is disproportionately small, not much exceeding that of an ox; yet the animal possesses a tolerably good sight, and its hearing is described by Captain Scoresby as not so dull as we might be led to imagine, from the total want of an external appearance of that organ.

The other species is the *Balæna physalis*, called the *Razor-back* by the whalers, from a horny crest running along the back; it is a large animal, often attaining ninety feet in length; much more active, and consequently more difficult to take, and is not so productive in blabber as the former species.

* All the details are taken from Captain Scoresby's work, and from an account of *A Voyage to Spitzbergen*, by John Long, 1818; a gentleman who sailed with that officer, as a surgeon, on more than one expedition. We have also had recourse to the *Account of Newfoundland, &c.*, by Louis Am. Anstrach; and several other works.

† The crow's-nest is a cylindrical frame about four and a half feet long, and two and a half in diameter, covered with canvass, open at top, and having a blanked bottom, with a trap-hole left in it, by which the nest is entered. It is fixed to the topgallant mast-head, and is intended to screen the person looking out, from the fatal effects of a Northern blast. It is necessary to station some one in such a situation when among ice, as a ship can only make her way through, or avoid coming into collision with it, by taking advantage of every movement among the distant masses; and it is from such a commanding height alone that these can be seen in time enough to allow of the proper manœuvering. Added to which, the Whales, being sooner seen from the crow's-nest, at a greater distance, preparations for their pursuit can be made in time.

Hence, every one on board takes his turn of watch and has to pass several hours in this situation with, perhaps, a north-easterly wind blowing hard, and the thermometer from fifteen to twenty degrees, or more below the freezing-point: when, if it were not for such a shelter, not all his ardour or resolution could preserve him from death.

The Crow's-nest is provided with a seat, and recesses to hold telescopes, a speaking-trumpet, signal-flags, a rifle, with its ammunition, and lastly, with a moveable screen, which can be shifted round the top, to keep the wind from the observer's head, which must be exposed above the canvass shelter, while he is looking out. The use of the trumpet, signals, and telescope, will be easily comprehended; but our readers may not so soon conjecture that of the fowling-piece, in a situation where the most keen sportsman could not hope to employ it on game of the usual kind. The fact is, that from this elevation a Narwhal may be seen and shot at, which might escape observation from the deck, or which could not be hit from the lower level, partly owing to the effectual resistance water presents to a ball fired into it so obliquely, and partly to the deception occasioned by refraction, under the same circumstances.

‡ A *field* of ice, is a continued mass of it, so extensive that its bounds cannot be seen from the mast-head. A *floe*, is a smaller field, not exceeding half a mile or a mile in extent. When it is met with in smaller pieces it is termed *drift* ice, and when drift ice floats, adhering together for a great extent, the whole is termed a *pack*, *open* or *sailing* ice admits of a vessel or boat making its way through it without difficulty.

Natural Philosophy & Mechanics.

Historical note on the Discovery of the non-conducting power of Ice, by A. D. Bache, Professor of Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania.

In the fourth series of his electrical researches, Mr. Faraday devotes himself to the establishment of a "new law of electric conduction." In the course of experiments for this purpose, he says that he "was suddenly stopped by finding that ice was a non-conductor of electricity, and that, as soon as a thin film of it was interposed in the circuit of a very powerful [voltaic] battery, the transmission of electricity was prevented." This observation is made to lead to a beautiful train of research on the conducting powers of various oxides, salts, chlorides, &c., capable of existing in both the solid and liquid states. In these experiments, a galvanic battery of two troughs, containing twenty pairs of four-inch plates, was used.

Similar results were obtained with electricity from the machine. A thickness of five-sixteenths of an inch of ice scarcely allowed the electricity to pass at all, though of this high tension.

It seems, then, that Mr. Faraday thought it necessary to investigate this fact, which he had accidentally observed in relation to galvanic electricity, in its application to electricity as evolved from the machine.

That ice is a non-conductor of electricity, thus evolved, was, however, well known to Dr. Franklin, and his associates; and whatever merit attaches to this discovery, which was considered a curious one, belongs to him, or to them.

In one of a series of letters to Mr. Peter Collinson, of London, dated in 1747 and 1748, in which he gives an account of experiments made by himself, Kinnersley, Hopkinson, and others, Dr. Franklin has the following remark: "A dry cake of ice, or an icicle held between two in a circle, likewise prevents the shock, which we would not expect, as water conducts it so perfectly well."

Again, in the paper on the aurora borealis, read before the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris, in April, 1779, and entitled, "Suppositions and Conjectures towards forming an Hypothesis for the Explanation of the Aurora Borealis," the basis of his theory is this same want of conducting power. He says, "Water, though naturally a good conductor, will not conduct well when frozen into ice by a common degree of cold—not at all when the cold is extreme."

"The great cake of ice that eternally covers those [the polar] regions, may be too hard frozen to permit the electricity" "to enter the earth." "It may, therefore, be accumulated upon that ice."

Dr. Watson had previously affirmed ice to be a conductor; and, subsequently, Bergman and others were of the same opinion, doubtless for their not attending to the "dryness" of the ice. Bergman found reason to change his opinion, and Archard, Erman, and others, have confirmed the accuracy of Franklin's statement. These authorities have caused ice, at a low temperature, to be ranked among electrics, in the elementary works devoted to this subject.

As far as the passage from the solid to the liquid state is concerned, our electricians seemed to have been better informed than the following sentence from paper of the Prof. Faraday, before referred to, supposes.

"This assumption (he says) of conducting power by bodies as soon as they pass from the solid to the liquid state, offers a new and extraordinary character, the existence of which, as far as I know, has not before been suspected."

It is true that this remark applies particularly to galvanic electricity, but as Mr. Faraday repeated many of his results with the machine, to prove them to be coincident with the others, he obviously does not intend to limit his remarks. "All these effects, he says, "produced by using the common machine, and the voltaic battery, agree, therefore, with each other." Again, "the conducting power of these bodies, when fluid is very great."

In a letter to Cadwallader Colden, of New York, dated Philadelphia, April 23d, 1752 Dr. Franklin says, "I do not remember any experiment by which it appeared that highly rectified spirit will not conduct; perhaps you have made such. This I know, that wax, rosin, brimstone, and even glass, commonly reputed electrics *per se*, will, when in a fluid state, conduct pretty well. Glass will do it when only red hot."

He again states the same fact in the paper on the aurora, before referred to thus:—"A certain quantity of heat will make some bodies good conductors, that will not otherwise conduct.

"And water, though naturally a good conductor, will not conduct well when frozen into ice."

In these effects, our electricians saw only the general effect of heat on the conducting power of bodies, while Mr. Faraday ranks the effects observed by him in quite a different class, and founds upon them the general law that decomposition is necessary to conduction.

ASTONISHING DISCOVERY.—At the late meeting of the British Association at Bristol, Mr. Cross, of Bloomfield, Somerset, stated that he had devoted much of his time to electricity, and he had latterly been occupied in improvements in the voltaic power, by which he had succeeded in keeping it in full force for twelve months by water alone, rejecting acids entirely. Mr. Cross then proceeded to state, that he had obtained water from a finely crystalized cave at Holway, and, by the action of the voltaic battery, had succeeded in producing from that water, in the course of ten days, numerous rhomboidal chrystals,—resembling those of the cave. In order to ascertain if light had any influence in the process, he tried it again in a dark cellar, and produced similar crystals in six days, with one-fourth of the voltaic power. He had repeated the experiment a hundred times, and always with the same results. He was fully convinced, that it was quite possible to make even diamonds, and that at no distant period, every kind of mineral will be formed by the ingenuity of man. By a variation of his experiments, he had obtained blue and gray carbonate of copper, phosphorate of soda, and twenty or thirty other specimens. Mr. Cross, some years ago, was engaged in carrying on the most gigantic experiments attaching voltaic lines to the trees of the forest, and conducting through them the streams of lightning as large as the mast of a seventy-four gun ship, and even turning them through his house with the dexterity of an able charioteer.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE SAW MILL SAW.—Every third tooth of a saw mill saw is to be sharpened to a cutting edge on its upper side, the teeth so sharpened being alternately on reverse sides of the saw; these teeth are then to be so set as to cause them to take a thin shaving off in their ascent, and thus to plane the sawed stuff, or to render it much smoother than is done by the common saw. It is said that experience has shown that the best effect is produced by so sharpening every third tooth, although an adherence to this number is not absolutely necessary. The claim is, to "the *upper oblique* edge of saw teeth being cut to the right and left alternately, and set together, or betwixt any number of common teeth, for the *upward* motion of the saw, for the purpose of sawing wood in a smooth manner, as above described."

EXTENSIVE FOGERY.—Mr. George Edwards Peacock, a solicitor, who formerly resided in the county of Durham, was, on Wednesday, convicted at the Sessions held in the Central Criminal Court, London, for forging a power of attorney for the sale of stock in the 3 per cent consols for upwards of £7,000. The prisoner is brother of the Rev. E. Peacock, of Denby Wiske, near Northallerton, and was joint trustee for his brother's wife, for the sum which he fraudulently caused to be transferred. The jury, after twenty minutes' consultation, found a verdict of Guilty, accompanying it with a strong recommendation to mercy.—*English Paper.*

AWFUL DEATH.—A Protestant Clergyman of Hirschberg in Silesia, was killed in his pulpit. A thunder storm burst over the town on Sunday whilst he was preaching; the top of the pulpit was suspended from the ceiling of the church by an iron rail—the lightening struck the spire, penetrated the roof, and descended along the chain. The wig of the old man, who was continuing his discourse undisturbed, was seen in a blaze; he raised his hand to his head, gave a convulsive start, and sank back dead in his pulpit.—*New York Paper.*

Is it not remarkable, that the same temper of weather which raises a genial warmth in animals, should cover the trees with leaves, and the fields with grass, for their security and concealment, and produce such infinite swarms of insects for the support and sustenance of their respective broods?—*Addison.*

A celebrated voyager once saw a stream of Stormy Petrels, which was from fifty to eighty yards deep, and three hundred yards or more broad. The birds were not scattered, but flying as compactly as the full movements of their wings seemed to allow; and this stream of petrels for an hour and a half continued to pass without intermission, at a rate little inferior to the swiftness of the pigeon. It is calculated that the number of Petrels would amount to one hundred and fifty-one millions and a half.