

UP IN A BALLOON.

An Aernaut's Account of his Voyage Across the English Channel.

"We started from Hastings," says Mr. Simmons, "under somewhat unfavorable auspices, the wind being northeasterly at the time. A crowd of some forty thousand persons had gathered to witness our departure, and as we ascended they gave us a tremendous cheer. My fellow passenger, Mr. Small, a photographer, was so lost in admiration of the magnificent panorama of Hastings lying below us that I had to warn him that he must be quick if he wished to obtain a photograph, and we just got the apparatus ready as we passed over the beach, the balloon being at that moment (3:25) at an altitude of 3,000 feet. At 3:30 we had a long range of coast line, Eastbourne pier being exceedingly distinct. I thought we were a trifle too near Beachy Head ever to make any point of land on this side of the Atlantic, but when we attained an altitude of 7,500 feet we southered a trifle more. Appearances were, however, much against our ever reaching land, and I must acknowledge that I was sorely tempted to come down off Beachy Head and get picked up. But this would have been rather to ignominious, and I decided to keep on our course. We had the satisfaction, a few minutes later, to find Beachy Head receding north of us, and we quickly settled our minds to make a night of it if necessary.

"At 4:20 we were over a magnificent cloud scene; here and there patches of the coast line could be discerned far away to the west, while at a vast distance there was a gap through which we got a patch of sea, with three or four ships very distinct. A moment later and the great curtain or clouds had shut out our last landmark. Mr. Small got his apparatus ready to secure a cloud effect, but his shutter missed fire two or three times, and this suggested some little improvements for such experiments in future. From 4:30 to nearly sunset (to the people on earth) our altitude ranged between 8,000 and 9,000 feet. During this interval we got peeps at the sea many times, but no land was seen. We could see the sun's rays two hours after he had withdrawn from earth and sea. The shadow of the balloon on a cloud looked very much like a shuttlecock, the car forming the butt end, and the balloon and cord forming the feathers. The transition from day to night was very slow and gradual, and as daylight departed the moon's rays from dead gold gradually changed to bright silver. Mr. Small said, 'Did you see that shooting star?' I said, 'Wait a minute and I will show you another.' The balloon had commenced to revolve, and this motion made it appear as though a bright star was darting through the air. It was, of course, an optical illusion.

"A remarkable appearance was caused by the reflection of the balloon in the focusing screen of the camera. When we surrounded with a black cloth the frame round the glass we could see sky, sun, moon, and stars inverted, and the balloon cleaving its headlong 'downward' course through illimitable space, the effect being most extraordinary. Soon after 7 o'clock we began to get cold, and set to work to don flannels, &c. Our large wrapper got tightly jammed in the rigging, but the hard pulling necessary to get it loose soon made us feel warm, and, having once got up a good circulation, we did not, during the entire voyage, again feel cold. The cork jackets which were supplied by Mr. Cornish contributed greatly to warmth. During the night for more than an hour our altitude did not vary 20 feet. This was exceedingly encouraging, for upon our power of poisoning so nicely depended our chance of floating aloft all night. When the balloon did take a slight downward turn I carefully noted how much ballast it would take to 'stop her.' The temperature of the air was very regular, and I found that seven pounds or eight pounds was sufficient.

"At 10:15 we saw a vessel almost under us, and came down low enough to hail her. This we did as lustily as we could, but at first got no response, only a remarkable distinct echo from our own voices. At last a voice was heard on deck, 'Voila balloon, balloon! Are you English?' No reply. 'Parlez vous Francaise?' 'Oui, oui,' was replied, but with all our French we could not ascertain our whereabouts, and whether we were over the English Channel or the Atlantic.

"At 10:25 something slightly darker than the normal horizon could be faintly discerned. We kept ourselves absolutely motionless, and listening intently, we seemed to hear in the same direction a sound as of a far-distant rilling surf. I looked long and eagerly, until I exclaimed, 'It's nothing but a mist,' for it seemed to change its form, and at last to vanish into 'thin air.' I passed nearly another hour intently watching for lights until a similar dark portion of horizon was brought under view. We could not possibly bring ourselves to believe it was land, because no lights could be seen up to this time, but at last there was an unmistakable flicker in the exact direction where I was gazing. 'Look along my finger as a telescope. What do you call that?' 'A lighthouse,' exclaimed Mr. Small. I said, 'I believe that dark strip before us is land, with sea just beyond it again. If it turns out to be so, be prompt in doing everything I tell you, for it will be sharp work to land on that strip.'

"The sound of surf was now unmistakable, and in about the same time as I am talking to tell this the line of coast was presented distinctly to our view, every minute getting more distinct. The sea now began to ripple up sharply. Ten minutes longer and we were passing the coast line, and sharply sailing toward the other sea beyond. 'What part of ground are we coming down on?' said Mr. Small. 'Rugged rocks and stone walls, I believe,' I said. 'Hold on firm. Out goes the grappling iron.' At first it would not hold, but soon it got wedged into a crevice in the rocks, giving us just tether enough to pass over the precipice and down on to the beach. There was just room for us between the receding tide and the rocks, and none to spare. Had we gone ten yards further and half a second longer we should have been in the sea.

"We heard whispering near us. In a few moments a man and a woman appeared, but would not at first approach us, fearing, I suppose, we were some *monstres*. By and by they gained confidence, and then they told us we were on Cape de la Hague, the extreme north-west point of France. We then found that our informants were M. Auguste Laven of Canton de Beaumont, Arron-

dissiment Manhe, and his wife. They most kindly helped us to empty the balloon of its contents, and gave us supper and shelter for the night. Next morning, at 7 o'clock, we went to view the scene of our descent, and Mr. Small photographed it. We afterward proceeded to Cherbourg, and thence home."

SCIENCE.

M. Galippe states, in the *Journal de Pharmacie*, that copper exists normally in all plants, and especially in wheat. It may, therefore, be detected in bread without its having been fraudulently introduced.

Luminous paint which contains as a basis sulphide of calcium is rapidly becoming appreciated or special uses. When properly painted, objects are visible in the darkest nights with a pale white light. Life-buoys and life-saving apparatus are conveniently illuminated, and, perhaps, a most common example, match boxes are doubly useful when painted with the luminous paint.

In a lecture on school-hygiene Professor Cohn Breslau made the remark that in the use of the ordinary slate a child who would see ordinary ink-writing quite distinctly at a distance of twelve inches must approximate his eye to eight inches from the slate to obtain the same distinctness. He considers that states should be banished from schools; and he recommended dull white tablets of artificial stone, supplied by *Priebe* in Breslau, which are written on with a special kind of pencil.

Mr. John Burns, of Castle Wemyss, has recently had provided for him by the British post-office telephone communication between his office in Jamaica street, Glasgow, and his house in Wemyss bay, a distance of thirty-two miles. This new feature of telephonic science is said to be the longest private wire in the world. It is what is known as a metallic circuit—that is to say, it consists of two wires, through which the current of electricity passes round and round, up one wire and down the other, always in the same direction, and the two wires are "twisted." Ordinary telephone and electric wires consist only of one wire.

Few are aware of the present extensive utilization of the various refuse matters discarded by tanners and curriers, and known as "paste roundings, shoulder splits and skivings," for the heels and soles of all kinds of boots and shoes. These materials are cleaned, damped, cut by dies, pasted into moulds, compressed in a powerful press, and dried, the refuse in this process being, in turn, manufactured into what is known as

He was Grateful.

He must have been from the West. He was idling about Old Burling Slip, when he took a tumble and brought up in the river. A ready hand threw him a plank to sustain himself, and he was soon hauled out.

"Gentlemen," he said, as he gave himself a shake, "what's your time worth per hour?"

"I'm getting twenty-five cents per hour," replied one.

"And you were about nine minutes fooling with my case. About nine, but we'll call it ten. Your charge should be about four cents, about four, but we'll call it five. I haven't anything smaller than a dime, but one of you can run across the way and get it changed!"

"We don't want pay," remarked one. "You don't? But you must accept of something. Here, boy, run over and buy me a couple of pears!"

The fruit was purchased and placed in his hands, and as he put one pear in his pocket and bit into the other one he remarked:

"And if you ever come within fifty miles of where my uncle lives, he'll be glad to have you stop all night with him. He keeps a hotel, and his charges won't be over \$2!"

The Dimensions of Heaven.

The following paragraph, entitled "The Dimensions of Heaven," is from "Lewis' Penny Readings":—"And he measured the city with a reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth, and the height of it are equal."—Rev. xxi., 16. Twelve thousand furlongs equal 7,920,000 feet, which, being cubed, is 496,793,088,000,000,000 cubic feet. Reserving half of this space for the Throne and Court of Heaven, and half the balance for streets, we have the remainder of 124,198,272,000,000,000 cubic feet. Divide this by 4,000, the cubical feet in a room sixteen feet square, and there will be 30,321,843,750,000,000 rooms. We will now suppose the world always did and always will contain 999,000,000 inhabitants, and that a generation lasts for 33 1/3 years, making in all 2,970,000,000,000 every century; and that the world will stand 100,000,000 years or 1,500 centuries, making in all 2,970,000,000,000 inhabitants. Then suppose there was one hundred worlds equal to this in number of inhabitants and duration of years, making a total of 2,970,000,000,000 persons; and there would be more than a hundred rooms sixteen feet square for each person.

Three-Year-Old's Prayer for Patience.

One of the greatest little witches that ever lived was the 3-year-old girl of a certain Methodist D. D., L. L. D., prominent alike for vigorous preaching and stern practice, but whose ideas of duty does not extend to the restraining of his children nor the holding up of his wife's weary arms. Hence when his little "thorn of his flesh" became too troublesome and troublesome, he would withdraw to his study leaving her to the mother, and she, often with an audible prayer for strength, would persevere. One day Gracie was left alone for a moment all prepared to make a visit with her mamma, dressed in pure white. In a few moments she was missed from the room and search was made. Up stairs, down stairs, and in "my lady's chamber," passed the weary mother. At last she entered the kitchen and saw the child playing in some soot, and black as the substance itself. When she saw her mother in the door looking at her more in sorrow than in anger, quick as a flash the little one dropped on her knees, clasped her grimy hands, and lisped, "O Lord give me patience!" No jest was it or family speech, only the prayer that had often been the plea from a weary, true mother's heart.—*Boston Traveler*.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

In 1881, 4,000,000 acres of land were under cultivation and the production of wheat was over 31,000,000 bushel. In 1882 the trade of the whole of Australia exceeded £115,000,000 stg.

Victoria, Australia, excels in big trees, a fine specimen of the *Eucalyptus Amygdalina* has been found recently with an altitude of 430 feet. Trees are found there with a circumference of 86 feet.

Ireland sends out yearly 19,800 men and boys to garner the harvest of the seas; they secure annually 26,959 tons. Scotland sends out 48,100 fishermen, who catch 216,810 tons each year. Each Scot therefore catches 4 1/2 tons annually, while each son of Erin catches but 1 1/2 tons.

One of the machines used in a watch factory will cut screws with 589 threads to an inch. These threads are invisible to the naked eye, and it takes 144,000 of the screws to make a pound. A pound of them is worth a pound of pure gold. Lay one of them upon a piece of white paper and it looks like a tiny steel fling.

The population of Egypt is 6,798,230, of which 3,393,918 are males, and 3,404,312 females. Cairo has 368,108 inhabitants: Alexandria, with its suburbs, 208,775; Port Said, 16,500; Suez, 10,913; Tanta, 21,725; Damietta, 34,046; Rosetta, 16,671; Mansourah, 26,784; Zagazig, 19,046.

The quantities of coals, cinders, and patent fuel exported from the United Kingdom to foreign countries and British settlements abroad during 1881 were—Coals, 18,759,981 tons; cinders, 418,762 tons; patent fuel, 412,310 tons; total, 19,587,063 tons. The quantity brought into London amounted to 10,574,807 tons.

In 34 cities of the United States from 50 to 82 per cent. of children of school-age are not enrolled. In 86 cities the average attendance is only about two-thirds of the enrollment, or one-third of the population of school-age. These 86 cities contain over 8,000,000 inhabitants, or nearly one-sixth of the total population of the country; but more than a third of their population of school-age never enter the schoolroom at all.

Minister Young, at Peking, says he learns from official sources that the census of China, as taken last year for the purpose of taxation, shows a total population of 255,000,000. This does not include the Mongolian or other out-lying dependencies of the empire, but only the eighteen provinces of China proper; nor does it embrace various aboriginal tribes. Including these, it is probable that the population really exceeds 3,000,000.

In 1816, Australia exported only 13,000 lbs weight of wool, in 1882 the total export of Australia was over 414,000,000 lbs. weight. In 1816 the value of the wool exported was £21,000,000. Then in 1882 the whole colonies exported 25,000 tons of tallow. In 1861 there was no boiling-down establishments, and consequently there was no tallow. In 1882, 10,000 pounds of meat were exported to Great Britain. In 1788 the live stock of Australia consisted of one bull, five cows, and a calf, about seven horses, seventy-four pigs, and 300 head of poultry. To-day in Australia there are 75,000,000 sheep and 9,000,000 cattle.

ABDUCTED BY HER HUSBAND.

A St. John, N. B. Sensation.

A great sensation has been caused at St. John, N. B., by a case of wife-abduction. About three years ago Miss Lena Robinson, a handsome young lady whose father occupies a prominent position in connection with the Government Savings Bank in that city, was secretly married at Amherst, N. Y., to De Blavier Carritte, a son of Dr. Carritte, of that place, contrary to the wishes of her parents, who had a more eligible partner in view. The couple separated immediately after the ceremony, the lady returning to her parents and Carritte going to New York. When the secret leaked out there was great indignation in the Robinson household, and it was determined that a divorce should be procured. For this purpose, it is said, the young lady resided in one of the Eastern States for some time, but Carritte was determinedly opposed to any such proceeding, and the lady was brought home. Carritte returned to St. John this year and established himself in business. He was not allowed to approach his wife. About 10 o'clock on a recent Saturday night, accompanied by his friends, he followed Mr. Robinson and his daughter towards their home, and when in a dark street assaulted Robinson and seized the young lady, and putting her in a coach on hand for the purpose drove off. Three days later Carritte and his wife were found in a hotel where they had arrived about 2 a. m., after a drive around some country roads. Carritte was arrested on a warrant for assault, information having been laid against him by Mr. Robinson. The young husband acted on legal advice, and it is believed that the young lady was privy to the abduction. The parties move in the best social circles.

Value of a Big Hotel's Refuse.

"I have just let the contract for the swill of my house for the next season at \$500," said the manager of a large summer hotel to a *Journal* reporter this morning. "The price is very low, and there seems to be no reason why the contractor should not make \$1,000 clear out of the deal."

"How can he treble his money?" "Because, the swill itself is worth at least \$1,000, and then the dishes he picks out, besides the marked ones, are good for \$500 more. Why, do you know that at one of the Coney Island hotels, where I was formerly employed, a man was hired for the express purpose of sorting over the swill, and picking out the dishes?"

"How do so many dishes get into the swill?" "You should get into the kitchen of a large hotel when a rush comes. Everything goes—spoons, forks, knives and dishes. Generally the silverware is marked, and so is returned by the contractor. The waiters are very indifferent. Why, do you know I once saw a waiter with a salver full of goblets, which cost \$1.00 a dozen, actually slide them into the broken glass barrel to save him the trouble of setting them on a shelf. The destruction in a watering place kitchen during a rush is terrible."—*Albany Journal*.



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