

Willamette Farmer.

SALEM, FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 1876.

The Indestructibility of Matter.

BY A. F. DAVIDSON.

We learn, like lawyers go to heaven, by degrees. The child slips, stammers, and, after repeated trials, learns to speak. It learns with difficulty, makes many mistakes, falls into errors, and only after long experience does it acquire anything like order, precision, and accuracy.

Matter, long ago, and even now, especially among the unlearned, is regarded as being at once something, and yet nothing; as being made from nothing, and passing into nothing. This crude notion, however erroneous it may be, can only be overturned by gradual accumulation of counter-experiences.

The chemist, the physicist, and the physiologist accept as a priori truth the datum that matter is indestructible. The chemist finds, though matter may be changed, it is still matter. He combines oxygen and hydrogen, and forms water; the water he evaporates, and it passes off as vapor, but is not lost, for, when ascending to a cold stratum of air, it condenses, and falls to the earth, or is held in solution in the air.

The physicists and physiologists, in their investigations of the orders of phenomena, find all their experiences coincide with, but never against, the accepted a priori truth, that matter is indestructible. When, in doubt of the a priori truth, they immediately set up an investigation through analysis, or synthesis, or both, and prove the a priori truth by a posteriori, and, finding the a priori sustained by the a posteriori, it is set down as established.

Hence, then, the postulate that "matter is indestructible" is true, for the clear reasons that "experiences prove it so, and no counter-experiences disprove it," scientifically speaking.

How, then, do we know what matter is? We only know matter through its power of resistance. We place our hand against a tree, or any other solid, and what is the result? It resists. Then we know matter by its resistance. We place our hand against, or on water, or other fluid matter, and, if we press with sufficient force, we displace or remove the fluid, because our persistence is greater than its resistance. Here we see that gravitation, cohesion, attraction, repulsion, are only modifications of persistence and resistance, and are derivative from force: a strong force overcomes a weak one.

Clearly, then, our knowledge of matter is its resistance presented to us through the persistence of force. Thus, then, it is the indestructibility of force presented to us in the form, mode, or state of matter, which produces resistance, recognized by us. A condensed mass presents a complete resistance, as mineral, rocks, earths, woods, &c.; a less condensed mass, as water, presents considerable resistance; air, and other gaseous matter, presents still less resistance. What is it condensed matter? Is it gravitation, cohesion, or other attractive forces? Are not all of these modes of motion?—modifications of the persistence of force, as was observed above? Then, an inexorable logic brings us down to the primordial experiences of force: force, deep down, is at the bottom of all motion, terrestrial as well as celestial. Motion has its rhythm, and rhythm initiates the beginning and ending in all phenomena. Rhythm is a sequence in all motion. The nature of all motion is to "follow in the lines of least resistance." Our knowledge of motion is from "a thing moved." If all matter was still—an impossibility—we could have no knowledge of motion, for the clear reason that nothing would be in motion. Force, ever persistent in matter, keeps it in motion, swiftly or slowly. It is, then, the persistence of force in matter that enables it to resist.

Matter has two inseparable elements, resistance and extension. Resistance is primary; extension is secondary. If we abstract coexistent resistances from body, matter disappears. Inertia, there is no such thing—cannot be; for, from the sun and satellites, down to protoplasm, all are in motion. Everything is either integrating, or disintegrating; and, based in the persistence of force, must ever be so. Matter, motion, time, and space, are ultimates; but force is the ultimate of ultimates, for all these are dependent on force. All bodies are made up of small particles called molecules, and these are again composed of atoms. The atoms are held together by two opposing systems of forces, called molecular forces. Molecular forces are divided into attractive and repellent forces. Heat is a repellent force.

Late discoveries show us that a repellent force is in the sun. This goes far in demonstrating the unity of all composition; for, if there is a repellent terrestrial force, it must have been derived from our central luminary. This repellent force acts only on highly rarefied matter, as comets, nebulous fields, streams of debris, and the outer hydrogen of

the sun. At every irruption of the sun, immense quantities of hydrogen are expelled into solar space, filled more or less with electricity. Here, then, is the source of electricity which pervades stellar spaces, and floats around the planets, and on our planet aids in the formation of our auroras, nocturnal streams of light, &c.

What a deep, a vast, a profound question is the "action of forces" throughout the "vast domain of matter." The quantity of matter remains always the same. It may be condensed or expanded, but never destroyed—IT IS INDESTRUCTIBLE.

When we consult those great savants and scientists, Tyndall, Huxley, De la Rive, Masl, Loomis, Sir John Herschel, Donati, Stewart, Newton of Yale College, Faye, Proctor, Kirchhoff, Bunsen, La Hire, Arago, De la Rue, Fizeau, Foucault, Meyer, Joule, Grove, Helmholtz, Faraday, Ampere, Peltier, et al., our ideas rise at once from a low, to a higher, atmosphere of thought, and weak indeed must be the intellect that cannot rise above the fogs of superstition, the clouds of darkness, and the night of gloom, which prevailed among our nomadic, ignorant, and uncivilized ancestors!

Success in Life.

In these days of great fortunes, and in our haste to become wealthy, we are in the habit of deeming those men who have been fortunate in accumulating a vast deal of this world's goods, as having attained success in life. Among these luminaries, or self-made men, as they are usually called, stand conspicuously such names as those of Girard, Astor, Stewart, and others, who, as a class, are selfish, niggardly, and live wholly within themselves. They are men who crush with an iron grasp all those who are so unfortunate as to fall within their power, and close alike their ears and eyes to the suffering of humanity. They are men who dry up the springs of human kindness within their breasts, convert it into a parched barren desert, and barter all of life's choicest, rarest blessings; and who knows but their also, in the aggrandizement of wealth to be at their death disposed of as their whims and ambition dictate. Yet how we praise and laud them to the skies, and point them out and urge our young people to pattern after and follow them as guiding stars. With such lights before us, we are apt to pass by unheeded, thousands of our fellow men, with great souls and tender hearts of unbounded fellow-feeling and benevolence, whose time is so engrossed in acts of charity that they have neither time nor opportunity to accumulate a fortune save in the blessings and thanks of those whom they have assisted. What parent ever speaks of, or advises his son to follow in the wake of such pure philanthropists as John Howard, Elihu Burritt, and others of the same class? We believe not many, but in their stead the money kings of the land and devotees of mammon are pointed out as true types of manhood and as worthy of emulation. In view of these facts isn't it about time that we were getting hold of different ideas of success in order that we may inculcate them into the minds of rising generations.

GEO. WATKINS.

"Snug Farmers."

I quote our caption from memory, but am quite sure I am correct. What is the meaning and significance of this expression? The primary meaning of snug is "tight, handsome," but in this connection, used in a good sense, and suited to decide the whole class of farmers, this meaning will hardly apply. The best farmers never get "tight," and they are not all "handsome." Another meaning of snug is "neat." This is peculiarly appropriate in its application to the good farmer. On his premises neatness and order everywhere prevail. The house proper is under the management of the wife, but the cellar must come under the management of the husband. There he stores his vegetables, and he knows it is of the utmost importance to the health of the family that the cellar bottom be cleared of all foreign matter—such as decaying potatoes, beets and cabbages—and that the walls be frequently whitewashed and cleansed. A neat and orderly cellar is one of the best indications of a snug farmer. If the good housewife can have such a cellar in which to deposit her milk-pans, she will cheerfully guarantee a neat pantry, kitchen and dining-room.

The snug farmer is also neat in his personal habits. Though clothed in home-spun garb, suited to his occupation, he is so neat and orderly that it becomes a "royal robe" to him. He remembers that he is a gentleman, if he is a laboring farmer, and a fit companion for a tidy wife. And he is neat and orderly in all his arrangements about the house, barns and sheds. His dooryard is not strewn with sticks and stones and underbrush, but is neat and orderly. His unused tools are all under cover and in their places, so that he can find them at pleasure. His barn is "swept and garnished," and his animals are combed and curried with the utmost care. His dooryard fence is not made of rails nor slab-wood, but more likely of pickets in some form, to indicate taste and culture.

The snug farmer has a snug little farm. Everything about is convenient and suited to his purpose. Every field is cleared of its stone and brushwood, and laid open to the cheering sunlight and the gentle rains. The fences are all in order, and every change in the weather or season is anticipated, so as to enable him to co-operate with nature in securing the productiveness of the soil.

And the snug farmer is a public-spirited man. He is interested in all public improvements. Sidewalks and shade trees that reach beyond his own dooryard interest him. He sees that everything that tends to make the neighborhood or town more attractive

will increase the value of real estate, and thus diminish the taxes. Such a farmer is willing to share the expenses of educating not only his own children, but the children of his neighbors, because intelligence and virtue in the community will raise the value of his farm. He understands that all improvements that affect the public good promote his own personal welfare, and the welfare of his children.

Now I ask my readers to look about over the community, and see if they do not find the best farmers and the most thrifty and independent farmers in that neighborhood where the most money has been expended in improvements; in churches, schools, public buildings, highways, parks and fountains? The beautiful village is always surrounded by an intelligent, cultivated, enterprising and public-spirited agricultural population, and their sharing and aiding in public improvements has made the farmers and their snug farms what they are.—Cor. Western Farm Journal.

Letter from A. J. Dufur.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 15, 1876.

C. P. BURKHAERT: Dear Sir—Yours of 3d inst. is noted, and right glad am I to once more hear from you, but sorry you could not come on to the Centennial. Every thing coming from Oregon has taken the highest award, and Oregon stands to-day credited as one of the most productive states and desirable locations in the Union. I could have sold thousands of bushels of Oregon grain for seed if I had had it here, and have given a multitude of people your address who wish to order it for seed.

Our State will receive immense benefits from the efforts three or four of us have made in this display, and it seems that the least our Legislature could do is to give a fair compensation for the work.

Your wheat, rye and oats, take medal and diploma, and if all the contested cases that I have in are decided in my favor (which I think they will be) Oregon exhibitors will carry off over twenty prizes. The Patrons of Husbandry of our jurisdiction have lost the best opportunity they will ever again have to get all kinds of farm implements and agricultural machinery on consignment. I could have made the best of arrangements for everything if I had been authorized. Also for boots and shoes and all kinds of heavy cotton goods, but under the present status of the organization I dare not take the risk of doing it myself.

Friend Wilkins is here at work, and as one of the judges on appeals he has given the best of satisfaction in all his work. I shall probably be at home about the 1st of December. The exhibition closes the 10th of November, and I think I shall donate all the exhibit, that will not pay for freight back to the Oregon Land Co., who will put it on exhibition in Boston.

Yours as ever, A. J. DUFUR.

Good Recipes.

PLEASANT HOME, Oct. 29, 1876.

ED. FARMER: Being a reader of your valuable paper, I have taken the liberty of sending you a few very valuable recipes that have tested many times and they do just as they are recommended. If you think them worth inserting in your Household Department, you are at liberty to do so with my thanks. JENNIE A. STEPHENS.

TO PICKLE GREEN CORN.—Cut from the ear fresh green corn. Place in a stone jar a thin layer of salt, then a layer of corn, then another light layer of salt, and so on till the jar is filled. This is an excellent way to preserve corn, and saves the expense of canning, and cannot be told from corn fresh from the field. Experienced house-wives have remarked, when eating my pickled corn: "where did you get green corn this time of the year?" Try it and you will be well repaid for your little trouble.

A GOOD SUMMER BEVERAGE.—A small hand-ful of hops tied in a thin muslin cloth; a small piece of saffron bark. Put them in a three-gallon jar and pour over them a gallon of boiling water; then fill up your jar with cold water; when milk-warm, add a pint of good sponge (the same as you make for bread) stir well, and sweeten with syrup or sugar. Keep in a warm place until it has worked nicely, then set away to cool. When cold it is ready to drink.

James Knox, who gave his name to Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., and who was at one time member of Congress from that district, died on Monday last. He was a graduate of Yale of the class of 1830, and at one time gave \$10,000 to his alma mater.

We learn that the grand jury in the case of Emerick, charged with the murder of a man named Gordon, in Umatilla county, have found a true bill charging the defendant with murder in the first degree. Emerick had been out on bail, the county court having held his crime to be of a lower grade.

A man named Larry O'Neil was arrested in Linn county last Sunday, and has been sent to Douglas, where he is to be called upon to answer a charge of bigamy.

To Ladies.

MRS. DR. CRAIG is now prepared to receive patients at her office, in Salem. During the past year she has had extensive practice at Dr. Adams' popular Medical Institute at Portland, in treating ladies, and feels confident of affording relief in most cases of a chronic character. Special attention paid to female weakness and nervous prostration. In connection with her treatment, she uses the celebrated Medicated Electric Vapor Baths, which aid vastly in effecting cures. Office and residence, s. e. corner of Center and Summer streets, Salem.

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Celery is the greatest food in the world for nerves. Persons doing much brain work find it invaluable. In cities, where the brain and nerves are called to severe exercise, people hunger for it, and the demand for it grows so that ignorant people cannot understand why it should be so. It seems as though nature, in her quiet way, finds and materializes out of herself food or recuperation for all parts of the physical that is exhausted in the demand for progress. Where people work their muscle more than their brains, beans, corn, meat, and such food is most in demand, and celery is not in much demand. But in cities, where brain and nerves are overworked, appetite clamors for something that will repair the waste and do the weary parts the most and quickest good.

In one of his recent letters to the Tribune, M. Arsene Houssaye describes the artistic treasures of M. Thiers, the ex-President of France, and that paper remarks that in his love of art there is a striking resemblance between M. Thiers and the late Senator Sumner. But the difference between them is very great. M. Thiers is renowned for his exquisite taste and the value of his collection; but Mr. Sumner's taste was so very defective that the collection of works of art which he bequeathed to the Boston Athenaeum had so little value that the directors of that institution refused to give them house-room, and disposed of them at auction. M. Thiers has a genuine love for art and a thorough knowledge of the value of artistic objects, but Mr. Sumner possessed neither.—Independent.

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(Letter from a Postmaster.)

"Messrs. J. B. ROSE & Co.: 'ANTIOCH, ILL., Dec. 1, 1874. My wife has, for a long time, been a terrible sufferer from Rheumatism. She has tried many physicians and many remedies. The only thing which has given her relief is Centaur Liniment. I am prepared to say this has cured her. I am doing what I can to extend its sale. W. H. RING.'

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