

Man is at best an envious animal. Not satisfied with the many modes of locomotion open to him, he must try and emulate the birds' one and only way of getting about. Although he can walk, run, slide, skate, toboggan, bicycle, ride, drive, sail, hustle behind an engine, and cleave the upper air in a balloon, every now and then man breaks out in a spasm of discontent because he has not wings, and breaks his neck inventing flying machines, or, rather, trying to fly on them.

If Icarus and Daedalus soared near enough to the sun to melt the wax on their wings they did infinitely better than more modern aspirants for bird-like honors have done. For not one of them has been able to fly at all. One of these, Herr Lilienthal, who has provided himself not only with wings but a tail, mounts a high hill and throws himself with great force against the wind coming up the hill. "He then slides down like a flying squirrel, or a boy on a sled." The movement has nothing particularly inspiring about it, and the boy on the sled, as well as the flying squirrel, has the comfort of knowing that he may not be shorn of his power and come down bump at the dying out of a fickle gust. The winged and tailed Lilienthal has not this consolation at all, so that his triumph as a soarer can hardly be called complete. Professor Langley, another aspiring spirit, has made small flying machines, "said" to fly a few hundred feet. It is safe to infer that no one has seen them do it, from the non-committal character of the "said."

"A young man by the name of Phillips" has lately made a machine "which rested on three wheels and was driven by a steam engine." The measure of his flight is not recorded, so that he can hardly be considered to rival the eagle yet. Mr. Hiram S. Maxim, who is a wild enthusiast on the subject of "aviation," as he calls it, devotes a fraction of his time to flying, being (provisionally) engrossed in large business affairs the rest of it, and he evidently regards the perfection of the flying-machine as the crying need of the age. Mr. Maxim writes to the North American Review an account of his own experiments, as also the short histories of the other recent "flyers" above noted.

Mr. Maxim's apparatus consists of three kites—one huge affair, and two smaller ones acting as wings. The machine, anchored, on a level surface, weighs 8,000 pounds in a calm; in a wind blowing forty miles an hour it weighs nothing; while if the wind had achieved the velocity of forty-five miles an hour it would raise the whole machine and 2,000 pounds additional weight into the air like a kite. As the wind cannot, however, be depended upon to blow forty-five miles an hour regularly, and indeed, hardly ever does, the scientist has provided himself with one railroad track in the ground and another inverted over it.

"Two large and well-made screw propellers," "a very powerful and light steam engine," "outriggers and wheels," form part of the paraphernalia for this elaborate and mysterious device, at which, if they could do it, the plainest and most ordinary birds would laugh aloud. The result of Mr. Maxim's experiments has been thus far, judging from even his own published accounts, insignificant. He has been obliged to lift and propel his machine at enormous trouble to represent the wind and to coerce various powers in many laborious ways. "His experiments," however, he asseverates, "have led him to believe that the flight of man is possible even with a steam engine and boiler." Mr. Maxim predicts great advances in "aviation" when young engineers devote their thoughts to petroleum motors as drivers for flying-machines, and solemnly advises such devotion.

It is to be hoped that young engineers, except such as are free from family ties and morally unshackled from the community, will turn their thoughts in no such direction. There are plenty of ways of being killed without such expensive preliminaries as Mr. Maxim's. And, even if by dint of enormous labor and expense they do manage to hoist themselves a few feet from the earth and stay balanced there a minute, they will not even have approached the meanest mosquito in accomplishment.

One Thing at a Time.

A French journal furnishes this interesting colloquy between a housekeeper and her new servant:

Mistress—Biddy, run and fetch me the plum-tart out of the pantry.
Biddy (returning)—Please, ma'am, it isn't there.
Mistress—Perhaps it is on the side-board in the dining-room.
Biddy—I can't find it.
Mistress—Then it must be in the cellar.
Biddy—I don't see it, ma'am.
Mistress—Then most likely you have eaten it.
Biddy—Yes, ma'am.

It is a good time to dodge when a woman begins to talk in a high key.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Typhoid fever is prevalent at Hamilton. The Sorel bridge over the Richelieu will be built. Nearly all of the St. Catharines druggists are engaged in a cut-rate war. Mr. Baker, M.P. for Mississquoi, will succeed Mr. Curran as Solicitor-General. Mgr. O'Bryan, who has been ailing for some time, dropped dead at Montreal. Mr. John C. Nelson, C. E., overseer of Indian reserve surveys, died at Winnipeg. An English company has been formed to purchase mining properties in Frontenac County.

Mrs. Laframboise was acquitted of the charge of murdering Miss Jones at Baskatong by a jury at Hull. Wm. Turk, a labourer, was fatally injured on Wednesday in the T. H. and B. tunnel at Hamilton.

Mrs. Sneffel of Buffalo was killed while attempting to pass under a train at Port Colborne. Chief Bull of the Carcece Indian tribe was arrested and fined \$2 at Calgary for drunkenness.

The water in the Ottawa river continues to recede every day, and presents a growing menace to navigation.

An inquiry into the working of the Hamilton police force has been determined upon by the commissioners.

Wm. Cummins was sentenced to twenty years' hard labor for attempting to assault Mrs. Dormer at St. Catharines.

Mr. Haggart states that the report for the Intercolonial railway, which has just reached the department, shows that last year the railway was self-sustaining. The Manitoba Patrons of Industry have asked Mr. J. Forsyth, the only Patron in the Legislature, to resign all offices in their order because he has accepted railway passes.

It is believed that Mr. John Lowe, the Dominion Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who has applied for superannuation, will be retained in the service of the department as technical referee.

Mr. James McEvoy, of the Geological Survey, has returned to Ottawa from the Shuswap district, British Columbia. He states that the district situated on the Thompson river watershed contains splendid agricultural land.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson has retired from the command of the 13th of Hamilton, and the Militia Department to show appreciation of his long service, has allowed him to retain the rank of lieutenant-colonel on the active force.

The validity of the will was found in a Thomas Young of Hamilton is being questioned. The will was found in a clock the other day, and the witnesses, who are unknown except by name, are urged to come forward and prove it.

Mayor Knowles of Dundas was assaulted in his office by John Macdonald, a tramp, who was arrested and promptly sent down for six months. The Mayor's boathouse was burnt down, it is supposed, by friends of Macdonald.

Owing to the recent loss of two valuable ships in the Straits of Belle Isle, the marine insurance companies of Montreal have petitioned the Deputy Minister of Marine to provide telegraphic communication and to place lighthouses on the dangerous places.

Some astounding details in connection with the Montreal arson cases came out on Thursday. Counsel for the prosecution stated that the firebugs started the fires by allowing sulphuric acid to on chlorate of potash, causing combustion, and also by means of clockwork.

Premier Greenway has announced that the Manitoba Government will demand compensation either in cash or lands for 35,337 acres of swamp land which Mr. T. M. Daly, Minister of the Interior, says it is impossible to transfer from the Federal to the local authorities, they having been disposed of in other manners.

Mr. Robert Kerr, the general freight agent of the Canadian Pacific railway, estimates that before the close of navigation on the St. Lawrence river 50,000 head of cattle will have been shipped from the West to the European markets. Last season the number was 30,000. He believes this season's shipment of wheat will exceed five million bushels.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Canadian apples are selling well in Liverpool.

Jabez Spencer Balfour and the other defendants in the Liberator Building Society frauds are on trial in London.

The Marquis of Waterford killed himself while temporarily insane, according to the verdict of the Coroner's jury.

The Liverpool Post claims to have found the head of Oliver Cromwell in the possession of the Wilkeson family, of Sealchart, Kent.

Sir Charles Halle, the well-known pianist, conductor, and composer, died yesterday at Manchester, England, at the advanced age of seventy-six years.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal announces that Mr. John Dillon, the well-known Irish leader and member of Parliament for East Mayo, will be married at the end of November to a daughter of Judge Mathew.

Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner in London, cabled yesterday to the Dominion Government that the British Columbia frozen fish question is settled in a manner satisfactory to the importers.

It is expected that at the beginning of the year Captain Jos. Ritchie, who has commanded the Allan steamer Farislan, and who has been thirty years in the service, will retire and settle down in his home in Liverpool.

UNITED STATES.

Ex-Governor Oliver Ames of Massachusetts is dead.

Burglar-proof cars are now carrying

the mails between New York and St. Louis.

The Carnegie Company has a large contract for supplying armor-plate to Russia.

Charles Oscar Yale of Rome, N. Y., a bank lock expert and inventor, is dead in his 64th year.

Miss Frances Willard was again elected president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union at the annual election held at Baltimore, Md.

Miss Frances Willard carried the W. C. T. U. convention at Baltimore with her in a broad movement to include in fraternal relations Roman Catholics and Hebrews.

The body of a woman found in the Detroit River on September 30 has been identified as that of Miss Carleton of St. Clair, Michigan. Murder is strongly suspected.

The Pennsylvania railway has commenced to charge for carrying bicycles. The weight is placed at one hundred pounds, because machinery takes up more room than ordinary freight.

A young man who gave his name as Andrew Scott of Guelph was found struggling in the river at Detroit by a policeman. He said he was knocked insensible and robbed by a colored man.

Capt. Lamonth, of Mississippi, who claims that he owns the present site of London, Ont., by virtue of a deed given to his father, says that he will soon go there to establish his right to a large portion of the city.

There was an unconfirmed rumour in Washington yesterday that Secretary Olney is contemplating retiring from the Cabinet, owing to his not being in touch with the President on questions of foreign policy, more especially regarding the Venezuelan difficulty.

The world's record for railway speed over a great distance was broken on Thursday by a special train on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway, which ran from Chicago to Buffalo, a distance of five hundred and ten miles, in four hundred and eighty-one minutes and seven seconds, an average speed of 63.00 miles an hour.

According to commercial advices from the United States cooler weather has somewhat added to the trade movement in many lines, but in other directions the amount of business is considerably below expectations. In dry goods generally, clothing, boots and shoes and head gear there has been only a fair demand, though exceptions to this are reported from New York, Chicago, Kansas City, and Duluth. The sales of cotton for the week have been phenomenally large, and no failures are reported of importance. Retail trade in different parts of the States is better, and the purchasing power of wage-earners is usually stronger than it was a year ago. Labour disputes so far have had little adverse effect on trade.

GENERAL.

Ruggiero Bonghi, the Italian statesman, philosopher, and author, is dead.

Sir Henry Parkes, ex-Prime Minister of New South Wales, was married on Thursday. He is 80 years old.

The one hundredth anniversary of the third partition of Poland was observed as a day of national mourning throughout Galicia.

Rio Janeiro despatches state that the British Minister in that place has informed the Brazilian Government that England intends keeping the island of Trinidad.

The Gazette de Lausanne says that, although it is not true that the Pope is dying, he is losing his strength rapidly, and it is not expected that he will live throughout the winter.

In the French Budget Committee the naval credit asked by Admiral Besnard, involving an annual outlay of twenty million dollars for the next twelve years, was rejected.

A despatch to the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya from Vladivostok says that the Japanese ports of Shimonoseki, Kokkaichi, Tokio, Amori, and Otaruni will shortly be opened to international trade.

In taking farewell of Sir Edward Malet, the British Minister, the Emperor of Germany referred to the many ties between the English and the Germans, and said they could not be drawn closer.

A plot has been discovered among the officials in the Sultan's palace in Constantinople, and in consequence numerous arrests have been made, and the residences of the Ministers are now guarded by troops.

The Blackflag chieftain who has been holding Tai-Wan-Fu, the Chinese capital of the Island of Formosa, against the Japanese forces, has fled, and it is said that his followers will now lay down their arms.

Fierce disturbances, accompanied by serious bloodshed, are reported to have taken place at Erzingan, and sixty Armenians are said to have been killed. The Turkish Government claim the outbreak was provoked by the Armenians.

According to the news received from Adana and Aleppo revolutionary agents are traversing the country and enrolling young Armenians, while quantities of arms, ammunition, and dynamite are being smuggled across the frontiers for their use.

How the Chinese Brew Their Tea.

If you want to drink tea properly it is absolutely necessary to get a teapot of Ni-Hing, a variety of baked earthenware that is unglazed on the inside. So all the tea sharps say, and they state it upon the authority of Gen. Ichheng Ki-Tong, a celebrated Chinese writer on gastronomic subjects. There are many other points to be taken into account if tea is to be chosen at its very best. For example, it should be mixed with rain or spring water heated to a certain point. The boiling should only continue a few moments, the water having boiled sufficiently as soon as bubbles appear on the surface. Green tea, according to this authority, is a tea that the rich Celestials give the highest praise to. In green tea the tiny leaves have hardly come from the bud before they are gathered and dried in the sun. Black tea, on the other hand, is made up of leaves that have reached a state of maturity and have then been dried in front of a fire.

Should Not See Them.

Wife—Does it hurt your skin when I pull a gray hair from your beard?
Elderly Husband—No, but it hurts my feelings.

KLEPTOMANIAC WOMEN.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KLEPTOMANIAC AND SHOPLIFTER.

A Form of Moral Insanity—A Mania Almost Confined to Females—A Lady who Stole Every Umbrella She Could Lay Hands On—Kleptomaniacs Usually Found in What is Called Good Society.

"Shop-lifting by women is a practice that prevails to a remarkable extent in the great dry-goods stores of large cities. Detectives are employed to watch for this class of offenders, and arrests are of daily occurrence.

Some of the shop-lifters are no doubt thieves, but others are so respectable, and the things they take so worthless in proportion to the risk they run, that it is hard to believe them responsible for their actions. Women of the latter class are commonly called kleptomaniacs.

It would be interesting to know just what the kleptomaniac condition of mind is. Dr. Forbes Winslow, the English insanity expert now visiting this country, gave a reporter an interview which throws much light on this subject.

"What do you understand by kleptomaniac?" asked the reporter.

"I have gone into the matter very fully during late years," replied the specialist, "and I will gladly tell you all I know. In the first place, kleptomaniac is a well recognized form of moral insanity. Those so afflicted are seized with a sudden impulse to steal and carefully conceal what they steal from others. Such individuals are found not only at large, but within the precincts of asylums. Scores of such cases have come under my notice. Kleptomaniacs in asylums steal from their fellow-victims things which they cannot possibly make use of from the very force of circumstances."

WOMEN ARE THE KLEPTOMANIACS.

"In which sex is the complaint usually most common?"

"It is far more common among women than among men. Kleptomaniac in males is exceedingly rare. It is often found in schoolboys; but no criminal charge is formulated, for the simple reason that upon examination the irresponsibility is proved beyond a doubt. I have been engaged professionally in more cases of kleptomaniac than I can possibly count, but I cannot recall a single occasion when I have been called upon to defend a man."

"But why should the disease be more prevalent in females than males? And, by the way, how do you substantiate the existence of kleptomaniac when it is only disclosed years after the disease which was supposed to have originated it?"

"Kleptomaniac is connected a great deal with hysteria, which, of course, is more frequent among women than among men. As regards the time during which the complaint may remain dormant, that varies. When the brain is deranged you can't tell what kind of insanity may arise. Twenty years may elapse after the occurrence of the primary complaint and yet a new form of lunacy break out. At one period a person with a deranged mind may be a homicidal lunatic, and years after kleptomaniac may reveal itself."

"In what conditions of life are kleptomaniacs generally found?"

USUALLY FOUND IN GOOD SOCIETY.

"As a general rule they move in good society, and at the time the crime is committed they have sufficient means to purchase the articles they have appropriated. With every luxury and plenty of money to satisfy every fancy, the impulse to steal seizes them with such an irresistible grasp that they find it a physical impossibility to withstand the innate desire. It is quite impossible for them to overcome the impulse which eventually lands them in the dock. I have known a woman who put her hands on every umbrella that came within her reach. She had scores of umbrellas in her house which she never used, notwithstanding the vagaries of the British climate."

"Except the one form of picking and stealing, is the average kleptomaniac considered honest by her friends?"

"Emphatically so. Judging from my experience the average kleptomaniac is both intelligent and truthful. There is simply the one failing; in all other respects she behaves as a law-abiding citizen. Moreover, I have found that this kind of stealing is not usually premeditated. It is purely impulsive, and the crime and its consequences are never realized at the time, though strangely enough, after stealing the kleptomaniac is fully aware of the crime she has been guilty of. Of course, there is sometimes a good deal of method in it. There are methods and cunning in mad people, and this is why one finds capacious pockets in the clothing of kleptomaniacs."

"What are the maladies with which kleptomaniac is generally identified?"

"It is often associated with physical weakness and disorder of the nervous system, besides hysteria, which I have already mentioned. There is also no doubt about its being hereditary, the same as ordinary crime. I heard the other day, by the way, of a family, ten members of which, besides the parents, were convicted thieves."

A FORM OF MORAL INSANITY.

"Is it in your experience that kleptomaniacs suffer from other forms of moral insanity?"

"The mania for stealing is a form of moral insanity in itself. A person may be very wealthy and not the least addicted to extravagance, and yet she will be comparatively worthless pieces of sin, and even bits of bread from the table. Are there any conditions of abnormality? Yes, I think so. It is often seen in abnormal conformations of the head, accompanied by weakness of intellect. Those who are ill-organized or of rickety and scrofulous constitution frequently exhibit such propensities. Fine, one of the greatest authorities of former days in mental disorders, especially draws attention to the fact that some maniacs who in their lucid intervals are

justly considered models of probity cannot refrain from stealing and cheating. Gall again mentions the case of two persons confined in an asylum at Vienna who, becoming insane, were distinguished in the hospital for their extraordinary propensity to steal, though previously they had lived irreproachable lives. They wandered about the house from morning till night picking up and hiding whatever they came across, not even disdaining rags, clothes and straw. This sort of thing is very common in lunatic asylums."

"At what age does kleptomaniac generally show itself?"

"That quite depends on circumstances, but it rarely breaks out before the age of adolescence, except in persons who are absolutely imbecile or insane on the surface."

"Is it really possible to distinguish between a case of genuine kleptomaniac and one of stealing pure and simple? Is there any hard-and-fast rule to distinguish between wilful stealing and kleptomaniac?"

"Certainly, it is possible to distinguish between two such cases. Speaking for myself I have adjudged on hundreds of kleptomaniacs, and I have no reason to believe that I have ever declared a case to be one of kleptomaniac when it was one of ordinary theft."

"As for any hard-and-fast rule, that is exceedingly difficult to define, even if there is any, which I question. Each case differs so much in its nature and surroundings that there is no line laid down to guide us in our opinion. Each case must be judged on its merits, if I may use such an expression in connection with kleptomaniac. There is no law regulating any one complaint, and the same remark applies to kleptomaniac. I might mention, however, the hereditary side of the matter, the absence of motive, the absurdity often of what has been stolen, and the history of the antecedents of the victim, the existence of fits, the presence or absence of delusions, the general mental condition, whether excited or depressed, whether of a quiet and moody disposition, of a jealous or suspicious nature, whether liable to acts of extravagance, whether the feelings and thoughts are so disordered as to incapacitate from the ordinary vocations of life—all these phases must be investigated in drawing a conclusion, and it is often a most exhaustive business. Lastly, there is the important question, is there any hereditary insanity in the family and what is its nature? As I have just said, stealing is hereditary both among those responsible and those in whom the plea of irresponsibility is raised, therefore the question of heredity plays a most important part in the process of examination. It is also necessary, by the way, to inquire whether there is any liability to blind impulses, which can be neither regulated nor controlled."

RUBBER-TIRED CABS.

The Londoner Now Glides Over the Streets Without a Jar.

Dancing has been described as the poetry of motion, and perhaps it was at the time the description was penned; but that was some time ago, writes an American correspondent in London. To-day the poetry of motion is found in driving a rubber-tired hansom cab over a wood-paved London street. For miles you glide along, scarcely conscious that you are moving until your course is arrested by a blocking of teams near Hyde Park corner. No conversation is ever interrupted by a drive in London. Indeed, if you want a few quiet words alone with a friend, the best way to get them is to take a cab. There unless there be something in your manner to excite the driver's curiosity or suspicion which may induce him to open the trap door in the top of the cab and listen, you are as secluded as you would be in your own boudoir. I don't know how many hansom cabs there are in London, but I know that there are at least 15,645, for I saw that number on the back of one. So that you are never at a loss for them.

London cabbies, as a rule, are very amiably disposed toward their "fares." They may some times overcharge you; but they do it with a deprecatory air that makes it possible for you to refuse their demand. In this respect they are very different from the French cocher; he takes you by the throat, as it were, and it is your money or your life. I never met with a rude cabbie in London, though I would not go so far as to say that none are to be found there. They will always take you where you want to go, which is more than they will do in Paris. It's as much as you can do to get a French cocher to drive you to the Bois. They don't like long trips for they are paid by the hour for them, and they prefer to be paid by the "course," which is something that only they know the mysteries of. A London cabbie, whom I asked to take me a five-mile distance one day and suggested that I engage him by the hour, expostulated with me so gently yet so convincingly that I at once yielded to his superior wisdom. "You won't gain nothing by engaging us by the hour," said he. "When we has fares we loaf, but if you take us by the mile we don't waste no time gettin' there." I liked his candor and there was something about the editorial "we" that divided the responsibility of what otherwise might have been regarded as a personal peculiarity, which was reassuring. Being in a hurry, I agreed to his terms, and I am sure that I profited by the arrangement.

There is talk in London of furnishing every cab and four-wheeler with an indicator, the invention of an unsympathetic German, which will not only indicate the number of miles traveled, but the price that should be paid for the privilege. The indicator is said to be infallible; but I think that there will be occasions when the cabbies will dispute its infallibility. But then there is always Mr. Asquith to arbitrate. It is also said that the indicator is to be introduced in Paris. It will be a bold man who tries it there. I see a revolution ahead when it is attempted.

Making Sure.

Housekeeper—The potatoes to-day were so salty we could not touch them.
New Girl—Well, mum, it was this way. After they got to cookin' I couldn't remember whether they was salted or not, so I put in a double quantity to make sure.