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### Precious Documents.

Open to the light of day for the first time in nine years, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were recently inspected by Secretary of State Knox and found to be in good condition as when they were put away in their abiding place, a steel safe especially designed for their custody.

The four pages of the constitution and the pages containing the resolution submitting the constitution to the states of the union are in excellent condition. The ink is as black as when fresh laid to the parchment with a quill pen and is of a quality that will outlast any ink of modern make.

The Declaration of Independence, with hardly a signature legible of all those which are appended to it by the great men of the infant republic, however, is otherwise losing nothing of legibility. Its condition is due to the fact that away back in 1872, when there were no other means known of getting a facsimile, a press copy was taken which absorbed the ink from nearly all the signatures and left the script of the body of the document still readable, but more faint by half than it had been before.

The declaration had also been exposed to strong sunlight while on exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876 and at the Chicago exposition in 1893.

The documents are kept in a light steel case that would offer only slight resistance to heat and fire. Each

page is hermetically sealed between two pairs of glass, which are then bound in wooden frames of highly polished oak.

Secretary Knox directed that Chief Clerk McNeil make estimate for a safe depository for the documents that should be fire proof, water proof, air proof and light proof. The two valuable documents were then closed up again in the safe and the seal affixed, to be opened again only for transfer to a stronger place of keeping.

The documents will not be open to public inspection. The safe is kept in the library of the state department.—Washington Star.

### The Sacred Ganges.

The River Ganges in India, is famous for two things—its alleged purifying influence on all who bathe in it, and its mudiness. For ages there has been a belief among the Hindus that a dip in the Ganges, particularly at Benares, is a safeguard against the cholera, typhoid fever, and other infectious disease. A recent analytical examination of the river water at Benares has revealed the interesting fact that the Ganges is fairly alive with bacteria antagonistic to the bacilli of cholera and typhoid. The plague-ridden Hindoo who plunges into the river to bathe in it, provides himself with a vast army of useful microbes, which will quickly sweep out of his system, the deadly microbes of disease.

### STREAM OF SUNS

Astronomers Sun and Star Theory of Creation Proves Scheme Without Evidence of a Beginning or Promise of an End.

There is in England at the present time a New Zealand university professor who is devoting the evening of his life to the establishment of what he believes to be an epoch making astronomical discovery. Prof. A. W. Bickerton, of Christchurch, New Zealand, has for more than thirty years been working on his theory, and he has already gained for it a certain amount of recognition among scientific men.

It is well known that some hundred million stars can be photographed in the Milky Way. These stars are of all ages, young, mature and old, according to Prof. Bickerton the suns are travelling in two great streams in opposite directions. They attract each other as they pass and frequently come into collision, generally a partial impact or grazing collision.

When such a grazing collision occurs the parts coming into collision coalesce and form a new body. As the suns approach one another at the speed of hundreds of miles a second the graze does not stop them, though it alters their course. The coalesced third body possesses many wonderful properties: It spins, it sorts its atoms and it is abnormally hot; it has more energy than it can retain, therefore it explodes.

Thus a graze of suns produces three bodies, two revolving torn suns or variable stars and a third explosively hot body, which is a temporary star. This star appears suddenly, expands for a time and is finally dissipated into atomic dust. These atoms in their turn have their life history, varied and complex.

Prof. Bickerton believes that the light atoms escape and form vast asphering shells, the atoms actually flying away into the empty parts of space, there to lay the foundations of other cosmic systems.

Solar impact then, according to Prof. Bickerton, is the key to the mystery of creation. The basic idea of his theory is the formation of the third body, which he maintains has been misused by the astronomers.

His theory shows the scheme of creation as a whole as one that is infinite and immortal, without evidence of a beginning or promise of an end. A cyclic scheme which as a whole is deathless, birthless and flawless.

### Go Without Her

If you should ask your girl to go to Portland, or some other where, And she refuses, don't you know, Then do not go — into despair, But go wherever you've a mind, And leave her to her own sweet will, There's pleasure in the world, you'll find.

Let every charmer's voice were still

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