

NEWS OF THE DAY.

SECOND EDITION.

THE OLD WORLD.

DEFINING THE GERMAN PEACE ESTABLISHMENT—THE AUSTRIAN MISSION—ARREST OF THE CURE OF SANTA CRUZ—REPORTED CARLIST SUCCESSSES.

BERLIN, March 23.—The dispute concerning the Army bill has been satisfactorily arranged, the Government accepting the minimum strength of the army during peace at 384,000 men.

VIENNA, March 23.—Baron Schwarz has been appointed Austrian Minister at Washington.

BAYONNE, March 23.—The Cure of Santa Cruz has been arrested near this city.

Carlist reports received here claim that the Carlist troops have repulsed the forces of Marshal Serrano upon both sea and land near Bilbao.

MADRID, March 23.—The Duchess of Madrid has had a daughter born to her.

WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S VIEWS ON THE CURRENCY—THE SECRET SERVICE.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—There is good authority for the statement that the expressions on finances attributed to President Grant in a recent issue of a New York paper are in the main unfounded. The President had not only in his annual message, but in conversations with Senators and others has indicated the view that it would not be wise to have an additional issue of currency in advance of some definite and fixed policy providing for its redemption, but he has not said to any one that he will veto any bill passed by Congress providing for the expansion of currency.

The Committee on the Expenditures of the Department of Justice Saturday examined Mr. Auld, of the Second Comptroller's office, who has charge of the accounts of United States marshals. From his statement it appears that \$600,000 were spent in the Western District of Arkansas during the past two years.

AMUSEMENTS.

THEODORE THOMAS'S FIFTH SYMPHONY SOIREE.

The fifth and most interesting of the series of symphony concerts given by Mr. Theodore Thomas this season took place at Stetson Hall on Saturday night before a very large audience. As it was eminently a musical audience and the point d'appui was the famous "Faust" symphony of Franz Liszt, we are at a loss to account for the people not being in their places until the end of the first movement of the symphony.

After a superb and brilliant performance of Weber's vigorous overture to "Euryantide" came the long-desired "Faust" symphony. This, with "Dante," is one of the largest and most important of Liszt's orchestral works, and, with his other symphonic poems, belongs to what may be considered as the third period of his art career, from 1847 to 1861, during which time he resided at Weimar as Grand Ducal Musical Director.

Unlike his other "Symphonische Dichtungen," the present work is written in three separate movements entitled respectively "Faust," "Gretchen," and "Mephistopheles." According to a synopsis printed on the off-set of the programme from the able pen of Mr. J. H. Cornell (organist of St. Paul's Church), the second part of Goethe's drama is what Liszt intended to typify in this composition. We incline rather to dissent from this, and maintain that the tragedy, as a whole—both first and second part—has received musical illustration from the pen of the composer.

The three dominant characters of "Faust"—the ever-inquiring, ever-restless, upward and onward striving mentality of Man; Gretchen, the pure influence of Good; Mephistopheles, the spirit of Evil,—are condensed and expressed in musical form, as much as they can be expressed by musical form and color, in the three movements. The reader is familiar with the sceptical unrest of Faust's great soliloquy in his study—the opening of Liszt's work translates it literally into musical language.

"Faust," the first movement, is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinettes in C, and two bassoons for the wood, four horns in F, three trumpets in F, two tenor trombones, bass trombone, and tuba for the brass, drums in A, C, and G, with cymbal for the percussion, and the usual string quintet of first and second violins, viola, violoncello, and double bass. It commences in the key of C major and terminates in C minor. The opening phrase, "Leuto assai," introduced by the viola (muted) and celli, is wonderfully suggestive of the sceptical unrest of Faust's character, as is also the response to it on the oboes and clarinettes, when the diminished seventh in the first progression, with its varied tonal and rhythmical modifications, seems to be the central figure of the symphony as Faust is of the drama. After this introduction in broken, incoherent phrases of twenty-two measures, we come to a furious *allegro impetuoso*, typical of the conflict in the hero's soul, where torrents of notes from the strings are hurled against syncopated utterances from the wood and horns.

The yearnings of the man for love are expressed in a change, "Meno mosso, misterioso e tranquillo," 6-4 time, where the cantabile theme sostenuto on the wind instruments is underlaid by a delicious figure for the violins and viola muted, leading into an *affettuoso (poco andante)* in C sharp minor, where the subject alternates in every measure between 3-4 and common time; this again gradually leads into an *allegro con fuoco*, which introduces as a climax the principal theme—a group of five notes, B natural, the E below, F sharp, C sharp, and the octave E above. This remarkable figure, which predominates through the balance of the movement as unmistakably as the well-known group of four notes characterizing the *allegro con brio* of Beethoven's C minor symphony, is first given to the celli and basses accompanied by a tremolo on the rest of the strings, commencing first on the B natural, then D sharp, then G sharp, till at the grand climax "Grandioso meno mosso," it strikes the upper B natural and rounds off the theme in its complete entirety, and is taken up *fortissimo* by the horns, trumpets, and trombones. Alternating afterwards with the *allegro* subject of the earlier portion of the movement, these two motives carry it on to its completion in a lovely *coda (triumfante)* in the key of C minor. To those critics who complain that Liszt is patchy and incoherent as a definition of what this great master considers completeness of form, we recommend as a study this first movement of the "Faust" symphony.

"Gretchen," the second movement, is mainly in the key of A flat major, and scored the same substantially as the first, with the exception of the introduction of the harp. Its leading features are as exquisitely plaintive melody of ineffable tenderness first led off by the oboes alone, accompanied by the

viola, then taken up by the flutes and clarinettes, and subsequently by the first violins. After some broken phrases alternately retarded and accelerated, the melody is repeated by all the wood, accompanied by the string quartet. After the loving aspirations of *Marguerite's* heart are typified in a series of *arpeggio* passages in triplets for the three flutes, accompanied by the strings *tremolando* and united, and which leads to an *agitato* descriptive of her alternate hopes and fears, we come to a second reprise of the theme *deus amonens* first enunciated by the strings and then by the wood, which for a tone-painting of love, sweet womanly tender love, surpasses all that we know in the whole range of music. Its divine exquisiteness can only be appreciated by those who heard it given by this incomparable band on Saturday evening. Again the first melody is resumed, and the movement concludes after a reintroduction of the second love-passage, by an extraordinary sequence of chords on the wood and strings, accompanied by a series of harmonies on the harp and a detached figure, like the notes of a dying swan, given to the violas.

The last movement, "Mephistopheles," is mainly in the key of C major, scored as the first, except that the drums are in G, A, C, and F, the harp and triangle are introduced, and at the final *coda*, where the tenor solo and chorus are brought in, the organ is superadded. It serves both as a scherzo and a *fugale*. Its design is that the themes of the two preceding movements are taken up and treated in different *tempi* with sort of *staccato* flightly accompaniment fitting amongst the different instruments as though the *Faust* were mocking (as he does) at the aspirations and yearnings of *Faust* and the tender love of *Gretchen*. After this movement is fully developed and worked up in an orchestral problem of unsurpassed difficulty of execution, the chorus and solo voice are introduced, Liszt having chosen the words at the conclusion of the "Epilogue in Heaven" in the second part of "Faust"—"All things transitory, &c." To do adequate justice to the interpretation of this noble and remarkable poem in music by M. Theodore Thomas is a simple impossibility. It was by all odds, the most consummate orchestral feat ever performed in America, and the audience seemed to appreciate this fact by summoning this enterprising *chef d'orchestre* before them to receive their hearty applause.

Beethoven's C Minor symphony filled the second part of the programme. Its execution was a marvel, considering the fatigue under which both hand and conductor labored after the trying ordeal of the "Faust" symphony. The horns especially showed wear and want of wind. How the orchestra got through at all is a marvel, for the ill-ventilated hall was never so insufferable as on this occasion. The Black Hole in Calcutta must have been a paradise compared with it, and the only wonder is that all the instruments kept in string or in time, and all the people kept their tempers. The sixth and last concert of this series, which does so much for musical art, takes place Saturday, April 25.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATORSHIP.

BUTLER DEFINES HIS POSITION.

BOSTON, March 23.—The *Daily Globe* of to-day will publish General Butler's statement of his views on the Senatorship. He says: I see the statement that there must be some collision between Mr. Dawes and me to elect him Senator. Now as a political friend, between him and other persons named, and I stand nearly half a century apart, I should have a natural desire to have one as far off as possible. The western part of the State is demanding the Senator the second time in nearly thirty years. If the eastern Republicans can afford to ignore that demand, I do not understand how party action can be carried on when the west presents a fit man to stand nearly half a century at the last election. I do not see how a political party can be carried on if their claims are slighted. I am aware that some prominent gentlemen in the eastern part of the State threaten to break up the Republican party in certain events, and perhaps that is what they desire. But I believe the good sense of the Republicans of Massachusetts can be trusted to do what is right. The gentlemen who are opposing Mr. Dawes called on him as they did upon me to work in the harness to carry the election; and, while they were quite willing to set me aside after the work was done, I did not think they would in like manner turn Mr. Dawes out to grass, and so reward the faithful services of many years. Replies are said to be ungrateful, but in this case it would be Republicans who are ungrateful.

NEWS NOTES.

The Funding bill of Mississippi has been passed. The rivers are much swollen in Tennessee from recent rains.

The strike of the Erie freightmen promises to be unsuccessful.

The temperance women of Cleveland renew their visits to the saloons to-day.

Disturbances are feared in Hayti on the occasion of the Presidential election in April.

The Tucker Manufacturing Company, of Boston, lost upwards of \$207,000 by the recent fire.

Fifty men were killed or wounded by the explosion of an ammunition wagon in Marshal Serrano's camp, recently.

William A. Brayton, a clerk in the Providence Post-office, has been arrested for tampering with the mails.

The troops at the Spotted Tail Agency are fortifying a position which commands the agency, in expectation of trouble.

The Government troops who set out to relieve Bilbao returned to Santander, having found it impossible to effect a landing.

The bark *Hesperus*, and the brigantine *Anna* had put into St. Thomas, at latest advices, leaking, disabled, and with sails gone.

The ladies of the temperance league of Washington have served a notice on a hotel clerk that they would call to-day at noon.

The State of Massachusetts loses \$300 a day until temporary buildings are erected in the State Prison where the convicts can labor.

The insurance on Queen's Hall, Montreal, which was burned Friday night, is \$90,000, the loss to the proprietors being about \$50,000 above that sum.

Several resolutions in favor of amnesty to Biel and others, of Manitoba, were passed at a meeting held in St. Jean Baptiste village on Friday night.

Judge Louis Dent died yesterday morning, and will be buried on Wednesday. He leaves a family of four children, the eldest son being a cadet at West Point.

The Emperor of Morocco is announced to visit England next summer. Of course he will be popular with the ladies, and verify the saying that "there is nothing like leather"—and Morocco at that.

In an address made by the Emperor William yesterday, on the occasion of his seventy-seventh birthday, he declared that he was determined to maintain the strength of his army, and thereby insure the peace of Europe.

The verdict in the case of the butchery of the Steieler family, at Centerville, Mo., was that they came to their death by persons unknown. Boetz and Aitken were accordingly released, but were subsequently rearrested.

A fire in a new block in Indianapolis, known as Mercantile Row, last night, resulted in the most disastrous conflagration ever known to that city, spreading to several other blocks, and causing a loss of between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

A national bank is to be established in Spain, which agrees to advance \$31,250,000 to the Government in return for the grant of a monopoly of the issue of bank-notes and the compulsory incorporation with it of all other banks in the country.

Marshall Kennedy and an assistant arrived in Albany yesterday morning, and took Taintor, the Atlantic Bank defaulter, from the Albany Penitentiary and conveyed him to this city, where he is wanted to testify in ex-Bank Examiner Callender's case.

Almonds are to be the next big thing from California in the way of agricultural products. Experiments have demonstrated the fact that the climate of some portions of that State is so admirably adapted to their growth that they attain unusual size and perfection. Their culture will naturally open up a new field of industry for the almond-ored population.

FUN ON THE PLAINS.

ELI PERKINS ON THE KANSAS PACIFIC.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE GRAPHIC.) Westward, westward, westward we have been riding all day over the Kansas Pacific. From Kansas City the road runs straight up the Kansas River bottom and along Smoky Hill and the buffalo country to Denver. On the train are Grangers from Carson and Hugo, and killers and stabbers from Wild Horse and Eagle Tail.

As we near Salina, Kansas, Conductor Cheney comes along to collect the fare. Touching a long-haired gentleman on the back he looks down and says: "Tickets?"

"Haint got none," says the passenger, holding his gun with one hand and scowling out from under his black slouch hat.

"But you must pay your fare, sir!" expostulated the conductor.

"Now jes look a-here, stranger! mebbey you'r a doin' your duty, but I haint never paid yet goin' through this country, and —"

Just then a slouchy, old frontiersman who had been compelled to pay his fare in a rear car, stepped up in front of the mulish passenger and, pointing a six-shooter at him, said:

"See here, Long Bill, you jes pay yer fare. I've paid mine, and they don't anybody ride on this train free if I don't—if they do damme!"

"All right, you'r got the drop on me, old boy, so put up yer shooter an' I'll settle," said the passenger, going into his pockets for the money.

"Do these incidents often happen?" I asked the conductor a little while afterwards.

"Well, yes, but not so often as they used to in '68 and '70, Mr. Perkins. The other day," continued the conductor, "some three-card-monte men came on the train and swindled a drover out of \$150. The poor man seemed to take it to heart. He said his cattle got so cheap during the Eastern 'bust' that he had to just 'peel 'em' and sell their hides in Kansas City—and this was all the money he had. A half-dozen miners from Denver overheard the talk, and, coming up, they 'drew a bead' on the monte men and told 'em to pay that money back."

"Just you count that money back, conductor," they said, "and after I had done it," continued the conductor, "one of the head miners said:

"'Now, conductor, you jes stop the train, an' we'll hang these three-card fellers to the telegraph pole.'"

"But the monte men flew out the door too quick for 'em."

To illustrate the value of human life in this country, Mr. Locke, the manager of the Kansas City Opera House, tells me this story:

Two years ago the James brothers, the same two desperadoes who sacked the express car, and "went through" the passengers on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific at Gad's bill, stole the money-box at the Kansas State Fair. They rode into Kansas City on horseback, and when the cashier was walking to the bank with the receipts of the day, about \$2,000, they pointed their pistols at his head, seized the box, and galloped off. This was done in broad daylight, in the midst of a great crowd.

Well, some time afterwards one of the Kansas City reporters wrote an article about these highwaymen, saying some kind things. He called them brave, and said they had done the most daring deed in the highwayman's record. A few night's afterwards the James brothers rode into Kansas City, went to the newspaper office, and calling the reporter out, presented him a handsome watch and chain. They said the article in question touched them in a tender spot, and they desired to show their gratitude.

"But I don't feel at liberty to take this watch," said the reporter.

"But do it to gratify us. We didn't steal this watch; we bought and paid for it with our own money," continued the desperadoes.

"No; you must excuse me," continued the reporter.

"Well, then, if you can't take this watch," replied the James brothers, regretfully, "perhaps you can name some man under here you want killed!"

"ELI PERKINS," Carsen, Colorado, March 17.

AN ABOMINABLE TRAFFIC.

A LIFE-INSURANCE-POLICY PAWBROKER'S SHOP—SPECULATING ON THE NECESSITIES OF EMBARRASSED POLICY-HOLDERS—FIFTY PER CENT. PER ANNUM FOR LOANS.

Republic below two letters selected from several which have been received at THE GRAPHIC office in response to our call for information respecting the Traders' Deposit Company at No. 87 Liberty street. There is no longer any doubt that the concern has been engaged in the abominable traffic of speculation on the necessities of embarrassed policy-holders. The rates of interest charged, if we may believe the statements of our correspondents, are hardly below the charges of the most unblushing pawnbroker, and, as every policy on which a loan is made has to be absolutely assigned and transferred, the Traders' Deposit Company seems to be organized for nothing more nor less than the pawning of life insurance policies. To illustrate the *modus operandi* of the concern, let us suppose the case of a policy-holder in the Equitable Life Assurance Society. He has been insured for several years and has paid altogether the sum of \$900 in annual premiums. He finds himself suddenly embarrassed and must raise a few hundred dollars to discharge a pressing indebtedness. A poor man, he has nothing which he can give as security except the policy on his life. In this emergency a friend tells him that he can go to the company which issued his policy and arrange for a loan. The suggestion is timely; it had not occurred to him. On visiting the magnificent offices of the company, he is politely informed that the company's charter forbids the making of loans on policies, but that the Traders' Deposit Company will probably accommodate him, and at the same time he receives a card containing the following:

TRADERS' DEPOSIT COMPANY, 87 Liberty street, New York. Money Advanced on Good Securities of Every Description. Loans on Life Insurance Policies. Seventy-five per cent. of the surrender value loaned on life insurance policies in the best companies.

The office of the Traders' Deposit Company is conveniently located within a few steps of the Equitable's towering edifice, and thither our straitened applicant presses his footsteps. The attendant clerk receives him kindly, and, after a little hasty figuring informs him that the "surrender value" of his policy (that is, the amount which the company would pay for its surrender) is exactly \$600, or one-half the sum total of all the premium payments. "Our rule," the clerk declares, "is to loan seventy-five per cent. of the surrender value. We can let you have \$390, less ten per cent. as our commission. Thus for every month that you retain the money we shall charge \$— as interest, payable when the loan is taken up." The poor man, distressed for the want of money, is only too

eager to accept the loan without noticing the hard conditions with which it is coupled. Neither does he notice the fact that he is required to sign a document at absolutely alienating his interest in the policy.

The foregoing, doubtless, will serve as a fair illustration of the experience which thousands of needy policy-holders have undergone during the past year. The loaning of money on life insurance policies, when effected under fair and honorable conditions, is perfectly proper, and of great benefit to policy-holders. But when it is coupled with the extraction of an enormous rate of interest, when it is carried out in such a way as to induce almost inevitably the forfeiture of policies without any adequate consideration for their surrender, and when the machinery for compassing these detestable objects is under the control and in the interest of two or three grasping life insurance officers, then the whole business is degraded to the meanest kind of pawnbroking and requires to be arrested by indictment.

We have taken up this inquiry in the interest of life insurance policy-holders (of whom there are not less than 100,000 within twenty-five miles of the City Hall), and we intend to collect all the information that can be obtained regarding the nature and extent of the business, now openly practiced in this city, of loaning money upon life insurance policies. There may be other concerns similar to the Traders' Deposit Company, but it is due to the life insurance companies to say that this is the only one which is reported to us as having any connection with any particular life company. Doubtless the Traders' Deposit Company loans on the policies of other companies than the Equitable; but that is a matter which the companies cannot prevent or even discountenance.

While we are pursuing our inquiries, we particularly desire all persons who have had dealings with the Traders' Deposit Company to come forward and relate their experiences. Their names will be required only as a guarantee of good faith, and not in any one will they be divulged.

The following are two letters already received:

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE GRAPHIC.) I have read an article in your issue of Saturday last, headed "A Life Insurance Policy Pawnbroker's Shop," and as you ask for information relative to their method of transacting business, I send you these few lines.

Having had occasion to make use of some money, and not having anything to use as security, and seeing the advertisement of the Traders' Deposit Company on Liberty street, I took with me my life policy on the best company in New York. After I had made known my wants to the managers of the concern they produced some papers which had to be signed and sworn to. The signing of those papers completely transferred the policy to the officers of the concern in case of non-payment of the interest. The commission for obtaining the money was 10 per cent. cash, and 3 1/2 per cent. per month interest, or the sum total of \$150 per year on a loan of \$300. Now, Mr. Editor, what do you think of this? Is it lawful to clear \$150 per annum interest on \$300? If you require, I will at some time, when my convenience admits, call on you and have an interview on this subject. A VICTIM TO SWINDLERS. New York, March 20.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE GRAPHIC.) I am glad to see that you are probing into the affairs of the Traders' Deposit Company for the benefit of the public. Some time since I received their card, with my full name and address. As I am a modest man, I puzzled me then, and has often since been in my mind. How did they know me? It is clear now as the noonday sun. I am a policy-holder in the Equitable Life Assurance Society. What more natural than that the same people being interested in both concerns, the books of one should be open to the other? Thank fortune, I am not so impudently as to be obliged to spout my life-policy, even with so good a consignment as the "Traders," though it is run on an "Equitable" basis. New York, March 20. G. W. P. D.

ALBANY.

A SCHEME TO DEFEAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—SPECIAL LEGISLATION NOT DEAD.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GRAPHIC.) ALBANY, March 22.—It is openly charged now that there is a deep-laid scheme to defeat all the proposed amendments to the State Constitution, which are the result of so much labor. Some of these amendments are objected to by the Democrats and others are opposed by the Republicans, while others still are objected to by the politicians of both parties. The Democrats want to have all the State officers, judges and others, elected, instead of appointed, and it is believed that Democrats and Republicans alike are secretly opposed to the amendment adopted the other day by so large a vote, for if this became a part of the Constitution it would put a quick stop to all special legislation in the future. Everybody knows that most of our legislators now live, and for years have lived, on what they make out of this "special legislation." Should this amendment be ratified it would be difficult to find 100 men in the State who would consent to be elected to the Legislature, for they could not live. Now, why did all the members of Assembly, except twelve, vote for this amendment if they are opposed to having it adopted? The answer is that they knew the amendment had already been killed, that it could not become a part of the Constitution, and this enabled them all to put themselves right on the record as voting in favor of abolishing special legislation. This amendment to Article III. was killed by striking out the fourth section, and it is even alleged that this fourth section was put in there by the last Legislature merely so that this Legislature would be sure to have something to strike out. Any one who understands the process prescribed for amending the Constitution knows that the second Legislature is not authorized to alter the amendments from the previous Legislature originating them. The amendments are either passed as a whole and then submitted to the people or else they are disagreed to, and thus killed, because they did not meet the approval of two Legislatures. Now, all these amendments against which there is secret opposition have been altered in some way. Sometimes the alteration is very slight, but, as one leading member declared in the House before this scheme had been perfected, "they could not dot an *é* or cross a *t* in those amendments without killing them." The upshot of it all will be that the amendments will go through both houses, every man will get himself on record as voting in favor of depriving himself of any further opportunity to do wrong, and then when they are to be submitted to the people the little joker will appear, for the Court of Appeals will interfere and decide that the Legislature has made a mistake, and that a new constitution cannot be made in 1874 by violating the Constitution of 1845. So the politicians can revel in special legislation, with all its "fat jobs," for years yet to come. SPECIAL.

THE STRIKE OF ERIE EMPLOYEES.

TROUBLE APPREHENDED IN JERSEY CITY—GUARDING AGAINST A RIOT.

The strike of the freight-handlers of the Erie Railroad Company has reached a crisis. Seven hundred new men were on hand this morning. The New York docks were guarded by a strong detachment of police, who will protect the new employees during the day. The quiet aspect on this side of the river was deemed ominous, and a riot is anticipated at the Jersey city docks. One hundred and fifty men were given work here, and the remaining 500 were placed on board two large barges to be taken to the Jersey side. A prominent member of the Board of Directors made application yesterday for a guard of militia, and the barges were delayed on this side until Superintendent Burt received a telegraphic instruction that all was in readiness. Should the strikers interfere a serious melee is apprehended.

LITERARY NOTES.

—The April *Galaxy* has two articles on Charles Astor Bristed.

—John Foster King is the editor of *Lippincott's Magazine*, which is the pride of Philadelphia, as the *Atlantic* was the pride of Boston.

—Richard Grant White says social success is a big name for a very poor and a very little thing, too often attained by tolerating those we dislike and flattering those we despise.

—J. R. Osgood & Co. issue "The Life of Theodore Tilton," by B. Frothingham, to-day. It is a thick, handsome volume, full of interesting and suggestive of all sorts of orthodoxies and heresies and other such things.

—Habit is very strong with some people. It was only the other day that an antiquated matron turned to the column of births in her favorite English paper, saying, "I wonder if there is anybody born that I know."

—*Oliver Optic's Magazine* for April contains incidents of three serial stories by Oliver Optic, James De Mille, and George M. Baker respectively, besides numerous readable and amusing short articles and a profusion of incidents of varying merit.

—John Bigelow has supplemented the "Autobiography of Franklin," which he discovered in Paris, with letters which bring the work down almost to the day of his death, making a complete autobiography in three volumes. The Messrs. Lippincott have it in press.

—Dr. Taylor, author of "Primitive Culture," seems to regard Spiritualism as an indication of a tendency to revert to a lower stage of civilization, and as it was formerly associated with witchcraft table-tipping may soon give way to riding on a broomstick through the air.

—Edward Everett Hale got four sermons out of his last summer's trip to Europe, which look well and read better than they look. If some other ministers had three months to write four sermons in they might keep their congregations awake, and without going to Europe either.

—Among the new books announced as nearly ready by Messrs. J. B. Ford & Co., of this city, are "The Circuit Rider," by Edward Eggleston; "Volume 10 of Goethe's Hermanns," a new and enlarged edition of Mr. Bescher's "Fruits, Flowers, and Farming," and a new series in 12mo form of the distinguished gentleman's more recent series. Also, the same house have in press "Annetti," a story by R. B. G.; "The History of Opinions on the Scriptural Records of Retribution," by Dr. Edwin Rescher; and "The Mode of Man's Immortality," by Rev. T. A. Goodwin.

—"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" continued by a medium of Brattleboro, Vermont, has sold very largely according to the statement of its publishers. The latter have sent us what purports to be a collection of Press Notices on the "Mystery of Edwin Drood," which it is expected that we should add another notice. The most striking thing in connection with the notices is that the writers are perfectly convinced that the continuation is written by the spirit of Dickens, and that the fact—which they admit, that the disembodied Dickens writes the atrocious grammar of Dr. Edwin Rescher; and "The Mode of Man's Immortality," by Rev. T. A. Goodwin.

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