CONVERSAZIONE.

If There Were Men in the Moon.

We must remember that in every fibre of our constitution we have been specially adapted to the life on this particular globe. We know how our senses are adjusted in harmony with the particular atmosphere in which the earth is surrounded; we have now to notice another point, in which the texture of our bodies is arranged to suit the material contents of this globe on which we dwell. It may seem strange to learn that the strength of our bones and muscles has been adjusted not solely with regard to the size of our bodies or the quantity of matter they may contain, but with reference to the dimensions and mass of the earth. It might be that no other globe, even though the atmosphere was exactly like our own both in density and in composition, even though it was supplied with water as ours is, even though it provided us with abundance of suitable food and had a climate agreeable to our constitution, yet it might be wholly impossible for us to exist there by reason of an incompatibility between the strength of our frames and the mass of the globe on which we stood.

Thus, to take the case of the moon, which only weighs about one-eightieth part of the earth; the gravitation with which the moon would draw all bodies toward it would be much less than the similar gravitation on the earth. The weights of all objects would be reduced to about one-sixth part of that which we find them to possess here. The buoyancy of our bodies would be so great that athletic feats would be easy on a body the size of the moon, which could never be attempted on this globe by beings with muscle like ours. If a man weighing twelve stone were to be transferred to the moon, the weight of his body, measured, at least, by the attraction which the moon would exercise upon it, would be reduced to about one stone. If his muscles and his frame remained the same, it would seem as if he would be able to jump over a wall twelve feet high on the small globe without any greater exertion than would be required to clear a wall two feet high on the earth. Looked at from every point of view, it seems hardly possible that there can be any life on the moon resembling the life that we know of on the earth.—[Good Words.

Living on a Magnet.

That the earth is a great magnet is a proposition that has become familiar to most readers of popular scientific literature. But it would be a great mistake to suppose that the origin of the earth's magnetic condition, or the laws of its manifestations are completely understood by men of science. In truth, among the most dazzling questions that science has yet to solve are those relating to the magnetic pole toward which the needle of the compass point is not fixed in position, but appears to rotate slowly around the geographical pole—the pole of the axis on which the earth turns—is in itself a great source of speculation.

A theory recently put forth by Mr. Henry Wilde, of England, to account for this and other pecularities of the earth's magnetism is just now attracting attention and, whatever else may be thought of it, it is highly interesting, not to say startling.

Mr. Wilde believes that the interior of the earth is in a fluid condition, and that the inner fluid sphere rotates around a different axis from that of the outer solid shell. Everybody knows that the axis of the earth is inclined about twenty-three and one-half degrees from a perpendicular to the ecliptic. But according to Mr. Wilde the axis of the ecliptic, and he conjectures that the earth's outer shell got skewed around twenty-three and one-half degrees at a remote period in the past when, being yet in a plastic condition from heat, the mass of matter which now forms the moon was whirled off from it.

The inner sphere he supposes to be in an electro-dynamic condition, as all hot masses resembling the sun appear to be, while the solid shell is permanently magnetized.

This curious theory would not get much of a hearing but for the fact that Mr. Wilde has constructed a model which he calls a magnetarium, and which consists of a sphere rotating inside of the shell of a common terrestrial globe, a system of electro-mechanism being provided which produces the proper magnetic conditions, and the axes of the two spheres being inclined to one another at the angle of 23½ degrees.

With this ingenious contrivance he has succeeded in reproducing all of the peculiarities of the magnetic currents observed on the surface of the earth. He has even corroborated some curious observations that Columbus made on the direction of the magnetic needle during his first voyage in search of the New World, by producing on the model of the earth the magnetic conditions which prevailed on the actual earth in 1492.

Whatever the result of Mr. Wilde's speculations and experiments may be, there is certainly a splendid field for discovery awaiting any person who earnestly undertakes to solve the many mysteries that yet remain about the colossal magnet on whose surface we dwell.

Not an Upstart.

Public men, if they are to be successful, must learn to stifle personal prejudices. Prince Talleyrand, who shifted his politics so skillfully that he served under several distinct and contradictory political systems in France, learned this lesson very early.

When M. Thiers, who was of humble origin, began to rise in the world, Talleyrand treated him with great consideration. This greatly displeased a high-bred lady of the prince's acquaintance.

"What!" she exclaimed, "do you receive this upstart?"

"Madame," Talleyrand answered, "he is not an upstart. He has got up!"

How Old is the Potato?

The potato was introduced into Europe from the western hemisphere. History has it that Christopher Columbus was the first European who ever tasted a potato. It is doubtful if he ever enjoyed eating our favorite tuber. At all events, the vegetable that he ate at Cuba in 1492 and brought home to Genoa was a sweet potato. The first potato grown east of the Atlantic Ocean was planted by Claudius in the botanical gargens of Vienna in 1588. As is well known, Sir Walter Raleigh found the potato in Virginia and took specimens back to England. The original home of the popular tuber is Chili. It was brought north by the Spaniards.

For many years the potato in England was looked upon as being poisonous and unwholesome. This perhaps is not to be wondered at, as it was commonly eaten raw, the method of cooking it not being known. Gradually its usefulness as a palatable vegetable became known. A committee of the Royal Society urged in 1652 that all the fellows who possessed land should "plant potatoes and persuade their friends to do the same, in order to alleviate the distress that would accompany a scarcity of food. In 1738 the first field of potatoes was planted in the lowlands of Scotland.

As soon as the people of Ireland knew how to cook the potato it quickly became the one leading vegetable of the land. Its cheapness of cultivation, large yields and nutritive qualities made it become immensely popular, and as it was the chief article of food, it ere long obtained its present common name—Irish potato. It is not only of value as a food plant; the Irish were the first to discover that whisky could be made from it. Starch is made from it for the laundry and for the manufacture of farina. The dried pulp from which the starch has been extracted is used for making boxes. From the stem and leaves a narcotic is extracted. In some places cakes and puddings are made from the potato-flour.

How They Were Married.

A reporter for the St. Louis Republic has been talking with the wife of "a popular preacher" about marriages which have taken place at the parsonage. She has witnessed a good many, some of them attended with highly ludicrous incidents. One day she says, a fine-looking young farmer, roughly dressed, with an ox-whip in his hand, knocked at the door and was shown into the parlor where he laid his whip upon the mantelpiece, and proceeded to make known his errand.

"I say, parson," he began with some embarrassment, "if I was to figger roun' to-day till I got things fixed to my notion, could I come up here an' git married?"

"Certainly," said the minister, "certainly. What seems to be the trouble?"

"Wal," answered the farmer, I've got my license—that's all ready; I got it mor'n a week ago. An' now I've got a place to get married at. That's two things. But I ain't said nothing to the girl yet. She's in town to-day though, an' I seen her in a store a-buyin' some things, an' I'm a-goin' right down an' ask her."

He took down his whip, flung it over his shoulder, and went out of the door and down the street. The minister and his wife laughed, but the wife went often to the window and peeped out to see whether the expectant couple were in sight.

More than an hour passed; she had nearly given them up; but at last they appeared—the girl as the parson's wife expresses it, "a perfect little beauty, and as neat as a pin."

"I had lots o' trouble a-findin' her, said the farmer by way of explanation, and then they stood up and were married, while the bride seemed hardly to know whether to smile or to weep. But when the ceremony was over, and the minister's wife said something to her about it's being so sudden, she answered, while tears brimmed in her eyes: "But you see, ma'am, I've loved Jim ever since I can remember, and he was just too stupid to find it out."

WESTERN ONTARIO.

BRANT.

The telephone service at Brantford has not yet been placed in order since its recent damage by lightning. The loss is placed at $5,000.

During a thunder storm in Brantford the other afternoon lightning struck a wire clothes line extending between two houses in Eagle place. In the one case a cat was killed in the woodshed, and in the other a number of flowers were scorched, but, strange to say, the fluid did not enter either of the structures.

Westminster, B. C., News: A brave of the Six Nation Indians, who hails from the Seneca Reserves, Brantford, Ont., is under arrest, charged with pointing a rifle, knowing the same to be loaded, at a member of the Siwash Nation on Wednesday night at Mr. J. D. Munn's cannery, North Arm. The Mohawk was arrested by Mr. Moresby and tried before Capt. Pittendrigh at the police station last night. Several Indian witnesses were examined, and the accused was committed for trial.

ESSEX.

While Abram Major and wife and Arthur Major and wife, all of McGregor, were driving home Wednesday night the horses ran away, throwing them all out. The women were severely injured.

The Windsor-Detroit telephone cable has been repaired. Over 1,200 feet of cable was lost, the value of which will not fall short of $1,000. The thunderstorm of Wednesday played sad havoc with the telephones, over fifteen having been burned out.

Some boys in Essex wanted to see the fire department turn out, and fired an empty house belonging to G. J. Thomas. The building was saved and the boys will be arrested.

The Windsor Bar Association has adopted resolutions of condolence for the widow of the late J. H. Wilkinson.

When off Bar Point Thursday evening the tug International picked up the body of a young man which had probably been in the water only a short time. Coroner Bell, of Amhersburg, took the remains in charge. Nothing was found in the pockets to establish his identity. The description is: Thirty years of age, 5 feet 4 inches, weight 140 pounds. No marks of violence were found on the body.

The barn of Maxime Antillo, of Petite Cote, was struck by lightning Wednesday and destroyed, together with Antillo's season's crop. There is a small insurance.

Licenses for the remaining nine months of the year have been granted to Alex. Wilcox, W. H. Maloney and Mrs. M. Addeman, of Amhersburg; John S. Middough and W. Pastorious, of Kingsville; E. C. Luck, W. H. Ryall and John J. Wigle, of Leamington, and Mizael Dupuis, of Comber. The licenses of John Thrasher and Mrs. M. Malone, of Essex town, were extended for one month.

ELGIN.

The annual games of the Dutton Caledonian Society will be held Aug. 23.

Three barns of John Ashford, Orford township, were struck by lightning the other night, and with the contents burned to the ground. There were 500 bushels of old wheat in the granary.

S. O. Perry has been appointed city passenger agent of the G. T. R. at St. Thomas.

A severe thunderstorm passed over Springfield about noon Friday, burning out the instruments in the M. C. R. station. The station was also set on fire, but it was extinguished without serious damage to the buildings.

Information has reached Aylmer that the visit to Ottawa of the deputation seeking to have Aylmer made an outport of entry of St. Thomas, had been successful, and intimating that G. I. Walker would be appointed customs officer.

Mr. Else, of Southwold, has a wagon between 52 and 55 years old built originally for the grandfather of Mr. D. McColl, M. P. P.

It is expected that Crossley and Hunter will hold evangelistic meetings at Springfield about the middle of August.

KENT.

Ridgetown's rate is 15 mills.

Wm. Huff, Thamesville, got two fingers on his right hand badly damaged with a logging chain the other day.

After a long and painful illness, which finally obliged him to seek hospital treatment, three months since Capt. Sutherland, owner of the steam tug Alfred Wilson, and a resident of Chatham for twenty years, died a day or two ago in the 59th year of his age. The deceased owned a farm in Raleigh and a house and lot in Chatham. His wife died a few years ago.

LAMBTON.

A large number of summer resorters are in camp at Grand Bend.

A. C. Pousette, of Sarnia, has decided to run for the reeveship of that town, made vacant by the death of Mr. M. Fleming.

A fire broke out the other night in the dwelling-house of Fred Abraham, corner of Dufferin and Sanders avenue, Sarnia, about 700 feet south of the tunnel portal. On account of the distance of the place from the hydrant two divisions of hose had to be coupled to reach the fire, and before water could be got on the house was about a total loss. The building was a story and a half frame, valued at about $700.

George Morphy, a yardman at the Tunnel station, Sarnia, was seriously injured the other day while trying to couple cars. The draw heads were of different heights, and the cars caught Morphy's hand as they came together. Dr. Poussette, the Grand Trunk tunnel surgeon, thinks the hand can be saved, but in a mutilated condition.

MIDDLESEX.

The trustees of the Belmont school have secured the services of Richard Manning as principal for the ensuing year.

Charles Wilson, of Parkhill, has been committed to jail for 30 days by P. M. Wells for throwing a stone through a window of the Hastings House, and doing damage to the extent of $3. He had the option of paying damages and costs.

One day this week while H. C. Wilson, of the Bank of Commerce, was sitting in the C. P. R. telegraph office he leaned a little too far back in his chair, with the result that the legs flew out. To save himself he threw out his hand against the wall, when it came in contact with a piece of plate glass which had been set there to be out of the way. The arm was painfully gashed and bled so coplously as to frighten those present. Doctors were soon in attendance and the bleeding was stopped, though it was found necessary to put several stitches in the wounded member. It will be some time before Mr. Wilson will regain the use of his right hand.—[Strathroy Age.

NORFOLK.

John C. H. Herron, clerk of the township of Middleton, one of the oldest and most respected residents of the county of Norfolk, died the other day after much suffering from gangrene. Deceased was born in the county of Armagh, Ireland, in 1823 and came to Canada in 1845.

Port Dover stores close every Thursday afternoon for a half holiday.

Chas. Potter, Port Rowan, has been appointed principal of the Watford High School at a salary of $900.

The new Waterford High School building is being pushed rapidly along. The walls are nearly up. When completed it will be a handsome structure that will add greatly to the appearance of the village.

Victor store and postoffice have been burned. Loss partially covered by insurance.

OXFORD.

One day last week the son of Theodore King, of Woodstock, now staying at J. King's, Winona, fell from a cherry tree and broke his leg above the ankle.

The county of Oxford will spend nearly $8,000 for furnishing for the splendid new court house in Woodstock.

A letter has been received by friends in Woodstock from Rev. W. H. Boyle, formerly of St. Thomas, but now at Colorado Springs, contradicting the report now going the rounds of the press that he had lately suffered from another attack of hemorrhage and that Mrs. Boyle was suffering from gastric fever.

While Mrs. MacQueen, Ingersoll, was preparing potatoes for dinner she cut one of them in two and found imbedded in its center two smaller ones perfectly formed.

PERTH.

John Barr, 10th con., Hibbert, on going to the field on Sunday morning was surprised to find one of his horses killed by lightning.

Milton Latham, of New York, who is in Stratford on business as a member of the Perth Flax Milling Company, of which Ald. Hogarth is manager, says that it is quite probable that his company may go on with the erection of a twine making factory in that city. They have now got possession of the machinery in Boston which the American company tried to withhold from them, and it the outlook is favorable this fall the company may carry out the original intention.

WELLAND.

A. Hendershot, councilor and ex-mayor of Welland, had a statement printed and distributed to the effect that David Ross, now councilor, and others, did, when Mr. Ross acted as mayor, run the town in debt for waterworks, and that they appropriated part of the money to their own use. D. Ross swore out a warrant charging Mr. Hendershot with criminal libel. His hearing was held before Police Magistrate Hill, of Niagara Falls, and the evidence given went to show that all moneys had been properly accounted for, and Hendershot was committed for trial at the Fall Assizes, being released on his own bail. A short time ago Hendershot made similar charges in the council, and an expert accountant was engaged at an expense of $100 to go all over the waterworks expenditures, and he pronounced them all correct.

TO HELP THE WOMEN.

Curling Tongs and Other Utensils Newly Invented.

This year comes an inventor with a flat-iron kept at an even temperature by an electric current. Another man produces a device to hold a nutmeg against the grater and still allow it to slide freely up and down a pole. No more torn fingers and waste nutmegs in the season which requires cooling drinks when the temper is the hottest. A third offers a combined dust-pan and broom, which gathers up the dust without bending over. No more aching backs if this man can help it. A fourth produces an ice shave which shaves and collects the ice without moving the block, in order to render the journey to the refrigerator less a nightmare. Still another presents an automatic indicator to measure the height of the oil in filling the lamp. No more running over of oil and soiled sides and fingers with this man by. Nor are woman's vanities forgotten, for here is an asbestos pocket tube for alcohol, with the necessary standards for the curling iron's support, small enough for a corner in the traveling bag, and crimps at any time of the day or night.

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And after typhoid fever, diphtheria, pneumonia or other prostrating diseases, Hood's Sarsaparilla is just what is needed to restore the strength and vigor so much desired, and to expel all poison from the blood. It has had wonderful success in many such cases.

Hood's Pills act especially upon the liver, rousing it from torpidity to its natural duties, cure constipation and assist digestion.

"August Flower"

I had been troubled five months with Dyspepsia. The doctors told me it was chronic. I had a fullness after eating and a heavy load in the pit of my stomach. I suffered frequently from a Water Brash of clear matter. Sometimes a deathly Sickness at the Stomach would overtake me. Then again I would have the terrible pains of Wind Colic. At such times I would try to belch and could not. I was working then for Thomas McHenry, Druggist, Cor. Irwin and Western Ave., Allegheny City, Pa., in whose employ I had been for seven years. Finally I used August Flower, and after using just one bottle for two weeks, was entirely relieved of all the trouble. I can now eat things I dared not touch before. I would like to refer you to Mr. McHenry, for whom I worked, who knows all about my condition, and from whom I bought the medicine. I live with my wife and family at 39 James St., Allegheny City, Pa. Signed, JOHN D. COX. 6

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