



ILLUSTRATION OF THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING LANDING ROOM AND COVER FOR AN ARMY IN AEROPLANES.

Nothing could show better the futility of Government Councillor Rudolf Martin's recently expressed idea that Germany could construct 50,000 flying machines for £50,000,000 and, starting these from Calais, could land 100,000 men on the Kentish coast of England within half an hour, than this imaginary illustration of the landing of such an army on British shores. Leaving out of the question the ease with which a compact body of aeroplanes could be damaged by artillery fire, there remains the impossibility of landing such an army in reasonable formation. A Wright aeroplane, for instance, calls for as much room as a section of infantry in close formation, which means that each aeroplane carrying two men would occupy the space of eighty men of an ordinary army. Thus ground that would hold an ordinary army of 4,000,000 men would hold an army of only 100,000 men of an aeroplane corps. Herr Martin's lecture, it need hardly be said, has been received as a welcome contribution to the gaiety of nations. —London Illustrated News.

ANNIVERSARIES IN 1909.

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Calvinism had a large influence in promoting the independence of the United States. Calvin died in Geneva on May 27, 1564.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, like Darwin, was a son of a rector of the Established Church of England. He was born on August 6, 1809, at Somersby, in Lincolnshire. His early life, like that of Haydn, was a battle for a livelihood. Mingled with his poverty was a romance. In 1836 he fell in love with Emily Sarah Sellwood, the sister of his brother Charles's wife. The smallness of his income from the profession of poet was such that there was no prospect of marriage in the near future. The relatives of the young woman forbade her to correspond with him. Still he clung to his art, having no thought of deserting poetry. It was not until 1850, fourteen years after the beginning of his wooing, that he felt financially able to marry. In June of that year appeared "In Memoriam." In the same month he married Miss Sellwood, with whom, he said afterward, "the peace of God came into my life." It was in November of this year that he was appointed poet laureate in succession to Wordsworth. His forty-first year, therefore, was the turning point in his fortunes. He died on October 6, 1892, at the age of eighty-three, and was the second of the men of 1809 to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, the third American of the great group of 1809, was born on August 29 beneath the classic shades of Harvard, at Cambridge, Mass. Two different classes of persons can celebrate his birth with special interest. They are the practitioners of medicine, who owe him something for his essay on a medical subject which had not received proper attention before his time, and the guild of authors, for his contributions of poems and essays. The graceful conversationalist, "The Autocrat," died on October 7, 1894, in Boston, in his eighty-sixth year, almost the last of his great generation.

Dr. Samuel Johnson was born in Lichfield September 18, 1709. He was another of the geniuses of recent centuries who have found that the arts are poor paymasters. The celebrated lexicographer, essayist, critic and conversationalist tasted deeply of the experiences of the men who occupy the City Hall Park benches. He was once arrested for debt. The story of the writing of "Rasselas" in the evenings of a single week for the purpose of paying the expenses of his mother's funeral is a familiar one. His edition of Shakespeare is still published, and his dictionary has received the anathema of the simplified spellers as being the vehicle by means of which much of the ponderous and unphonetic spelling of the English

language was fastened upon succeeding generations of users.

Dr. Johnson's latter days were passed in comfort, and when he died in London, on December 13, 1784, at the age of seventy-five years, his body was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The last of the group of 1809 to enter the scene, and also the last to leave it, was William Ewart Gladstone. He came very near not getting into this great year, for he was born on December 22. Liverpool was the city of his birth. He was born with a silver spoon in his

mouth, his father being a wealthy merchant. Member of Parliament and a baronet, the "Great Commoner" was a Member of Parliament for more than half a century and five times Premier, finishing his career in this office by winning a fight in the House of Commons on the Home Rule bill, in 1894, when eighty-two years old. He died on May 19, 1898, in the eighty-ninth year of his age, and was buried in Statesman's Corner, Westminster Abbey.

A REFLECTION.

"The late Senator Allison," said a Dubuque lawyer, "was a stickler for personal cleanliness, even for personal elegance. There was a quicker way for a man to get on his black boots than to be unshaven, to have the trousers pressed, the boots unpolished.

"We used to have here in Dubuque a decidedly slovenly lawyer. This lawyer appeared one afternoon at a meeting with a rose in his buttonhole. The sight of a rose in the buttonhole of such a sloven excited a good deal of comment.

"I wonder where on earth he got it," said Senator Allison smiling.
"Probably," said he, "it grew there."



A CURIOUS FREAK OF NATURE.

The woman buried in the grave shown above, which is situated at Hanover, is said to have been a professed infidel, and in order to show her aversion to the idea of a resurrection she gave instructions that the following notice should be engraved on her tomb: "This grave has been purchased forever, and no one must dare open it at any time.—Henrietta Juliana Caroline Vonruling, born 9th January, 1756, died

at Hanover, 1782." What man has not dared to do, and while the instruction has been observed as far as the human is concerned, nature has not felt so restricted, but allowed a tiny seed to upset the infidel lady's decree in that a tree has grown out of the grave where she was buried, and has lifted the tombstone as shown in the picture.

—The Tatler.

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