

M'PELICAN'S WOOING.

The Rare Nerve That Carried Him Through the Popping Ordeal.

"Have you ever experienced the feeling, Mr. McPelican," said the young lady, softly, "that some great opportunity was within your grasp, but you had hardly the presence of mind, the courage, as it were, to avail yourself of it?"

"Why—er—yes, Miss Quickstep, I have sometimes had a kind of feeling as if I'd been sort of sent for and couldn't go, you know."

Miss Amanda sighed dreamily, and there was a pause, during which the two sat in the semi-darkness of the Quickstep parlor and exchanged profound silences.

The door opened and Miss Amanda's elderly female relative looked in.

"The book you are looking for, auntie," said the young lady, with entire self-possession and some emphasis, "is probably in the library."

The elderly female relative withdrew, and Amanda spoke again in the soft, musical, persuasive voice of a trained applicant for charity.

"She will not disturb us again, Mr. McPelican."

"She—she wasn't disturbing me," he protested.

And he sat and looked helplessly at the glowing coals in the grate, with the feeling that every breath he drew was a mortifying and ghastly bludgeoner.

"As you were about to say, Mr. McPelican," resumed the young lady, "there are times when it seems to all of us we must speak what is in our hearts—in our minds."

"Yes," vaguely answered the bewildered youth, and he tried to remember when he had started to say any thing of the kind; "yes, of course."

"And while I am not sure that I ought to listen to you, Mr. McPelican," she said, with downcast eyes, "when you speak to me in this—in this personal manner, yet—"

The young man could feel his pulse beating a tattoo on the drums of his ears, but he sat like a bound boy at a corn-husking and said nothing.

"By the way," exclaimed Miss Amanda, presently, "I have a new book of engravings, Mr. McPelican, that I am sure you will enjoy seeing. It is a large book, and you'll have to move your chair—why, certainly, you can sit here with me on the sofa. I never thought of that!"

The pictures danced before the eyes of the young man in blurred, confused images.

"Isn't this engraving of the 'Courtship of Florence Dombey and Walter Gay' perfectly lovely?"

"Which is Walt?" he gasped.

"There! Look closer. Don't you see him?"

"W—who's he courting?"

"You'll have to come closer, Mr. McPelican. I declare, though," and she looked archly at the trembling youth, "I am almost afraid to let you come any nearer. You look exactly like Walter in the picture!"

And then the arm of that helpless young man stole in a timid, apologetic, sneaking way around the waist of the charming Amanda Quickstep, her head sank on his shoulder, and the book of engravings fell neglected to the floor.

"Alfred," she said, an hour later, as she toyed with a button of his coat, "you hold boy! How on earth did you ever muster up the courage to ask me to be your wife? You know well enough I never gave you a particle of encouragement."

The young man patted her condescendingly on the head and then spoke proudly, with the voice of an Ajax defying the lightning:

"When I make up my mind to do any thing, Amanda, no obstacle on earth can stop me!"—Chicago Tribune.

ABORIGINAL MONEY.

Queer Articles Which Take the Place of Gold and Silver.

At a meeting of the Academy of Sciences of San Francisco, a number of years since, Mr. Stearns presented a paper upon the money of uncivilized man, in which he remarked that the durability and ease of manipulation of shells have long caused them to be employed in domestic intercourse and trade; and, among these, he first enumerated the common clam of the eastern coast of the United States, the purple portion of which constituted the wampum, or one class of their money, while another was made from the axes of a species of Pyralia. In each shell about half an inch in diameter of the inside is of this purple color, and this was converted into beads, which they called Suckanhook, or black money, and had twice the value of their white money or wampum proper, which was made of the Metauhock or Pyralia. This was used not only among the Indians, but among the whites; and it is remarked that the solid cash with which the salaries of ministers were formerly paid included black and white wampum. The money of the west-coast Indians is a species of tusk-shell, or Dentalium, resembling a hollow elephant's tusk, the worth depending upon the length of the shell. These are strung on corns and worked up in various forms of beaded and other ornaments, having a distinct value among the Indians, according to the size of the shell and their number, quite as fixed as that of the specie or the paper money of the United States. The use of the money cowry in Africa is well known, many tons of the shells being annually imported to Great Britain, and again exported for barter with the native tribes.—Christian at Work.

Tennyson's works are used for school examination papers in India.

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND.

A Luxury That Given Great Satisfaction to the Inmates of Asylums.

You have probably often seen blind asylums brilliantly lighted at night, and you would probably just as often wondered why the blind required such a luxury. An inquisitive reporter recently ascertained that the blind are not deprived of their sight to such an extent as is generally supposed. Superintendents and managers of asylums are aware of this fact and know all the little foibles and petty tricks of their wards. The blind are most mischievous at the very time when one would think them to be the least troublesome—that is, in the evening. The superintendents in this city understand this and order all the gas jets in the institution to be lighted promptly at sundown. All the tricky ones are then watched by the janitors as carefully as Tabby does the mouse. Most of the blind have some powers of eyesight, and light rays, as a rule, can be readily perceived by them. They know that when all the lights are going at full blaze they can not put up any pranks, and that all the books with heavy print, which they can take to bed and read far into the night, are taken away from them. These are the principal reasons why the passers-by sees all the lights burning in the rooms of the blind asylum. But there is another and special reason. Guardians of the blind state that the latter derive a great amount of comfort from the light. Many of them can perceive rays, and that is the only gratification left to their impaired vision. As soon as night comes on they wait patiently for the gas or lamps to be lighted and then muse under the illumination that is sensible to their optics.

Superintendents find it hard to divide the blind into distinct classes, according to the degrees of blindness. There is one continuous graduation from the totally blind to those who can see to read large type. The blind are divided into three classes by those who come in daily contact with them. The first class is composed of those who can not perceive light of the greatest intensity. They are devoid of the comfort which light gives. The highest test to prove total lack of vision is to place the blind person in the direction of lightning during a thunder storm, and if the flash is not perceived this proves that the sense of vision is entirely gone.

In the second class are those who can perceive and appreciate light and can see only the barest outline of the forms of persons. These are fed with illumination and want it most. Regularly at sun-down, they seek the chairs nearest to the light, and draw ineffable comfort from it.

The third class can not only distinguish light, but can also partially read and discern the features of their friends. This class is by far the most troublesome. They do not especially care for gas light, sometimes because it interferes with their little plans of mischief. The janitors always make it a point to light the gas in their rooms and keep their idle brains out of mischief.

Light and music are the blind person's chief delights. All the lost powers of vision are almost compensated for by the extraordinary sense of harmony and time. A peculiar musical talent and gift are apportioned to the blind, and secure for them positions of note. Many piano tuners are blind. In Paris nearly all the head piano tuners are blind persons. The same is true in Boston, where all of the pianos in the public schools are tuned by the blind.—Albany (N. Y.) Argus.

TWO HISTORIC CHAIRS.

How a German Officer Obtained Possession of Them.

An incident of General Sheridan's visit to Europe during the Franco-Prussian war is perhaps omitted from his article in Scribner's through ignorance of the facts. When the General reached Berlin he asked the American Minister to recommend to him some young American who could speak German fluently to act as an interpreter. The Minister recommended Mr. Charles F. MacLean, better known to New Yorkers as a Police Commissioner than as an interpreter, and he followed General Sheridan through the campaign. The General relates in Scribner's how Bismarck the Great and Napoleon the Little sat on rude wooden chairs in front of a cottage near Sedan, discussing the situation, and there is a picture showing the two men, one triumphant, the other downcast, in the peasant's garden. A few days later General Sheridan dined with Bismarck, who began to talk of the surrender.

"That meeting," said the Prussian Chancellor, "will be historical. I sent over yesterday and bought those two chairs from the peasant for ten francs apiece; now I have them as mementoes, and I suppose," he added with a laugh, "the English will go on buying these chairs for years to come."

There was a general laugh at this remark; but one officer had more to laugh at than the others, and gave his reason to Mr. MacLean afterward.

"You see," he said, "I knew as well as Bismarck that the meeting would be historical, so the very next day I rode over myself and got the chairs for five francs for the pair."—N. Y. Sun.

A few days ago Mr. Davis, of St. Augustine, Fla., heard a bell tinkling, and couldn't tell from what quarter it came until he looked in the air and saw a buzzard with a small brass bell around his neck. He shot the buzzard and on examination saw an indistinct date, "1565," on the bell. He thinks it must have been hung there by old Mendez.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

—One out of every five school children in Philadelphia is obliged to wear glasses, and the proportion is rapidly increasing.

—William and Mary College, the alma mater of Presidents Jefferson and Monroe and Chief Justice Marshall, is to be reopened after a long term of inactivity. It is the oldest college in Virginia, and one of the oldest in the Union.

—The following are the endowments of some of the principal educational institutions of the United States: Girard College, \$10,000,000; Columbia, \$5,000,000; John Hopkins, \$4,000,000; Harvard, \$3,000,000; Princeton, \$3,500,000; Lehigh, \$1,800,000; Cornell, \$1,400,000.

—The Presbyterian missionaries in the City of Mexico have recently located seven preaching stations in the outlying wards and districts. In this way they touch the people who could not be brought into any thing known as a church edifice. Lay talent is utilized, one-half of these services being sustained by native elders.

—One of the finest organizations of women in the country is the "New York League of Unitarian Women," which was formed to promote closer fellowship among its members, and for awakening and sustaining a real interest in religious worship, ethics and philanthropy, and of securing cooperation in the advancement of Unitarian Christianity.

—Rev. Bradford P. Raymond, who has just been elected president of Wesleyan University, has been president of Lawrence University, Wisconsin, for some years. He studied theology at Leipsic and Gottingen, Germany. He is a man of broad mind, great culture and much personal magnetism. As an orator he is impressive, and has been considered the most effective preacher in Wisconsin.

—The young women who attend the new college in Baltimore ought to become robust and well developed, for the facilities offered for physical training are said to be superior to any other woman's college in the world. The gymnasium is a three-story structure, covering 4,000 square feet. It has a large swimming pool, bowling alley, walking track, bath rooms and considerable apparatus designed especially for women.

—The overseers of Harvard College have decided that a committee for the regulation of athletic sports shall hereafter be annually appointed and chosen as follows: Three members of the college faculty, and three graduates of the college, these six to be appointed by the corporation with the consent of the overseers, and also three undergraduates to be chosen during the first week of the college year by the majority vote of the students representing the various sporting associations.

—An Illinois notion for making church societies pleasant is to give each person a card on which a dozen names are written, and the recipient of the card must talk five minutes to each one whose name is on the card. At the end of each five minutes a bell sounds and conversation must cease and new partners be found. This scheme is said to be death to wall flowers and ejectives, and of great advantage to the social success of the entertainment.

VICTORIES FOR PASTEUR.

The Famous French Physician's Well-Founded Claims to Fame.

It is not generally known in this country that Pasteur's claim to fame rests upon a more substantial foundation than the discovery of the method of preventing hydrophobia by inoculation. "If it had not been for Pasteur," said a well-known physician who recently met Pasteur in his laboratory, "we would not be drinking the sparkling wines of France, and the wine-making industry would have been ruined. A blight had come upon the wine. Some insidious agent that could not be detected was at work in the wine and affected it so that it would not keep. The exported wine became acid and bitter, and the domestic lost its flavor and value. The large winemakers were in despair and knew that if something was not done their business would come to an end, and this meant destitution to thousands of happy French homes that depended upon this industry for support. Pasteur attacked the evil. He found that the deteriorations in the wines were caused by organic germs, which could be destroyed by a degree of heat, without affecting the quality of the wine. The remedy was applied immediately on a large scale to all the wines which had undergone acid fermentation, and they were made sweet and pure. Another industry was also paralyzed. It was silk culture. A plague called pebrine attacked the silk-worms, inflicting a loss of twenty million dollars in one year. Myriads of worms were destroyed, and those that were left only turned out a small quantity of silk. Pasteur traced the disease to its origin and found it to be the work of a living organism or parasite. The germ was picked up by the worm from the leaf on which it fed and speedily got into the sack which contained the material from which the worm spun its cocoon, and increased so rapidly that the worm was killed, or its silk-producing power was destroyed. Pasteur discovered the time when the poisonous germ could be killed and the method of doing it, and again saved the commercial prosperity of the French. This investigation took many years, during which Pasteur was profoundly abused by men of science, but they all were silenced when he finally killed the buzz."—N. Y. Tribune.

YELLOWSTONE PARK.

Some of the Natural Curiosities of That Wonderful Tract of Land.

In the Northwest corner of the Territory of Wyoming there is a tract more remarkable for natural curiosities than an equal area in any other portion of the globe. It was first brought into notice by a party of surveyors from Helena, M. T., in 1869. In 1870 an expedition, under the direction of the Surveyor-General of that Territory, visited the region, and in 1871 Prof. Hayden, at the head of a scientific corps, made an examination of its remarkable features. This report induced Congress to pass an act, approved March 1, 1872, by which the district now known as the Yellowstone National Park was reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and was placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior. The limits of this park, as first fixed, have been three times extended by Congress. Its western boundary now coincides with that between Wyoming and Idaho and Montana, and its northern boundary is identical with that between Montana and Wyoming. The southern boundary of the park is the forty-fourth parallel of latitude, and its eastern line is the meridian of 109 degrees 30 minutes west longitude. It is, therefore, now about seventy-three miles east and west and nearly ninety miles north and south, and has an area of about 6,569 miles. The entire park is more than 6,000 feet above the sea. Yellowstone Lake has an altitude of 7,788 feet, and the mountain ranges that hem the valley on every side rise to the height of 10,000 and 12,000 feet, and are covered with perpetual snow. Until a comparatively recent period in the geological history of the globe, this spot was evidently the scene of remarkable volcanic activity. This is known from the hot springs and geysers that are so numerous here. There are said to be fifty geysers here that throw a column of water to a height of from 50 to 200 feet, and from 5,000 to 10,000 springs. The latter are of two kinds, those depositing lime and those depositing silica. The deposits of these minerals on the borders of the spring form crystals in many beautiful shapes and of many varied colors. The temperature of the lime springs is from 160 to 170 degrees; that of the others rises to 200 degrees and more. Other features of interest in the park are the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, where the perpendicular banks of the river, from 200 to 500 yards apart, rise to the height of 1,000 feet. On Tower creek, a branch of the Yellowstone, there is a gloomy canyon ten miles long which is known as the Devil's Den. This creek has, a few yards from its mouth, a fall of 156 feet, on each side of which stands columns of breccia resembling towers. Above the Grand Canyon are the Great Falls of the Yellowstone, 350 feet high. The geographical locality of the park is interesting, as it has within its limits in Yellowstone lake and Madison lake, and in the mountain springs, the sources of great rivers flowing in various directions. On the north are the sources of the Yellowstone; on the west, those of the principal forks of the Missouri; on the southwest and south, those of Snake river, flowing into the Columbia, and through it into the Pacific Ocean, and those of Green river, a branch of the Great Colorado, which empties into the Gulf of California; while on the southeast side are the numerous headwaters of Wind river. The forests of the park abound in deer, elk, bears and mountain sheep. By the latest ordinances of Congress, penalties are fixed for the destruction of any natural object, the cutting down of trees or killing game in the park. A local magistrate lives within the park to try all cases of violation of the rules made for its preservation.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

An Extraordinary Incident.

For four years Mrs. Benjamin Mover, of Souderton, Pa., was totally blind. Not long ago she was taken ill, so that she had to stay in bed several days. On the fourth day she awoke in the morning and exclaimed: "My God in Heaven, I see!" Her husband rushed to the bedside and was recognized. Then the other members of the household came in and were recognized. She pointed out different articles of furniture in the room, told different persons what they were wearing, and in many ways proved that she saw. She asked that all her children and grandchildren, twenty-five in all, come to her bedside, and they did. She told them that she had earnestly prayed that she might see them all once before she died, and this was the answer to her prayer. Then she said: "This is the last day that I shall ever have the use of my eyesight." She awoke the next morning as blind as ever, and has been so ever since.—N. Y. Sun.

The Debate Was Postponed.

President (debating club)—Well, we have had some stirring speeches on the negative side of the question of the evening: "Is Marriage a Failure?" but none of the gentlemen appointed to speak on the affirmative side have responded.

Secretary (whispering)—Their wives are here.

The president (loudly)—Owing to the lateness of the hour further debate is postponed. Adjourned.—Philadelphia Record.

THE NEWSPAPER LIAR.

Humorous Peck Tells How He Got It His Work at His Expense.

Almost every daily paper of any pretensions to greatness or enterprise maintains a "humorist" on its staff, a funny fellow whose business it is to make the readers laugh "ha ha." The following item was written by one of those alleged humorists:

"Peck, of Peck's Sun, won \$4000 on the dice table, but his conscience will not permit him to keep it. He proposes to dispense it to needy widows in sums of \$50 each. Every widow in need of cash should put in her claim at once."

The laughable item was started the Lord only knows where, but it is going the rounds, and I am beginning to get the benefit. Of course if I knew who the fellow was that wrote the item I could kill him, and that would break him of sucking eggs, but he is "incog." He is like the fellow who writes an anonymous letter. One would think such an item could not do any harm. It does no harm to me, except to make my heart bleed about twice a day. The fellow who wrote it probably thought I would receive lots of letters from pretty widows, and that I would have a picnic answering them. The facts are that I never get a cent on election, and never win a dollar, and while I may occasionally give a little money to the deserving poor, I have no thousands of dollars laid away for the purpose of aiding widows or any other deserving class. I wish the fellow who wrote that item to be cunning could read some of the letters I receive. If he could sit here beside me, I could make him so ashamed of himself that he would answer these letters I am receiving, and acknowledge that he was not only a star liar but a foolish ass. These letters are not from beautiful and "fly" widows, with pearly teeth, red lips, beautiful complexion, soulful eyes, and fat little hands, but they come from old ladies seventy and eighty years of age, who have been left alone, and who are so poor and needy. They never know any thing about newspaper liars, and take it for granted that the above item is God's truth, and they picture to me their sufferings and poverty and despair in such terms that it makes me feel as though, if I was able, I would support them all in luxury as long as the precious old souls live. They tell me how to send the money, and how much good it will do them this winter. One poor, loving old creature, ignorant of the ways of the wicked world, shivering from insufficient clothing, has bought some underclothes of warm wool from a kind merchant, to be paid for when she gets her twenty dollars from me, and she writes such a glad letter of thanks, and tells me that she believes I must be a perfect image of her dear boy who was so kind to her, but who was killed at Antietam, or at least she supposes he was, for she never heard from him after that battle, and she says I am so good she knows I will go to Heaven, and she will pray for me every day. What opinion will the innocent old lady have of me when I tell her the story is all a lie, and what opinion will she have of the liar who wrote it to be funny. I think I will pay for those underclothes for luck, any way. Another letter comes from a woman eighty-four years old, who has been a widow for forty years, and supported herself for thirty years knitting socks, until she became paralyzed, and for ten years she has been in a poor-house, bed-ridden. She tells me what she is going to do with her twenty dollars. With ten dollars of it she is going to buy a blanket shawl and some warm underclothing, and a chicken to make some soup, and a little china concern which is used to pour liquid nourishment into the mouths of those who can not raise their heads. Five dollars of it she is going to use to pay a debt, money she borrowed nine years ago to buy medicine, and with the rest she is going to buy a crutch for a poor girl whose limb is shriveled, and the rest she is going to put under her pillow to be used when she is dead, to paint the poor-house coffin in which she will be buried, and buy a shroud and bouquet of flowers for that occasion. Well, I can see that poor old woman cry when I write her that the item is not true. I can see the tears run down her wasted, wrinkled cheek, and I wish the fellow that wrote that item, and thought he was smart, could see her as I do. But I guess I will send her the blanket shawl, and the china affair, and have the poor-house folks inform her that her coffin shall be painted all right, and that she shall have a good send-off, with flowers. But, O, wouldn't I like to catch the fellow who wrote that smart Aleck lie about me. If he had a heart I could show him some of the results of his work, and make him cry at a mark. How much trouble can be caused innocent people by such a fellow, who draws a salary for being "funny."—Peck's Sun.

Mr. Rambo's Mistake.

The door of Mr. Rambo's office opened and a lady stood irresolutely on the threshold.

"Thunder and lightning, Nancy! Shut the door!" exclaimed Mr. Rambo, glancing hastily up from his account book. "Were you raised in a barn? Do you suppose I want to freeze to death on account of your confounded—I beg your pardon, madam. I thought it was my wife. I was expecting her at the office about this time. Certainly, certainly, madam. I'll subscribe for the magazine with pleasure. Put me down for two copies."—Chicago Tribune.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—It costs the Prince of Wales \$50,000 a year to keep up his hunting stables.

—Hundreds of English girls are now adopting shorthand for a livelihood.

—In Berlin heavy wagons are not allowed on certain streets. In Paris any cartload of rattling material must be fastened till it can't rattle.

—The telegraph lines entering the central station at London are all underground. It appears all the more wonderful when it is said there are 1,700 different lines.

—Princess Eugenie of Sweden has sacrificed her family jewels to build a hospital for cripples upon an island off the coast.

—The Queen incurred expenses in her jubilee as well as other people, the cost to her having been £50,000, and the largest payment being in the department of the master of the horse.

—Paris receives 100,000 francs by the will of a citizen who was run over and killed in that city. He bequeathed the money to erect bridges over the streets at the most dangerous points.

—The old Town Hall at Leicester, a curious wooden building, in which Shakespeare is said to have acted, is now occupied as a school of cookery. A pulley still shows where the drop-curtain was.

—Emperor William of Germany is still carrying on his crusade against all things not Teutonic. He has ordered the officers of his army to discard pointed English boots and wide creased trousers. He has also made a change in the royal crown, which he considered too high for his style of beauty.

—The Earl of Onslow, the new Governor of New Zealand, is thirty-five years old, and has never done any thing particular in his life, beyond being a lord-in-waiting to Her Majesty in 1880, and recently serving as Under Secretary for the Colonies and the Board of Trade. His salary as Governor is \$25,000 a year.

—A course of popular scientific lectures has been inaugurated at Victoria Hall, London, to which the price of admission is only one penny. The lectures are designed to benefit the poor, and great pains are taken to make them entertaining as well as instructive. The movement has enlisted the sympathy and co-operation of eminent scientists.

—The project of a maritime ship canal to connect Bristol with the English Channel is being revived in England, and it is said a syndicate is in course of formation with a view to its promotion. The length of the proposed canal will be forty-five miles. The cost of construction is roughly estimated at £70,000 per mile.

—Drink seems to be as prevalent in Belgium as anywhere else—perhaps more so. A newspaper published in Flanders states that "the daily consumption of a workingman—not a drunkard—there includes at 5:30 a. m., a 'worm-killer' at 8 a. m., an 'eye-opener' at 11 a. m., a 'whip' at 3 p. m., a 'digestor' at 5 p. m., a 'soldier' and at 7:30 p. m., a 'finisher.'" The regular yearly expenditure, without counting extras on festive occasions, amount to 219 francs, 80c to 1,200 francs being the usual wages.

ELECTRICAL LIGHT.

How It Affects Flowers, Vegetables and Other Plants.

From time to time, of late years, experiments have been made of the effect of the electrical light on flowers and plants, with results seemingly the same, to wit, feeble efforts of some plants to prolong their periods of bloom into the night and then premature decay. One has only to study their actions, as observed, to conclude that even plants need rest, or, to be more precise, they seem to thrive best under the conditions which nature has imposed—the period of darkness and the period of the light, which is heat as well; or else that the family of plants, as now they are, sprung from these exact conditions, and will not thrive without them. It is the nature of some flowers, as every one knows, to open at one period of light and close at another; of others to open only at night and close before or at the moment when the orb of day tops the horizon. So strictly do some of these follow their unwritten laws that floral clocks have been constructed, so that one may step out into his garden, of a bright day or clear night, and learn the time by the condition of bloom on the floral dial.

Prof. Wollney, of Munich, satisfied by experiment that electrical light will not advance or improve plant growth, recently tried the effect upon them of the current itself. We quote the following, being the means employed and its result:

He "took patches of ground twelve or thirteen feet square, separated by boards penetrating the earth to the depth of a foot. In one case he applied two earth plates and interposed five earth cells; in another he inserted an induction apparatus; and in a third, a plate of copper at one side and a plate of zinc at the other side to form a natural battery. Peas, potatoes, carrots, etc., were planted on these and other patches, but the electricity, whether of high or low potential, seemed to have either no influence or a bad one upon their growth."

Plants being full of sap, and sap a fairly good conductor, every fiber must have been reached, and, so far as the Professor was enabled to perceive, the only effect of the current was to provoke a perturbation on the protoplasm.—Scientific American.