

The Action Free Press

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1892.

WHICH WILL YOU TAKE?

BY EDWARD CARMELL.
A rock or a cake,
Now never me quickly,
Which will you take?
"Rock and cake" said every voice.
May you answer as prompt;
With judgment as clear,
When it comes to take
Between water and beer.
And when be wise as your choice.
One leads to sickness,
The other to health;
The bear leads to rolls,
Pure water to wealth,
Yet many the better choices.
The other is death;
The other is disease.
For God gives the water,
But man sells the beer.
Oh when will man learn to be wise!

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONES.

It is such an open question now as it ever was in the day of the immortal Shakespeare, whether it is not better to "bear the ills we have" than "fly to others that we know not." It is perhaps unadvisable to speak of the long suffering and greatly increased expense of maintaining both Christian civilization, and the telephones fast remains that if you ring your bell too much in her ear the "linked wreathes long drawn out" that is supposed to characterize the angelic switche-maiden of your lightning expressions is liable to be changed to something undeniably papery.

A devot more or less complicated intended to do away with the "central" operator, is now being brought before the public, but why the expense of such a complicated conglomeration of apparatus should go to in order to deprive a few young ladies of a chance to earn their daily bread is totally beyond our comprehension. Our comprehensions may be limited, but while the fact remains that the annual interest of the cost of a six or eight wire system, such as the new-fangled idea requires, would be more than enough to pay the wages of expert operators, we are compelled to cry out bono, what is the good? Why displace the operators whose wages are a small fraction of the expense of a telephone system in order to introduce other complications?

"The hills are bare," to wit, the extremely fatigued young ladies at "central," we are all more or less acquainted with; now let us look at one or two of that present we "know not of," but which the eloquent automatic projectors would like to run us up against! We all know how thoroughly reliable electric currents are when there is a spark of dust in the key contacts or a leakage of battery power to ground during wet weather. This last factor is so important in the adjustment of a magnet and variation, that a telephone operator has sometimes to keep the adjusting screw of his relay continually in his hand while using his instrument. The "automatic" exchange instrument for each telephone, containing four or five magnets, is expected to look after itself (no operators need apply) to adjust itself, to keep itself clean, automatically put on its own bib and tucker and to go to church Sundays—in fact to lead an exemplary life generally; no one is allowed to take a fatherly interest in the orphan because it is not "central"! Supporting a subscriber wants to cut the connections and remove all the billow master.

A woman's grief is never sicker if she remembers to try and look pretty when she cries.

Mrs. C. RICHARDS & CO.,
Wheatley River, P.E.I.

I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT
on my head and now have a cool
head of hair after being bald for
several years. It is the only hair restorer
I have ever found.

Mrs. A. A. DOWSEY, Boston.

Grand temples are built of small stones
and great lives are made up of trifling
events.

A system that depends upon a battery
is certain to work its mechanism at a
distance, must in the nature of things be un-
certain. The failure of the writing tele-
graph that was shown some years ago was
entirely due to this cause. The apparatus
would work perfectly with a definite re-
sistance and uniform battery, but was in-
operative when exposed to vicissitudes of
weather and distance. If, as is proposed,
a common battery man is used with
branches to each subscriber, a cross on
the line, liable to fall at any time, would
paralyze the whole system.

The system that would have the same
number of connections as the ordinary tele-
phone switch board, with the addition of a
complicated piece of mechanism in place of
the plain connection drop of the ordinary
system, the adoption, instead of saving in the
cost of labor, would simply substitute
expensive mechanism for comparatively in-
expensive operation.

The claim that a small country town or
village could use this system from the
ordinary one does not appear to have good
foundation. If automatic instruments
were installed it is idle to say that they
would look after themselves. They would
have to be maintained. It would simply
mean the substitution of an expert to keep
them in order, instead of the cheaper boy
or girl whom only qualification need
be the ability to ring a telephone bell.

The immense size of the system is a
large world for its maintenance, the
amount of time of a few girls, while
the uncertainty of results would be a seri-
ous if not prohibitive drawback.

We have
on your mind the words of caution
given on the subject of electric investments
stated by the president of the Canadian
Electrical Association at its last conven-
tion, but do not think that investors,
though they may not know very much
about the faster technically, will place
much faith in a telephone company who
would offer to equip every town and village
in the country and build train lines from
New Brunswick to British Columbia on a
capital of \$50,000—Cæsars, Electrical
News.

At West Point they do not allow cor-
poral punishment unless the case is
severe.

EDWARD CARMELL.

Are you a thief?
A rock or a cake,
Now never me quickly,
Which will you take?
"Rock and cake" said every voice.

May you answer as prompt;
With judgment as clear,
When it comes to take
Between water and beer.

And when be wise as your choice.

The one leads to sickness,
The other to health;

The bear leads to rolls,

Pure water to wealth,
Yet many the better choices.

The other is death;

The other is disease.

For God gives the water,
But man sells the beer.

Oh when will man learn to be wise!

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