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Druggists

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FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1910.

In the death of Samuel L. Clemens, whose writings over the nom de plume Mark Twain have given delight to three generations of the American reading public, there passes one of the most unique characters that the country has ever produced. To those who are familiar with the stern facts of his life there is a tinge of especial sadness in his passing due to the many misfortunes and reverses which marked the closing years of the great humorist's life. There is something of the irony of fate in the fact that one whose genius for furnishing humor for the public was so great should himself have suffered so much sorrow.

The election of a Democratic Congressman, James Havens, in the Rochester, N. Y., district Tuesday by a majority of 6,000 votes where the Republican majority is normally 10,000 gives further evidence that the people of the country of all political faiths are intent upon a change of government. The Republican party is paying dearly for its failure to keep the pledge for genuine downward revision of the tariff. A vague feeling that the present high cost of living is in some way due to the high tariff also enters into the situation. There seems to be no doubt that if the congressional elections could all be held now the country would go Democratic. The election at Rochester Tuesday was to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Representative Perkins.

Attorney General Wickersham's

Investigation of the cotton pool has raised a rumpus. It was announced yesterday that the investigation would be postponed a few days and a hope was created in the financial district of New York that the whole matter would be abandoned. A little later, however, the announcement was made that other witnesses would be called and that even a more searching investigation than was at first contemplated would be made. The Attorney General and the government are both being severely criticised in many quarters, especially by the cotton manufacturers, for this action, it being alleged that the government forces are being invoked by the New York speculators who contracted for more than they could deliver and who are seeking a way to nullify their contracts. Whatever the truth regarding the matter may be it is certain that Mr. Wickersham stirred up a hornet's nest somewhere when he took upon himself the burden of this investigation.

The census of 1900 showed that there were 1429 Cherokee Indians in the tenth district, which embraces the counties of Swain, Jackson, Graham and Cherokee.

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HOW EYESTONES ACT

Their Movements When Placed in Lime Juice or Vinegar.

HAVE APPEARANCE OF LIFE.

Their Motion is Caused by Carbonic Acid Gas Evolved by Contact With the Liquid Acid—The Cleansing Process in a Journey Over the Eyeball.

The druggist took a small bottle from a drawer and emptied from it a few tiny objects that looked like flat, round bits of polished bone. He picked up one and handed it over for inspection. One side of it was marked with numerous concentric grooves.

"That is an eyestone," said the druggist. He poured a tablespoonful or so of liquid out of a bottle into a saucer-like dish and diluted it with water. "And this," said he, "is a weak solution of lime juice." The druggist took one of the eyestones and placed it in the solution. Presently it began to move as if it were alive. It made its way slowly about in different directions in the liquid in a mysterious manner.

"That strange movement of the eyestone," said the druggist, "when placed in a weak solution of lime juice or vinegar has given rise among ignorant and superstitious people to the notion that it has life and that it loves vinegar and loves to swim in it above all things. But there is no more life in an eyestone than there is in a paving stone. It is composed of calcareous material and when placed in the solutions named is made to move about by carbonic acid gas, which is evolved by contact with the liquid acid.

"These little stones and all genuine eyestones once were the front doors, so to speak, of the shells of a little molluscous animal that lives along the South American east coasts. The shell of that little creature is a univalve. This calcareous formation is on the tip end of the mollusk, and when it draws itself into its shell to escape danger or go to sleep the end, of course, is the last part that is drawn into the cavity or mouth of the shell, where it fits so closely and is so hard that it affords perfect protection to the animal against its enemies from without.

"The natives collect these little mollusks in large numbers for no other purpose than to secure the eyestones, as we call them, and they hold them in great awe, believing them to possess supernatural attributes. Sailors on the vessels engaged in the fruit trade with those regions obtain the stones from the natives and bring them here for sale to the wholesale druggists, and there was a time when the demand for them generally was quite large.

"There is nothing better to remove foreign substances from the eye than one of these South American eyestones, which use is what gives them their name. Many people think that before using them it is necessary to put them in vinegar to give them life, but it is not necessary at all. The stone is inserted at one corner of the eye, with the grooved side next to the lid. The pressure of the eyeball forces it to move about in the eye, and the grooves collect the foreign matter and retain it. After making a thorough circuit of the eye the stone will come out at the corner next to the nose. No inconvenience is caused by its presence.

"There are other eyestones. In the head of our common crawfish there are two little bones, just back of and beneath the eyes, which resemble the South American eyestones, about the only difference being that they are smooth all over instead of grooved on one side. These crawfish bones are known as eyestones and are used as such in the west, but they have none of the virtues of the real eyestone. Their proper name is crab stones. In Poland and parts of Russia quite a trade is found in the collecting of these crab stones. The crawfish are taken and buried in deep pits, where they are left to die and rot. The refuse is then washed and the stones are picked out. They are not used in those countries as eyestones, but are taken internally, faith in their beneficial stomachic properties being great."—New York Press.

Only One Message.
The lady of the house where they use a "party line" told the new maid to repeat to her any message. Then the lady went shopping. When she returned she summoned the maid.
"Did you receive any message for me, Jane?" she inquired.
"Only one, ma'am. I thought I heard th' bell ring, ma'am, an' I took down th' receiver, ma'am, an' just then a voice said, 'Listening again, are you, you old snoop?'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Old Mill.
Tourist in Holland—I suppose, my good man, that mill has ground out your living for a good many years? Gentleman of Marken—Bliss you, no! The old shack hasn't run for twenty years. I make a better living renting it as a model to American artists.—Judge.

Papa Enjoined.
"I call this the limit."
"How now?"
"A young cub has enjoined me from interfering with his attentions to my daughter."—Kansas City Journal.

Philosophy is nothing but discretion.—Seiden.

NEBULA HYPOTHESIS.

One of the Most Interesting Propositions of Science.

WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS.

That the Sun, Planets and All Matter Were Once a Vast Mass of Incandescent Gas All Jumbled Together in an Enormous Chaotic Cloud.

Everybody has heard the phrase, the nebula hypothesis, but what is it? In a few words this is the meaning of "nebula hypothesis": That the sun, the planets and all that is in them were at one time in the inconceivably remote past a vast mass of chaotic, incandescent gas all jumbled together in an enormous nebula, or cloud.

To begin with, the first conception that science has dared to make, however, takes us one step further back. Without mentioning the origin of matter itself science conceives that in the beginning all matter was uniformly distributed throughout space—that there were no stars, no planets, no satellites, but that all space was filled with the matter we now have divided up into very fine particles some distance apart. The consistency of such material was perforce very thin indeed, much more rarefied than the highest vacuum we can obtain now by air pumps. From this state to the nebulous state the theory has a missing link, one that can only be satisfied by supposing divine command, for it assumes, in the words of Professor Todd, that "gradually centers of attraction formed and these centers pulled in toward themselves other particles. As a result of the inward falling of matter toward these centers, the collision of its particles and their friction upon each other the material masses grew hotter and hotter. Nebulae seemed to fill the entire heavens were formed—luminous fire mist, like the filmy objects still seen in the sky, though vaster and exceedingly numerous." This process is supposed to have gone on for countless ages, faster in some regions than in others. Many million nebulae were formed and set in rotation around their own axes. This happily can be explained by science. Whenever particles are attracted toward a center and are kept from falling directly to this center a whirlpool is formed, rotating in one direction. An example of this, though humble and not exactly analogous, is the rotation of water in a basin when the stopper is pulled out of the bottom. Gravity attracts the water immediately above the hole, which starts flowing out, thus leaving a space to be filled. The rest of the water rushes in from all sides to do this, and the whirlpool is the result.

Now each of these whirling nebulae became exceedingly hot, and each formed what is known as a star or sun, our sun being one. The earth and other planets had not then come into separate existence, of course, as it is supposed that they were thrown off later from the sun.

Our sun in its nebulous form and rotating swiftly on its axis gradually flattened at its poles on account of centrifugal motion. This phenomenon is entirely familiar to those who have seen a ball of clay on a potter's wheel gradually flatten. The motion was so swift and the mass so nebulous that the sun to be took the shape of a disk. As time went on the outer part became cool and somewhat rigid, while the inner part continued its cooling and contracting. Thus the inner part drew away from the outer, leaving a ring of matter whirling around on the outside. This breaking off of the ring is supposed to be hastened by the inability of the outside to keep up the swift motion of the central mass, both on account of the slight cohesion and of the centrifugal force. But this particular part of the argument has nothing to stand on if the first law of motion is true.

In the successive stages of the sun's contraction this process was repeated over and over again, until several rings were whirling around the central orb. They would necessarily be in the same plane. Now, these rings, not being uniform in mass or thickness, would each gradually accumulate toward the densest portion until they, too, would form a ball which would subsequently flatten, and if the substance continued nebulous and the ball was large enough they would also slough rings.

Of course the rings the sun discarded have become the planets, which, as required by the theory, are all very nearly in the same plane. The rings that the planets formed have become moons or satellites. So we are driven to conclude that our sun at one time filled all the space for his present position to the farthest planet in the solar system.

From this theory there is another thing that we have to believe, and that is that every star in the heavens has gone through this same process and has a family of planets sailing around it, just as our sun has. It would be impossible to see these planets, of course, for it is impossible to see a star, even with the greatest telescope, except as a mere point of light.

As regards the proving of this nebula hypothesis, of course it cannot be done. But everything points to its accuracy. Many nebulae are seen even now among the stars that seem to be going through the delayed process of world forming. Around one of the planets of our own solar system, Saturn, are three rings, which are probably destined in time to become moons, in the opinion of some scholars.—A. T. Hodge in New York Tribune.

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Pay your poll tax before the first of May or you cannot vote.

A cut of three cents per gallon was made in the price of whiskey in Cincinnati yesterday.

Every Gaston county Democrat should see that his poll tax is paid before May 1st. Don't disfranchise yourself.

Gastonia Cotton.

These figures represent the prices paid to wagons, April 22nd:
Good middling14 1-2
Strict middling14 3-8
Middling14 -14
Cotton seed30c

Pay your poll tax before the first of May or you cannot vote.