BOGUS MIRACLES EXPOSED.

MME. BLAVATSKY AND HEB THEOSOPH-ICAL HUMBUGS.

The Society for Psychiani Research Town ne Society for Psychical Research Inves-tigates the Latest Prophet and her Re-ligion—The Prophet's Bedroom and the Double-acting Shrine—How the Miracles were Done-Some Tell-tale Letters.

The motto of the Theosophical Society, that new religious company which Mme, Blavatsky and Col. Olcott founded in this city some twelve years ago, seems, from all that one learns of it and its doings, to be a paraphrase of the old adage about ignorance and wisdom run-ning in a manner thus: Where their ignorance is our bliss, 'tis worse than folly for us to per-mit them to be wise. But with a society formed for the purpose of taking up and investigating scientifically the ghosts and ghost stories of our own and our forefathers' times, as is the ociety for Psychical Research, it was hardly to be supposed that the miracles of the Theo-sophists would go, if not "unwhipt of justice," at all events, unsought of science. It must caused the superlatively clover Mme Blavatsky considerable discomfort when she learned of the foundation of the society; and when she learned that the twoyear-old organization thought it could not better devote its youth than to an investigation of the miracles performed by her and her co-Theosophists, she must indeed have wished that either she or it—preferably it —had never emerged from a chrysalis state. Whether or not she actually did feel so, she should have felt that way, for the new society sent out a Commission to India to investigate the miracles of Theosophy, the report of which Commission in Part IX, of the Proceedings of Society for Psychical Research explains and reveals the manner of working the Theosophical oracle much more clearly and ex-haustively than any book on Magic Revealed explains a card trick or an inexhaustible bag.

The Commission to investigate Theosophy was appointed in May, 1884, and in England ed from various witnesses and books this formation as to the Theosophical Society: There exists in Thibet a brotherhood whose members have acquired over nature a power hich enables them to perform wonders beyond the reach of ordinary men. Mme. Blavatsky is a Chela or disciple of these Brothers (tech-

which enables them to perform wonders beyond the reach of ordinary men. Mme. Blavatsky is a Chela or disciple of these Brothers (technically called Mahatmas), who are greatly interested in the Theosophical Society. They are able to cause apparitions of themselves to appear where their bodies are not. to communicate intelligently with those they thus visit, and tiemselves to see what is going on where their phantasm appears. This phantasmal appearance is known to Theosophists as the "projection of the 'astral form."

Having learned these interesting things about Theosophy, the committee made a report. Just before that report was issued, however, there appeared in the Madras Christian College Magazine for September, 1884, portions of certain letters purporting to have been written by Mme. Blavatsky to a M. and Mme. Coulomb, who had held positions of trust at the headquarters of the Theosophical Society for some years, but had been expelled from it in May, 1884, by the General Council of the society. These letters, if genuine, unquestionably implicated Mme. Blavatsky in a conspiracy to produce miracles fraudulently. She, however, declared them to be in whole or part forgeries. To verify them, if possible, one of the committee, a Mr. Hodgson, was sent to India in November, 1884, who, after investigating the society for three months at its home, returned to England in April, 1885, and made his roport, exposing Mme. Blavatsky, and warious letters from warious Mahatmas, to the leading experts in England, who all desired the content of the Christian College Magazine, had submitted the menuice: he himself submitted them, together with undoubted letters from Mme. Blavatsky, and various letters from various Mahatmas, to the leading experts in England, who all declared that the Coulomb and the Mahatmas letters were written by the founder of the society, Mme. Blavatsky, and various letters from or Koot Hoomi is the name of Mme. Blavatsky a personal Mahatma.

He ilves in Thibet, according to the madame; but Mr. Hodgson is co

rould reach me about with Mr. Jacob Sassoon reached "Your conversation with Mr. Jacob Sassoon reached Faster just now. Were the latter even to satisfy him, fill the doubter would hardly find the moral courage to someth himself with the society. Ramating Dys."

If this reaches me on the Jub, even in the evening, it will still produce a fromendous impression. Je frank in will still produce a fromendous impression. Ordinien Votes tente

Mine. Coulomb showed Mr. Hodgson the envelope in which this letter came, postmarked Poons, Oct. 24, and Madras, Oct. 26. She also showed him an official receipt for a telegram sent in the name of Hamalinga, Deb. from Madras, Oct. 25. to Mine. Blavatsky, which contained the same number of words as the above. The next letters give instructions to the Coulombs about a same art rick, which was played with success. But before the letters may be placed the account of the "phenomenon," written by the gentleman for whose benefit the sign was given, and published in the Theosophist for December, 1885:

Wils filven, and published in the Theosophist for Decomber, 1883;

In the month of August * * * I visited the head-guarters to see a wonderful painting of the Mahatma Acot Liconi, kept there in a strine ami daily attended by the Chelas. * * The lady, Mme. Coulomb, who had charge of the keys of the shrine * * we proceeded up staits to open the sirrine and inspect the picture. Mme. Coulomb advanced quickly to unlock the double doors of the harging capboard, and harriedly threw them open. In so doing sub had falled to observe that a china tray unside was on the adge of the shrine and leasing segment one of the doors and when they were opened down full the china tray, smalled to pieces on the hard chunam door. And the strine and leasing segment one of the doors and when they were opened down full the china tray, smalled to pieces on the hard chunam door. And the strine and leasing segment of the down full the would be necessary to obtain some china cement and the arry to restore the fragments. Thereupen M. Soulomb was depathed for the same. The troken pieces were carefully collected and placed, tied in a cloth with the shrine, and the doors locked. Mr. Damodar K. Mayalankar, the John Recording Secretary of the solesty, was opposite the chrime, sected on a chair, about

After this ingenuous account, the letters read ery interestingly. ry intercestingry.

"Ma blen chere Amie; Vous n'avez pas besoin d'ab-nère l'hourns "Punch." Pourvu que cela soit fait en essence de personnas qui sont respectables bestere our en faintilar soufs. Je vous supplié de le faire à la pre-re faintilar soufs.

win terminar and misconsisted with the control of t This letter, according to Mme. Coulomb, con-bined this enclosure:

This letter, according to Mme. Coulomb, contined this enclosure:

To the small audience present as witness. Now Mme. Coulomb has occasion to assure herself that the devil is orbiter as black nor as wicked as he is generally represented. The mischlef is easily repaired. K. H.

3. Ma. chero Mins. Coulomb et Marquis voici le moment de nons montrer—ne nous cachous pos. Le Goneral part pour affaires a Madras y sera lundi ety passera deux yours. Il sat Fresident de la Societe ici et ceut voir is adrite. Cest probable qu'il fera uns quesfice quelconque et pentetre se bornera-til à resarder. Mais il est ser qu'il s'astend a un phenomene carl im l'adit. Ilans le premier cas supplies K. H. que vous veyet tous lee jours out tristofici de soutenir l' honneur de familie. Dites ini dons qu' une fieur suffirait et que de pet caratil mes le pouls de la curiosir el serait bon de le remplacer ces ce moment. Dann les autres. Celui la vant son pesant d'or. Per l'amour de l'ile on ne qui vous voutirer ne matiques poi celé seculois, car elle ne as repetiers nest. Je ne euss pas in et c'est cela qui est beau. Se me de la vous et le vous supplie de les pas me desappanter car (mus nes motiques poi celé seculois. Car elle ne as repetiers nest. Je ne euss pas in et c'est cela qui est beau. Se me de la vous et le vous supplie de lie pas me desappanter car (mus nes motigies el mon avenir avec vous fourmer le da tete su General est if fera tout pour vous evous cuvoie un ca cas—e vi saluto. * 2 A vous de coust. silation of the French-My very dear friend. You not want for the man "Punch," so long as it is in the presones of people who are respectable beside own ramiliar numbs. I be you to do it on the Distribution. ulomb: This is I think what you should rate you think that it will succeed to have an audience than only our fooliah servants. It will enter the Adyar saucer will be as historic inta cure.

Cear Mrs. Conlomb and Marquis: how is the

The enclosure (en cas) is this: I can say nothing som, and will let you know at Ooty. Addressed) Gen. Morgan. (Bigned) K. H. (Audressed) Gen. Morgan. (Bigned) N. H.

This enclosure was to have been used if Gen.
Morgan asked a question that could not readily be answored or did not care to see a sign.
Besides projecting their astral forms, the
Mahatmas seem to have been able to project
cigarettes that were not astral; perhaps they
did so in their lighter moments as jokes. These
letters show how they did it.

I caters show how they did it.

I enclose an envelope with a cigarette paper in it. I will drop another Auf of a cigarette behind the Queen's head where I dropped my hair the same day or Saturday. Is the hair still there, and a cigarette still under the cover?

the over? Mme. Blavatsky has written on the fly leaf o the letter from which this passage is taken:
Make a half eigarette of this. Tuke care of the edges.
And on a slip of paper, said by Mme.Coulomb to have accompanied the eigarette paper referred to, are these words:

forred to, are these words:

Roll a cigarette of this half and tie it with H. P. R. 's hair. Put it on the top of the cupboard made by Wimbridge, to the furthest corner, near the wall on your right. Do it quick.

Je crois que le mouchoir est au coup manque. Laissons cela. Mais toutes les instructions qu'elles restent state que pour les Maharajas de Lahore ou de Benarea. Tous sont fous pour voir que que chese. "Avez vous mei a cigarette sur la petite armoire de Wimbraven mind. Bat consider all my instructions in force for the Naharajas of Lahore or Benares. They are wild to see something. "Bid you put the cigarette where I told you?

to see somathing. * * * Did you put the cigarette where I cold you?

Now follows an interesting letter about astral documents, and then come instructions for the transmission of such.

Miss Chers Anis: * * Nous sommes dans in plus grande crize, et je me dots pus pranus La trax. Je ne puis ne ose rien vous serire. Mais vous devez comprendre qu'il est absolument recessaire que queique chose arrive a Bombay taut que je suis ici. Le Koy et Dam dotent voir et recevoir la visite d'un de nos freres et—s'il est possible que le premier receive une lettre que j'enverrai. Mais les voir il est plus necessaire encore. Elle devrait lui tomber sur la tête, comme la premiere et je suis en train de supplier "Koothoomi" de la un envoyer.

habitudes et unicom des Frires. E'il pouveit années conse a Rombay qui fasse parier tout le mondece serait merveilleux. Mais quoi Les Freres sont intervendre chose a Rombay qui fasse parier tout le mondece serait merveilleux. Mais quoi Les Freres sont intervendre. On the monde chose d'inout arrivait à Bombay lui rya rien que Mr. Hume ne fasse pour Koothoomi sur sa demande. Mais K. II. ne peut pas venir clo, car les lois occultes ne le lui permettent pas. * P.

Demain le vous enverrai les deux lettres. * P.

that K. H. or some one ease count make ninear to see before the leiters come.

"The King" is said to refer to Mr. Padshah, and Dam, was short for Mr. Damodar K, Mavalaukar, the Joint Recording Secretary of the society, who was a Cheia of Koothoomi (Alme, Blavatsky and Col. Olcott had another Mahatma between them), and filled the madame's place while she was absent. The instructions for sending miraculous letters are given in those three epistles:

Ma chere Amie: Je n'ai pas une moment pour repondre. Je vous supplie faites parvenir cette lettre (here enclosed) a Damodar in a miraculous way. It is very, rery important.

revy important.

Translation My dear Friend: I have not a moment in Translation My dear Friend: I have not a moment in Translation My dear Friend: I have not a moment in Translation My dear Friend: I have not a moment Damodas, &c.]

Veuille: O sorciere a mille ressources demander a Christofolo quand vous le verrer de transmettre la lettre ci-incluse par yole aericune astrale ou n'importe comment. C'est tres important. * * LUNA MRIANCONICA.

Je vous suppile raites is nick.

Translation: Fray, O witch of the thousand schemes, ask Christofolo when you see him to send the enclosed letter by the astral air line, or no matter how. It is very important. * * I beg of you to do it carefully.

Cher Marquis: * * Monivers ou envoyes lui Damodar le papier ou le stip * * avec l'ordre de vous les fournir. J'ai reçue une lettre qui à force notre mattre cheri K. H. d'ecrire ses ordres aussi a M. Damodar et autree. Que la Marquis els lise. * * Cher Marquis: Je vous livre le deatin de mez equant. Prenes en soin et failes eur faire des miracles. Feut etre il serait mieux de faire tomber celui-claur la tetre H. P. B. Cacheter l'enfant apres l'arord list.

Il Translation—Dear Marquis: * Show or send to Diranslation—Dear Marquis: * Show or send to our dear master, K. H., to write his order has forced our dear master, K. H., to write his order and them. * Dear Marquis, I commit to you the fate of my children. Take care of them, and make them do miracles. Feriaps it would be best to make them do miracles. Feriaps it would be best to make them fail down on him from above. Hide the child after having read it.]

If by her "children," Mmc. Blavatsky meant her letters, there is a familiar ring about this last command of hers. Here follow two interesting little notes:

Here follow two interesting little notes:

La poste part ma chère. Je n'ai qu'un instant. Votre
lettre arrivée trop tard. Uui, laisses Srinavas Rao se
prosterner devau: le s'airine, et a'il demande ou non, je
vous supplie lui faire passer cette réponse par K. H. car
li s'y atiend. Je soit se qu'il vent.

Translation: The post is just going. I have enly an
instant. Your letter came too late. Yes, let Srinavas
Rao bow before the shrine, and whether he saks for anything or not. I beg you to have this answer sent to him
by K. H., for he expecta it. I know what he wants.

Na Chāras Asik: On me dit (Damodar) que Dewan
Bahadoor Nagoonah Rao, le Fresident de la Hocieto, vent
metire queique chose dans la temple. Dans le cas qu'il le
rasse voic il a repouse de Christofilo. Four Dieu arranges
cela et nous sommes à cheval. "Yours sincerely,
cela et nous sommes à cheval. "Yours sincerely,
LUNA MELAKONICA.

Mr. Hodgson sums up the case for the genu-inchess of the letters briefly as follows: Mme.

does here is the answer from Christofoic. For God's sake do this and we are all right.

Mr. Hodgson sums up the case for the gonuineness of the letters briefly as follows: Mma. Blavatsky was on sufficiently intimate terms with the Coulombs having the keys of the shrine during Mme. Coulomb's having the keys of the shrine during Mme. Blavatsky's absence, by a published remark of her's in 1880, that Mme. Coulomb was "a lady guest of mine," and "an old friend of mine whom I land known ten years ago in Caire;" and by the fact that she admits all the non-incriminating parts of the letters, while asserting that the criminating portions are forgeries. As to the "Sassoon telegram."

Mr. Hodgson is unable to find that such a person as ismailing a Deb existed; and he finds from Mr. Ezekiel, the "cousin" referred to, that the circumstances during her stay in Poona were entirely consistent with the letter. As to the "Adyar sancer," which was to go down to history with the Simia cup, he finds that "two porcelain plu trays (words which properly describe the so-called sancers)" were purchased in Madras by Mme. Coulomb shortly before the phenomenon described by Gen. Morgan, and that she paid 2 rupees 3 annas the pair.

"To explain the sancer business by ordinary humin agency," says Mr. Hodgson, "we require to suppose that there was a secret opening at the back of the shrine." Mr. Hodgson investigated the headquarters building, with the result that he found such an opening.

"The bungalow originally contral complete by the suppose that there was a secret opening at the back of the shrine." Mr. Hodgson does not show the suppose of the second floor only one large comes of the second floor only one large rounded to the second floor only

Colonol's innocence and imbecility:

if fant que je vous prie d'une chose. Je puis revenir avec le Colonel ** mais il se peut que je reste lei lissqu'an mais d'Octobre. Dans ce cas rour le jour ou deux que le Colonel sera a la matson if jean me renneger le cig du stàrtise. Envoyez la moi par le chemin souter rain. Je la verrai reposer; mais je ne veux pas qu'en mon absence on examine la luna melancontea du unpboard. et cela sera examine la je ne suis pas la ** i Transisation. I must ask one thing of you. I can return with the Colonel * * but he wishes put to stay here until October. In case I do stay, for the day or two that the Colonel will be at the house, you must send me the key of the shrine. Send it to me by the under ground road. I will see it safe, and that will do; but I do not want any one in my absence to examine the luna melanconica of the cupboard, and it will be examined if I am not on hand.

melanconica" was the note in the rack of she shrine.
Mr. Damodar and his "astral journeys" are next investigated by Mr. Hodgson, who shows that in every case a prearrangement between him and Mme. Blavatsky was possible and

highly probable. In one case, Col. Olcott was at Moradabad, where he was asked to lay his hands upon two boys and cure them. He refused, as his Mahatma had forbidden him to do because the year before he had made himself ill by over-use of his mind power of curing. The guardian of the boys asked Mr. Damodar to go to Mme. Blavatsky at Madras, some 2,000 miles away, and ask her to beg the Colonel's Mahatma to give him leave to heal the boys. Damodar came back, and repeated the message which Col. Olcott's Mahatma had given to Mme. Blavatsky, and she to Damodar. It ran:

Henry can try the parties once, leaving strongly mes-merized. Calapati oil to rub in three times daily to re-lieve sufferers. Karma cannot be interfered with.

Henry can try the parties once, leaving strongly messen called Cajapati oil to rub in three times daily to relieve sufferers. Karma cannot be interfered with.

The next day came a telegram from Mma. Blavatsky to the same effect as Damodar's story; and Col. Olcott believed in Damodar's "astral journey" because it was not known at headquarters that he would visit Moradabad. But Mr. Hodgson shows, by quoting from the Theosophiat, that Col. Olcotts 1rip had been announced there, and that he had arranged to be at Moradabad, which was to be reached by Nov. 9, and left Nov. 11; and by the Colonel's diary he shows that the programme was carried out. Verily, Col. Olcott is indeed credulous, if he is not a knave.

In speaking of the window in the occult room, which had been blocked up, Mr. Hodgson tell this story;

Col. Olcott informed me that one day in 1883, while in the occult room with Mme. Blavatsky, a vase appeared in the outpoard—empty just before—as a gift to Col. Olcott from one of the Mahatmas. Col. Olcott apparently wished to duplicate this vase, if possible, and made mesmeric passes before the closed door of the cupboard. On reopening the cupboard a second vase was there."

Mine. Coulomb declared that she had bought these vases in a shop at Madrus, and that they were piaced in the cupboard through the double back from outside the occult room. They were purchased through faciole & Co. Mme. Blavatsky stormily denied that she she had bought these twases in a shop at Madrus, and that they were placed in the cupboard through the double back from outside the occult room. They were purchased through faciole & Co.

Mme. Coulomb had bought another pair of vases not unlike the Colonel's. These, too, could not be found. On May 26 occurs this entry in the receipt book of Faciole & Co.:

Received from Assam & Co.: 1 Pair Chapan Flower vase, 7 Rupees ; Sent to 1 Pair Ghapan Flower vase, 6 Rupees ; Mrs. E. Coulomb. Extract from Col. Olcott's Diary: May 26. Fine phenomenon. Got a pair of tortoise hell and lacquer vases with flowers in a cabinet a mo-

SKY SPEID, UTIOUS, AND ROUDE HEED.

KOOT HOOM! MAR. BLAVATSKY.

Thiefs. Thiefs.

Leasure Deceaved, beseach.
Alloted Coolty (coolty).

In totto Lazzy, lazziness.

Circumstancial Conscienciously. Alioted
In totto
In totto
In totto
In totto
In totto
In commission
Incassan-ty

One of the most interesting stories in the report is that of Prof. Smith of Sydney University, who sent a letter to Mahatma M——, enclosed in a letter to Mahatma M——, enclosed in a letter to Mme. Blavatsky, sewed through and through with silk of various colors. It was returned to him, with the letter to the Mahatma removed and another substituted without the threads having been broken. Mme. Coulomb, says Mr. Hodgson, "declared to me that it was she herself who, with very great care, unpicked the stitches on one side of the letter and sewed them back by means of a hair." Prof. Smith sent the letter to Mrs. Hodgson, who found the threads on one side of the letter and sewed them back by means of as Mme. Colomb had said, and frayed by handling. He submitted the letter to Mrs. Sidgwick, a member of the Psychical Society, who made a diagram of the original stitches, opened the letter, wrote her initials inside to prove she had opened it, and with a loop of hair, pulled the silk back through the old holes. Prof. Smith, on obtaining the letter again, became convinced of the worthless character of Mme. Blavatsky's occult powers.

Why has Mme. Blavatsky lived so long in such a laborious work of fantastic imposture? asks Mr. Hodgson. He thinks he has discovered the reason in a letter written by Mme. Blavatsky from this city to a Hindu in 1878. A portion of this letter we give, English men are greatly given to discovering Russian designs on India where no Russian designs as though Mr. Hodgson might be justified in thinking the head of the Theosophical Society an agent in India of the Russians. Here is the letter:

in agent in India of the Russians. Here is the letter:

Is our friend a Sikh? If so, the fact that he should be, as you say, "very much pleased to learn the object of our society" is not at all strangs. For his anoestors have for centuries been—until their afforts were paralyzed by British domination, that curse of every land it fastens upon—battling for the divine truths against external theologies. " Non call bim a Sirdar, therefore he must be a descendant of one of the Sirdars of the twelve misals, which were abolished by the English. " Are you personally acquainted with any descendant of an explanation from me, how importants for not establish relations with some Sikhs. " A for the future "Fellows" of our indian branch, have your eyes upon the chance of fishing out of the great ocean of Hindu harted for Christian missionaries some of those big fish you call Rajahs, and whales known as Mahs-rajahs. Could you not hook out for your Bombay branch either Gwallor (Scindia) or the Holkar of indore—those most failtful and loyal friends of the British ()

With this we close our account of Mr. Hodg-son's investigations.

ORIENTAL JUGGLING.

Great Occidental Magician Says That They Are Delusions of the Fancy.

Most of the wonderful feats attributed to the jugglers of India and Japan existed only in the imagination of the follows who to do not the imagination of the follows who to do not the imagination of the follows who to do not the imagination of the follows who about them," and them agician Kolin. "I have seen everything of note in the juggler yet who could throw a bail of twine in the sir to form a sort of Jack and-the-bean-stalk ladder, and then climb up out of sight and pull the string up after him, and stay up out of sight until a companion fired a pistol and brought him down to earth in shattered fragments, which prosently came together and formed a living, uninjured man again—I tell you, honestly, I never saw that trick."

"That's curious, too."

"Yes; for everybody has read of it. Candidly, between you and me, I do not boilove it can be done. But I'll tell you a clever trick I saw a juggler in India do. It is called the basket trick. The juggler explained to the spectators that he was going to kill his little boy, and asked them to choose a spot on the turf in the orion white the middle the proton the trick. He was going to kill his little boy, and a sharp sword. He wore nothing but breechelout. The spectators closed around in a circle so that no one could get in or out without detection. The juggler put the child in the haaket, closed the lid, and muttered an incantation. Them he selzed a large white child in the haaket. As the child's agonizing screams broke forth the man drew out the sword all dripping with blood. Again and again he plunged the sword and plunged it through the basket. As the child's agonizing screams broke forth the man drew out the sword all dripping with blood. Again and again he plunged the sword and found empty. Aglectul shout was opened and found empty. A glectul shout was opened and cound empty. A glectul shout was opened and cound empty. A glectul sh

THREE STORIES OF GHOSTS.

STRANGE VISITATIONS IN THE KEY-STONE STATE The Chostly Carpet Weaver of Pike County

and her Loom. PORT JERVIS, Dec. 21 .- For many years County Commissioner John H. Newman lived with his wife and family in a secluded spot in Pike county hills, six miles from Milford, in Dingman township, Newman was a prominent farmer and Democratic politician. His wife had a wide reputation as a weaver of rag car-pet, and the clatter of her old-fashioned hand loom was a familiar sound to the few people who lived in the neighborhood, and attracted the attention of travellers over the mountain road, whether they passed by the Newman ago a lot of carpet rags were shipped to Mrs. Newman from parties in New York to be woven into carpet. A few days after she received the rags Mrs. Newafter she received the rags Mrs. Newman and two or three other members of the family were prostrated by small-pox. some of the rags, it is supposed, having come from some infected quarter. Mrs. Newman and a daughter died of the disease, and others narrowly escaped death. Commissioner Newman was in bad health at the time of his wife's death, and a few months ago he died. The remainder of his family moved away from the place, and the house was vacant until some weeks ago, when Jacob Mott and his two daughters moved into the house. Two weeks ago, as Sheriff John W. Hoffman was driving by the Newman place early in the evening, he was halled by Farmer Mott. The Sheriff stopped his horse, and then discovered Mott and his two daughters sitting on the fence. "Mna's the matter?" the Sheriff inquired. "Ghosts" replied Farmer Mott, and his two daughters tremblingly repeated their father's exciamation. "That house is hannted," said the farmer.

"What's the matter? the Sherill inquired.

"Ghosts" repelled Farmer Mott, and his two daughters tremblingly repeated their father's exciamation.

"That house is haunted," said the farmer.

"Listen and you'll hear the loom a working."

Sherilf Hoffman listened, and sure enough the familiar old clatter of Mrs. Newman's carpet loom was plainly heard, just as it used to break the stillness of that quiet neighborhood years ago. The Sheriff was uncomfortable.

"That's the way its been going every night for a woek," said Farmer Mott. "The noise comes from the room where Mrs. Newman used to sit and weave, and I believe her ghost comes back to finish the work she left unfinished. None of us have had courage to go in the room, or even look in, but there is no doubt in my mind that if any one will go in there a lot of carpet, woven by ghostly hands, will be found. My daughter and I haven't slept in the house since the ghost began to weave. The loom starts up just after dark and keeps at its work till midnight, when everything becomes quiet again. We sit here on the fence and istent to it a while, and then go to the barn and sleep the nest we can."

Sheriff Hoffman for some reason did not stay to investigate the alleged supernatural weaving, but bade the Motts good night as they perched on the fence and went on home. Since the many people living in the neighborhood of the Newman place have collected around the house at night, and all testify to the clatter of the ghastly loom. On Monday last, their stay in the haunted house becoming unbearrable, Farmer Mott sent his daughters to James Buist's place, near by, and he has gone to New Jersey to rent a farm. He says that besides the running of the loom overy night, on Sunday evening, just before the weaving began, and while he was standing in his kitchen, he heard a rustling noise as if a woman were passing close by him, and felt a warm breath on his oheek. That decided him to not only quit the house with his daughters, but to leave Pike county as well.

use with his daughters, but to leave Pike

house with his daughters, but to leave Pike county as well.

Lorin Andrews, a well-known business man of Milford, lived on the Newman place some years ago. He declares that strange sounds were frequently heard in the house while he lived there, and there is a story that an inmate of the house plainly saw in her room one night the apparition of a woman with half of her head gone. The heunted Newman house has aroused much interest in Milford, and a party of citizens, led by Col. C. N. Pine of the Milford Dispatch, are going to the place to spend a night and thoroughly investigate the alleged supernatural hand loom and its operator.

The Man in the Snew Storm.

PUNNUTAWNEY, Pa., Dec. 21.-A citizen of this county, who is not only prominent locally, but is well known politically throughout the State, was present recently where a number of persons were ridiculing supernatural or psychological phenomena, and finally said: "There is no person who is more skeptical

on such matters than I, but I had an experience once that was more than enough to make me a most ardent and sineere believer in the supernaural. I could never bring myself to think, however, that it was anything more than the result of some natural law beyond the cognizance or explanation of any human being.

"It occurred several years ago. One cold, but clear, winter's night I was on my way to Reynoldsville on horseback. The Reynoldsville on horseback. The Reynoldsville road, as you all know, leads for some distance through the woods, and I was passing over that stretch of the road when suddenly, probably a rod ahead of mo, the figure of a man suddenly appeared in the road, and he seemed to be surrounded by a fierce fall of snow, which was apparently hurled against him by a terrifle gale of wind. The man struggled slong feebly against the storm. I had no need to draw my horse up, for he seemed to see the strange apparition too, and stopped suddenly, pricked up his ears, and pawed the snow impatiently. All around, except in the small space surrounding the figure of the man sverything was clear and on such matters than I, but I had an experitoo, and stopped suddenly, pricked up his ears, and pawed the snow impatiently. All around, except in the small space surrounding the figure of the man, everything was clear and caim. I rubbed my eyes and made up my mind the man was some drunken fellow on his way home from the village, and that the storm was an optical filusion. I called out to him, but no answer came back. I shouted again and again, louder each time, but the struggling figure gave no response, At last the man fell as if exhausted, and the snow continued to fall upon him and the fleree gale whirled it around him. Knowing that if the fallen man was drunk he would freeze to death if I left him lying there, I jumped from my horse and ran to help him up, intending to take him to the nearest place of sholter. It was starlight, but in that light alone the features of no person could have been recognized under the closest scrutiny. I hurried to the prostrate figure, and as I reached it is aw the face was turned upward. As my eyes fell on the face I started back and almost fell fainting in the snow. The face was revealed in the darkness as plainly as if it had been broad daylight, and it was the face of my brother, who lived in Dakota, and it was his face as a corpse. When I recovered from the snock the sight had given me and turned again to the body it was gone. There was not even an impression in the snow where it had lain. Bewildered and much unstrung by this singular vision, I finally mounted my lorso and rode on. I gradually recovered my composure, and at last convinced myself that I had been the victim of a strange and unaecountable hallucination. But I slept but little that night, and autrange foreboding of evit haunted me for several days; in fact, until I received a letter from the station in Dakota where my brother was, and which informed me that he had been caught in a bilizard while on his way to his cubin, and was overpowered by it and frozen to death. The letter gave the time and date of his sad death. It had occurred the very hour and ni

Old Bill King's Wraith and the Double Ap-

"I don't suppose there is another railroad in the country that a train hand can get a job on so easily as he can on the little P. and W., out in the Pennsylvania oil regions," said a former employee of that road, now a fire-man on the Eric. "There is always a chance there for a railroader, whether he's a brakeman, fireman, conductor, or engineer, and there isn't a nicer road anywhere to work on.

man, fireman, conductor, or engineer, and there isn't a nicer road anywhere to work on, and the wages are bigger than the biggest. But men are quitting it all the time, and among the men who are hired in their places you nover see one who ever worked on the road before, and the first thing you know they are calling for their time and throwing up their jobs. We boys often run across others out of a job and say to them:

"Why don't you go on the P. and W.? They want men bad."

"No P. and W. for us, please! We've been there."

"What's the matter with the P. and W?" asked the reporter.

"Haunted!" replied the railroader. "That's right. Laugh if you want to. I'm thinking you wouldn't laugh much, though, if you should ever run an engine down Cranberry is wamp grade, between Renfrew and Reibold's stations, with old Bill King's ghost in the cab with you, and trying to stop the train, to keep it from running down two other ghosts standing on the track just anead of your engine, and almost stopping it, too, although the grade is steep and slippory. Between Renfrew and Reibold's. Take the map of Pennsylvania. Look at Butler county. You'll find those two places there plain enough, and I know that if you over took a run down Cranberry Swamp grade, on the little P, and W., between Renfrew and Reibold's, with old Bill King's ghost in the cab with you, you wouldn't laugh much.

"The way the road got haunted in that spot was this; Not far from the railroad, at the foot of the Cranberry Swamp grade, about ten years are, lived an old couple named Wilhelm. They had no family besides themselves, and they depended on a counte of acres of garden and their cow and poultry yard for their living. One of the first Jersey cows in that part of the country belonged to have year on the pended on a soutie of acres of garden and their cow and poultry yard for their living. One of the first Jersey cows in that part of the country belonged to have year and they depended on a soutie of acres of garden and their cow and poultry yard for their livi

strayed from its enclosure, got on the little P. and W. track and was run over and killed by the cars, the old lady went almost wild. She sued the company to recover the value of her cow, but the suit went against her. She brooked so over her trouble that she became insane on the subject of the railroad and her ow, and the sound of a train passing her house always set her to mourning over her loas. She spent much of her time in devising schemes to harrass the company, and several times, evading the watchfulness of her husband, she placed herself on the track when a train was approaching, and forced it to come to a standaill until she was removed by force from the rail.

One night, tate in the fall of 1877, id Mr. Wilhelm woke up and found that his wife was not in bed. He quickly arose, and looking not several times the standard that he was not to be the severent the house and the railroad track. He at once knew that the figure was that of his wife in her night clothes, and that she was undoubtedly on her way to the railroad to force some train to stop and lay still until she was taken off the track, as she had done several times before. Without waiting to put on his clothes, Wilhelm rushed from the house and followed his wife. She disappeared in the little strip of woods between the lot and the railroad, and by the time he reached the woods he heard the sound of an approaching train, and knew it must be the fast express, with old Bill King on the engine, and that meant that this train was more than humming along. Wilhelm flew through the piece of woods, and as he came out on the other side he saw his wife standing on the track, waving her hand up and down, while the headilght of old Bill's locomotive was so near that it threw its glare full on her. Old Bill had seen the figure in white some distance back, whistled for brakes and roversed his engine, but the grade was so sharp and the night so elippery that she came terning right on. The white her rails nuts thand of the engineers who ran the rails was come to b

COMMOTION IN THE RAT PIT. Mr. Billy Nelligan and Several Terriers Astonish the Uninitiated. From the Buffulo Courier.

Whispers had been floating around for the past few days that there was to be a rat-baiting match at Jimmy's on Tuesday night. It was a firm to bill, and the programme was carried out in the most recherched style. In the centre of Jimmy's barroom floor was a pit six feet square and four feet high. This was the battle ground and field of death of many a patriarchal rodent who had hitherto been innervious alike to the allurements of a twenty-cent tran and accompanying cheese, and the too often watery depths of Dug's dive. Off in one corner was a big from cage, containing probably 200 rats, and every one of them looked as if he had been a voier for ten years. They were nasty, victous-looking varmints, and it almost gave a man snakes to observe the way they writhed, twisted, turned, and chewed to get out of the box. But nervousness on the part of the boys cooled down when Billy Neiligan of Rochester said that this was due solely to their unfamiliarity and bauteur toward rats. Billy showed them that he was on the closest terms of intimacy with them, and clearly domonstrated that there was not a rat in the 200 that couldn't cail him by manne. Occasionally Billy showed them that he was on the close items of intimacy with them, and clearly domonstrated that there was not a rat in the 200 that couldn't cail him by manne. Occasionally Billy showed them that he was on the close items of intimacy with them, and clearly domonstrated that there was not a rat in the 200 that couldn't cail him by manne. Occasionally Billy showed them that he was on the close of the breast bone. Then remove the wing and second joint on the other side. Shape of the breast bone down toward the wing and second joint on the other side. Shape of the breast bone of the wing the part of the breast bone. The rat only looked at him as much as to say: "Ah there, Billy are you on?" Every one eventually acknowledged that Billy was authority when it came to a question of rats.

Finally the time arrived for the fun to begin and Billy took out about fifteen of some of them, mounted her back, bit, and soratched her legs. It was a free fight—one dog against fifteen rats, but Nellie fixed 'om in mighty short order. Mr. Kiefer's dog. Fix, also did un about the same number. Thil, Kilcourse's fox terrier was then given a whirl, and he made things hum while he got away with a party. Phil. Connell's bull dog came next. He was dropped down with about fifteen or twenty, but after killing one of them jumped out of the pit. Pat Maloney's Victoria did her number in great style, and Jimmy Wilson's Crid took care of a gang in a way that was rough on rats. Jimmy Carroll's dog also went through a crowd in short order. In this way the rats were made scarce. The dogs took it turn about, and the pit for a couple of hours was a red hot sport. The dogs fought liketigers, and they had to, as the rats were crazy with fright and salied in to win. Before the sport came to an end upward of 100 were disposed of, and the boys went away happy.

Why he at First Refused to Box Before the From the Boston Herald.

Prince of Wales.

Prom the Boston Herati.

A letter dated Edinburgh, Scotland, Dec. 7, has just been received at this office from Ed C. Holske, John L. Sullivan's advance manager. Mr. Holske writes:

"The champion will give an exhibition in Dundee on Dec. 21, following at Edinburgh Dec. 22 and 23. It will be a surprise, no doubt, to Bostonians to learn that the champion declined to spar for the edification of the Prince of Wales, by advice of Mr. Phillips and myself, before he finally accepted the invitation tendered. The affair had been saisfactorily arranged, and would have taken place without a hitch of any kind, had not a party, whom I shall not name, wedged himself in as master of ceremonies. Believing he would not give satisfaction. Sullivan declined to spar under the conditions proposed, and sent word that he would box before his Royal Highness provided Mr. Phillips was selected as master of ceremonies and timekeeper. It was arranged some little time ago for Sullivan to spar Jem Smith four rounds in public the last of December, but Fred De Clifford, one of Jem's backers, objected on the ground that it would interfere with the Kilrain affair.

I am satisfied that John will never get a shy at Smith in the old style, because nearly all of the English champion's backers now fancy Sulvan more than the English champion's backers now fancy Sulvan and other noted sports in England are prepared to back Sullivan against anybody for any roasonable amount of money. Sir John D. Astley said to me; 'I'm satisfied Sullivan leads them all, and nie partner, Ashton, can make it lively for anybody.' I must say that Ashton has won golden opinions among the fancy. Before he came to Great Britain several English puglists talked of challenging him, but they have all been quiet on the subject since the St. James's Hall show.

The tour which we have mapped out after leaving Edinburgh is as follows: Preston, Dec. 24: Hall show.

The tour which we have mapped out after leaving Edinburgh is as follows: Preston, Dec. 24: Hall heave.

Rapid Transit at Fort Smith. From the Kansas City Times.

"I saw a very amusing thing at Fort Smith the other day," said Mr. John W. Neir. "There is not a fost of paved street in the city, consequently when it rains it is aimost impossible to get around. Well, while I was there I saw a skiff being drawn through the streets by a pair of mules. One man was doing the driving, another was using the oars, and the third was managing the ruder. The mules did not seen to be pulling very hard, and the sight caused a vast amount of cheering from the citizens who saw it."

"NO MORE SACRED CONCERTS IN CARMEL."

Comical Brown Enriches the Language with

Bangon, Dec. 17.-An expression among the sporting men of this town, often used when some event has ended in a fizzle, is "There'll be no more sacred concerts in Carmel." The expression has been quoted all over the country, even as far as California, but very few people outside of this immediate vicinity have heard the story of its origin.

through Penobsect and adjoining counties a queer character popularly known as "Comical Brown," a sort of wandering minstrel, who was proprietor, leading artist, and business manager of a little concert company, composed of himself, wife, two children, and another perager of a little concert company, composed of himself, wife, two children, and another performer. The troupe travelled about in a big wagon of their own, making one night stands at country towns and villages, where, for a small admission fee, they provided the ruralists with very good entertainments. Sometimes business was good, but offen the company would strike a place, the inhabitants of which had no more music in their souls than a stone post, and would not give up a quarter for anything short of a two-ring circus. Such a place was Carmel, a little village a dozen miles or more west of Bangor. Brown and his company arrived there one baturday morning, and, thinking to win the people's hearts by generosity, he announced that he would give a free entertainment that evening, to be followed on Sunday evening by a sacred concert, admission fee twenty-five cents.

Now, nothing catches a countryman like the prospect of getting something for nothing, no matter what that something is, and the news of Browns free concert travelled like wildire. The whole countryside turned out, people coming from miles around, and a stranger in Carmol that Saturday evening would have thought that a circus had struck the town or that a cattle show was in full swing. But it was nothing more than Brown's concert. As soon as the doors were opened the surging multitude made a grand rush, and the hall was packed in a twinkilng, while those who were unable to gain admittance stood around the doorway and heaped maledictions upon Brown for not bringing a tent along big enough to hold all hands. Those who managed to get into the hall were reguled with some excellent music, and were apparently so much pleased that Brown felt sure that he had done a good stroke of management and that they would all be on hand Sunday evening, came, but the village appeared as completely desorted as though the inhabitants had all gone on a bear hunt, and the hall was as lonesome as a Methodist church in camp meeting time. When Mr. Brown and his company were ready t former. The troupe travelled about in a big

TO CARVE A CHRISTMAS TURKEY.

Rules to be Observed when Practising that Most Rare and Elegant Accomplishment, From Good Housekeeping.

not quite half way down from the neck), and turn it over toward the wing joint. Rejeat this process on the opposite side. Cut across the thin riba or through the cartilage which divides the ribs on each side, separating the breast bone from the back. Lay the breast bone to one side, and now remove the bone from it. Take the stuffing from the back. Turn the back over, place the knife midway just below the ribs, and with the fork lift up the tail end, separating the back from the upper part of the body. Place the fork in the middle of the back bone, and cut close to the back bone from one end to the other on each side, freeing the side bone.

one end to the other on each side, freeing the side bone.

It is not often necessary to cut up the whole body of the turkey, and even if the meat will be needed, it can be taken off without disjointing the bones. After the breast is sliced and the wish bone removed (which some child is always sure to want), tip the bird over slightly and with the point of the knife remove the oyster lying in the hollow of the side bone, and also the small portions of the dark meat found on the lower end of the side bone. The pope's nose is a choice bit relished by many. Then remove the fork and divide the wings at the joints; if the drum sticks were not taken off at first, separate them from the second joint. Cut off the meat from the second joint of the wing, and also from the thigh, as those, when large, are more than one person requires, and it is inconvenient to have so large bones on one plate. If no preference be expressed, help equally to both light and dark meat and stuffing.

He Can Make a Tin Box Cover Roll Along Beside him Like a Thing of Life.

If the Harlem boy wants something to play with, it is a very cold day when he gets left. The toy that is now in fashion is a model of cheapness and simplicity. It consists of the cover of a tin baking powder can, with a string five or six feet long attached. The Harlem boy punches a small hole in the exact centre of the can cover, sticks the end of the string through the hole, and then ties such a big knot on the



end of the string that he can't pull it out again. Placing the can cover up on edge, so that it may be rolled like a wheel, he tills it away from him a little, so that he has to keep a slight strain on the string to prevent it from falling over. Then he cautiously sides away across the pavement until he is grasping the extreme end of the string in one hand. With the can cover still slightly tilted, he gives the string an indescribable twitch, and the little girl living next door who hasn't got any can cover a look of seora, and away he goes across town. Ha goes across town because the pavements are less obstructed that way. The unaccustomed spectator looks to see the can covers tiel to doge laik, but it doesn't it goes rolling along abreast of the boy, keeping its tilt, he matter how has he runs or how often he turns a corner. This process would very soon tend to take the twist out of the string, but without abating his speed or the strain on he string, the small boy allows the string to turn in his grasp and thus keeps everything comfortable.

VERY HARD LINES.

B-B-R-R! WHAT A CHRISTMAS! How People Get Along and Enjoy Themselves Where it is Fifty Below Zero.

Nine times in ten the earth is white with

snow, on Christmas, either around New York and Philadelphia, or at least no further north white blanket which shrouds the earth is one unbroken sheet reaching into the north further than man has ever been-further than man's knowledge reaches. The majestic Hudson is then locked in ice and Albany is a winter capital. But there is no city in the United States where the possibilities of a cold Christmas, or a snowy one, are understood as in Montreal and Quebec. The English families that crowd the richly laden tables of the Christmas season there and make it the one day of the year when beaven invests the earth with all of her peace and bounty and joy that man can comprehend. gather behind windows fitted with double sashes, the outer one of which will not open. The doors of the houses are framed with strips of cloth, stoves are on every floor, and the hall racks groun beneath the weight of the fur coats and caps and shoes of the ladies and men. In ten successive days that I have been in Montreal at this season there was only one on which snow did not fall, and the roadways and sidewalks of the streets were already three or four feet deep with hard-packed snow. From my bedroom window I could see on the sheds and eaves the many layers of differing colors that marked the frequent storms, now a thin sheet for a little fluster of flakes, and then a two-inch or three-inch yellow band, left by a two-days' fall of crystal flakes. Ah! that seems like Christmas weather to an Englishman! It is an exaggeration of the winters he knew at home. It is fit weather for heavy dining, for rich puddings, for dancing, sleighing, and grand frolics and rounds of games indoors during the long evenings.

I have said that we have no such Christmases

in our cities. I should have said our larger cities, for at that season of the year I have seen the snow in Vermont and New Hampshire so high that it rose in interminable white walls as lofty as the car tops beside the railroads. But the people of major Canada call such latitudes mild winter climates, and point to the depth and frequency of the snowfalls as a proof of it, for it is not apt to be very cold when it snows. For colder Christmases we must go westward and north into what was vaguely called British America only a few years ago, but now is divided into the great States of Assinabola, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Athabasca. To give you an idea of what Christmas must be there, let me say that after a journey through that country I found myself returning home through Montana and Dakota. I Mores, in the Bad Lands of the Little Missouri. a week or so after his cowboys had returned from their annual "round-up," which means that expedition all ranchmen make in pursuit of their wandering cattle every spring to gather and bring them home. They reported a loss of eighty-five per cent. of the picturesque nobleman's stock. Eighty-five in every hundred had frozen to death. Unable to reach the short grass through the heavy coating of snow above it, they had huddled in groups, behind single trees or ridiculous fences, to freeze to death in the knife-like winds that swept the prairie as with a blast of dematerialized ice.

Two hundred miles north of there, in Assi-nabola the pioneers told me that the thermometer often falls to 85° or even 50° below zero, and that the wind blows at the rate of forty or fifty miles an hour at times. There is no welcome, warming snow to speak of there. to envelop the windward sides of the houses and outbuildings, and to clothe the roofs as with a blanket of down. There is not in a whole winter above an inch of snow on the prairie, and when that flies it is as fine as flour. and the air is so cold that the snow does not melt on one's sheetops. The well-to-do live in frame houses and light the winds and the cold with blazing fires that are not so effectual but what each man and woman sleeps under the weightiest mass of bedclothing that can be provided. The most comfortable of all in that country are the poorer newcomers, who have built themselves houses of sod cut in such large squares that the walls are three feet thick, though the cakes are no deeper than the roots of the grass which fringes the outside of such dwellings with a hairy-like fur of gray grass blades. It requires care and skill to fit the window sasshes and doors of such houses in deftly enough to keep out the wind; and so you notice as you ride through that country that the northerly side, and often the eastern and western ends, are not pierced at all, the only openings being those that face the South. They began with cattle raising in that region, but have learned that horses and mules do better, for with their hoofs they can dig down to the grass and keep supplied with food

down to the grass and keep supplied with food sufficient for warmth as well as existence. I found a rich European living in Assinabola, and though it was in June the whole external aspect of his beautiful horse was eloquent of the severity of the winters there. The house had an outer plating of glass, so that in the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the sum outer plating of glass, so that in the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed it, and at night the diffuse the sun warmed warmed