

**CASSADAGA PROPAGANDA.**

BY WILLIAM BENJAMIN.

The fascination which the general public finds in clever tricks and illusions is not hard to account for. Some of the brightest minds in the world are seeking to improve this form of amusement, and at no time in the world's history have so many really mystifying novelties been before the public as at present.

The rivalry between Herrmann and Kellar, the leading magicians and illusionists in this country, has caused each to exert himself to secure the very latest novelties in that line.

One of the most mysterious among Kellar's repertory of successful illusions is "Cassadaga Propaganda," an explanation of which is herewith presented.

I will first outline the effect as produced on the spectators. A sheet of plate glass about sixteen by sixty inches in size is placed upon the backs of two chairs, and on it is erected a small beautifully finished cabinet consisting of four pieces, of which the sides are hinged to the back, and which, with the front, are seen resting on a chair at the side of the stage. When erected, the cabinet is forty-two inches high, thirty-six inches wide, and fourteen inches deep.

Tambourines and bells are placed in the cabinet and the doors closed, when the instruments instantly play and are thrown out at the top of the cabinet. The cabinet is now opened and found to be empty. Any slate placed in cabinet has a message written thereon. In fact, all manifestations usually exhibited in the large cabinets are produced, and yet this cabinet is apparently not large enough to contain a person. We say apparently not large enough; for, in reality, the whole secret consists in a small person, or an intelligent child of ten or twelve years of age, being suspended by invisible wires behind the back of the cabinet, where there is a small shelf on which the concealed assistant is sitting Turkish fashion. This folded cabinet is hung on two fine wires which lead up to the flies and over rollers or pulleys to the counterweights. When proper wire is used on a brightly illuminated stage they are absolutely invisible.

After showing the chairs and placing glass upon them, the performer picks up the folded part of the cabinet and places it on the glass, the counterweights overcoming the extra weight of the concealed assistant, opens out the sides, places the front containing the doors in position, fastening same by hooks to the sides.

The inside of the cabinet and panels of doors are lined with puckered gold silk. There is a concealed opening in the silk at the back of the cabinet, for the assistant to pass his arm through, in order to handle whatever is placed within it.

Everything being in readiness, the tambourine and bell are placed in the cabinet and doors closed. The assistant now passes his hand and arm through the opening in the back and shakes the tambourine, rings the bell, and throws both out over the top of the cabinet, when the doors are opened and cabinet is shown to be empty. Clean slates placed in the cabinet are removed with messages written on them; in fact, the manifestations that can be produced in the cabinet are limited only by the intelligence of the concealed assistant.

One of the cuts shows the cabinet with open doors as seen by the audience. The second cut is an end view looking from the side of stage, showing the assistant on a shelf at the rear of the cabinet, and the wires leading up and over to the counterweights.

**Fear Among Soldiers.**

Every one has heard the story told of Marshal Ney, to the effect that he was observed just prior to a desperate charge apostrophizing his trembling legs and telling them that they would shake a great deal more if they only knew where he was going to take them. This physical sensibility to danger and mental resolution to face it constitute, in the opinion of H. W. Wilson, who writes on "The Human Animal in Battle" (the United Service), the highest type of courage. The Literary Digest, from which we copy, quotes what he has to say:

"Fear is greatest where the imagination is strongest. It is an emotion which seriously affects both body and mind. On the physical side it checks the flow of saliva, and brings that peculiar thirst of the battle field; it causes organic derangement and a certain degree of muscular relaxation, increases the tension of the voice, and is accompanied by a desperate effort to avoid the danger. On the mental side it paralyzes the intelligence and leads to the blind desire for flight, though sometimes it goes even further, and deprives the vic-

tim of all power of movement. If flight takes place, it is the flight of panic, a reflex and often involuntary act. Only strength of will can overcome this tendency to run. As a matter of fact, flight is rarely the best road out of danger; in battle it is the worst. To go forward and die is certainly better than to go backward and die; for, in the first place, the enemy, who is experiencing precisely the same emotions, will lose courage and shoot less steadily, thereby diminishing the risk of the assailant. Nothing is more contagious than panic; a single man with ashen face rushing to the rear will draw others after him and shake the confidence of all who see him. Hence the problem is how to implant courage and avoid panic.

"Courage is simply control of the nerves, and is largely due to the habit of confronting danger. Gen-

they stood or sat about camp, at the slightest noise. How, then, is courage to be taught in peace? A Russian general once proposed to 'salt' his soldiery by loading one rifle in ten with ball cartridges during maneuvers. This ghastly preparative was too revolting to civilized minds, and it has never been carried out; but if adopted, it would make the army trained under such circumstances invincible, and so in the end tend to shorten war and save life. It would accustom the soldier to the sights and scenes of the battle field, and overcome his dread of the unknown. It would enable him to control his nerves in the tumult of the actual encounter. Such a pursuit as climbing has the same moral effect. Endurance, mutual trust, self-control, may be learned on the high Alps, or, for the matter of that, in a Wastdale, where a slip on the face of the mountain means destruction. The volley of stones down some precipitous gully is not less deadly than the hail of shells and bullets on the battle field. And, in a less degree, hunting, and the manlier forms of athletics, give the same result. Sports involving risk to life are thus of supreme value from the national point of view, and this should be remembered when the ignorant and degenerate assail them."

**American Establishments in Russia.**

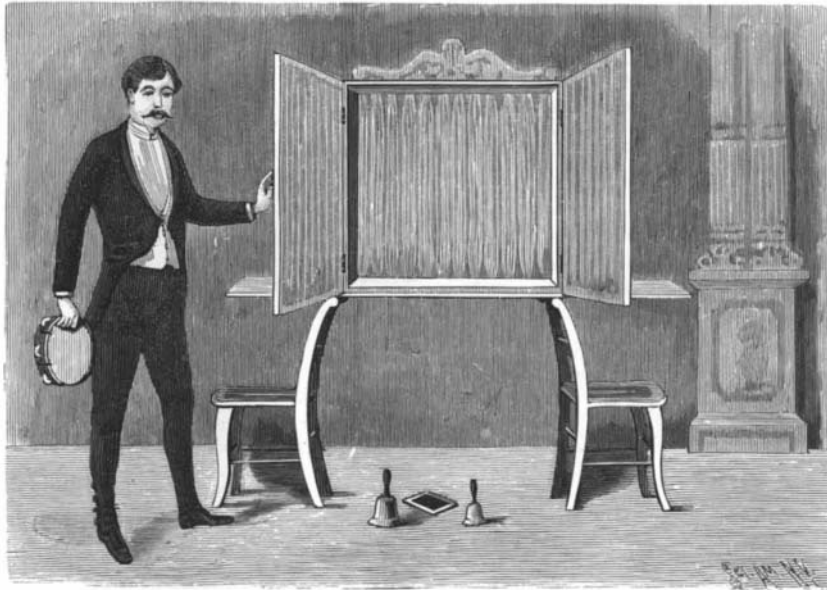
The past few months have seen the development of two important enterprises in Russia, which are to be conducted largely with American capital, and will be under American management. The first of these contemplates the establishment at Nijni Novgorod of a plant for the manufacture of locomotives of the American type, by a combination of capitalists entitled the Russian-American Manufacturing Company. The enterprise is indirectly the outcome of the Chicago Exposition of 1893, when certain visiting

Russian engineers were so favorably impressed with the display of American locomotives in the Transportation Building that they placed large orders with the Baldwin Locomotive Works, and also suggested the establishing of works in Russia. The present enterprise is the result of these negotiations, and the construction of the plant and works is now in progress. Nijni Novgorod already possesses a large Russian engineering plant known as the Sormovo Iron and Steel Works, which gives employment to 5,000 hands in the construction of engines, boilers, steamboats and cars, and the new works are to be built in connection with the existing plant. It will have a yearly output of 200 locomotives and give employment to 10,000 men.

Another important venture is being made in Southern Russia, where an American company, known as the Nicopal-Mariopal Mining and Metallurgical Company, with a paid up capital of \$2,275,000, has been formed to secure control of the rich manganese mined at Nicopal. According to the Philadelphia Record, these mines are under American management, and it is proposed to ship the ore to Mariopal, on the shores of the Sea of Azov, where an extensive steel plant is to be built and placed under the management of a gentleman who was formerly in the employ of the Illinois Steel Company. The new mining company has already given evidence of its activity by securing the contract for the delivery of ten thousand tons or one hundred and forty-four miles of pipe, for use in the oil well districts of the Caucasus; and to insure that the contract should be filled in time it is stated that the company purchased in this country an entire pipe building plant for shipment to the new works in Russia. The acquisition of these mines is a matter of no little importance to the steel industry of the world at large, for the latest statistics show that the district in which these mines are situated "supplies fully one-half of the world's requirements of manganese ore." Russia has

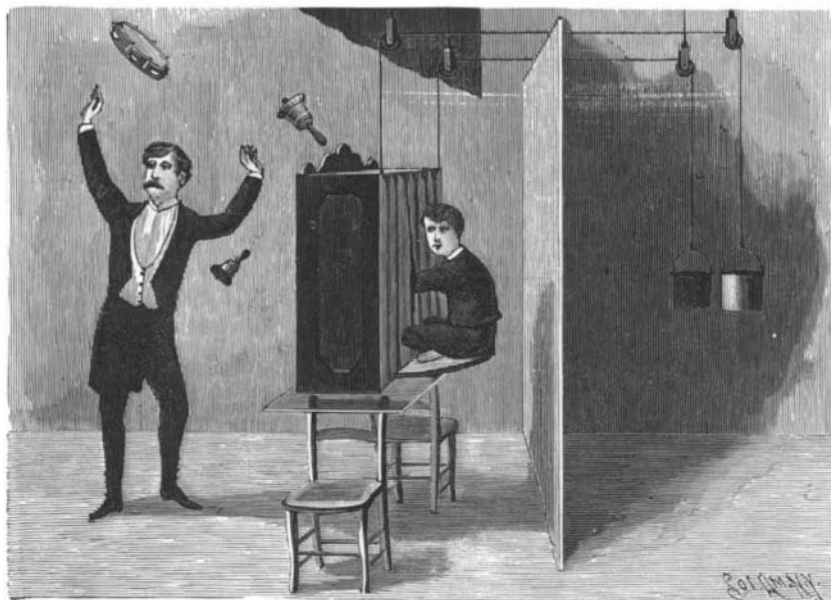
long been famous for its manganese deposits, and the exports have increased at a rapid rate during the past decade. Thus the total exports, which in 1885 amounted to 79,499,002 pounds, increased in 1890 to 295,929,390 pounds, and in 1895 to 364,858,007 pounds. Of this amount, 137,035,600 pounds went to Great Britain, 113,498,400 pounds to Holland, 95,603,600 pounds to the United States, 13,032,100 pounds to Germany, and 4,295,900 pounds to Belgium.

The progress of these two important American industries on foreign soil will be watched with great interest. Russia is developing a remarkable activity in those fields of enterprise which make heavy demands upon the iron and steel industries, and it is reasonable to expect that the two ventures above mentioned will be followed by others of a like nature.



CASSADAGA PROPAGANDA—THE CABINET OPEN FOR INSPECTION.

eral Sherman thus defines it: 'All men naturally shrink from pain and danger, and only incur their risk from some other higher motive or from habit; so that I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger and a mental willingness to incur it, rather than that insensibility to danger of which I have heard far more than I have seen. The most courageous men are generally unconscious of possessing the quality; therefore, when one professes it too openly by words or bearing, there is reason to mistrust it. I would further illustrate my meaning by describing a man of true courage to be one who possesses all his faculties and senses perfectly when serious danger is actually present.' Pride, habit, duty, these are the forces which enable men to control themselves. All can be fostered and implanted by training. Sheridan reckoned that, of able bodied men, about one-fourth have not the requisite capacity for courage, and are, therefore, useless for battle. Such weak hearts



THE SPIRIT MANIFESTATIONS.

must be weeded out. 'No matter how brave a veteran may be,' says Private Wilkeson, of Grant's army, 'he relies on the men on either side of him to stand there till they fall. . . . He must know that his comrades are as stanch fighters as he.'

"Even in the bravest and most fully tried men fear is subdued and not wholly eliminated. Skobeloff said of himself, 'I confess that I am at heart a coward.' He despaired of General Gourko because the latter would duck to avoid bullets and shells. In the Northern army, at the close of the civil war, General Horace Porter tell us that there were only two men known to him who never bowed the head to iron and lead. Of these, one was General Grant. So purely a matter of habit, a reflex action, had such ducking become, that after a great battle men would involuntarily bob, as