

The Rickertonian Theory of Partial Impact.

By J. R. Wilkinson, of Canterbury College, New Zealand.

THE leading scientists of the day still teach that, through the working of gravitation, all matter in the universe is gradually tending to come together in one mass, losing all light and heat into unknown space. The theory of Prof. Rickerton cries halt to such dismal pessimism, and in the splendid chapter on the immortality of the cosmos it is shown that the expansive power of the heat of partial impacts scatters and redistributes through space the matter that gravitation brings together.

But what is "partial impact?" The stars (commonly, but wrongly fixed) move, each with its own direction and rate of motion. There must also be in space dead suns, that is, stars whose light has shone in ages past and has died out, leaving them invisible. Each of them has its own motion and direction. Occasionally, therefore, two stars that have felt each other's attractive influence for immense periods of time will approach each other with ever increasing speed, and finally will either curve round each other as a comet curves round the sun, or else will come into awful collision. The original motion of the two stars will practically always prevent the blow from being a fair and square one, that is to say a complete impact; but it will be a grazing or partial impact, a part of one star striking a part of the other. These two parts coming to a standstill as one mass, the energy of their huge speed is turned into the fiercest heat, and the mass begins at once to expand as gas and a new star is thus formed. The parts that do not strike sheer off with great friction and go on their way with a brightly incandescent patch on one side. Perhaps they may never return to each other, as a comet may never return round the sun; but under certain conditions they may return and unite again or become associated together as double stars. But the possibilities that may happen are too complex for discussion here.

The Lion Checkmates The Bear

By W. C. Jameson Reid.

I we are to believe British statesmen, the purpose in Tibet is simply an armed demonstration to impress Tibetan officials, and oblige them to maintain safety and freedom of trade on the roads extending from northern India to the western borders of China. Tibetan officials have countenanced brigandage against trading caravans using these highways between India and China; and now, according to India's administrative circles, it is time that these barbarous neighbors on the north be taught a salutary lesson. This is the official explanation for the ears of the mildy inquiring world. England's reasons for this probing by Russia's present embarrassment are such as any astute rival would adopt against a wily and powerful adversary. There can be no doubt that had the sphere of influence in Tibet passed into Russian hands, as has seemed almost certain for years past, India would have proved a veritable hell of Achilles to British existence in Asia. On the other hand, with this great natural barrier-country of Tibet under British influence and control, Russia would be obliged to abandon all attempts of expansion inlandward. England's sole purpose in her present invasion of Tibet is to thwart Russian designs on her Indian empire. Henceforth Tibet may for all practical purposes be painted red to mark English control, for no one can imagine that England will give up the tremendous advantage which she has gained, save by compulsion of a stronger force.—Booklovers' Magazine.

China's Empress Dowager.

By Minnie Norton.

WHEN the time came for adieu, her Majesty mingled with her guests, the Emperor following closely; and as Mrs. Conger got beyond me I stepped aside for royalty. Imagine my astonishment when the Empress Dowager turned, took me by both hands, stroked my arm and inquired how I liked China and how long I would remain, concluding by asking me to come and see her again when I returned; to visit Mrs. Conger! I did not lose my equanimity, but studied this most remarkable woman at closest range. Could she of dignified mien, deep-set unflinching eyes, rare smile and melodious voice be the most despotic female sovereign in the history of the world? Has she two distinctly opposite natures? Is this the secret of her marvelous power? Born in obscurity, the daughter of a minor officer, a favorite concubine of the harem, young and inexperienced, she reached the pinnacle of authority by incredible ability, shrewdness and daring. Through all the intrigues of the Chinese court since first usurped the throne, she has borne a charmed life, and her enemies have arisen only to disappear with terrible swiftness, while her autocracy remains unchallenged. With relentless will she has stripped the Emperor of the last vestige of the legitimate authority which for a brief period he had exercised under the wise guidance of Kang Yu Wei, absolutely controlling his every word and act, as well as the earthly destiny of 400,000,000 of subjects.

And this most fascinating of hosts urged us to "stay longer" and "come again," annihilating conventionality and precedent, was Tsai An, the Great woman ruler in this land of Confucius, where to be a woman, according to the philosophy of the Great Sage, is to be despised among men!—The Century.

FRENCH OF NEW ORLEANS.

Described by Jules Huret in the Paris "Figaro."

How feebly they cling to their old two-storied houses with green blinds, their courts and their Spanish galleries. In that also they are indeed of our blood. While the Anglo-Saxons go to create new districts with broad avenues like St. Charles avenue, they refuse to follow. They live in their ancient streets where they were born, without paving and so filthy that it is impossible to cross them except at the corners where a few paving stones have been placed to form a ford. In these streets one hears French exclusively. It is here that one finds the few passably good restaurants of the city, called "Frenche Restaurants"—kept by the garrulous Southerners—which have the appearance of those old restaurants of our meridional cities, where one is served on cookery highly spiced, as will give it the Southern tradition, but which in reality holds scarcely any relation to the French cuisine.

But in all the streets one meets constantly the Southern type, eyes black and brilliant, black mustache, an easy supple walk with nothing of the Anglo-Saxon rigidity to which one becomes accustomed in the Northern States. It seems anomalous to hear these people speaking English. Likewise it is a delight on addressing them to hear them express themselves at once in our language as purely and as clearly as if they had just left France.

And the life there led is charming—a life easy yet active and without the rigorous hypocrisy of New England. People know how to amuse themselves, to entertain themselves and to mix work with pleasure. The carnival which I have already described, is one of the signs of it. But all the year balls, dinners, receptions and excursions follow one another. Sundays one goes to breakfast, or to dine at West End, a restaurant built on the water, full of

entertainments and music, the rendezvous of elegant society as early as March or April.

That which above all renders New Orleans a deliciously habitable city, perhaps unique in the United States, is that which remains of the vivacity of the French element, or rather of the Creole element, for to the French there came to be added and amalgamated, 110 years ago a Spanish colony, itself very distinguished, which conceded nothing to our own. It is from the fusion of the two races that has been formed the Creole element of New Orleans, polished, seductive and grand seigneur.

One afternoon I counted there fifty young ladies in light, elegant toilets of perfect taste, who created for me a distant vision of Parisian bal blanc and put to rest at once my homesickness.

Invention of Trousers.

Trousers originated in the highlands of Central Asia, the first of which there is any record having been worn by the Aryan people, who, under Cyrus, descended from the mountains into the plains of Mesopotamia. The Romans later observed that trousers were worn by their "barbarian" neighbors, the Germanic tribes, as well as by the Persians and others. The Romans themselves finally adopted trousers when campaigning or traveling north of the Alps, but were careful to doff them as soon as they re-entered Italy.

For small children to be left entirely nude was customary among our classical forbears. It is still a custom among the lower classes in many of the tropical countries, notably the West Indies. Indian children outside the zone of the Indian school rarely wear clothing when the weather is warm.—Washington Star.

A white headed vulture taken in 1706 died in the zoological gardens at Vienna in 1824, thus living 118 years in captivity.

FILIAN FIRE WALKERS.

Stroll Sedately Over Red-Hot Stones Without Being Burned.

Those who witnessed the coronation procession will doubtless recollect a small group of copper-colored soldiers with bare legs and outstanding hair innocent of covering. The strange people—Fijians—and their ancient ceremony of the Vitavolavirevo, or fire walking, were the subject of a paper read by W. L. Allardyce, C. M. G., at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute yesterday. Admiral Sir N. Bowden-Smith presided.

The ceremony of fire walking, Mr. Allardyce explained, is performed by a certain tribe at the Island of Beqa, and originated in a legend that in reward for having spared the life of a man he had dug out of the ground, one Tui Qualita was invested with the power of being able to walk over red hot stones without being burned. An earth oven is made and filled with layers of wood and stone. In this a fire is kindled about twelve hours before the fire walking takes place, and, when the hot stones have been exposed by brushing away the charcoal, the natives, under the direction of a master of ceremonies, walk over them bare-footed.

The temperature at the edge of the oven is about 120 degree Fahrenheit, while on one occasion, when the thermometer was suspended over the stones, it registered 282 degrees and the solder was melted. Yet, stated Mr. Allardyce, after the ceremony the natives show no signs of the terrific ordeal through which they have gone. By means of a number of views the lecturer gave a realistic idea of the ceremony as performed nowadays.

Vice-Admiral Lewis Beaumont described a fire walking ceremony as witnessed by himself. Although those who took part in it showed no signs of discomfort, he remarked that apparently they did not like it very much.

Replying to questions, Mr. Allardyce said the only explanation he could give of the apparent immunity from harm following the process was that soles of the feet of the natives were hardened to an unusual degree through constant walking on a sandy soil covering coral, which became exceedingly hot under the sun. There was also the element of absolute belief by the natives in the legend that they were proof against fire.—London Standard.

Argentina and United States.

"It ought to be hammered into the minds of the American people that there is a rich and powerful nation to the south—a nation destined to rank among the foremost powers of the world—of whose trade we are by our own neglect getting but a fractional part," said the Hon. John Barrett, ex-Minister to Argentina and present Minister to Panama, at the New Willard.

"One of the easiest and most potent influences to bring about closer ties of friendship and better commercial relations with Argentina is the establishment of a line of swift mail and passenger steamships between New York and Buenos Ayres. Of the \$304,000,000 of traffic that Argentina had with the outside world last year, the United States participated therein to the extent of only \$24,000,000, whereas we ought to sell to her and buy of her more than all the rest of the world combined. To-day a business man in Buenos Ayres can write to London and get an answer back in fifty days. If the same letter had gone to New York it would take ninety days for a reply. There are seven lines of swift-going steamships plying between the Argentine capital and various ports of Europe, but all the vessels that come to us from the United States are slow freighters, unfit for the conveyance of passengers. If we had these passenger boats at this time, hundreds of wealthy citizens of the big southern republic would come to see the St. Louis Exposition, but they will stay at home rather than to have to make the trip via London.—Washington Post.

Exercise For the Voice.

A vocal specialist, in emphasizing the rule that the voice to be kept in good condition must be exercised (unused powers soon weaken), says:

"Do not go to the other extreme and abuse the vocal chords or strain the throat muscles by shouting and screaming. Deep yawning removes throat congestion, and improves the circulation of the blood in these vital parts. Singing, loud laughter and public speaking will improve the quality, sweetness and endurance of the voice. Deep breaths should be taken, and the vowels repeated slowly in a deep, full, round tone of voice a dozen times or more a day.

"Do not constrict or strain the vocal chords. Talk softly and easily. A rich resonant tone of voice is soon developed by counting aloud while going through arm or body movements with dumbbells, or the chest weight drill. Count in a deep, smooth voice, open the mouth wide and let the sound come freely out."

One authority recommends as a strengthening of the vocal chords and throat muscles gargling the throat every morning with cold water for one week, and the next week with hot. This is said to prevent sore throat and in some cases to cure it. Massage the neck muscles with cold water morning and night and rub them vigorously with a coarse towel. Never cover the neck very warmly, and do not wear anything high or tight around it.—Presbyterian Banner.

French Railroads.

Returns of the receipts on the French railways during the first six months of the year show a general decline compared with 1903. The loss of the principal companies is from two to three per cent.

CLOUDBURST LOSSES

Heavy Damage Wrought in Colorado Settlement

THE LOSS WILL REACH A MILLION

Devastation Wrought Along the Whole Valley of the Las Animas River, Including the City of Las Animas.

Trinidad, Col., Special.—A terrific flood has struck the city of Trinidad and the whole valley along the Las Animas river, devastating a wide section and causing a loss which will reach \$1,000,000. So far as known there was no loss of life, but several are reported missing. Every bridge in the city of Trinidad is out, and the telephone and telegraphic service completely suspended. More than 30 city blocks in the residence and business portions were from two to three feet under water along the river.

The flood was caused by a heavy rain which has been falling for two days. At 8 o'clock Thursday night the storm assumed cloudburst proportions and at 2 o'clock this morning the Las Animas river went over its banks. At 3:30 it was impossible to get within a block of the river bed at any point, and Commercial street was flooded for three blocks in the heart of the business district. Meantime the electric light and gas plant had been flooded and the city was in complete darkness. Hundreds of citizens thronged the streets on the edge of the submerged district, carrying lanterns and doing their best to provide for those driven from home with shelter. Warning of the flood was given when the river left its banks, by revolver shots and the ringing of the fire alarm, following the blowing of all the locomotive and shop whistles in town. Citizens upon rafts made of sections of sidewalks paddled through the streets rescuing families which were in danger. The new Banca Hotel, a two-story structure just nearing completion at a cost of \$20,000 on the river bank, was destroyed. The water then ate its way through 50 feet of ground to the Santa Fe depot, which was carried away. The Cardenas Hotel, adjoining, barely escaped a similar fate, an acre of ground being washed away near it. The Rio Grande bridge, at El Moro, is out and the Santa Fe right of way in many places has been washed out.

It was reported that the flood was due to a break in a city reservoir, but this is erroneous. The reservoir is safe.

Death of Senator Hoar.

Worcester, Mass., Special.—United States Senator George F. Hoar died here last Thursday night. Old age was the immediate cause of death. It is understood that the funeral will be held Monday from the Church of the Unity, and that Rev. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the United States Senate, will be asked to officiate. Rev. Rush R. Shippen, of Brockton, former pastor of the Church of the Unity, and the minister who performed Senator Hoar's second marriage, will be invited to assist. The body will lie in state, probably at the city hall, during Monday. The interment will be made in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord, Tuesday morning.

Mayor Blodgett issued a proclamation calling upon the business men of Worcester to close their establishments during the funeral. Flags throughout the city are displayed at half mast.

Rockwood Hoar, son of the late Senator Hoar, received the following message from President Roosevelt:

General Rockwood Hoar: Accept my most profound sympathy. The loss is not yours only, but of all those who believe in the lofty standard of purity, integrity and fearlessness in public life.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Tried to Wreck Train.

Lynchburg, Va., Special.—The attempt to wreck a freight train on the Chesapeake and Ohio, near here last night, was evidently planned by four men whose purpose was robbery. One of the men was on the train when it struck the obstruction and when it stopped he began throwing merchandise from the car. The attempt to loot the train, however, was unsuccessful.

Boy Kills His Father.

Little Rock, Ark., Special.—A special to the Arkansas Gazette from Austin, Ark., says: John King, a farmer living near here, is lying at the point of death from a gunshot wound at the hands of his son, Walter, who is 17 years old. It is claimed that King was abusing his wife when Walter took his mother's part and told his father repeatedly to cease the abuse. The angered father is said not to have heeded the warning given by his son, and the latter seized a shotgun and fired, the lead entering King's neck. Young King has been arrested.

One Officer Kills Another.

Savannah, Special.—Policeman Zipperer and Goodwin, of the Union depot squad, quarreled Thursday about how drummers should be treated around the depot by the police. A fight ensued between the policemen, in the course of which Zipperer was shot and killed by Goodwin. The coroner's jury held an inquest and pronounced the homicide to be murder. Goodwin was locked up in jail pending further legal action.

NEWS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Paragraphs of Minor Importance Gathered From Many Sources.

Through the South.

Georgia Day was observed in great style at St. Louis exposition Wednesday.

Capt. Micajah Woods has consented to aid the prosecution of McCue at Charlottesville.

In a conference at Charlotte, N. C., the hard yarn spinners agreed upon a substantial raise in prices.

At Richmond the Western Union Telegraph Company substituted white messenger boys for the negroes who had been employed about a year ago.

A number of daring burglars have recently been committed at Greensboro, N. C.

There was a joint debate at Wayne, W. Va., between Messrs. Cornwall and Dawson, the candidates for Governor.

R. J. A. Boreman, treasurer of the Wood county Republican committee, resigned because he cannot support the State ticket.

The death list of the Southern railway wreck near New Market, Tenn., Saturday, remained at 62, five of the bodies being unidentified.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Virginia Coal and Coke Company held at Bristol, Va., the old board of directors was re-elected. The directors will meet next week.

Washington Happenings.

In a letter to the President Governor Wright, of the Philippines, declares agitation for freedom for the Filipinos in this country causes restlessness there.

President Roosevelt will issue his call for a second peace conference as soon as he has sounded the sentiment of other nations.

John E. Redmond, a distinguished Irish leader, took luncheon with President Roosevelt.

Rev. Charles Wagner, author of "The Simple Life," spent a night at the White House.

The Washington Navy Yard gun plant has started continuous work on naval ordnance.

In the North.

Two men were killed in a collision on the Maine Central.

The first meeting of the First International Congress of Public Accountants was held in St. Louis.

Judge George Gray sustained the decision of Umpire Carroll D. Wright in the matter of check-weighman and check-docking bosses in favor of the anthracite coal miners.

Hugh Gurney, third secretary of the British embassy, was arrested and fined at Lee, Mass., in violation of the law giving him diplomatic immunity.

The Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, was sold at auction for \$1,700,000 to a company controlled by C. M. Schwab.

Senator G. F. Hoar was reported to be very weak and in a stupor at his home in Worcester, Mass.

A fire broke out in Wingate's boarding house about 12 o'clock Tuesday night at Gardiner, Me., and extended to the Coliseum containing one of the largest roller polo rinks in Maine. The building was entirely consumed.

Foreign Affairs.

The Japanese are maneuvering near Mukden in such great force that an early battle is regarded as inevitable.

The Russian police trace the recent series of assassinations in that country to a band of terrorists, who find refuge in Switzerland.

The crust around the crater of Vesuvius broke, rendering the present eruption more terrifying.

Governor Patron, a Colombian official, expressed official regret for the besmearing with filth of the American consulate at Carthagena.

Pope Plus X invites Catholics to a service in Rome for atonement for the recent free-thinkers' congress.

The Irish Unionist Alliance's executive committee protested against the new program of the Irish Reform Association.

Miscellaneous Doings.

Kid McCoy won over Sullivan in his 20th round at Los Angeles, Tuesday night.

Hon. William J. Bryan was billed to make 30 speeches in Indiana from October 12 to October 22.

The Democratic National Committee expects to push the campaign fighting from this time, and declared that Judge Parker's letter would aid his party in the Presidential battle.

The American Bar Association began its twenty-seventh annual convention at the World's Fair, in St. Louis.

The colonel of a British regiment stationed at Portsmouth has revived the old custom of "crying down the credit of the regiment." The drums and fifes marched to different parts of the town and the drum major, at each, read a proclamation warning tradesmen that men of the regiment could not be held responsible for debts over the value of one day's pay, say, 25 cents.

TRUSTS AND THE BAR

An Interesting Discussion Sprung at

St. Louis

PRESENT LAWS ARE NOT FAVORED

The Standing Committee on Commercial Law Reports That Existing Remedies Are Further Tested No Further Legislation is Advisable.

St. Louis, Special.—Tuesday's session of the American Bar Association was called to order by President James Hagerman, of St. Louis. Hon. Amos M. Thayer, United States circuit judge for the eighth circuit of St. Louis had a heavy cold, and his address on "The Louisiana Purchase; Its Influence and Development Under American Rule," was read by Judge Franklin Ferris, of St. Louis.

Following the reading of Judge Thayer's address, the session was occupied with the reports of standing committees. The report of the committee on international law declared that the Japanese claim in the present war was of a character that affords just ground for mediation.

The committee on law reform recommended the passage of the bill to authorize the maintenance of actions for negligence causing death in maritime cases.

The majority report of the standing committee on commercial law, submitted in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the last meeting of the association that the committee be instructed to report specific remedies in legislative form for any unlawful combinations which may threaten commercial intercourse, is based on the conclusion that the resolution referred to the Federal power to regulate interstate commerce, rather than to the State power to control commerce exclusively within the State.

The committee is, therefore, of opinion that until the existing exigencies provided by law for the protection of commerce against illegal combinations are further invoked and their efficiency further tested, it is not necessary to propound additional legislation extending the summary procedure.

A minority report was submitted by Walter S. Logan, stating that he was unable to agree entirely with the conclusion of the other members of the committee on commercial law. His report concludes:

"I know of no better weapon that the community has for its defender than the weapon of taxation. I am the more convinced as to the effectiveness of this method of regulating large combinations in the form of corporations when I see the opposition to it that is made by the combinations and corporations affected. The passage of such legislation would, I believe, go a long way toward settling in the interest of the people the important and vexatious trust question."

These reports were received and filed and consideration postponed.

Benjamin F. Abbott, of Georgia, made an address on "To What Extent Will a Nation Protect Its Citizens in Foreign Countries?"

Cowhiding Justified.

Albany, Ga., Special.—The trial of Chief of Police Westbrook on the sensational charges first preferred by Rev. Dr. L. G. Broughton, of Atlanta, in a sermon here three months ago, and following which the preacher was cowhided by the chief, was concluded late Tuesday afternoon. Of the seven specific charges preferred, the chief is found guilty of two, viz: drinking while on duty and in uniform, and visiting bar-rooms while on duty and loitering at such places. The commission imposed a fine of \$25 for each of these offenses and exonerated him on all other charges. Of the charge of assault on the minister, the commissioners said: "We find Chief Westbrook guilty of this charge, but in our opinion the peculiar circumstances justified him as a man in pursuing the course he did."

The verdict is regarded by Westbrook's friends as an exoneration, as it was not found guilty of either of the most serious charges. A feature of the trial was the development of the fact that Dr. Broughton did not have affidavits to sustain his charges, as he claimed to have at the time he made his pulpit attacks.

Not Real Boll Weevils.

Covington, Ga., Special.—The supposed boll weevil discovered on a plantation in the eastern part of this county several days ago, upon comparison with the real Mexican boll weevil, specimens of which were sent here by the State Entomological Department, proves to be an entirely different insect, being of a different color and very much larger than the Mexican weevil. There are, however, serious apprehensions that it may prove to be as destructive as the Mexican insect. A number of the insects have been forwarded to State Entomologist Newell for examination.

Train Wrecker Arrested.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—William G. Baldwin, president of the Railway Special Agents of the United States and Canada, with headquarters here received a telegram from the authorities at Danville, Ill., which stated that John Kennedy, the convicted train wrecker, has been arrested at that place. Kennedy has been arrested at that place, having received the death sentence. The description given by the Illinois authorities is almost complete.

Japanese Vessel Sunk.

London, By Cable.—A dispatch to a news agency from Vladivostok says that according to reports from Port Arthur two Japanese torpedo boats and a Japanese steamer have been sunk by mines near Port Arthur during the past few days. A Japanese cruiser of the Nitaka type, it is added, was badly injured.