

THE SIAMESE TWINS.

The autopsy on the bodies of the Siamese twins has, at last, been consented to by the relatives, and the remains have been transported to Philadelphia. A commission, consisting of Drs. Pancoast, Allen, and Andrews, recently visited the place of residence of the twins, and, after considerable persuasion, succeeded in overcoming the scruples of the two families. The bodies, which had been deposited in cases packed with charcoal, were removed from their temporary sepulcher and carefully examined. Slight change had taken place in their appearance; but as the rapid setting-in of decomposition was feared, the physicians decided to postpone operations until the remains could be taken to Philadelphia, where every facility for a thorough investigation would be at hand. A number of photographic views were accordingly taken, after which a partial embalmment was completed, when the bodies were packed into an airtight tin chest and forwarded to their destination. At the time of writing the dissection has not been completed, and public curiosity, now fully aroused regarding the matter, will look with much interest for the forthcoming report. The main question to be decided will be settled as soon as the knife severs the connecting ligature. Opinion now inclines principally to the belief that the strange band contains a large artery and many veins, which made the circulation in both bodies identical. This was the view held by many eminent British surgeons, Sir Benjamin Brodie among the number, and appears to be substantiated by the fact of a compression of the ligature causing the fainting of the weaker brother. On the other side is no less an authority than Nélaton, the great French surgeon, who always maintained that separation could be safely effected, while the family physicians of the twins consider that the circulation in either body was entirely independent from that in the other. The post mortem, in deciding this interesting point, will also necessarily determine whether Eng died from the shock due to the realization of his brother's death, or from a cessation of the flow of his blood.

The illustration which we give herewith conveys an excellent idea of the appearance of these remarkable people. They were of decidedly ugly faces—our picture rather flatters them—and were far from amiable in temperament. Eng was the smaller, and generally stood in the peculiar position represented, bent somewhat backward. The details of their early history are somewhat meager. It is said they belonged to a low order of peasantry, and were born in Siam in 1811. Captain Abel Coffin, of Newburyport, Mass., found them in the city of Meklong, and bought them from their mother. In 1850 Barnum brought them before the world, since which time they have been exhibited throughout this country and Europe. Their subsequent history we have already sketched in a previous notice of their death.

How to Keep a Situation.

An observing correspondent in the *Western Rural* gives the following hints on the above subject:

Be ready to throw in an odd half hour or an hour's time when it will be an accommodation, and don't seem to make a merit of it. Do it heartily. Though not a word be said, your employer will make a note of it. Make yourself indispensable to him, and he will lose many of the opposite kind before he will part with you.

Those young men who watch the clock to see the very second their working hours up—who leave, no matter what state the work may be in, at precisely the instant—who calculate the extra amount they can slight their work, and yet not get reproved—who are lavish of their employer's goods—will always be the first to receive notice, when times are dull, that their services are no longer required.

The Telephon.

This instrument, popularly known as the "steam jackass," is the invention of a farmer in Illinois. This gentleman was the owner of a mule possessed of unusual ability for producing sweet sounds, it having been ascertained that his voice could be heard over a circle of eight miles diameter. The mule was killed, and the inventor severed the head from the body. The head was then carefully preserved from decay, and the inner organs were covered with a substance that was impervious to steam. We are indebted to the *Brooklyn Eagle* for a description of the first trial of the invention.

"A short piece of rubber hose was attached to the windpipe and connected with a steam boiler. It was a moment of agony to the inventor, as he placed the head in the hands of an assistant and slowly pulled the valve open, a moment of thrilling interest; as the steam was turned on, it passed into the windpipe, expelling the air and producing a sigh followed by a groan, a snort, a chuckle, then a violent coughing and sneezing. As a full head of steam was turned on, the most fearful noise, the most frightful guffaw, the most vociferous bray, that ever assailed mortal ears was produced. The lips were contracted, disclosing a terrible array

of teeth; the features developed a satanic grin, and the jaws rose and fell as the steam crowded the passages; and the ears participated in the general movement, giving to the head an excited and animated appearance. The man who was holding the head gazed upon it a moment with dilated eyes, colorless cheeks, knocking knees and protruding tongue; then, suddenly losing all interest in the performance, he emigrated. As for the inventor, his success ex-

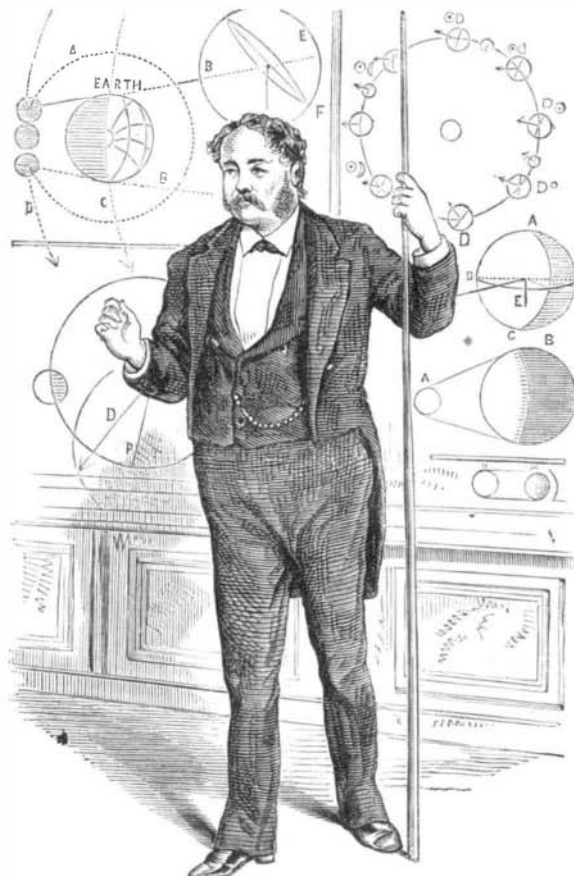


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ceeded his most sanguine expectations. For an instant he contemplated the head, his countenance working with every manifestation of intense delight; then he, too, started, probably to learn the greatest distance to which that voice would penetrate."

PROFESSOR R. A. PROCTOR.

There are few instances on record of a man attaining so distinguished and, withal, so well earned a reputation, in so



short a period of time, as that of the eminent astronomer who has recently delighted the public of this city with his admirable lectures on the wonders of the heavens. Professor Proctor is now in the thirty-seventh year of his age; and although he gained honors in his collegiate course, and at-

tracted some attention by literary efforts as early as 1863, it was not until 1865 that he definitely adopted the profession in which he is now universally admitted to be one of the ablest masters. To his celebrated controversy with the English Astronomer Royal, regarding the proper method of observing the coming transit of Venus, ending in the virtual defeat of the latter, and the subsequent corroboration of Professor Proctor's views by the first American, Russian, and German astronomers, we have already found occasion to allude; and with his published works, the clearest popular expositions of modern knowledge regarding the constitution of the celestial bodies extant, we presume our readers to be already familiar. His books are a remarkable combination of lucid and vigorous expression with scientific accuracy; and while never superficial, their subjects are treated, even when most abstract and uninviting, in a semi-imaginative manner, which lends to them a charming freshness and interest.

Professor Proctor's most recent work is a collection of essays on topics more of a general than of a purely scientific interest. Lack of space at present at our disposal prevents our here alluding to the "Border Land of Science" in such detail as we could wish, and hence we reserve its review for a more fitting opportunity. We may remark, however, that the author undertakes, in its pages, voyages to the sun and to Saturn, tells about life in Mars, and even ventures into the shadowy realms of ghosts, only, however, to demolish those vagaries of the brain, by the bright light of scientific investigation and logical deductions of cause and effect.

Professor Proctor is of genial and pleasant appearance, and is a fluent and ready speaker. His lectures are excellent even as literary efforts; and although in some instances technically above the ordinary scientific discourse as usually adapted to the comprehension of a general audience, they nevertheless are so agreeably delivered and so brilliantly illustrated, that the interest of his hearers is kept constantly alive from beginning to close. An artist contributes a sketch as he appears upon the platform.

To Destroy Insects.

Hot alum water is a recent suggestion as an insecticide. It will destroy red and black ants, cockroaches, spiders, chintz bugs, and all the crawling pests which infest our houses. Take two pounds of alum and dissolve it in three or four quarts of boiling water; let it stand on the fire until the alum disappears; then apply it with a brush, while nearly boiling hot, to every joint and crevice in your closets, bedsteads, pantry shelves, and the like. Brush the crevices in the floor of the skirting or mop boards, if you suspect that they harbor vermin. If, in whitewashing a ceiling, plenty of alum is added to the lime, it will also serve to keep insects at a distance. Cockroaches will flee the paint which has been washed in cool alum water. Sugar barrels and boxes can be freed from ants by drawing a wide chalk mark just round the edge of the top of them. The mark must be unbroken or they will creep over it, but a continuous chalk line half an inch in width will set their depredations at naught. Powdered alum or borax will keep the chintz bug at a respectable distance, and travelers should always carry a package of it in their hand bags, to scatter over and under their pillows, in places where they have reason to suspect the presence of such bedfellows.

The Taylor Steam and Hydraulic Cotton Press.

About a year ago, we illustrated an improved form of steam and hydrostatic cotton press, the invention of Mr. John F. Taylor, of the Phoenix Iron Works, Charleston, S. C., and in the accompanying description, page 15, volume XXVIII, the reader will find a full explanation of its working. The power is transmitted to the oil, water, or other liquid in the press from the pistons of two steam cylinders, which act upon the plate alternately, one imparting the initial and the other the finishing pressure. The latter is operated by live steam from the boiler, and the former is actuated by the exhaust. The steam is thus used twice over, on the compound principle, thus effecting no inconsiderable saving of fuel.

One of these machines has recently been erected in the warehouse of Mr. E. C. Pentz, foot of West 11th street, in this city, where it is now in operation re-pressing cotton for shipment. The motion of the apparatus is uniform and entirely free from jar, and its capabilities are stated as extending to the pressing of 100 bales of cotton per hour. The inventor submits testimonials to the effect that 700 bales have been pressed in a working day of ten hours. The power of the machine is 2,006,400 lbs. under 80 lbs. of steam. A continuous and steady pressure, we understand the inventor to assert, is maintained so long as steam is kept up in the boiler. The construction is strong and simple, and there appears to be a notable absence of pumps, valves, and other portions liable to be quickly worn out.

THE sand blast is said to work well in cleaning the walls of iron and stone buildings.