

THE DANGER OF LIGHTNING.

The Danger of the Thunder Storm and Lightning Flashes—Its Effects and Consequences Hinted to Travellers.

It is a very commonly expressed idea that there is less danger to individuals who happen to be overtaken in a thunder storm if it is accompanied by a down pour of rain than would be the case if the rain was absent. From the observations of the effect of the electric fluid upon trees, there seems to be ground for such belief, as it would appear that where a considerable amount of moisture is absorbed and conducted away without causing any rupture in the medium through which it passes. The state of knowledge, however, with regard to the way in which the fluid acts upon trees is in rather an elementary condition, although there are a few things more worthy of the notice of foresters who at all scientifically inclined. So far as observations have gone, as already intimated, it seems pretty clear that not only does the amount of moisture in a tree produce an effect, but also the character of the tree itself and the season when it is struck. As an example of the way in which moisture conducts electricity, the case of an electrified tropical forest has been cited, where heavy rains had fallen and soaked the trees, which then become charged with electricity. Subsequently, a thunderstorm passed over the electrified trees, which were thus induced to part with their store of the fluid into the cloud above in such a manner that the phenomenon was visible to the eye. As each flash from the cloud passed, the points of the trees gradually became aglow, until another flash relieved them of their superabundant charge. To bring us to what more commonly occurs, the investigations which were made some years ago by Prof. Colladon, and reported in the scientific papers, may be of interest. This gentleman made a minute examination of a tall poplar which had been struck by lightning in a street in Geneva, and the conclusions at which he arrived with regard to it support the theory which has been referred to. These shortly were, that the fluid first strikes the highest branches, especially those most exposed to rain, runs through all most all the smaller branches until it reaches the trunk, which being a much worse conductor, presumably from its greater dryness is generally ruptured. From this it is argued that the topmost branches of trees during storms would be the safest position, and it is pointed out that birds in the branches are seldom killed. A Lombardy poplar, with a spring or pool of water near its base, would therefore form a good lightning conductor if placed in proximity to a building but care must be taken that the pool is not on the opposite side of the building, as there is a case on record where a flash of lightning left a tree thus situated, passed through the building, and entered the water on the other side. Such cases tend to prove that the condition, character, and position of trees has much to do with the action or lightning upon them, but as has been said, the state of knowledge in this direction is not very far advanced. At the present season it is usual to have opportunities of noting effects, as thunderstorms are not common; as they occur it would be very interesting if the action of the lightning flash upon trees was more carefully observed and the results made public.

DON'T ALLOW TALENT TO RUST.

As by constant friction steel is kept highly polished, so by constant exercise is talent ever at its brightest. All our powers grow by use. If we neglect to cultivate the habit of observation, we might as well walk through the world blindfold. We lose our faculty—what artists call our 'touch'—by neglect of practice on other things besides the piano. The man who seldom reads, reads lowly; the woman whose writing is confined to an infrequent letter to some absent child spends more time over that than does a practiced writer over a dozen pages of manuscript. Exercise of possessed talent is absolutely necessary then, if we would retain our gifts. For example, if our occupation is sedentary we need to plan for walks, rides, and active games to keep our muscles lithe and servicable. but if our employment gives us enough muscular action, it is not one whit less important to our health of body that we should plan for mental exercise—for employment enough of memory and our reasoning powers to keep them from rusting. And, in either case that life must be a dwarfed and unhealthy one that does not provide exercise for our spiritual faculties—for worship, and charity, and patience, and magnanimity. Exercise for soul, mind and body can alone bring us to the stature of the perfect man.

CATHOLIC MARTYRS.

The published report confirms the sad intelligence of martyred Catholics in Annam and Cochin China, where Catholicity had made such wonderful progress, until anti-Catholic feelings were generated by lying, hypocritical preachers, who spend American money to thus murder Catholic converts. It is time that this species of conversion to Protestantism should cease by cutting off the resources that enable preachers and their families to live in style and only incite illwill against Catholic Missionaries, who alone,

sacrifice themselves for Christ's sake. The following is the sad record:

The 'Annales des Missions Catholiques' have just been published, and the organ of the French Missionary society fully confirms the sad intelligence, published during the past year, of the terrible massacres occurring in the Kingdoms of Annam and Cochin China. The report states that ten missionary priests, twelve native priests, sixty catechists, three hundred native nuns, and thirty thousand Christians, were massacred. One large mission, embracing two hundred establishments, two hundred and fifty churches and chapels, two seminaries forty schools, seventy missionary residences, seventeen orphanages, thirteen houses of religious communities one printing establishment, and the homes of fifty five thousand Christians, were sacked and burned. But while such is the tale of martyrdom, there is the consoling intelligence of still unabated hope and confidence. During the year, baptism was administered to 19,710 pagans and 170,900 infants in danger of death.

THE LOST CRUCIFIX.

Fausto Roderiguez, a Portuguese, relates the following sea incident: 'We were' he says, 'at sea—Father Francis, John Raposo and myself—when there arose a tempest which alarmed all the mariners. Then the father drew from his bosom the little crucifix he always carried and applied it to the waves thinking that its holy influence might still their tempestuous wrath. But alas! a wave swept it from his grasp and it was lost. The disaster greatly affected him, and he could not conceal his grief. On the morrow, in the morning, we came to land on the Island of Baranura, after passing twenty four hours in peril of our lives. Father Francis and myself were walking along the shore toward Tamalo, when we both beheld, arising out of the sea, a lobster fish, which carried between his claws the lost crucifix borne on high above the water! I saw that lobster come out of the water and crawl to the feet of the Father, for I stood close by him, and when the father had taken the crucifix from the lobster it returned into the sea. Then the Father fell upon his knees and tearfully gave grateful thanks to God, hugging and kissing his crucifix in passion of delight. He remained half an hour in that humble posture, with his hands pressed to his breast and I joined him in rendering praise and thanksgiving for so great and palpable a miracle.'

THE BODY AND ITS HEALTH

An eminent physician remarks that at the age of 36 the lean man usually becomes fatter and the fat man becomes leaner. Again between the years 43 and 50 his appetite fails, his complexion fades, and his tongue is apt to become furred upon the least exertion of body or mind. At this time his muscles become flabby; his joints weak, his spirits droop and his sleep is imperfect and unrefreshing. After suffering under these complaints a year, or perhaps two, he starts afresh with renewed vigor and goes on to 61 or 62, when a similar change takes place, but with aggravated symptoms. When these grand periods have been successfully passed, the gravity of incumbent years is more strongly marked.

Thirst in Hot Weather.—We venture to hope, says the 'Lancet' in concluding a careful examination of the subject, that those who are zealously urging the policy of refusing to quench their thirst in this hot weather because 'drinking makes people more thirsty,' will reconsider their policy from the physiological standpoint, and that they will recognize that to thirst and drink, and perspire and drink again, are the natural steps in a process by which nature strive to maintain the integrity of those organic changes which the external heat has a tendency to impede. The natural and true policy is to supply an adequate quantity of fluid without excess. Therefore do not abstain from drinking, but drink slowly so as to allow time for the voice of Nature to cry 'enough' There is no drink so good as pure water. For the sake of flavor, and because the vegetable acids are useful, a dash of lemon juice may be added with advantage. The skin should be kept fairly cool, so that a sufficient quantity of the fluid taken may pass off by the kidneys.

ICE CREAM.

The frequent instances of poisoning by ice cream are attracting the attention of the medical men, who are somewhat at a loss to know what cause to attribute the presence of the poison. A physician writing in the Medical Record, is inclined to lay the blame on the flavouring extract. He says:—'In Europe, the vanilla used in flavouring ices, pastries, etc., has

long been recognized as a prolific source of poisoning. Over thirty years ago Orfila reported cases of poisoning from eating vanilla ices. Since then numerous cases of a similar nature have been reported in Berlin, Vienna and various cities of Europe. In the endeavour to trace the cause of these toxic accidents the most elaborate chemical investigation proved the absence of any metallic irritant, and identified the vanilla used in the flavouring as the vehicle of the poison. To this it may be objected that a substitute for the vanilla bean is often used in the manufacture of cheap ice cream 'Artificial vanilla' as it is termed is made from coniferin, found in the sap of the pine. In the manufacture of this extract bichromate of potassium an extremely irritating substance, is largely employed. It is hardly probable that the process of purification is so perfect as to remove all traces of this agent.'

ADAM'S EPITAPH.

"Here lies, reduced to a pinch of dust he who from a pinch of dust, was formed to govern the earth, Adam, the son of none, the father of All, the step-father of All, and of himself. Having never wailed as a child, he spent his life in weeping, the result of penitence. Powerful, Wise, Immortal, Just; he sold for the price of disobedience, Power, Wisdom Justice, Immortality. Having abused the privilege of free will, which weapon he had received for the preservation of Knowledge and Grace, by one stroke he struck with death himself and all the Human Race. The Omnipotent Judge who in His Justice took from him Righteousness, by His Mercy restored it to him whole again; by whose goodness it has fallen out, that we may call that crime happy, which obtained such and so great a Redeemer. Thenceforth Free will, which he in happiness used to bring forth Misery, is used in Misery to bring forth Happiness. For if we, partakers of his pernicious inheritance, partake also of his penitential example, and our ears to salutary counsels, then we (who could by our Free will lose ourselves) can be saved by the Grace of the Redeemer, and the co-operation of our Free will. The First Adam Lived to die; The Second Adam died to live, Go and imitate the penitence of the First Adam; Go, and celebrate the Goodness of the Second Adam.'



Notice to Contractors

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed 'Tenders for Barracks, &c., Regina, N. W. T.' will be received until Monday, 30th instant, inclusive, for the erection of

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If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department of Public Works will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

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The Examination of persons who desire to obtain diplomas granting them the privilege of teaching under the control of the Catholic Section of the department of Education will take place on Tuesday the 20th day of July next, in the City Hall, St. Boniface. The Superintendent will receive the application for admission to such Examination until Monday the 19th of July prox.

The application must be accompanied by certificates.

The School Commissioners are reminded that they are to engage but those teachers who hold diplomas for this province. All persons, therefore, who, not having diplomas, wish to teach or continue teaching require to present themselves for Examination. No fee chargeable for the same

T. A. BERNIER, Superintendent,

St. Boniface June 15, 1886.

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