

THE ARIZONA SILVER BELT
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Saturday, May 9, 1891.

Working at the Rapid Transit Problem.
Among the prominent systems which involve the perfecting of modes of traveling by electricity is the portable electric. The exploiters of this system have been steadily carrying on operations for some time at their experimental station in Dorchester. Professor Dolbear, the electrician of the Portelectric company, says that, although theoretically the car can travel on the track at the rate of two miles a minute, the difficulties of the existing conditions prevent the requirement of such a speed. At a recent test to which members of the electrical press were invited the force of these difficulties was made manifest.

A serious hindrance has been the adapting of the car to the compound curve, made of a grade and a curve of short radius, and on the day of the test, besides the unfavorable conditions of track and bearings, defective insulation, coils of too low a resistance and excessive humidity had to be contended with. In spite of these, however, a speed of sixty miles an hour was obtained, and in all probability these drawbacks will all disappear in actual work. The portable electric gives excellent promise of displacing the pneumatic system, especially for long distance work, and when the technical difficulties referred to have been overcome there can be little doubt of the commercial success of the system.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

How to Preserve the Voice.
How to preserve the voice and keep it presumably fresh is almost like asking how to keep from growing old. Some people grow old faster than others because they are imprudent and do not take care of themselves. The voice should not be imposed upon, and instead of growing husky in a decade it should remain comparatively fresh for two and even four decades. Patti's voice is a fine example of one that has never been imposed upon, never forced to sing six nights in a week and once at a matinee.

A grand opera singer should sing only twice a week, perhaps three times if his or her physical condition warrants it. Singers should have plenty of sleep, good appetites, nothing to make them nervous, and, if possible, a more or less phlegmatic disposition. The latter they rarely possess to any great degree. Overwork is death to a voice. A singer will not notice at first the inroads that gradually undermine a voice and leave it an echo of its former sweetness.—Campanini in Ladies' Home Journal.

Having His Own Way.
"Why did you run away from home?" asks Joshua Whitecomb of the ragged young tramp.
"Because I wanted to have my own way."
"Well, you look as though you'd had it," is Whitecomb's sententious reply.

The boy who is eager to have his own way is continually met with, and many times it is an extremely hard way. The tyranny of home is of the mildest sort, he finds, compared with what he has to undergo in endeavoring to have his own way. Many times he falls into evil company, and in imitating their way and making it his own he discovers himself on the way to a reformatory or prison.

Ask the wretched old tramp whom you find sitting on the park bench how he began his downward career, and if he be candid he will tell you it was by trying to have his own way.—Texas Sittings.

Sponge Sculpture.
Sponge would seem to be an unpromising material for a sculptor to work upon, but that a work of art may be chiseled, or rather seenced, from it is proved by a life size statue in sponge now in the sponge department of McKesson & Robbins, wholesale druggists, of New York city. The statue represents a Greek sponge gatherer standing in the bow of a boat, pole in hand, gazing intently through a water telescope at a piece of sponge which he is supposed to be endeavoring to secure. The figure is composed of numerous pieces of what is known as leathery potter's sponge, carefully matched as to color, texture and shape, so that the statue appears to be cut from one large piece of sponge. The artist has done his work well, the face especially being an excellent piece of carving.—Science.

Bones of Chinamen Going Home.
Deep in the hold below sixty square boxes are—much resembling tea chests—covered with Chinese lettering. Each contains the bones of a dead man—bones being sent back to meet into that Chinese soil from whence, by nature's vital chemistry, they were shaped. And those whose labeled bones are rolling to and fro in the dark below, as the plunging steamer rocks and shudders, once also passed this ocean on just such a ship—and smothered or dreamed their time away in just such berths—and played the same strange play by such a yellow light in even just such an atmosphere, heavy with vaporized opium.—Lafordio Hearm in Harpers.

She Indorsed.
A young woman who had a check for \$14 on a certain Detroit bank presented it at the cashier's desk, and he politely said:
"You will please indorse it, miss."
She took it over to the desk and wrote on the back:
"I want this money awful bad you're truly please pay the bearer."—Detroit Free Press.

She Was Real Sorry.
Hospital Nurse—I am extremely grieved to have to tell you that your husband has met with a bad accident, and has had to have both legs amputated.
Wife—Oh, Lor! oh, Lor! and my only bought 'im a noo pair o' boots last Tuesday.—Ludy.

PASSENGER SWIGERT'S RIDE.
Dangling Just Above the Ties and going at a Fifty Mile Clip.

Mr. J. G. Swigert, of Cincinnati, tells a story of marvellous escape from instant death, and considers himself lucky in getting off with a broken leg and body badly bruised. Mr. Swigert left Denver on a night train for Kansas City. About 10 o'clock in the evening he went to the rear platform of the car to finish a smoke. The night was dark and the little red lantern gave a very indistinct light. He remained outside for about ten minutes, when, becoming chilled by the damp air, he turned to enter the car.

Just as he let loose of the iron railing the car lurched and he was thrown violently against the bell rope, which was tied at the end of the car. It gave way, and he fell through toward the ground head first. Had Mr. Swigert fallen to the ground he would, in all probability, have been instantly killed. The train was making up for lost time, was on a down grade, and going at the rate of fifty miles an hour. As he fell his coat, which was buttoned tight, caught in a rod connected with the coupling apparatus, and he found himself dangling in the air.

At first, completely dazed by the accident, he began to turn and twist to relieve himself of the rod. He soon recognized the fact that to fall would result in broken bones if not instant death. Caught as he was with his back to the car and with his head hanging down, he could do nothing to help himself. He tried shouting with all his might, but the door of the sleeper was closed, and he found it utterly useless.

Judging from the time Mr. Swigert thought they could not be far from a station, and, with considerable presence of mind, he decided that the only thing to do was to remain quiet and trust to the strength of his coat. He says he has no idea how far he rode in this frightful way, expecting every instant to have his brains dashed out against the ties. It was probably only a few minutes, but it seemed hours to him.

Suddenly he felt the coat give way, and as the train dashed around a curve he was thrown violently to the ground and lost consciousness. When he recovered his senses he felt about and found that he was lying by the side of the road. It was very dark and was raining. Reeling out his hand he found a foot in front of him just beyond his head. He tried to get up to see to whom it belonged, and found that it was his own. His right thigh had been broken, and had been doubled up under him. He felt but little pain, but rather a numb sensation. Utterly helpless, and with pain increasing every minute, he could do nothing but call for assistance. He was finally found by a track walker, and was taken to Cheyenne Falls, arriving there about daylight.—Cor. Denver Repub. leau.

New Ideas.
One wonders, sometimes, whether a period will not at last arrive when everything shall have been thought out; when nothing new can be suggested, invented or discovered. Solomon supposed that novelty was pretty well exhausted in his day, yet after a lapse of thirty centuries—be the same more or less—new things under the sun are not uncommon. The old song tells us that "every day brings something new."

It must be admitted, however, that many of our so-called "new ideas" are old ones revamped, or amplified or perfected. Scattered through the history of the past may be found vague outgivings which seem to point to important results of modern science. That there were good chemists in the time of the Pharaohs, the "miracles" of the ancient Egyptian priesthood sufficiently prove, and the pyramids attest that mechanical science was by no means in its infancy on the shores of the Nile 2,000 years or so before the Christian era.—New York Ledger.

The Fun in Pickwick.
When Dickens brought Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller on the stage the farce was received with shouts of laughter, for a farce, and a screaming farce, the "Pickwick Papers" were, and the immortal Sam is a magnificent impossibility. It is not only that wit and wisdom and apposite illustrations dropped from his lips like the pearls from those of the princess in the fairy tale, but the range of his reading had been as wide as his practical philosophy was profound. He is at home with Sterne, for he talks about the young woman who kept the Goat, etc.

Though from being wagoner's boy and sleeping under the Adelphi arches he had been promoted to Boots at the Borough Inn, he is so familiar with the interiors of respectable taverns in the city that he can warn his master to avoid a certain table with the awkward legs. But what of all that? We fear "Pickwick" loses flavor with advancing age, but we would know many a young man who read and reread it far more indefatigably than he ever searched the Scriptures.—Blackwood's Magazine.

Sketching by Lens.
A rapid method of making sketches in the field has been introduced by M. Binin, a French cavalry officer. The apparatus consists of a rectangular lens by which an image of the view to be sketched is formed within a makeshift "dark chamber," consisting of a small black curtain hung on a frame over a portable drawing table. The draughtsman simply copies the image in pencil or water color on a sheet of white paper. The whole apparatus, with lamp stool and table, is made very light and portable, so as to be easily carried about.—New York Journal.

Raisable.
Daughter (reading a paper)—Is this correct, papa? The paper has made a grammatical error. It says "raised up." Nothing could possibly "raise down," could it?
Papa—Certainly not.
Young Son—Why, yes, papa. Emma's bean can raise down, and so can geese.
Then the boy was raised up stairs and raised down in bed.—New York Ledger.

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