

A CHANCE FOR SCHAEFER.

DALY WON'T PLAY HIM, BUT GEORGE SLOSSON IS WILLING.

The Question of Handicapping in Billiards—Crossed Changes in the National Amateurs' Association—There's to Be a Finely Drawn Definition of an Amateur—Minor Sporting Notes.

Jacob Schaefer, the billiardist, has written a long letter to the editor of the Boston Herald, in which he explains why he would not enter a billiard tournament with a handicap in lines instead of points, such as was proposed here a short time ago and fell through because Schaefer would not enter. He winds up the letter with a shot at Maurice Daly and an offer to come to New York and play Daly 14-inch ball-line billiards for \$5,000 a side, giving Daly 1,000 points in 5,000. Jake also says he will play Mr. Daly the cushion carrom game. "Oh, Jake is only in one of his tantrums again," said Mr. Daly yesterday. "He has let himself loose occasionally for a long time, and for some reason known only to himself he has picked me out the last three or four times he has spotted. Jake knows very well that I will not play him, no matter what odds he offers. I have not the time to practise and I don't care about playing him any way. But if he is anxious to make a match with some one I know a man who will accommodate him."

"Who is that?" "George Slosson. He is in good form and can give Schaefer all he wants in the 14-inch ball-line game. I would like to see these two men meet and settle the question of superiority once for all."

Mr. Slosson, when interviewed at his parlor in Broadway, said: "Well, I am willing to make a match with Schaefer for play fourteen-inch ball-line billiards, 600 points up, for \$500 a side, the game to be played in New York City in thirty or forty days from day of signing articles, or in any reasonable time. If Schaefer will arrange a match on these terms I will post my \$500 with the Spirit of the Times or any other reputable newspaper immediately. The winner of the match will, of course, take the entire receipts clear of expenses."

Here is a chance for Schaefer, if he feels disposed to play a match game of billiards with a billiardist who claims to be his equal, if not his superior in the fourteen-inch ball-line game. The proceeds of the house such an event would draw would be at least \$1,500, and should Jake be victorious he would be fully \$2,000 better off and would decide a question in which lovers of this game are extremely interested. Mr. Slosson takes exceptions to Schaefer's statements regarding the handicapping of players in lines in a tournament, instead of in points. He says that he has tried handicapping in lines and found that this has the advantage of allowing the contestants to be an equal time at the table and permits big runs to be made. This, Mr. Slosson says, is the beauty of a tournament. Handicapping in points, making the game even on the table, allows the best players to make the high runs and shuts out the others.

It was two to one on McAuflie last night on the result of his fight with Meyer.

Next Monday evening the National Cross-Country Association will meet to vote on changes in the constitution of the organization, which were prepared last evening by the Executive Committee. It is the intention of this body to declare itself independent of both the Amateur Athletic Union and the National Association of Amateur Athletes of America, and to make its rules govern cross-country running in this country. It proposes to allow any amateur to compete in its competitions, but a man must be an amateur ac-

ording to its own interpretation of the meaning of the word to be eligible to its runs, and its rules as to what an amateur will be even more finely drawn than that of the Amateur Athletic Union. Its change of constitution will be almost an entire revision, and practically a new constitution and laws will be subjected to the approval of the members.

The American Athletic Club will postpone its Washington's Birthday cross-country run so as to allow its members to enter the run of the Pastime Athletic Club.

Skater Joe Donoghue received a cordial welcome on his arrival in the city yesterday, and will meet with a more demonstrative one at his home in Newburg to-night. He will leave for Newburg with members of the Manhattan Athletic Club at 6 p. m. Joe expects to enter the long deferred skating championship of the National Skating Association and show his friends here what he can do after his trip.

Maurice Daly's annual handicap amateur billiard tournament is still in progress even-ings, at his billiard parlors, 321 Washington street, Brooklyn. Arthur Townsend and W. Barnard were the yesterday for first place. The other contestants are Dr. Dentley, George Fogarty and George Molten.

There is some talk in billiard circles of a match game between A. Townsend and O. Orville. Both men are amateurs, Orville having won the amateur championship for two years. Maurice Daly will give a prize as an inducement for the men to come together.

The twenty-seven-hour race, which ended at Watertown, Conn., Sunday night, was won by Peter Hegelman, the pedestrian, who covered 141 miles. Dan Malone was second, with 136 miles; George Connors third, 135 miles, and Norman Taylor, the six-ester from Vermont, fourth, with 125 miles. Happy Jack Smith was referee. Hegelman's 40 per cent. of the money distributed among the pedestrians was \$68.

A twenty-seven-hour go-as-you-please race will probably start at Bridgeport, Conn., on Friday.

The fight of twenty rounds between Ike Weir and Frank Murphy in March, will decide who is entitled to the disputed Police Gazette diamond-studded belt representing the championship of America in the feather-weight class of pugilists.

George French, of 296 Mercer street, writes to THE EVENING WORLD that he will be at the Police Gazette office this afternoon, ready to meet Joe Hopkins of New Jersey, or his backers, and arrange a battle with skin gloves for \$200 to \$300. Hopkins has challenged French at 135 pounds.

Joe Glassey, who was recently defeated by Frank Donovan, was tendered a benefit at Hudson Hall, Hoboken, last evening. The hall was packed with men. Among the boxers who appeared were Cal McCarthy and Billy Clarkson, Jack Dhan and Young Shay, Billy Dacey and Jack Delaney, Pete McCabe and Tommy Russell, Andy Drumm and Pete Davis, Burns and Billy Walsh. This, Mr. Slosson says, is the beauty of a tournament. Handicapping in points, making the game even on the table, allows the best players to make the high runs and shuts out the others.

Ben Hyam's offer, cabled from London, will make much talk in America and may result in an interesting pugilistic event. Ben says: "If four out of five of the undermentioned men will stake \$200 each, viz., Sullivan, Smith, Kitrain, Mitchell and Jackson—to a box with ordinary gloves four rounds of three minutes each, and the final of five rounds, on Friday, at Agricultural Hall, I will add \$2,000, to be divided as follows: First prize, \$1,500; second, \$700; and third, \$300. \$200 each to be made to the Sportsman not later than March 1."

CHANGES AT THE THEATRES.

THERE WERE MANY FOR THE PLAY-GOERS OF LAST NIGHT.

Kiraly Had a New Barletaque at Niblo's—"Later On" Presented at the Star—Nannie Mitchell Appeared in "Ray"—Annie Pixley Transferred to the Windsor—What the Brooklynites Saw.

Disappointment over the first act was succeeded by growing interest and applause as Boissav Kiraly's brilliant spectacular production of "The Water Queen" gradually unfolded itself at Niblo's last night. Even more elaborate than the usual Kiraly displays are the ballets and marches in this piece of fairyland realism, and the effects are heightened by marvellous scenic transformations. Of the people who appear in the cast Helen Sedgwick, as Ida, a nymph of the Rhine, found greatest favor with the audience for her songs and graceful dances. Hattie Grinnell was the Queen, a gracious and lovely one. The premiere danseuse of the ballet was Mile. Paris, and other solo dancers were Capellini and Milos, Rose, Konrat and Nicole. The interpolated pieces, including those of the Herbert Brothers, gymnasts, and the musical clown, were of much merit.

An alleged original farce-comedy, for which Al Gratton Donnelly stands sponsor, was made the medium for a display of some ability and much agility by Messrs. Hallen and Hart and their company at the Star Theatre last evening. The plot of the piece, if there is one, is of the flimsiest and craziest description and all the aplomb and movement was caused by variety show dancing, singing and horse play. Hallen and his musical dog, Catwawa, in Hart with his harp and the most farcical eho-cho-ut with a vivacity of which the audience never tired; and Miss George Parker, who seems to have been born with a hinge in her back, and with her legs strung on wires around intense enthusiasm for her dancing. The audience stayed until the end, and the performance looked as if they thought they had had a good time.

FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE. "Ray" was presented for the first time in this city last night at the Fourteenth Street Theatre, with Miss Maggie Mitchell in the title role. The play is a comedy, and is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE. Miss Minnie Palmer drew an enormous audience to the Grand Opera-House last night and appeared in "Lord Cromley," a play in which she was supported by a very good cast. The play is a comedy, and is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one.

WINDSOR THEATRE. At the Windsor Theatre Miss Annie Pixley presented "The Deacon's Daughter" last night. The play is a comedy, and is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one.

THEATRE COMIQUE. At the Theatre Comique, Harlem, Frank Daniels, a popular actor, appeared last night in his play "The Deacon's Daughter," which is a dramatization of Annet's topey-turpy story, "The Deacon's Daughter," and is a very good one.

TONY PASTOR'S. Harry Kernell's excellent company pleased the patrons of Tony Pastor's Theatre last night. The play is a comedy, and is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one.

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Kernell is deservedly popular, and his variety character is of an unusually interesting nature. Frank Daniels is a popular actor, and his play "The Deacon's Daughter" is a very good one. It is a comedy, and is a very good one.

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Vine, including the trials of the infant wife and the final recognition in the disguise of a nurse, who cannot long remain absent from her children, is splendidly portrayed by Miss Gray. She is a pain-taking actress, and in emotional parts develops rare histrionic ability. East Lynne will be given every evening and at all the matinees during the week to crowded houses.

Lovers of the sensational drama, dressed in an antiquated and interesting style, had their fill last evening at Holmes' Standard Museum. The Banquet started off and afforded a realistic view of the most interesting of the past. In the cast are George E. Atkins, Edith Collins and William Cattel. On Thursday the company will present "The Man Hunter," and at the "track of the rifle and the wholen of the red man will be heard as the perils of earlier pioneer life are depicted.

The week opened at Zipp's Casino last evening with a remarkably strong programme, each act being a specialty and giving entire satisfaction to the vast audience that was present. Everything on the long bill is fresh and attractive, and the programme is well planned. The principal attraction is the "Clippie from Over the Water," which is the natural order. From the beginning to the end of the concert at Zipp's there is unflagging interest, and the great family resort is still the popular resort of Brooklyn.

A strong engagement will be played by Col. John A. McCall's Opera Company next week at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where they will present a sensational revival of that delightful opera of Giuseppe Verdi, "Bohemia." All the favorites will be in the cast, including Laura Moore, Giovanni Battista, Luigi Jovine, Bell, Myers, Josephine, Ryan, and Wolf Hopper. Digby Bell, Charles W. Dungan, Jefferson de Armas and Edmund Stanley. The production will be under the direction of Mme. Mathilde Cottrell, which fact speaks for itself.

The New York Reed Club. Musical circles in New York are greatly interested in the announcement of the organization of the New York Reed Club, which will shortly give a series of concerts for the performance of music on wooden wind instruments. Mr. Louis Melbourne is the manager, and the artists are E. H. Sothern, F. H. Sothern, T. Heilberg, bassoon. Music of this character has never before been heard in New York under the direction of Mme. Mathilde Cottrell, which fact speaks for itself.

Coming Events. The employees of Harper & Bros., reception and ball at Lexington Avenue Opera-House, Monday, March 4. Twenty-sixth season Sparkling Cotie, reception and ball, Tuesday evening, Feb. 26, Metropolitan Opera House. Reception of the National Association of Arlington Hall, 19 to 23 St. Mark's place, this evening.

Reception of the Independence Council No. 10, at the Metropolitan Opera House, Saturday evening, Feb. 19, at the Cafe Loggia. A banquet will precede the dancing. First annual invitation masquerade ball of the Metropolitan Opera House, Saturday evening, Feb. 19, at the Cafe Loggia. A banquet will precede the dancing.

A Terrible Misfortune. It is a calamity of the direst kind to feel that one's physical energies are failing in the prime of life—to feel more nervous, more dispirited, weaker every day. This is the unhappy lot of hundreds who surround us. A source of renewed strength which science approves, in behalf of which multitudes of the debilitated have and are every day testifying, and which, in countless instances, has built up constitutions sapped by weakness and infirmity and long unbenefited by other means, surely commends itself to all who need a tonic. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is such a medicine—pure, botanic, soothing to the nerves, promoter of digestion and a fertilizer of the blood. Dyspepsia and nervousness—the first cause, the second a consequence of lack of stamina—depart when a course of the Bitters is tried. All forms of neuralgia, rheumatism, kidney and bladder troubles, constipation and biliousness are annihilated by this standard family medicine.

of about fourteen-horse power giving a rapidity of at least six feet a second. In this struggle of inventors endeavoring to discover a light and powerful motor the Americans came nearest to attaining the desired combination. An electric apparatus based on the use of a new battery, the composition of which was as yet unknown, had been purchased by the Weldon Club from the inventor, a chemist of Boston. Calculations made with the greatest care and diagrams executed with the greatest exactitude demonstrated that with this apparatus, driven by a propeller of suitable size, a speed of from eighteen to twenty feet a second might be produced. This invention was extraordinary.

And it is not dear, Uncle Prudent had remarked, as he looked at the receipt for the last instalment of \$100,000 that he had just paid the inventor. The Weldon Club immediately applied itself to work. Whenever money is needed to develop a matter of practical utility the American pockets are quickly opened, and in this case the fund was quickly subscribed. Three hundred thousand dollars came promptly from the members of the club at the first call. The work commenced at once under the supervision of the most celebrated aeronaut of the United States, Harry W. Tucker, immortalized by Nadar. In the first of these he had risen to a height which almost doubled that attained by either Gay-Lussac, Cuwvell, Sivel, Tissandier or Spinnell. In the second he crossed the United States from New York to San Francisco, Godard or any one else, excepting John Wise.

The third trip had been terminated by a frightful fall of fifteen hundred feet, which only resulted in a slight sprain, while De Koster, less fortunate, only fell from a height of seven hundred feet, and, landing on his head, was instantly killed. The Weldon Club pushed the work forward vigorously, and in a short time a monster balloon floated in a field in the suburbs of the city. The operation of testing had been performed by filling it with air, under a strong pressure, and it stood the trial nobly and proved worthy of the title monster. The balloon owned by the celebrated John Wise had a capacity of twenty thousand cubic feet and the Gifford balloon twenty-five thousand feet. Compared these two balloons with that of the one just constructed by the Weldon Club, containing forty thousand cubic feet, and you will find that Uncle Prudent and his colleagues might be pardoned for swelling with pride.

This balloon was not intended to explore the highest strata of the air, and consequently was not called "Excelsior," a name which stands high in favor among the Americans. It was named the "Go Ahead," and all that remained was for it to prove itself worthy of the name by obeying every command of its captain. In six weeks the "Go Ahead" would take its first flight through space. It has been seen that all the details of the mechanism had not as yet been thoroughly decided upon. Meetings of the club had been called to discuss, not the shape nor dimensions of the propeller, but whether it should be placed in the rear of the apparatus, like that used by

Answers to Correspondents. P. D. Q.—We cannot answer any of your questions in the affirmative. J. M. B.—The standard wages for car drivers of conductors is \$2 per day, and the law says they shall not work more than ten hours.

M. A. G.—Your dream is probably among the thousands received per day, and the law says they shall not work more than ten hours.

The Agricultural Portfolio. It would be a good idea for Mr. Harrison to put Farmer Hayes in his Cabinet.

Brooklyn Amusements. Brooklyn Academy of Music. Feb. 18. McCaull Opera Company. Presenting their Grand Production of "BOCCACCIO."

MR. NAT. C. GOODWIN. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights TURNED UP AND LIND ME FIVE SHILLINGS.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE. Every Evening, Wednesday and Saturday Matinees. Madison Square Theatre Co. in "Partners."

AMPHION ACADEMY. Every Evening, Wednesday and Saturday Matinees. Madison Square Theatre Co. in "Partners."

ZIPP'S CASINO. HUBER & GERHARDT. Proprietors. This week's bill includes "The Storm," "The Kotho," "The Night of the Storm," "The Storm," "The Storm."

HOLMES' STANDARD MUSEUM. THIS WEEK—MATINEES DAILY. THE RANCHMAN & THE MAN HUNTER.

PROCTOR'S THEATRE. (LATE NOVELTY.) ADA GRAY IN EAST LYNNE.

AMUSEMENTS. CANINO. BROADWAY AND 30TH ST. NADY. (EVENINGS AT 7.)

THE GRAND MUSEUM. MENAGERIE AND THEATRE. 345 and 347 Grand St. Top of the Grand Hotel, Washington, Spinning, Meads, Allons, Wild Beasts, Devil Fish, Moral Drama, Ten Nights of the Sign of the Cross.

EDEN MUSEUM. THE RUSSIANS. 30c. WAX PEOPLE—ERLEBY NAGEL'S "WAX AND RATTLE." Open day and evening, 10TH ST. GOTTENBURG. Children only 25c.

AMUSEMENTS. HARRIGAN'S PARK THEATRE. Proprietor EDWARD HARRIGAN. MR. EDWARD HARRIGAN'S PETE. TRULY NATURAL CHARACTER ACTING OF WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY.

"BABY BUNTING." The Smallest Living Prince of Monaco. The Smallest Perfect Woman and the OMSIFIED MAN. 14th St. Museum, 14th St.

NIBLO'S. HOFFMANN KIRALY'S WATER QUEEN. MATINEE TO-MORROW AND SATURDAY. MADISON SQUARE THEATRE. Sole Manager MRS. A. J. WALSH. 14th St. 14th St. CAPTAIN SWIFT. To Jim the 30th. PALMER'S THEATRE. LAST WEEK OF THE MRS. POTTER BELLEVUE. In ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. FEBRUARY 18—TWO WEEKS ENGAGEMENT. COGNIGNI-HADING. MRS. POTTER BELLEVUE.

THE TIGRESS. 5TH AVE. THEATRE. MRS. LANGTRY. Mon., Tues. & Wed. 3 performances of Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Mat. LIKE IT.

STANDARD THEATRE. Saturday Matinee at 2. PEARL. RUE A DIXIE'S OPERA CO. PERKIN. LOUIS HARRIS ON. BROADWAY THEATRE. Corner 11th & 12th St. LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY. Matinee, Wednesday and Saturday at 2. ADMISSION 50c.

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ACADEMY. THE HOMESTEAD. 25c, 50c, 75c, 81c. MAT. WED. & SAT. H. J. JACOBS' (THALIA). 14th St. MADISON SQUARE THEATRE. Sole Manager MRS. A. J. WALSH. 14th St. 14th St. CAPTAIN SWIFT. To Jim the 30th. PALMER'S THEATRE. LAST WEEK OF THE MRS. POTTER BELLEVUE. In ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. FEBRUARY 18—TWO WEEKS ENGAGEMENT. COGNIGNI-HADING. MRS. POTTER BELLEVUE.

STAR THEATRE. Matinee, Wednesday and Saturday. HALEN & HART. 14th St. WINDSOR THEATRE. Miss Annie Pixley. 14th St. H. J. JACOBS' THIRD AVENUE THEATRE. Matinee, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. 14th St. KATE ALFRED. 14th St. HART. ALFRED. 14th St. HART. ALFRED. 14th St.

THEATRE COMIQUE. 125th St. at 3d & 4th Aves. NADY. (EVENINGS AT 7.) MATINEE FRIDAY AT 2. Admission 50c. Seats reserved 2 weeks in advance. THE GRAND MUSEUM. MENAGERIE AND THEATRE. 345 and 347 Grand St. Top of the Grand Hotel, Washington, Spinning, Meads, Allons, Wild Beasts, Devil Fish, Moral Drama, Ten Nights of the Sign of the Cross.

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THE CONQUEST OF THE AIR.

A Record of the Wonderful Cruise of the "Albatross."

By JULES VERNE.

Author of "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," "A Trip to the Moon," "Around the World in Eighty Days," &c.

A PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION. SPECIAL CABLE TO THE EVENING WORLD. PARIS, Feb. 8, 1899. I have just obtained written authority from Jules Verne for the publication of "The Conquest of the Air" in THE EVENING WORLD. This extraordinary story should rank as Verne's masterpiece. PARIS CORRESPONDENT EVENING WORLD.

Profusely Illustrated by "Evening World" Artists.

SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTER I.

The civilized world is agitated over the appearance of some celestial body which appears in different parts of the globe at irregular intervals. The sound of a trumpet is occasionally heard coming from it. Scientists are at a loss to account for the strange phenomenon, but a Chinese Professor announces it to be a flying machine, which is seen by others. It is seen in various high places in Europe and America in turn, and a strange body resembling a pavilion of black silk studded with stars, and a golden sun in the centre.

CHAPTER II.

A LIVELY AND REMARKABLE DISCUSSION AT THE WELDON CLUB, OF PHILADELPHIA.

"No one can dispute it." "No! But we shall and do dispute it in spite of your threats." "Be careful what you say, Bat Fyn."

"Take care of yourself, Uncle Prudent." "I insist that the screw should be placed behind!" "So do we! So do we!" responded fifty voices together.

"No; it should be in the front," cried Phil Evans.

"In front! In front!" shouted fifty voices no less vigorously.

"We still hold our convictions and always shall," replied the other fifty.

"Then what is the use of disputing?" "It is not a dispute—it is a discussion."

For a good quarter of an hour these retorts and vociferous yells had filled the drawing-room of the celebrated Weldon Club, situated on Walnut street, in the city of Philadelphia.

On the night in question the inhabitants were on the eve of the election of the Mayor; there had been public manifestations, excited meetings, and blows had even been exchanged between the members of the different parties. The members of the Weldon Club had doubtless participated in the struggle and were still charged with the excitement. Their present meeting, however, was only a simple reunion of "balloonists," discussing a question which, to them, was most momentous—the steering or guiding of balloons. These proceedings were transpiring in a city which is neither a port nor a mining or petroleum centre—city larger than either Berlin, Manchester, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Vienna, St. Petersburg or Dublin—a city which possesses a park larger than the seven parks of London combined; in short, a city which comprises over a million souls and which is the fourth city of the world.

A visit to the Weldon Club the night of the 12th of June would have been well worth the trouble. In the large hall debating,

position. Among them the most implacable was Phil Evans, the Secretary of the Weldon Club.

Phil Evans, in his antagonism was certainly not necessary for he was the head of the Weldon Watch Company, a concern that makes 500 watch movements a day and whose workmanship is equal, if no superior, to the best Swiss productions. All that he needed to make him supremely happy was that envied position held by Uncle Prudent. They were both about the same age—forty-five, both possessed strong constitutions, both of undoubted courage, and each was inclined to believe that the state of bachelorhood possessed considerable more charms than that of wedlock.

Phil Evans and Uncle Prudent had both been candidates for the presidency of the club and each received the same number of votes. Twenty ballots were taken, which in every instance resulted in a tie.

It was an embarrassing situation and threatened to last as long as either of the candidates lived, but one of the members of the club proposed a means of settling the question.

It was Jean Cip, the treasurer, a confirmed vegetarian, one of that sect who proscribed all animal food and all fermented liquors, a rival of Newman, Pinnau, Ward, Davison and other shining lights of that particular class of inoffensive lunatics.

Jem Cip was supported in his scheme by another member of the club, William T. Forbes, the proprietor of a large glucose manufactory, where sugar was made out of paper and old rags. He was a very sedate and dignified individual, and was the father of two charming young ladies, Miss Dorothy, commonly called Dollie, and Miss Martha.

It is possible, however, that the valiant members of the Weldon Club were willing to admit the steering of balloons, but as regards any other manipulation they drew the line.

The President, well known in Philadelphia, was the famous Uncle Prudent—Prudent being his family name. The prefix Uncle is not surprising in America, where one can be uncle and have neither nephew nor niece.

Uncle Prudent was a personage of considerable importance, and in spite of his name was noted for his recklessness. He was very rich, but this could hardly be called a fault, even in the United States. Besides, how could he help being wealthy, as he was the largest stockholder of the Niagara Falls Company, a company formed for the utilization of the water passing over the falls. The seven thousand five hundred second produced a force equal to seven million horse-power. The revenue from the supply of this enormous force to the manufacturers within a circle of five hundred miles gave a net profit to the company of some three million dollars a year, the larger part of which went into Uncle Prudent's pockets.

Notwithstanding he was frugal in his living and possessed but a single servant, his valet Frycollin, who was as timid as his master was audacious.

Uncle Prudent was rich, and that he had friends goes without saying; but he also had enemies for he was President of the club, and there were a few who envied him his position.

A long black line was drawn on each of

two pieces of white paper. These two lines were precisely the same length, as they had been measured with mathematical exactitude. The papers were to be placed on two tables in the middle of the room, and the two candidates each furnished with a fine needle. They were to approach their own table at the same time, and the candidate who planted his needle nearest the centre of the line would be the acknowledged President of the club.

Uncle Prudent planted his needle at the same time as Phil Evans sunk his. Measurements were taken to decide which had come nearest the centre.

Again matters were brought to a standstill. The two gentlemen had been so precise in

made relative to the guiding or steering of balloons. The attachment of propellers and screws had been attempted in 1852 by Henry Giffard, in 1872 by Dupuy de Lome, in 1883 by the Tissandier brothers, and in 1884 by Capt. Krebs and Renard. But if these machines in an atmosphere heavier than themselves were capable of being steered by a propeller, it was owing to the highly favorable circumstances attending the trial. In a large hall, quiet and close, they were perfect, and in a calm atmosphere favorable results might be shown. But really nothing practical had been attained.

Against a light wind, eight feet to the second, these machines would rest almost stationary.

And it is not dear, Uncle Prudent had remarked, as he looked at the receipt for the last instalment of \$100,000 that he had just paid the inventor. The Weldon Club immediately applied itself to work. Whenever money is needed to develop a matter of practical utility the American pockets are quickly opened, and in this case the fund was quickly subscribed. Three hundred thousand dollars came promptly from the members of the club at the first call. The work commenced at once under the supervision of the most celebrated aeronaut of the United States, Harry W. Tucker, immortalized by Nadar. In the first of these he had risen to a height which almost doubled that attained by either Gay-Lussac,