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## RAIN MADE TO ORDER.

THE MARVELOUS TALE OF A MODERN MUNCHHAUSEN.

ASTOUNDING PERFORMANCES OF MAGICIANS IN WEST AFRICA—A MAN FLOATS IN AIR—A MOST IMPRESSIVE FEAT—THE PRIESTS OF BAAL.

In a foreign publication there is a brief paper upon "West African Magic," the author of which, professing to write in all seriousness, gravely declares that the rainmakers of Africa really do make rain! But he is not content with argument. He supports his contention by the following marvelous story of what he declares he himself witnessed on the west coast of Africa:

I remember well my first experience of these wizards. For weeks and weeks there had been no rain, although it was the rainy season. The meadows were all dying for want of water; the cattle were being slaughtered in all directions; women and children had died by scores, and the fighting men were beginning to do the same, being themselves scarcely more than skeletons. Day after day the sun glared down on the parched earth, without one intervening cloud, like a globe of glowing copper, and all nature languished in that awful furnace.

Suddenly the king ordered the great war drum to be beaten, and the warriors all gathered hurriedly. He announced the arrival of two celebrated rainmakers, who would forthwith proceed to relieve the prevailing distress. The elder of the two was a stunted, bow-legged little man, with wool which would have been white had it not been matted up with grease, filth, and feathers. The second was rather a fine specimen of the Soosoo race, but with a very sinister expression.

A large ring being formed by the squatting negroes, who came for some unknown reason—all armed to the teeth, the king being in the center, and the rainmakers in front of him, they commenced their incantations. The zenith and the horizon were eagerly examined from time to time, but not a vestige of a cloud appeared. Presently the elder man rolled on the ground in convulsions, apparently epileptic, and his comrade started to his feet pointing with both hands to the copper colored sky.

All eyes followed his gesture, and looked at the spot to which his hands pointed, but nothing was visible. Motionless as a stone statue he stood with gaze riveted on the sky. In about the space of a minute a darker shade was observable in the copper tint, in another minute it grew darker and darker, and in a few more seconds developed into a black cloud which soon overspread the heavens.

In a moment a vivid flash was seen, and the deluge that fell from that cloud, which had now spread completely overhead, was something to be remembered. For two days and nights that torrent poured down and seemed as if it would wash everything out of the ground.

After the king had dismissed the rainmakers, and they had deposited the cattle and presents under guard, I entered the hut in which they were lodged and spent the night with them, discussing the magical art.

The hut was about 14 feet in diameter, strongly built of posts driven firmly into the ground and having a strong thatched conical roof. I eventually persuaded them to give me one or two examples of their skill. They began singing, or rather crooning, a long invocation, after a few minutes of which the younger man appeared to rise in the air about three feet from the ground and remain there unsuspended and floating about.

There was a brilliant light in the hut from a large fire in the center, so that the smallest detail could be distinctly observed. I got up and went to feel the man in the air, and there was no doubt about his levitation. He then floated close to the wall and passed through it to the outside.

When I reentered the hut there was only the old man present. I examined the logs carefully, but there was no aperture whatever. The old man continued his chant, and in another moment his comrade reappeared floating in the air. He sat down on the ground, and I saw his black skin glistening with rain, and the few rays he wore were as wet as if he had been dipped in a river.

The next feat was performed by the old man, and consisted in several instantaneous disappearances and reappearances. The curious point about this was that the old man also was dripping wet.

A most impressive feat, which they on a subsequent occasion performed was the old custom of the priests of Baal.

Commencing a lugubrious chant, they slowly began circling around the fire (which said fire always is an essential part of the proceedings), keeping a certain amount of rhythm in both their movements and cadences. Presently the movement grew faster and faster, till they whirled round like dancing dervishes. There were two distinct movements; all the time during which they were gyrating round the circle they were rapidly spinning on their own axes.

With the rapidity of their evolutions their voices were raised higher and higher until the din was terrific. Then by a simultaneous movement each began slapping his naked body on arms, chest, and thigh until they were streaming with blood and covered with deep gashes. Then the old man stopped his erratic course, and, sitting down on the ground, narrowly watched the younger one with apparent solicitude. The younger man con-

tinued his frantic exertions until exhausted nature could bear no more, and he fell panting and helpless on the ground.

The old man took both the knives, and anointed the blades with some evil smelling grease from a calabash, and then stroked the young man's body all over with the blade which had done the injuries, and finished the operation by rubbing him vigorously with the palms of the hands smeared with the unguent.

In a few minutes' time the young man arose; and there was not the slightest trace of wound or scar in his ebony skin. He then performed the same good offices on the old man with the same effect. Within ten minutes afterward they were both laid on their mats in a sweet and quiet sleep.

### AN ORTHOGRAPHIC SNAP.

Making Pretty Fair Wages Out of a Wrinkle Not Everybody Knows.

"How do you spell 'choir'?" inquired a short, pudgy drummer as he sat at a table in the writing room of the Weddell House in Cleveland a few weeks ago. There were a dozen men busily writing at the same table and as many more who were reading newspapers. The abruptness of the question caused the writers to pause in their work, for the question apparently had not been addressed to any particular individual. The speaker reflectively nibbled the end of a pen holder while waiting for a reply.

A gentleman on the opposite side of the table finally blurted out: "What kind of a 'choir' do you mean?"

"Why, a lot of singers in a church, you know. A church 'choir.'"

"Q-u-i-r-e."

"Thank you." The drummer again dipped his pen in ink preparatory to resuming his letter writing. The other gentlemen could scarcely conceal their mirth. Again the writer paused to say, half apologetically: "Blamed if I could tell how to spell it. Seemed to me it ought to be spelled with a 'c.' I was going to write it 'choir.'"

This was too much for the gravity of the crowd, and after a hearty laugh one of the gentlemen said: "Well, if I were in your place I'd spell it that way now, I think."

"Well, I thought I could hardly be mistaken about it," said the puzzled speaker.

Meanwhile the gentleman who had so kindly volunteered to spell the word became very nervous and seemed inclined to get angry.

"There are different ways to spell the word 'choir,'" he said, "and it makes all the difference in the world whether you are trying to spell the name of a body of singers in a church or a certain quantity of paper. If you mean a company of church singers it is 'q-u-i-r-e,' but if a quantity of paper—"

"Well, hardly," remarked a flashily dressed New York drummer, laying down his pen. "You will pardon me, my friend, but you're wrong. You've got the two words mixed. 'Q-u-i-r-e' spells a paper quire, and 'c-h-o-i-r' spells a church choir."

"Not by a long shot," stoutly insisted the speller. "Q-u-i-r-e" spells a church choir—or it used to do it when I went to school—and I've got money right here in my clothes which says that it spells it now."

The speaker was decidedly angry, while the rest of the crowd were rather amused at his discomfiture.

"Oh, well," remarked the New Yorker airily, "it isn't worth while quarreling about any way, especially since it can be settled so easily. If you are so sure that 'q-u-i-r-e' spells choir, suppose you back up your belief by a little wager—say the cigars for the crowd—and we'll look in the dictionary over yonder and end the controversy."

"I'm agreed," was the hot rejoinder; "or I'll bet you \$5 or \$10 or \$25 that I'm right, and prove it by Webster's Unabridged Dictionary in ten seconds." As he spoke he pulled out a roll of bills, and the New Yorker quietly laid a \$20 bill on the table, which was promptly covered.

The dictionary was brought forward. The Gotham drummer opened the big book and smiled like a man who knows a "sure thing" in sight as he turned to the word "quire" and commenced reading the definition—"a body of singers in a church. See choir."

The silence that fell upon that room was unrelieved save by the rustle of a \$20 bill as it was quietly folded and stowed away in the speller's pocket.

A week later, as I was enjoying a cigar in the lobby of the Riggs House at Indianapolis I was startled by hearing a familiar voice exclaim: "How do you spell choir?" Glancing hastily around I was surprised to see at one of the writing tables the identical gentleman whose ignorance had caused such a commotion at Cleveland concerning that very word.

Looking closer I was equally surprised to find near him the benevolent gentleman who had kindly volunteered to spell the word for him at Cleveland and who gained \$20 by doing so. Approaching the scene of battle I took a seat where I could observe the subsequent proceedings, and within one minute the Cleveland performance had been duplicated, the speller pocketing \$25 this time as the result of his acumen.

Addressing the winner, I said quietly: "I see that you spell 'choir' now in just the same way that you did the other day at Cleveland."

"Yes," he replied, "that's a pretty good way to spell it anywhere. It has nettled

my partner here and me about \$50 a day for the last two months. It works nine times out of ten, and we take no risks, you see. It is the best snap I ever struck and I used to work with some of the slickest boys in the country, too."

"But," he added confidentially, "if you ever try it you'd better keep both eyes open, or you'll miss connection with the dictionary. You can find 'choir' spelled and defined under the word 'quire' in Webster's unabridged" only. Even Webster had an edition of 1891 called the "International Unabridged," which reads "quire—see choir," without giving any definition."

### Pins With Solid Heads.

The first solid head pin was made in 1824, in England, by Lemuel W. Wright, an American. In 1832 Dr. John I. Howe a Connecticut man, invented a machine for making solid head pins. It was the first successful machine, and completed the pin by a single process. The old head was soldered on to the shank of the pin.

### Magnetic Rocks.

A remarkable instance of local magnetic disturbance, due to the presence of magnetic rocks, was observed near Cosack, northwest Australia, where a steady deflection of the compass of 30 degrees was recorded.

### A New Fad Among Brides.

A new idea for a bride's trousseau is to have the underlinen ornamented with a monogram in a fac simile of her own handwriting.

### POINTS OF PROGRESS.

The polariscope is now used to discover adulterations in essential oils.

An underground railway for Berlin is being constructed by German engineers.

A watch manufacturer of Liverpool has invented a lever watch that only requires winding once every eight days.

A new industry for Florida is the manufacture of starch from arrowroot, large quantities of which are grown in that State.

The telephone cables laid beneath the streets of Berlin are estimated to meet the requirements of 30,000 subscribers, the present number being 15,000.

Cool in the province of Almeria, in Spain, is so dear that there is great rejoicing over the discovery of an inferior quality in a large vein near Albánchez.

An ingenious American proposes to build an elevator at Mount Blanc which will be able to carry 216 persons at once.

The earth by a recent measurement in the 53d parallel of north latitude is shown not to be a perfect spheroid.

Molds for casting iron can only be made in sand. Iron or other metallic molds chill the iron, and it does not fill well. The great heat at which iron melts will burn any other material, or will stick so as to break the mold.

The brightness of the moon is not so very much greater than the brightness of the same area of the sky. The total light of the full moon can be compared with the total light of the sun, though it is a very difficult problem, and the result will be that the sun is as bright as 680,000 full moons.

The Medical Record calls attention to a new morbid habit which of late years has become enormously prevalent. It is the inhalation of tobacco smoke—quite akin to the opium habit. "The old cigarette smoker," says the Record, "would not exchange a few deep whiffs of his cheap cigarette for the finest Havana that could be bought with gold." It should be borne in mind that this habit, once established, becomes, according to the testimony of physicians, practically incurable.—New York Herald.

The new explosive, cerasite, is the invention of two Austrian engineers named Siersch and Kubin. Its power in relation to dynamite is declared to be as 100 to 70, and it can be carried from place to place with perfect safety. It emits a thick black smoke, and the detonating noise is louder than that of gunpowder, but shorter, sharper, and clearer. A bombshell loaded with it explodes with such terrible results that experiments against palisades representing 100, 250, and 500 men, at ranges of 300, 750, and 1,500 meters, recorded marks on every division of the palisade standing for a soldier.

### LITERARY NOTES.

Mark Twain has settled in France for three years.

"During the past five years," says M. Auguste Vacquerie, "the proceeds of the sales of Victor Hugo's works have reached the sum of 1,433,373 francs."

Two heretofore standard educational works—Herbert Spencer on Education and Bain's "Education as a Science"—have been withdrawn by the British government's education department from the syllabus for certificate examinations because of the opposition of the church training colleges.

Charlotte Bronte, in a letter written in 1849, says: "I regard Thackeray as the first of modern masters. I study him with reverence. He, I see, keeps the mermaid's tail below water, and only hints at the dead men's bones and noxious slime amid which it wriggles; but his hint is more vivid than other men's elaborate explanations."

Fifteen years ago, according to the Toronto Week, Robert Louis Stevenson was one of a small gathering of art students and others at Barbizon. A discussion

arose as to who, out of all of them, could best be spared by the world at large. Finally the matter was settled by a ballot, and every vote (his own included) was given for Stevenson.

A letter by Carlyle, recently sold in London, contains the following: "Probably you are not aware that in New England a certain set of persons, grounding themselves on those ideas of Emerson's, are already about renouncing this miserable humbug of a world altogether, and retreating into the rural wilderness, to live there exclusively upon vegetables raised by their own digging. Three hours' daily work they say will produce a man sufficient vegetables, and he can live there according to his own mind, leaving the world to live according to its. An American was here lately, as an express missionary of all that, working for recruits, for proselytes, naturally finding none. I was obliged to express my total, deep, irreclaimable dissent from the whole vegetable concern, not without great offense to the missionary."

### ART AND ARTISTS.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland both like Eastman Johnson's portrait of the ex-President, which has just been hung in the White House.

A Brooklyn writer is the authority for the opinion of E. Hopkinson Smith, that "Vimpe is the only place in the world for an artist."

A lover of Moret's work says that in an exhibition of the latest works by that artist, which has just closed in Paris, there were 15 different canvases of haystacks alone.

The noted painting, "Columbus's First Sight of Land," which received the first premium at the centennial exhibition in Philadelphia, is on exhibition at Boston. It will be shown in Chicago in 1893.

The great statue of Pope Leo XIII., which Count Joseph Loubat has presented to the Catholic University, at Washington, is reported to be a fine piece of work, and represents the pope seated upon his throne and wearing the triple crown.

Here is a fine short note from Biographies: "To reach perfection, we must be made sensible of our failings, either by the admonitions of our friends or the incentives of our enemies."

### SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

The storage battery is a success for street cars in Iowa.

New street cars in Philadelphia have perforated ceilings for ventilators.

Naturalists all believe that whales are the descendants of land mammals.

Wood has been retired in another particular. In France a firm of porcelain makers has substituted petroleum for wood in firing their wares, and not only produces better results but cheapens the cost.

Scientists say the chemist will dominate coming inventions. All our fuel will presently be furnished in the form of gas. In a quarter of a century more we shall wonder why man was ever such a fool as to carry coal into his house and burn it.

Six miles off the Labrador Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, a Russian vessel took sounding recently and found a depth of five miles, the deepest spot yet found in any ocean. Its convenience of access recommends it as a summer resort.

French scientists are puzzling over a spider which was discovered in a cavity in a stone. "It is estimated that the stone must be 4,000 years old; this notwithstanding, however, the spider is quite lively and very youthful in its antics. It is blind and has no mouth."

Four different mountain peaks in Idaho are from 13 to 23 feet lower, by actual measurement, than they were 15 years ago, and it is believed that this settling is going on with many others. The idea is that quicksands have undermined them.

Recent developments in chemical science promote belief in the existence of elementary forms of matter not yet actually observed. Certain peculiarities in the spectrum of the sun are thought to indicate that much of its matter is still in such elementary forms owing to its intense heat.

People who sneer at the suggestion that aerial navigation is not impracticable should be admonished by the tremendous triumphs of applied science during the present century. A flying machine would not seem half so wild a scheme as the telephone if both were unknown.—[Inventive Age.]

The Vermont Marble Company, of Rutland, Vt., has recently made six marble columns 10 feet 7 inches long, 3 feet 10 inches in diameter. They are each made from one solid piece of marble, turned in a lathe, and are said to be the largest ever turned out in the United States. They are for use in the construction of Whig Hall, Princeton College.

Among the arrivals at the barge office in New York recently was a little old woman of wood. It was an automaton figure of an old lady knitting, and the most curious part of it was that it was actually a knitting machine. It ran by clockwork, and to all appearances had every movement of life. The machine attracted a great deal of attention, and one man offered a round price for it, but the owner, a French immigrant, refused to part with it.

men and makes his meaning unmistakably clear.

Major McKinley and his lieutenants will have to stop beating their tin pans now and answer the questions which Mr. Mills has set the farmers of Ohio to asking.

### HOW IT HURTS THE SOUTH.

Wilmington Star.

Some time ago there was held in Asheville a convention for the purpose of establishing Tariff Leagues in this State. The Republican wire pullers who suggested and manipulated this convention were not giving themselves much concern about the tariff, their object simply being to rope some Democrats, if they could find any who believed in protective tariff doctrine, into this new organization which was to be used as an annex to the Republican party. The make-up of that convention showed no Democrats, and we doubt if it showed a single man who was manufacturer of any article which is protected by the tariff. It wasn't to organize a League to support and maintain the protective tariff, to protect and foster American industries, but to organize a League to protect and foster the Republican party, in which they are much more interested than they are in any protective tariff.

There may be some Democrats in North Carolina, as there may also be in other Southern States, who believe that the protective tariff is a good thing and that it is proving a powerful agent in building up Southern industries. These people may believe this, and they may be sincere and honest in the belief, but they are terribly mistaken. Instead of benefitting the South in any way whatever it is doing incalculable injury in numerous ways.

In the first place it levies heavy tribute on the Southern people as a whole, and takes out of their pockets in the aggregate somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000 a year, money enough to build and equip 400 colossal cotton factories, and thus it helps to keep money scarce in the South.

It hurts the Southern farmer because the manufactured things which he buys are heavily taxed, and he has to pay for high-priced articles with low-priced products.

It hurts the Southern merchant, especially the country merchant of small means, from whom the farmers mainly buy, by compelling him to purchase small stocks and to charge high to make profit enough to pay for his time, whereas if there were no tariff added to the original cost of his goods he could sell more and with a much smaller profit do a much larger business and make more money with his large sales.

But this is not all. It is an obstacle, and a serious one, in the way of the South's industrial development and progress. It is conceded that, all things else being equal, manufacturers will seek that section where the supply of the raw material, fuel, &c., are the most abundant and consequently the cheapest.

Now, as a matter of fact, those things in manufacture of which the South is principally engaged, have little or no protection from the tariff. In the finer grades of cotton fabrics she has to compete with the already long established and rich manufactures of New England, and in the manufacture of iron in its different forms with the long established and already rich mills of Pennsylvania. She has not the capital at present to compete with either of these in the more or less articles of manufacture although in the abundance of raw material, in fuel, in water powers and in several other particulars she has the advantage of both. But they are already established and with the bonus which they receive in the shape of the protective tariff, they can continue in operation and make handsome profits although they have to pay more for the raw material than they would have to pay for it in the South. If it were not for this they would be compelled, for a living profit, to get nearer the cheap raw material. This they do not deny, and no one can deny, so that the protective tariff helps to sustain and keep up, where they are, these aged competitors of similar infant industries which have been started in the South, with limited means to contend against those of practically unlimited means. That's one way the tariff retards Southern industrial development and progress. Wipe it out and within a quarter of a century the South would be the manufacturing section of this country, not only for cotton goods, but for iron in its various forms, and for the numerous kindred industries which go with them.

Learn to explain thy doctrine by thy life. Death breaks the lantern, but cannot put out the candle. Language was given that we might say pleasant things to each other. The excuse of every man who does not mind his own business is that he is trying to do good. Economy, rightly understood, is not refusing to spend money; it is spending money judiciously. It is about as hard to find a man who will not help you spend money, as it is to find a man who will help you to earn it.

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### THAT'S NO WAY.

Arizona Kicker.

Two or three weeks ago we had an item to the effect that the County Clerk of this county was drinking so much tanglefoot that public business was being sadly neglected. We meant it in all kindness, and hoped he would take it that way, but it seems that the iron struck home. Instead of coming to this office and talking the matter over in a friendly way, he banged our sanctum door open last Monday and began blazing away at us with an old revolver as long as a rail and as noisy as a cannon. He shot a hole in our office clock, perforated a State map of Nebraska, and knocked the end off a horn of plenty we had hanging up for an ornament. The rest of his lead went wild.

We don't want to be capricious about these things, but we have feelings to be hurt. After the blithering young man had got through we rose up and sliced the lobe of his left ear off as a souvenir and then threw him into the street. We were somewhat riled for a minute, but when he broke down and cried we went out and stuck the lobe in place and made friends with him. His ear will be as good as ever in a couple of weeks, and we hope the matter will prove a great moral lesson to him.

### TEN EYESIGHT DON'TS.

- 1 Do not allow light to fall upon the face of a sleeping infant.
- 2 Do not allow babies to gaze at a bright light.
- 3 Do not send children to school before the age of 10.
- 4 Do not allow children to keep their eyes too long on a near object at any one time.
- 5 Do not allow them to study much by artificial light.
- 6 Do not allow them to use books with small types.
- 7 Do not allow them to read in a railway carriage.
- 8 Do not allow boys to smoke tobacco especially cigarettes.
- 9 Do not necessarily ascribe headaches to indigestion, the eyes may be the exciting cause.
- 10 Do not allow the itinerant spectacle vender to prescribe glasses.

### The Farmers' Opportunity.

No matter if your county has not honored the Southern Inter-State Exposition by making an appropriation, which would have secured a distinctive exhibit, to the credit and gratification of our people, there is yet open a means for our farmers to "get their" with small samples of their best corn, wheat, oats, rice, rye, barley, buckwheat, beans, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, or anything else worth showing. All that need be done is to carefully pack, say a bushel, not less, of either, and send by freight at once marked as follows: "SOUTHERN INTER-STATES EXPOSITION, RALEIGH, N. C. SPACE A." Such articles will be taken charge of by the State Department of Agriculture and displayed to the best advantage. Now don't be laggard in this matter—send a bushel of turnips if they are nice—and be sure to write to the Department of Agriculture, giving it notice of the shipment, and describe how you wish the exhibit marked. Who will lead in this matter? Do not have it said that the name of our county was not attached to a single article at the Exposition.

Why not send a bale of hay, cotton, clover hay, pea-vine hay, or a bag of anything else. We are assured that the Department of Agriculture will sell for exhibitors at the close of the Exposition, articles entrusted to it, and return the exhibitor the proceeds. Try and send something.

### MR. MILLS IN OHIO.

N. Y. World.

The campaign of tin pans and clap-net which the Republicans have been carrying on in Ohio must now confront a campaign of hard facts and sound reasoning. Gov. Campbell has opened with a strong and eloquent speech and Mr. Mills has gone to Ohio to make an appeal to the intelligence of the people and not to their eyes and ears.

His first speech is a masterly presentation of facts which cannot be put aside by any noisy demonstration, but must be met and answered to the satisfaction of intelligent minds if their force is not to play havoc with the McKinley plans.

Mr. Mills puts the silver issue practically out of the campaign. He reminds his hearers that he has always favored free silver; that he has spoken for it, written for it and voted for it. But he shows them clearly that free silver offers no remedy for the evil conditions that create discontent, no hope of that prosperity of which the people feel the need.

It is not the amount of money per capita in the country that determines prosperity, but its distribution. It is of no advantage to the poor man that there is plenty of money in the country if it is all in the hands of a small class. It does him no good to know that the coffers of millionaires are full of money if he cannot get enough for his labor to provide for the needs of his family.

And Mr. Mills shows very clearly and conclusively why men cannot do this. It is because they are unjustly taxed into poverty, because unjust and unwise laws artificially depress the price of what the American worker has to sell and raise the price of what he has to buy.

His array of facts is impressive. His analysis of them is effective in its simplicity. He speaks directly to the mind, of plain