

CARRIED ACROSS NIAGARA

WHAT THE MAN SAYS WHO CROSSED ON BLONDIN'S BACK.

He Tells About His First Trip Across the Niagara Gorge on a Tight Rope—Gamblers Tried to Shake Them Off to Win a Bet.

The papers recently announced the death in Ealing, a suburb of London, of the famous tight-rope walker, Emile Blondin, who was a native of France, born about 1830, and whose father was also a gymnast, says the Boston Herald. Blondin's notoriety in this country was achieved principally by his crossing Niagara Falls on a tight rope, which remarkable feat he first accomplished in 1859. The next year he performed the more astonishing deed of carrying a man across on his shoulders. This man was Mr. Harry Colcord, an artist, who is still living, and gives this account of the perilous affair:

"It was in the year 1858, and while I was still a mere boy, that I became tired of sailor life and came to Boston to look for something to do on shore. Shortly after my arrival in this city I made the acquaintance of Blondin, the tight-rope walker, who was a member of the Franconia troupe, which included Martinetti and the famous Ravels. Having some natural artistic talent, I became through the influence of Blondin, their scenic painter, and we travelled about the country with varying success until the beginning of February, 1860 when the troupe reached Cincinnati and disbanded.

"It was then that Blondin, who had been seen and been greatly impressed with the beauties of Niagara, conceived the idea of crossing the great cataract on a tight rope. He asked me what I thought of making the journey across the falls

ON HIS BACK.

"At first I thought he was joking, but, on his assuring me that he was in earnest, I consented to accompany him, and together we started for Niagara to complete arrangements for the proposed feat.

"We experienced no little trouble in obtaining the necessary permits to extend the rope. But finally we succeeded in getting them for a man named Porter, on the American side, and went to work. Blondin wanted to carry the rope from Terrapin tower and across to David's Hotel, which would have led us over the Horseshoe Falls, through the mist and spray of the great cataract.

"These arrangements were strongly condemned, because people said the spray would keep the rope damp and Blondin was sure to fall. So we stretched the rope from 'White's Pleasure Ground,' across to Clifton House.

"The rope was 2,000 feet long. It was of manilla, three inches in diameter, made in a New York ropewalk in two pieces. Blondin joined them with a long splice, which, when the rope was extended, was in the centre of the span. It took us nearly five months to stretch the rope and get the guy lines in place.

"The rope was 250 feet above water at its lowest point. There were 75,000 feet of guy line attached to the rope. Each guy was weighted with a 10-pound sandbag to drop them out of the way of Blondin's balance pole, and in putting them up the ropewalker crossed the span a score of times.

"At last, we were ready to make the perilous journey, and it having been advertised through the newspapers that I was to ride on Blondin's back, I became the subject of all kinds of adverse criticisms. Indeed, I was ready to back out of my agreement, when Blondin began to taunt me to such an extent that I finally decided that nothing could deter me from making the journey.

"Meantime Blondin had coached me as to what I should do. I was to put my weight on his shoulders only with my arms, and clasp his body about with my legs. But I could not put my weight on his legs, as that would encumber his movements. I had to keep all my weight

ON HIS SHOULDERS.

"In July, 1860, everything being ready, I took my place on Blondin's back, and we started to cross the rope. We began the descent from the Canadian side of the rope, and by reason of the fact that I had to bear my weight on Blondin's shoulders and could only use my arms to support myself, frequent rests were necessary. I told Blondin when I wanted to rest and then dropped down on one side and waited until my arms were relieved, when I would spring up again, using my arms to lift and hold myself in place.

"There was a great crowd present, but I did not see it at first. From my place on Blondin's back I could look out to the American side and see below the stunted pines, thrusting their sharp points up from the edge of the foaming, roaring waters, ready to split us in two if we fell. I remember that I was anxious to get over and I recall, too, that the great rope before us swung alarmingly from side to side. We afterward ascertained that the rope had been swinging 40 feet at the centre.

We afterward found out that it was done intentionally, and the rope was stopped in its swing.

"Blondin stopped and his pole went from side to side in a vain effort to enable him to secure his balance. At one time his pole was up and down on the right side, at another up and down on the left, and I recall now with wonder that I was only curious to know whether he would succeed in gaining control of himself or not.

"Failing to get his balance he started to run across

THE HORRIBLE SPAN.

and in safety reached the point where the guy rope came from the American shore. Then to steady himself, Blondin put his foot on the guy rope and tried to stop, but the guy snapped, and with a dash of speed he ran swiftly twenty-five or thirty feet further and said, 'Descendez, vous!'

"The perspiration now stood out on his neck and shoulders in great beads and we balanced ourselves on the swaying rope. Presently he said, 'Allons,' and I raised myself to his shoulders, and we went on safely and without accident toward the shore.

"It was not, however, until we landed that I appreciated what had been done. Then it occurred to me that the man who had pulled the guy line was one of those who had bet that the feat could never be accomplished, and my indignation mastered any reactionary feeling of fear.

"You see, many thousands of dollars were bet upon the ability of Blondin to carry a man over, and human cupidity stops at no sacrifice. Then came the congratulations and praises of pluck and the rest of it, so that in my foolish, boyish elation I soon forgot everything else.

"I shall never forget the wonderful tableau, which the 100,000 people presented as they stood gazing up at us as we approached the shore. Thousands of them turned their faces away, or half turning, cast anxious glances over their shoulders, as we drew near the bank. Then the crowd became very much excited, and surged toward us, and Blondin stopped, fearing they would push each other over the bank.

"When the crowd was still again Blondin started once more, and with a quick run we soon came to the end of the rope and sprang to the ground. Cheer after cheer then went up, and I was seized in the arms of a man who lifted me high in the air, saying, 'Thank God, this terrible feat is over!'

"Would you have crossed again?" "I crossed again, twice, the last time under the patronage of the Prince of Wales. He congratulated us, and gave us each a purse of \$100. I would not make the same journey now for all the wealth in the world."

THE DEEDS OF A HERO

THE BRAVEST MAN SIR HENRY CHADS EVER CAME ACROSS.

Exploits of a Wandering American Seaman Named Reed, as Seen by a British Naval Officer—Hand-to-Hand Fights with Pirates.

Sir Henry Chads, a well-known English naval officer of the early part of the century, was wont to say that, of all the many brave men he had met in the course of a career which for thirty years had been a series of hard fights, dangerous expeditions, and exciting events, the bravest was an American sailor named Reed.

Chads used to distinguish between courage and bravery, holding that one was a mental and the other a physical characteristic, and he credited Reed with the physical quality. It may be asserted that he was qualified to judge, for he was himself a man of undaunted temperament and could fight a losing battle as well as a winning one.

Those who are familiar with the history of the Constitution may recollect the fight between that vessel and the Java. The Java was the inferior in weight of metal and tonnage to the extent of about one-fourth, and when her Captain was killed Chads, then a Lieutenant, fought her bravely, despite the hopelessness of the attempt, until she was a helpless log. Commodore Bainbridge, who was as gallant a gentleman as he was a brave and skillful seaman, returned to Chads the sword just surrendered, and complimented him on the quarter deck of the Constitution, on the magnificent defence made his crew and himself.

Reed, the man who commended himself to Chads by his

SUPERB PHYSICAL COURAGE, had been, it appears, a gunner on board of the Constitution during the fight with the Java. Some years after he turned up in the East Indies where Chads was then stationed in command of a British frigate, the Andromache. How Reed came to be on board the Andromache is not exactly plain, but that he must have signalized himself in some way is evident, for when Chads was designated by the Indian Government to take charge of an expedition against the swarms of Malay pirates who at that time infested the Straits of Malacca and the adjacent waters, Reed held the rank of bo'sun's mate, and was one of Chads's crew.

The Straits at that time swarmed with pirates. No unconvoyed vessel was safe, and attacks upon and looting of small trading settlements on the mainland were not uncommon. There was no Admiralty Court at Singapore, and all legislation regarding the Straits Settlements had to emanate from the Bengal Government, at that time notoriously and shamefully inefficient; consequently piracy had practically a free hand. When Chads arrived at Penang he laid his plans, which necessarily consisted in the main of boat expeditions starting from a point on the mainland called the Ding-dings.

The first-boat expedition was made up of a pinnace and two cutters very well

manned and armed. Reed was chief gunner on the pinnace, which carried a 12-pound cannonade. Nothing came of his first expedition, and a second, much the same in make-up as the first, was despatched when the Andromache anchored off the Arroy Islands, and it was here that in a succession of

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTS of the most desperate kind the American sailor earned Chads's entourage. The pinnace had separated from the cutters and the jollyboat and entered a small creek which proved to have no outlet save the one by which the pinnace entered. A short way up stream, nance entered. Two large proas were encountered fully manned and armed, and a sharp fire of grape and langridge saluted the pinnace. The first discharge bowled Gore, in command, over and knocked Reed's cap off; but although the two proas swept off to the right, the pinnace with the infant of boarding, Reed held his fire till; collision seemed unavoidable. But in the nick of time, just when the gun could rake the foremost proa end by end, the cool sailor or trained and fired. The slaughter was tremendous. The proa slewed around and the pinnace crashed into her, cutting her clear in two amidships, and the water was alive with her crew. With astonishing rapidity, Reed had reloaded with langridge, and as the second proa came on he raked her about three-fourths on end for end.

Just then a fresh danger threatened, for the second proa passed so close that at least twenty Malays were able to leap aboard the pinnace. The fight was short and sharp. O'Callaghan, a midshipman, second in command reported afterward that Reed had saved his life by intercepting a kris-trust meant for him while himself hotly engaged with a Malay. Evidently the American was not satisfied with one antagonist. This first boarding attack repelled, the proa was boarded, and here occurred one instance of Reed's singular bravery. A Malay, as he jumped overboard, grappled a seaman whose name is unrecorded and dragged him over with him. Now a Malay is as much at home in the water, as a shark and every whit as

CRUEL AND DESPERATE.

Reed heard the sailor's yell, and in two steps was over after the pair. O'Callaghan's account is as follows: "The three were separate on reaching the surface, and the Malay made for the man he had dragged over. But Reed was close by, with no weapon but his clasp knife, which was as yet unopened. Raising himself in the water, Reed dealt the savage a blow with his fist that turned the man over. Following up his advantage, he grappled him around the body with his left arm, pinning the Malay's right arm and kris, and got a death hold on the throat with the right hand. Then ensued a short but awful struggle, during which the Malay was slowly but surely choked to death. It was a strange combat, but thrilling beyond words. It was white pluck and strength against savage desperation, and the Malay went under."

The scene when Reed got back to the vessel was enthusiastic enough. Reed's name was slated for special mention in the despatch sent to Calcutta announcing the first encounter with the pirates, and a purse was given him by the Deputy Commissioner accompanying the force. From this onward through the four months that the expedition lasted Reed's name occurs constantly in Chads's and O'Callaghan's letters. In attacking three proas, in a boat expedition, and being forced to land in pursuit of the panleemahs or Captain of the piratical craft, he is reported to have captured one of them alive in a hand-to-hand fight. When asked why he risked his life in endeavoring to take the desperado alive instead of cutting him down his answer was as follows:

"I saw the fellow stuffing a lot of things into his loin cloth as we boarded the third proa, and I noticed the peculiar shape of his kris and

A BROAD GOLD BANGLE, and taking him to be a chief, I guessed he'd be more valuable alive than dead."

To the credit of Reed's perspicacity it must be said that commissions from the Rajahs, of Rho, Johore, and Salangore were found in the waistband of this chief, thus proving to the satisfaction of the Calcutta authorities that the native rajahs were accessories before the deed of all the piratical acts he had for years made trading along the Singapore coast a hazardous occupation.

The last thing that can be learned of Reed is that on the pay-off and discharge of the Andromache's crew he wandered northwest. Chads would have taken him home as body-servant, but, apparently, such a life was too much for his spirit. What became of him, where he laid his bones, or what fresh deeds of valor fell to his lot before joining his fellow Berperkers in Valhalla cannot be recorded, but if ever a fair share of fighting, and magnificent fighting at that, fell to one man's lot, it fell to the share of the unknown Reed.

FROM THE FIRST.

The French-Canadian in Quebec finds matrimony expensive at the very beginning, whatever it may be afterward. On the evening of the wedding day there is a supper and a dance at the bride's new home. When the guests rise from the table the bride keeps her seat, and some one asks, with great dignity:

"Why does madam wait? Is she so soon in bad grace?"

She replies: "Somebody has stolen my slipper; I cannot walk." They carry her, chair and all, into the middle of the room, while a loud knocking announces a grotesque, ragged vendor of boots and shoes. He kneels before the slipperless bride and tries on a long succession of old boots and shoes of every variety and size, until at last he finds her missing shoe.

The groom redeems it for a good price, which is spent in treating the company. All this is according to the regular programme. But if the groom be not watchful they steal the bride's hat and cloak, which he must redeem in the same way, and they have been known to steal the bride, for which there must be a liberal pay.

The church forbids round dances, so they content themselves with contra dances. The event of the evening is the jig, in which a guest volunteers to outdance the bride. If successful the visitor demands a prize from the groom.

A REAL LIVE DOLL BABY.

Wrapped Up in Flannels and with Clothing and All It Weighs Only 2 1/2 Pounds.

Kansas city has the honor of being the birth place of what is probably the smallest baby in the world. With all of its clothing on and wrapped in a thick flannel blanket it only weighs two and a half pounds. The child was born a week ago. The baby, small as it is, seems to be as healthy and well-developed as the noisiest of ten-pound affairs.

The infant is the daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Chandler. They have had several children and all have been of normal size except on one occasion, when Mrs. Chandler gave birth to triplets. They averaged a little over four pounds each. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Chandler can understand why it is that this child is so small when all of the other children, save the triplets, weighed from eight to ten pounds. It is a mystery which neither will attempt to explain.

There was consternation in the Chandler household on the night when Dr. B. F. O'Daniel brought this tiny young lady into the world. It was so puny that he did not think such an insignificant bit of flesh and blood could possibly "make a live of it."

The baby, in a weak, plaintive voice, protested its right to a living, and care was taken of it accordingly. It was fed for three days on catnip tea, but now it receives its mother's milk from a doll's play spoon, the mouth being so small that it cannot take nourishment in the old-fashioned way. Dolls' clothes have been bought, and a pillow is the cradle. The physician hopes to bring the child up to be as large as any girl wants to be. The arms and legs are hardly three inches long and are about the size of a slate pencil.

RECITATION OF THE MERITS OF AYER'S Cherry Pectoral. Includes illustration of a woman in a long dress and text describing the medicine's benefits for coughs and throat issues.

Here in Ottawa Irresistible Proof That There is a Cure for Diabetes. Includes text from a testimonial by Charles McKinnon, dated April 1896, and contact information for Charles McKinnon, Implement Agent.

The D. & L. Emulsion. Advertisement for a fish liver oil emulsion, highlighting its health benefits and availability in various forms.

Farmers Won't Do without Implements. Advertisement for Frost & Wood, Wilkinson, Maxwell, and other well-known manufacturers of farm implements.

Charles McKinnon, IMPLEMENT AGENT, UPPER TOWN, DURHAM. Advertisement for various farm implements and services.

Durham Tannery. Robe Tanning. Horse Hides, Cow Hides, Dog SKINS, Etc., Tanned Suitable for ROBES and COATS by the new process, which for Finish and Softness can't be beat.

EDGE PROPERTY FOR SALE IN THE TOWN OF DURHAM. Includes details about the property and contact information for A. Gordon, Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Spectacles.

NOTES AND COMMENTS. If Herod had been also a politician with a trust in census he would have set up school in a less offensive method of carrying his deadly purpose. A German of figures, an abstract of which lugubrious essay has been without dissent or criticism in a medical journal, maintaining that a cause of early death in emm comments have been made discovery and much sympathy for future generations that deliberate choice between ignorance and fatal education. Rousseau declared against civilization. "Revert," he exclaimed, "to the natural state of abandon all the conditions of civilization and throw off its restraints and manners; go back to the savage state and retrieve that belongs to the natural conclusion of the German, is virtually the same, his so being the census report, what all students of long civilized, where education there are fewer extremely reported in the census tries where there is wideance among the people. England and Germany with population of 78,000,000, centenarians, according to returns, while the country kan Peninsula, with a population of 10,000,000 have 5542 centenarians, according to same relation is found between the enlightened and ant nations of all Europe also, the pauper class is an extraordinary number of old people.