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Orthodoxy.

Orthodoxy's getting shaky,
Hell is losing half its charms;
Beecher stole the devil's brimstone,
Churches all are in alarms.

Hell was once a lake infernal,
Past description, past all names,
Where the damned must roast eternal
In those lurid brimstone flames.

Hell of late though's getting shorter,
Cooling off, too—beats the deuce—
Likewise brimstone, once so plenty,
Now is nearly out of use.

Not long since hell swarmed with infants
Damned to burn by God's decree,
Just because old Eve stole apples
Off the devil's Knowledge Tree.

Later, though, divines went searching
Hell all through with anxious care,
Gave the hunt up, quite discouraged—
Wa'n't the first damned baby there.

Fact is, hell's a grand old humbug,
Poor old Satan's most played out;
Orthodoxy's out of brimstone,
Hell's fast going up the spout.

NEW AND CURIOUS.

Fish With Lungs.

In ordinary fish gills take the place of lungs, and are adapted to breathing in water, but two species of fishes have lately been discovered in Africa and Australia which are possessed of lungs. They form the connecting link in the evolution from fishes to the next order of creatures. The reason that these fishes are provided with lungs is that they are found in streams which dry up entirely in the hot summer season, leaving the fishes in the dry beds of the streams. This period of drought often lasts for six moths of the year, and during all this period the fishes lie quiescent in a kind of sack formed out of the clay of the river bed. The fishes are asleep in their queer earthen houses all this time, but they breathe and are kept alive through their lungs.

A specimen of the African "lung fish" (Protopterus) has been brought to the zoological gardens in London, as well as a specimen of the Australian (Ceratodus), with their clay summer homes. They are now exciting much interest in scientific circles, as well as those interested in the strange methods which nature finds for protecting her creatures in all kinds of qeeer circumstances. When placed in warm water the clay shell opens, as it would naturally in the first heavy rainfall in its native haunts, and the eel-like fish emerges and becomes active at once.

The royal society of Queensland, fearing the extirpation of these queer fish, as so many have been killed by exploding dynamite in their native streams, have planted a number of them in various places so that they are now to be found in many Australian streams. They are certainly the queerest fish in the world.

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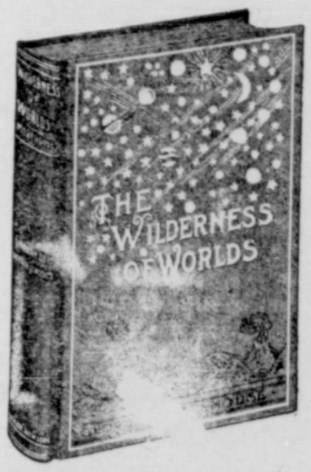

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