

Continued from 1st page.

congratulated him upon his good fortune and was about to branch forth with a description of some of the great benefits that must ensue to the community, when he suddenly and somewhat unconvincingly requested me to be silent, and listen to what he had to say.

He began with some general remarks about the inequality of fortune amongst mankind, and instanced himself as a striking example of the fate of those men, who, according to all the rules of right, ought to be near the top, instead of at the foot of the ladder of fortune.

Looking at him more closely, I thought I could detect in his eye the gleam of madness; but I remained silent and awaited further developments. But my scrutiny, stolen as it was, had been detected, and he replied at once to the expression of my face: "No, sir; I am neither drunk nor a maniac; I am in deep earnest in all that I say; and I am fully prepared by actual experiment, to demonstrate beyond all doubt the truth of all I claim."

For the first time I noticed that he carried a small portable table in his hand; this he placed upon the table, unlocked it, and took out two or three small volumes, a pamphlet, a wide-mouth phial, hermetically sealed.

I watched him with profound curiosity, and took a note of the slightest movements. Having arranged his books to suit him and placed the phial in a conspicuous position, he drew up his chair very close to my own, and uttered in a hissing tone: "I demand one million dollars for the contents of that bottle; and you must raise it for me in the city of San Francisco within one month, or scenes so terrible even for the imagination to conceive will surely be witnessed by every living human being on the face of the globe."

The tone, the manner, and the absurd extravagance of the demand, excited a faint smile upon my lips, which he observed, but disdained to notice. My mind was fully made up that I had a mania to deal with, and I prepared to act accordingly.

But I ascertained at once that my inmost thoughts were read by the remarkable man before me, and seemed to be anticipated by him in advance of their expression.

"Perhaps," said I, "Mr. Summerfield, you would oblige me by informing me fully of the grounds of your claim, and the nature of your discovery?"

"That is the object of my visit," he replied. "I claim to have discovered the key which unlocks the constituent gases of water, and frees each from the embrace of the other, at a single touch."

"You mean to assert," I rejoined, "that you can make water burn itself up?"

"Nothing more nor less," I responded, "excepting to insist upon the consequences of the secret, if my demand be not at once complied with."

Then, without pausing for a moment to allow me to make a suggestion, as I once or twice attempted to do, he proceeded in a clear and deliberate manner, in these words: "I need not inform you, sir, that when this earth was created it consisted almost wholly of vapor, which by condensation, finally became water. The oceans now occupy more than two-thirds of the entire surface of the globe. The continents are mere islands in the midst of the seas. They are everywhere ocean-bound, and the hyperborean north, is hemmed in by open polar seas. Such is my first proposition. My second embraces the constituent elements of water. What is this thing which we call water? Chemistry, that royal queen of all the sciences, answers readily, 'Water is but the combination of two gases, oxygen and hydrogen, and in the proportion of eight to one.' In other words, in order to form water, take eight parts of oxygen and one of hydrogen, mix them together, and the result is water. You can see, sir, that air, because you very properly think, these are the elementary principles of science, and are familiar to the minds of every school-boy twelve years of age. Yes! but what next? Suppose you take these same gases, and mix them in any other proportion. I care not what, and the instantaneous result is heat, flame, combustion of the intensest description. The famous Drummond Light, that few years ago astonished Europe—what is that but the ignited flame of a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen projected against a small piece of lime? Was it not, sir, a useless water becomes the most destructive of all objects when decomposed and mixed in any other proportion."

"Now suppose I fling the contents of this phial into the Pacific ocean, what would be the result? Dare you contemplate it for an instant? I do not say that the entire surface of the sea would be instantaneously bubble up into infernal flames; no, but form the nucleus of a circle, which this phial would be the central radii of flames would gradually shoot outward, until the blazing circumference would roll in vast billows of fire upon the nearest shores. Not all the dripping clouds could extinguish it. Not all the tears of saints and angels could for an instant check its progress. On, and onward it would sweep, with the steady gait of destiny, until the continents would melt with fervent heat, the atmosphere glare with the continuous conflagration, and all living creatures, in land, and sea, and air, perish in one universal catastrophe."

Then suddenly starting to his feet, he drew himself up to his full height, and murmured solemnly, "I feel like a God and I recognize my fellow-men but as puppets that I spurn beneath my feet!"

"Summerfield," said I, "emphatically must be some strange error in all this. You are a self-deluded. The weapon which you claim to wield is one that a good God and a beneficent Creator would never intrust to the keeping of a mere creature. What sir! create a world as grand and beautiful as this, and hide within its bosom a principle that at any moment may wrap it in flames, and sink

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. PATENT ARION PIANO. SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS. THE ARION PIANO-FORTE has Greater Power than any other other Piano-Forte manufactured. IT WILL STAND IN THE LONGEST and in its mechanical construction it is the most perfect constructed in the usual modern style. The arrangement of the Action, the manner of stringing, the peculiar form and arrangement of the Iron Frame. Supersedes all Others. The use of a bar, which is a part of the Iron Frame on a line with the heavy steel stringing-gives Great Strength. Where most needed, and in this respect all other Pianos fail. The construction of the WREST PLANK, into which the Tuning Pins are inserted, is such that it is impossible for the pins to become loosened, or the WREST PLANK itself to split, as is too often the case in other Pianos. THE EXTRAORDINARY EVENNESS. Throughout the entire scale, the excellent Singing Quality, the Length and Purity on Vibrations. All go to prove what we claim, viz.: that the Arion Piano-Forte is the Best Instrument Manufactured. Is the Best Instrument Manufactured. THE PATENT ARION PIANOS. Are used Exclusively in the AMERICAN CONSERVATORIES OF MUSIC of New York city. The most severe test a piano can receive is constant use in a Conservatory. Read The Following: It affords me much pleasure to give you, in these few lines, a very sincere testimonial for the Piano-Fortes of your manufacture. We have now used the "Patent Arion Piano-Forte" in our Conservatories for a year, and have had a fair opportunity of testing their durability during that time. The Pianos have played upon almost constantly, from morning till night, and a Piano never before so good one when it will wear such constant use without showing signs of deterioration. As for remaining in tune, it is not necessary for any Piano to be so perfect. Their peculiar sweetness of tone is the trouble, (as compared to other Pianos with the ordinary metal action arrangement) is in striking that I have had pupils remark, while talking their lessons, that although they had had some what they supposed to be one of the best makes of Pianos, still that these were very wily toned compared with the "ARION." What makes them still more desirable is their uniform volume of tone, which enables an Arion to perform a competition in the true character. In total, I can conscientiously endorse all that is claimed by the Arion Piano-Forte Company for their superior instruments, as I consider them superior to any other make. Congratulating you upon the great success you have obtained, and the many orders for so perfect an instrument, I remain yours, Very truly, HENRY SCHOEDER, Director. New York, September 3, 1870. AGENTS WANTED. We want first-class and responsible Agents in every city and town where we have not already appointed them. We have just Published Our annual Illustrated Pamphlet, which contains a full description of the interior construction of the Patent Arion Piano-Forte, and all the other leading Pianos of the principal makers, illustrated with cuts, thus contrasting the Arion with all other first-class Pianos, and proving Why and Where Our Pianos are superior to any in the market. Our pamphlet contains engravings of all the different styles of instruments that we manufacture, giving a full description of each, so that a person can select the style they may desire to order, with the assurance that they will receive just as good a Piano as if they were personally present to select it. We have sold over Five Thousand Pianos, and have never shipped greater distances, and we have never yet received the first complaint. As we give a written guarantee with every Piano we manufacture, for five years, the purchaser runs no risk. Don't fail to write for our pamphlet, which we will mail free, and when you write state what paper you use and the notice in. N. B.—We caution the public from purchasing a cheap Piano which has recently been put in the market, bearing the name "Arion." All genuine Arion Pianos bear the name "Patent Arion," and are only to be purchased of the New York Warehouse, or of its authorized Agents throughout the United States. All kinds of Musical Instruments Supplied. ARION PIANO-FORTE COMPANY No. 254 Broadway, New York City.