CONDUCTED BY

Prof. W. D. Schoenberg.

RUDOLPH FALE'S DISCOVERIES AND TRAVELS,

Is the title of a correspondence to the New York Staats Zeitung, from which I make the following extracts, supposing them to be of general interest because America has been, and is yet, the field of labor of this renowned naturalist and many points of his new theory concerning volcanic action, etc., have ripened into conviction while exploring the vast treasures of knowledge stored up for the inquiring mind upon our continent. The letter is dated last of August, San Francisco, and tells that since a few weeks resides there the well-known traveler, R. Falb, who has just completed a two year's tour through Chili, Bolivia and Peru. Falb embarked in June 1877, at Hamburg, to complete his extended observations on the grandest theatre of volcanic action which the world affords, on the west coast of South America. After completing the chief end of his voyage, he made highly interesting mythelogical discoveries among the archaological remains of Peru. Assisted by his extended philological knowledge he was soon led from trace to trace into the mara, tribes of Indians who appear to be the descendants of the apcient Incas whose history land and language they have inherited. Falb proves to his own satisfaction and, no doubt, also to that of other philologists, the close relationship of the languages of those Indians to the so-called semitic tongues of the East. As the name of Rudolph Falb has for years been well-known to scientific men and may shortly become familiar to the readers of the DISPATCH, I trust I shall be pardoned for giving a short sketch of the former life and labors of this emi-

devoted himself in his youth to the stand of oriental languages and theology. Finding that his ministerial duties interfered with the pursuit of scientific study he resigned his charge and went to Prague where he studied mathematics and nateral sciences. He finally settled at Vienna, became the editor of the well known, yet existing, periodical Strius and made his first appearance as academic lecturer. By careful and conled to believe that the heavenly bodies, and above all the Mirect influence upon volcanic phenomena on our earth, and being strengthened in this belief by the occurrence of earthquakes and eruptions at times when the application of his theory caused him to expect the same, he began to predict those phenomena with astonishing accuracy in the "Sirius." In this manner Falb gave warning of the eruption of Pichipichi in 1869, and also of an earthquake to take place in the fall of the same year. Through an error of the Spanish translator of the "Sirrus" article the population of Lima and sections of Ecuador were led to believe that they would be, especially, endangered by the coming earthquake and the people in their terror flocked to the confessional seeking strength and hope in religion. During the general excitement an Italian residing at Callao published an article in the Panama Star over the signature of "Falb," in which the predicted earthquake was countermanded and the pseudo naturalist asked forgiveness for his mistake in the humblest terms. This had the desired effect, quiet was restored and the people followed again their neglected daily avocations. But the priests, who, during the general panic, had reaped a golden harvest, suspected foul play and the archbishop of Lima exposed the hoax in public proclamation, whereupon, the universal wail broke out worse than ever; more than 20,000 people gave up their business, and left their homes to seek safety at a distance from the doomed place; over a million dollars were lost in various ways during the universal exodus. The appointed time arrived, the earthquake did take place, but not where the Spanish translator of Falb's article had, by mistake, predicted it. The indignasion of the people knew no bounds, Falb was burnt in effigy, \$10,000 were subscribed to defray the expenses of agents who were to visit Europe for the sole

the innocent cause of all this uproar. Falb gained two we'l deserved triumphs in the latter year. His prophecies were at first received with much distrust, and the best quality filled at lowest prices at FAGAN FROS. work "Thoughts and Studies on Volcan- Columbia, S. C.

ism," appeared in a second edition that many of the scientists gave up their deubts and accepted the new theories, which, by the way, based as they are, upon scientific research, give an additional evidence that science and revealed religion, so far from being inimical, bear each other witness. Listen to Falb's theory of the End of the World: The planets gradually approach the sun until at last they will fall on it. The son itself will cool off and become a dark, ridgid mass. The various suns will approach and fall on each other, and finally the same chaotic mass will exist as before the creation, which will furnish the material for a new creation. Thus closes the circuit. The end of the world will be the beginning of a new world." We meet the falling stars, the darkening of sun and moon of the biblical judgment day in the most approved theories of

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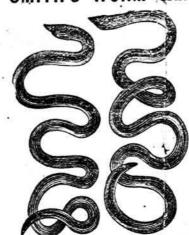
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