

THE DANCING MANIA.—The latest work issued in the cheap form of the Humboldt Library bears the above name, and in its pages presents some very curious facts in connection with the origin and nature of the various epidemic dances of the middle ages. St. Vitus' and St. John's dances of Germany, tarantism of Italy, the tigretier of Abyssinia, and the religious manias of England and America, are referred to in order; though in the last the author, Dr. Hecker, would certainly find some opposition among the historians of early Methodism. A few remarks in reference to St. Vitus may prove interesting. A Sicilian youth, martyred in 303 A.D., his fame developed after his death, and tradition honored his memory and ascribed to him miraculous powers, including that of being able to cure the dancing mania. His shrine, therefore, in the early part of the fifteenth century became the resort of hysterical crowds of the dancing maniacs of Strasburg. Starting at first from the wild, long-continued, bacchanalian revels of religious feasts, the epidemic spread with wonderful rapidity, until in a few years every town of south-western Germany became the scene of shrieking crowds of maniacs, who leaped and shouted until, falling in convulsions, they swooned away, only to revive, and with foaming mouth rejoin the mob. Curiosity attracted crowds of spectators, who were irresistibly drawn into the mad dance, and the malady soon rendered them powerless to retire. The chapters give us an insight into one of the most horrifying but interesting phases of human nature.

GENERAL GRANT AND HIS BOOK.—The General began to work at his book almost immediately after the Grant & Ward failure. He wrote the first volume and one-third of the second with his own hand, when his sickness became so severe that death was hourly expected. Upon his recovery he requested his publishers to furnish him with a stenographer, and then every morning he dictated his memoirs for an hour, and sometimes nearly two hours. His dictation was very rapid. Sometimes he looked at the few notes he had pencilled on brown manilla paper, but