

BALLOON ADVENTURES.

I left London in the Spring of 1863 for Italy to make balloon ascensions at Turin and other Italian cities during the grand celebration in honor of the marriage of Prince Humbert with his beautiful cousin, the Princess Marguerite of Savoy, daughter of the Duke of Genoa, brother of King Victor Emanuel. I arrived at Turin in time to construct a splendid balloon for the occasion and made one ascent in it from a fine enclosure in the city. Then I went from Turin to Genoa and made an ascent during the celebration in that romantic and picturesque city.

From an immense height I beheld the grand illuminations of the street and the display of fire works as I was passing slowly over the sea. I descended about eight feet into the sea eight miles from shore. Two boats with four fishermen in each came to rescue me. I told them that if they would tow me back to Genoa without letting out the gas I would pay them well for their work, as I desired to make another ascent on the next day. They succeeded in bringing me within about three miles of the shore, when a wind came off the land so strong they could not tow me any nearer. One of the boat's crew let go of the balloon, while the other was towed by it rapidly out to sea. I opened the valve to release the gas and the men became frightened and wanted to cut the anchor rope, while I remained seated in the balloon car a few feet above their heads. I told them that the balloon cost a large sum of money and I hoped they would try to help me save it and not act like cowards. I knew the four men had knives and perhaps other arms and it would be very easy to send me adrift unless I tried to defend my property. I gave them to understand that I was armed, although I had only a long dirk which I had obtained in India.

Seeing, however, that they were afraid of being lost and that it would take considerable time to let out all the gas, I seized the mouth of the balloon and cut it open, whereupon the force of the wind soon tore it from bottom to top and let all the gas escape. We had been dragged out fifteen or twenty miles to sea. In order to give the men sufficient room to use their oars to return I cut away the car and left it in the sea. The balloon was packed up in the bow of the boat and we landed about 1 o'clock in the morning about seven miles West of Genoa.

ASCENTS FROM RIO JANEIRO.

I went to Brazil in 1864 to make some balloon ascensions during the great fetes in honor of the marriage of the heir apparent to the throne, Princess Isabel, to Louis Phillip, Count d'Eu, oldest son of the Duke de Nemours. I ascended from the largest plaza in the city on the day of the marriage. The crowds surrounding the balloon numbered at least 30,000. It was the second ascent ever made from that beautiful city. The day was glorious. The majestic mountains, clothed in luxuriant verdure, the spacious botanical gardens, with the finest row of palms in the world, the thousands of vessels decorated with bright colored flags of all nations resting upon the bosom of the magnificent harbor, presented one of the grandest views I ever beheld. I passed over part of the spacious bay and landed near the ocean.

Quite an excitement was caused at Rio Janeiro on the day before the marriage on the receipt of the intelligence that on the 7th of October the Confederate privateer Florida was in the Bay of Bahia by the United States steamer Wachusett. I arranged to make captive balloon ascents from a large garden. Among the many applicants for a ride in the air was an American lady who resided in that city. She desired to ascend alone and as high as the long rope would allow the machine to rise. While she was enjoying the superb view a strong gust of wind severed the rope and off she went waving the Star Spangled Banner all the time while passing over the city to let us know she was not in the least bit frightened by the accident. She landed safely after a splendid journey over the romantic city, in a spacious garden belonging to one of the rich coffee merchants. I soon arrived on horseback and asked my brave countrywoman if she was frightened when the rope broke. She said, "Not in the least." She had kept her flag waving so that we should not be distressed on her account. She became quite a heroine afterwards, as all the people were anxious to see her. I was presented to the Emperor, Empress, Princess Isabel and Count d'Eu by our minister, J. Watson Webb. Mrs. Webb said she would be delighted to make an aerial voyage over Brazil of many miles if it could be done without everybody knowing it, as it would cause no end of talk.

I visited Turkey shortly after the great fire at Constantinople. I arranged to ascend from Taxim, a part of Pera, where most of the English, French and Americans reside. In ascending, the balloon came in contact with a long pole, which tore a large rent in it, causing the gas to escape rapidly. I was therefore forced to descend, after reaching a height of a few thousand feet, into a tree situated in a large enclosure. Thousands of people, speaking a dozen languages, had crowded in to witness the flight of the balloon. My descent among them frightened them extremely. I soon cut away my car, and ascended again standing on the hoop or concentrating circle, to which all the cords of the net are attached, and arose very rapidly again, leaving all my ballast, anchor and car hanging in the top of the tree. The Sultan Abdul Aziz and his many beautiful wives were gazing at the balloon from the Asiatic side of the magnificent Bosphorus, at the Palace of Beglerbeg. I had one of the most enchanting and romantic rides over one of the most famous and picturesque cities.

I descended near one of the Sultan's famous palaces in a lovely garden belonging to a Turk. The Sultan sent an officer to inquire the cause of the accident and to learn if I was injured.

A DESCENT INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

I made the first balloon ascension ever witnessed in Burmah in April, 1865, from a beautiful private garden at Axyab, belonging to Mohammed Bucha, a very wealthy Mohammedan. On account of the great heat the ascent was made early in the day. The curiosity of the natives brought many thousands of them together. I arose very rapidly above the clouds and was carried inland several miles, where I met another current, which swept me back over the town and about ten miles out over the ocean. An American captain saw me descend and sent his mate with a boat and four men to bring me on shore. The natives

could not understand how it was possible for me to go up into the sky and then return in a boat, as they did not see me when I came down from the clouds into the sea on account of the position of the town on the bay. They were all expecting that I would come down on land and return from the West instead of from the East. They said it was the most wonderful feat they ever heard of, and looked upon me as a god. I did not go to the capital of Burmah to make ascents, as I was told that the King hated foreigners and was exceedingly superstitious. When Theebaw was taken prisoner by the English at Calcutta he could not be induced to go in the cabin of the vessel, but took his position on deck in the front part of the steamer, where no one could walk over or above him. It is contrary to the Burmese religion for anybody to hold a higher position than the King.—RUFUS GIBBON WELLS.

BANK ROBBERY IN DENVER.

The Most Daring Exploit on Record.

DENVER, Col., April 10.—The boldest and most successful bank robbery ever reported in the West was perpetrated upon the First National Bank the other afternoon. The morning previous a well-dressed man with light mustache and complexion and of medium height walked into the bank and asked where he could see Moffatt, president of the bank. He was told that he could see Mr. Moffatt, president of the Denver and Rio Grande railway, at the president's office in the Cheeseman block. Next morning the stranger entered the railway office and asked to see Mr. Moffatt on important business. He was admitted to his private room and stated that he had discovered a conspiracy whereby the bank was to be robbed of a large sum. Mr. Moffatt being very busy asked the man to meet him at his private office in the bank at one o'clock. A few minutes after the hour appointed he called at the bank and was shown into the president's office. Remaining standing, he enquired if Cashier S. M. Wood was in and was told that he was at lunch. He then asked for a blank cheque for the purpose of showing how the robbery was to be perpetrated. He laid the cheque upon the desk in front of Mr. Moffatt and said, "I will have to do this myself," and

PULLING OUT A LARGE REVOLVER,

placed it at Mr. Moffatt's head, and in an earnest but unexcited manner said: "I want \$21,000, and am going to have it. I have considered this matter and the chances I am running and the consequences if I fail and am arrested. I am a penniless and a desperate man, and have been driven during the past week to that point where I have considered suicide as the only means of escape from the poverty and misery in which I exist. You have millions; I am determined to have what I have asked for. If you make a noise, or call a man, or ring a bell, I will blow your brains out and then blow up the building and myself with this bottle of glycerine (which he at that moment pulled out of another pocket). Now, take your choice."

Mr. Moffatt started to argue with the man, but he was stopped, with the information that it was useless, and that he had but two minutes in which to fill out the check before him for \$21,000 if he desired to live. Mr. Moffatt, seeing no other alternative, filled out the check, and was ordered to take it to the paying teller and get it cashed. Mr. Moffatt left his office and with the man behind him with the revolver partially concealed under his overcoat, and with the muzzle aimed against Mr. Moffatt's back marched behind the counter up to Paying Teller Keeley with the request that the cheque

BE IMMEDIATELY CASHED.

They then remarched into Moffatt's office, without attracting the attention of the fifteen or twenty clerks who were at work within two feet of where they passed. After they had remained in the private office three or four minutes the robber informed Mr. Moffatt that they were wasting time, and that he had better step to the door and motion his teller to come to him, which he did. Mr. Moffatt instructed the teller to bring the money into his office, and as the teller turned to go away the robber told him he wanted twenty \$1,000 bills and a thousand dollars in gold. The money was brought in and handed to the robber, who waiting until the teller had reached his desk, backed out to the front door, making Mr. Moffatt remain standing in his door until he had reached the curb stone. He then raised his hand, walked around the corner and has not yet been heard of. Mr. Moffatt is completely prostrated with the shock. Detectives are out after the man, but no trace of him has been found.

The Fatal Barrier.

"Miss Carmine," he pleaded, "the love I bear you cannot be measured by mere words. It is ineradicable, inextinguishable, infinite. Will you be mine?"

"Mr. Botts," replied Maria Carmine, "I feel deeply the great honor you have conferred upon me. But there is between us a fatal barrier. I can never marry a man who wears a silk hat and a sack coat at the same time."

A Question of Title.

"I say," said a traveling man to an acquaintance, "Isn't that the umbrella that I have been carrying for some time past? I set it down in the hotel office about an hour ago, and couldn't find it."

"I don't know. Possibly it is. But as my father saw it he recognized it as the one that he lost at the same lodge that you belong to."

"Is that so? My brother declares that he found this same umbrella in the railway station, and lost it one day when he was riding down town in the street car with your father."

"Well, who owns the old thing any how?"

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Having A Tooth Out.

"Do you want to take gas?" asked the dentist of the young lady who wanted the tooth out.

"Oh, I don't know," she said, nervously, "I dread to take gas to. I read once of a lady who took gas and died in the dentist's chair."

"It must have been impure gas improperly given. I've given gas to a thousand people and never had any trouble."

"Well, I—I'm afraid I'll act silly. They say some people do such ridiculous things, and—"

"Oh, well; you needn't take it if you don't want to."

"Will it hurt me, I wonder?"

"It will be over in a second."

"Oh, I dread it so!"

"You'll hardly know when the tooth is out."

"Oh, yes, I will. I've had teeth out before and I just scream every time."

"Well, well; scream if you want to."

"I'm dreadfully afraid I'll faint."

"No, you won't."

"I feel like it now. It's horrid having one's teeth out."

"Better take gas."

"If I thought it would be perfectly safe I'd—"

"I'll guarantee that it won't hurt you at all."

"Well, I will!"

"All right. Sit in this chair. Put this tube in your mouth. Lean back now and breathe naturally. So—"

"Oh, doctor, I—I—"

"Don't talk—take full breaths, and—"

"I—I—oh, doctor, it won't—"

"Keep perfectly still now."

"I—I—ev-a-a-a-h!"

I guess she's gone now," says the dentist to his assistant. Hand me my forceps."

Half a minute later she gasps out:

"Oh—oh—is it out? I feel so funny!"

I—I—Did I act silly? I didn't feel it one bit! It was just like going to sleep. I hadn't the faintest idea when you drew the tooth out! I—I—let me see the tooth—ugh! It just seemed to me that—I'm awfully glad the thing's out! I've suffered everything and—a little more water, please; ugh! What makes it bleed so? My mouth's as sore, I did n't know when—"

"I'd like the chair as soon as possible for another patient," says the dentist, and she slides out and hurries to the glass to see how she looks with that tooth out.

Johnny's Puzzling Question.

Little two-year-old Johnny was one day teasing his baby sister and making her cry. His mamma appearing at the inauspicious moment said: "John, if you do that again I'll put you to bed, and whip you in the bargain." John looked up innocently and asked; "Mamma, where is my bargain?"

Female Beauty.

It is a fortunate thing that all men do not have the same taste in female beauty, for otherwise they would all fall in love with the same woman, which would be awkward. Although the preferences of men for different style of form or of feature vary greatly it is, undoubtedly, a fact that an appearance indicative of health is pleasing to all alike. A woman may be without regular features yet, if healthy, she will be beautiful to someone and pleasing to all. A sallow complexion, a dull eye, a system debilitated by unnatural discharges, in short, all the ailments attendant upon the irregularities and "weaknesses" peculiar to the sex, can be banished by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Ask your druggist.

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A wize man never enjoys himself so much, nor a phool so little, as when alone.

Curability of Consumption.

This has been a vexed question among physicians, opinions, even in the same school, being strangely divergent. Of this, however, the public are convinced: it is a terribly prevalent disease, and the average doctor meets with but scant success in treating it. Consumption is in reality scrofula of the lungs, and is liable to attack any whose blood is tainted. For driving out the scrofulous humors, and thus removing the predisposing cause, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a sovereign remedy. It purifies bad blood, heals scrofulous ulcers, and, whatever difference of opinion exists as to curing advanced cases of consumption, it remains that many pronounced "incurable" have been by it brought back from the brink of the grave to restored health and vigor.

A Swiss writer attributes baldness to a microscopic fungus.

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