

Holding up Bank.

About 1 o'clock Nov. 5, Dr. Patton, a resident of Salem, went into Williams & England's bank and demanded the loan of \$500. The cashier told him that he would have to wait until the proprietor came in. Patton replied: "I will not wait; I am hard up and I have got to have that money at once or I will kill you." The cashier started to get his revolver from under the counter when Patton shouted, "Stop, I've got the drop on you," drawing his revolver at the same time. "See here," he said, "this must remain a secret between us. I've got to have the money and you've got to get it for me, or you're a dead man." At this juncture, passers-by were attracted by the noise and procured the police who arrested him and took him to jail, where he was bound over in the sum of \$500 bail and sent to the county jail. Dr Patton lives north of Salem and has a family. He is badly involved in debt and has been addicted to the use of whisky and opium.

Sound and Rainfall.

Editor Scientific American; In an article by Prof. Newcomb, published in the Scientific American of Oct. 17, it is stated that "the popular notion that sound may produce rain is founded principally upon the supposed fact that great battles have been followed by heavy rains. This notion, I believe, is not confirmed by statistics." As a participant in many battles of the late war, please allow me to state a few facts, which may possibly serve to correct or amplify statistics in this matter, as what I state can be confirmed by numerous living witnesses. The battle of Pittsburg Landing was followed immediately by a heavy rain, succeeded by a clear day; the ravines of that field ran red with blood, while the fields were washed clean. The cannonade was heavy. At luka, Miss., the guns were light, and a fine shower followed the second day; the siege of Corinth was attended with rain, and the battles of Corinth and Hatchie River, Oct. 5 to 6 1862, were followed, Oct. 8, by a night of very heavy cold general rain. The forty-seven days' siege of Vicksburg was attended with heavy cannonade evenings, followed each night with very brisk showers of rain before morning. About the same was characteristic of the siege of Port Hudson, La. My memory serves me that the newspaper accounts of the battles of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Atlanta, etc., were attended by heavy rainfall.

As I have been somewhat identified with the question of artificial rain, having written on the subject over thirty years ago for a New York paper, when it was thought very unpopular and impious to make the reference, I ask your indulgence of the suggestion that steps be taken to secure accurate statistics on the subject, with a view of verification of facts concerning cannonade and rainfall. There are plenty of living witnesses to give all the facts concerning rainfall connected with battles of the

rebellion, and also some of the battles in Mexico; and they would undoubtedly do so if requested. My articles, published in 1857 to 1829, made reference to rainfall attending battles in Europe during Napoleon's campaigns; and as the question only involves battles where cannonading occurs, history is not so remote as to make difficult the collection of facts.

There is also another source of gleaning statistics on this subject, that of Fourth of July celebrations, which have been notable of rainfall succeeding the midnight cannonading simultaneously at different towns in the older settled and closely populated states. One thing is certain, whatever theories may be followed in experiment, and whatever methods employed, the establishment of any practical system of artificial rainfall must depend upon the collection, classification, and verification of phenomena bearing upon the subject.

JOHN W. EVARTS. Thurston, Ok. Ter. Oct. 29, 1891.

Better Men Wanted.

An old woman I once knew in the Tennessee mountains expressed a great economic truth in these words, "Poor folks has poor ways." Too often it is the poorness of their own ways, not the aggression of wealthy neighbors, which has plunged these folks into poverty.

If a man spend a day in the harvest time in efforts to send a fool to the legislature, or a knave to congress, should he complain if the laws the fools and knaves make add to his own taxes? Who but he is to blame, if the laws ostensibly made in his interest simply shift the burden from one of his soldiers to the other?

If he stand all day in the public square spellbound by a tramp with an accordion or still worse, if he lounge about on the sawdust floor of a saloon, talking the vile stuff we agree to call "politics," never reading a book, never thinking a thought above the level of the sawdust floor, need he be surprised if his opinions do not meet with respect?

The farmer needs men whose time is money, and whose labor is worth the labor of other men—men who know how to do the best things in the best way, and can thereby do their part in alleviating industrial depression. — President D. S. Jordan in Forum.

A Horrible Superstition.

The British authorities of Madras have instituted an investigation relative to a horrible case of barbarity and superstition reported from Madura. Rain has been very much needed in that vicinity, and the drouth was attributed by the natives to the malignity of an evil-minded female deity. To propitiate this diety they resolved on reviving an old practice of torture known as "hook swining."

A victim was around who consented to undergo the ordeal. The points of iron hooks were pushed into his back, a rope was fastened into the hooks and the poor wretch was hoisted into the air. His shrieks of agony were regarded as evidence that the gods were being made to here, and would answer with the long-looked-for rain. After the man had hung for an hour he was taken down.

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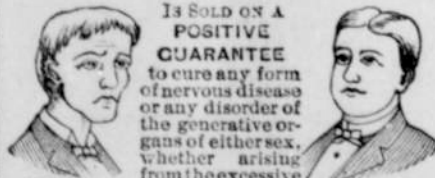
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