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News and Miscellany.

THE AVITOR.

Description of the New Air Ship.
From the San Francisco Alta.

A number of our citizens, on Saturday, received invitations from the Secretary of the Aerial Steam Navigation Company, to attend a private view of their model carriage, which has for a long time past been in the course of construction at Shell Mound Track, in San Mateo county. Among others, we concluded to accept the invitation, and the 8:30 train of the San Jose Railroad Company landed us at the track yesterday at 10 o'clock, a. m.

We found the "Avitor" inflated, and the engineers and attendants leading the stately little fellow from the shed where he was constructed out into the open air. Unfortunately a stiff breeze had just sprung up, and it was too evident that the managers had their own doubts as to whether he should be allowed to soar aloft. Under such an adverse circumstance, nothing was left but to return him to the shed, where he was put through a measured pace. We are compelled to say that the performance looked something like a failure, and a feeling of regret, rather than of ridicule, pervaded the company present, by the lowering of the hopes that had been raised by its ever-sanguine inventor.

The Avitor can be briefly described simply as a balloon of the form of a very short and thick cigar, its extreme length being about ninety-five feet, its height ten feet, and its width at the center about seven feet. A delicate frame-work of light wood strong wood passes longitudinally through it, and serves to hold the guides for regulating its movement in their places. At the after end of the frame the rudder is placed—an ingenious contrivance for directing its course either vertically or horizontally. The propelling power is furnished by a very small engine and boiler, of the very lightest weight, and certainly of no more effective force than could be produced by turning a crank by a man of ordinary strength. The engine and boiler—the latter fired up with alcohol—are in dangerous proximity to the balloon itself, and are placed in a niche in the bottom. From the engine, by light shafts and gearing, the power is transmitted to a couple of propellers working in the frame first mentioned, and a number of lines, bands, ribbons and network all of the lightest material, serve to bind the frame to the balloon and preserve its contour.

The inventor has evidently made his greatest error in supposing that any practical speed can be obtained from the application of so little power to so great a mass. It is apparent that to give any velocity to a balloon—relative to the air through which it travels—the air in front must be removed and passed to its rear, so that a bulk of its own size must be moved by its propellers in order to force it to move its own length. The scale upon which the machinery is constructed is so very trifling and inadequate to do this that its failure cannot be a matter of surprise; in fact until some other power is discovered that can be condensed in a far less compass than that of the present, there is no fear of the success of the present affair is hopeless.

A Country Where Everybody Steals.

A Vienna papers relates the following occurrence, which recently took place in a provincial city of Moldavia:

A merchant there had received several thousand dollars in gold for goods he had sold, He brought the money to his house. On the same evening two gentlemen, with masks before their faces, came to him and threatened to shoot him with their revolvers, and ordered him to give them the gold. The merchant, although he was greatly surprised, had sufficient presence of mind to resolve upon the best course to be pursued under these singular circumstances, and said to them: "The money is in the old chest yonder. Here is the key, open it and help yourselves to all you want to take from me." While two villains were doing so the merchant seized his double-barreled gun, which was standing in a corner. It was fortunately loaded; he aimed, and shot one of them.

Without losing further time, the merchant hastened out of the room, locked the door, and ordered his servant, who was just coming home, not to allow any one to enter or leave the house, whereupon he repaired in haste to the house of the Chief of Police, and, not finding him at home, to that of the Prefect, and, as he was absent, too, the house of the Police Commissioner. After informing the latter of what had occurred, the merchant returned with the Commissioner and some policemen, to his house, where the servant told him that, during his absence, no one either entered or left his house. The door was opened. The two masked thieves were lying before the open chest, without giving any signs of life. Their masks were removed, and the thieves were found to be the Chief of Police and the Prefect, both of whom belonged to the Boyar class.

How Spurgeon Looks and Preaches.
From a London Letter by J. M. Francis to the Troy Times.

We listened to the celebrated Spurgeon at his Tabernacle last Sabbath. Six thousand people were in attendance. He gave us a good strong orthodox discourse—so much as that I may say of it. Spurgeon is an easy extemporaneous speaker, possessed the merits of great self-possession, and illustrates his points and enforces his arguments by very apt and sometimes very striking illustrations. He is not dramatic, as I supposed, but rather quiet in his style. There is, however, a magnetism in his manner after all, in his earnest appearance, and I may say, in his bright eye, too, that enchains the attention of his audience. He is by no means so able as Beecher nor so graphic as Chapin, nor yet so logical as one or two preachers of Troy I might name, but he is really a magnetic man, and will always draw large numbers to hear him. His appearance he is rather inclined to portliness, has a large and pleasant countenance, and an expressive and keen eye. He looks to be a much younger man than he is, and is what the ladies would call quite handsome. His Tabernacle is in the form of an amphitheatre, with two rows of galleries around it, and a high pulpit set near the rear. There is no organ in the church; the people do the singing in the old congregational fashion, the pastor reading each verse of the hymn just before it is sung. In order to obtain seats we went an hour and a half before the beginning of services, and were then just able to squeeze in after paying contributions in advance for the benefit of the church.

THE FRENCH CABLE INSTRUMENT.—The instrument to be used in operating the French cable, soon to be landed at Duxbury, consists of a small tube about four inches long, like a small telescope, about an inch in diameter. Midway in this tube is hung transversely, by a delicate silk fibre, a circular piece of mirror, across which is a fine magnetic needle. Around the tube is coiled the fine wire through which the magnetic current is sent—in this case a coil containing twenty thousand circles, forming a wheel it it may be so called, of about three inches in diameter. There are two keys, and when one is touched it causes the needle to swerve to the east, and when the other is touched it causes it to turn to the west. Of course in this motion the mirror is turned with it. Facing the mirror and two feet from it, is a box containing a bright light, with a mouth like a photographers camera directed toward the mirror. The light is then thrown upon a mirror and reflected from that upon a wall, upon which there is a perpendicular black mark. Upon this mark when the instrument is not in operation, the perpendicular line of light from the mirror rests perfectly still. When one of the keys is touched, and the magnetic needle is moved, it of course, moves the mirror with it, and the reflected line of light upon the wall, is moved to the right or left of the black mark. One of the keys reflects it to the right or left. The Morse alphabet is used omitting the spaced letters, or those where two dots and two dashes come together; A movement of the light once to the right of the black mark is a dash, and to the left a dot. This is the whole of the machinery by which messages are sent across the Atlantic. The battery is very small, and a thimble-ful of metal will work it.—*Boston Advertiser.*

SWEARING CHINAMEN.—They admit the testimony of Chinamen in Idaho Territory, and the trial of Ah Choy and Ah Sam for the murder of Ah Son, in Silver City, is attracting much attention on account of the novel mode of swearing witnesses. A rooster's head is lucked off with a knife, a saucer broken, the oath written on yellow paper, burned, and the smoke, in which is supposed to be the spirit of the burned oath, blown up to heaven in each case. The prosecution and defense each swore five witnesses, killed five chickens, broke five saucers, burned five pieces of paper, etc. After killing the chickens they are thrown away by the Chinamen, and considered unfit for use; but having had their throats cut, nicely bled, etc., the American heathen considers them none the worse.

—A young lady of Peoria, Ill., while riding out in a buggy, was thrown violently to the ground, striking upon a large stone. She was picked up for dead, but it was found that her somewhat extensive chignon had broken the force of the fall, and, beyond a big fright, she was comparatively unhurt.

MARRYING A FORTUNE.

A Life Story From the Courts—The Wife in the Madhouse, and the husband cut off with a Paltry Thousand.

From the New York Sun, 14th.

After a prolonged litigation, the last will and testament of Mrs. Anna Maria Forman has finally been adjudged valid by the General Term of the Supreme Court of this district. A case more interesting and novel has not often been presented to the public.

Mrs. Forman before her marriage was the pet child of a kind and indulgent father, who educated her at the most fashionable boarding schools. She married Mr. Forman in 1851, being then 43 years of age, and he a trifle over 48, after a commonplace courtship of years. She married him at the suggestion of her father, and certainly without any enthusiastic love on either side. Her father died in 1655, but before his death he gave her all his property, amounting in the aggregate to $150,000. She made a will in 1855 after her father's death, by which she gave her husband the bulk of her estate. Up to this time she and her husband appear to have agreed very well, but they had no children, and never had any.

Four years later, with less affection for her husband, she made another will, in which she gave her husband less. Two years later, in August, 1861, her affections again underwent a change, and she made another will, by which she gave her husband still less. Six months later she executed the two papers in dispute, in which she gives her husband only a bare pittance of $1,000. Although she had no children or descendants, she had collateral relatives and one half-sister, Mrs. Haviland, who is her heir-at-law.

Mr. Forman appears to have been at the time of his marriage a cool, calculating, circumspect man, without vices or virtues to excite or attract the attention of men or women, with little education and little means, and at the time of his marriage and for some years afterward engaged in a business which of all others was least calculated to add to or expand the ideas that he had. He quit business in 1858, and thereafter devoted himself to the management of his wife's estate.

Mrs. Forman not only despised, distrusted and hated her husband—she feared him. There is no doubt that soon after the execution of the contested instrument, she was in dread of her husband, and of the servants whom she thought he might control. It is a fair inference that these feelings toward her husband led her to execute the two papers, which gave her husband the $1,000 inheritance. There is no doubt that she intended by them to prevent her husband from getting any more. Mrs. Forman complained often that he married her for her money, and that he did not pay her as much attention as he did the servants in the kitchen. During the last years of her life they occupied separate rooms, and the wife passed her days in lonely seclusion. She was on one or more occasions reminded of the apparent kindness and affectionate attentions of her husband. She answered by saying, "yes, a man may smile, and smiling be a villain."

The last two years of her life she passed in a private madhouse, where she was taken by her husband, aided by the police, without any shadow of authority for the proceeding, without advising with her friends and relatives, and without even the certificate of her physician, or of any physician. There she was kept six months, without seeing any of her intimate friends or relations.

After her death the will, excluding the husband from everything but the $1,000, was admitted to probate by the Surrogate. This decision of the Surrogate was appealed from to the Supreme Court on several grounds, the most important of which was the insanity of Mrs. Forman at the time when she executed that last will, and that the instruments were not attached in the manner prescribed by law.

Judge Sutherland delivered the opinion of the Court yesterday, confirming the decree of the Surrogate, Justices Barnard and Cardozo concurring. In his written opinion, His Honor bitterly condemns the husband and his selfish motives, which the Judge declares to be such that he does not believe his testimony unless corroborated by other witness. Referring to the capacity of the testatrix to make her will when the two papers were executed, he says: "*A monomaniac* or partially insane person may make a will. A believer in witches and witchcraft, in spiritualism, or in the doctrines of Mahomet, *may make a will.*"

The case, it is said, is to be carried to the Court of Appeals.

Terrible Tornado in Stearns and Pope Counties, Minnesota.

A Sauk City correspondent of the Mantorville Express, gives the following particulars of the terrible storm that visited the above towns on the 9th instant:

A house in Raymond, owned and occupied by a Mr. Richard Richardson, (a well-to-do farmer, formerly of Rice Co.,) was completely destroyed. This house was what is called a block house, 16 by 24, with the cornices dovetailed together, and fixed at the corners and in the centre with oak pins, two inches in diameter. There were ten persons in the house at the time and all were more or less injured. The details, so far as I have been able to learn them, are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, with one child of eighteen months, were sleeping down stairs in the northwest corner of the building, the balance of the family and visitors were up stairs.

Almost instantly the building was unroofed, and the logs of the building, with the inmates of the chambers, went flying, over the prairie.

The oldest son, John, twenty-one or twenty-two years of age, was blown thirty-five rods from the house. He was badly bruised externally, and received severe internal injuries.

The second son, George, thirteen years of age, was blown thirty rods, had his right leg broken, and was very badly bruised.

The third son, Willie, three years old, was carried twenty rods, and was picked up afterwards, dead, and fearfully mangled.

A Miss Anna Wilson, who was teaching school in the district, and at the time was up stairs, was carried 37 rods, into a wheat field, and when found was surrounded with trunks, barrels, boxes, &c, from the lower floor. She was seriously injured internally, and may not recover.

Two small children sleeping together up stairs were wound together in their blankets by the force of the wind, and, strange as it may appear, carried a number of feet from the building, right in the direction from which the wind came (southwest), and when found were unharmed. Mrs. Richardson, during all the time of the tornado, sat in her bed holding a child of eighteen months in her arms. She was scratched somewhat about the face and neck, but otherwise received no injury. The child was unharmed. Mr. Richardson was not even scratched.

A young man by the name of Liberty Raymond, who had stopped over night, was blown thirty rods, and had both legs, one arm and his neck broken.

The storm, coming from the south-west, struck the building on the corner, and leveled everything to the ground, excepting some logs in the northwest corner, behind which stood the bed of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson. Aside from these not a log could be found within from 20 to 40 feet from their former resting place. Of everything up stairs, excepting the bodies, not a thing, not even a bedstead, or *a piece of one* could be found within *one mile* of the house.

Physicians were on hand at an early hour, but the case of some of the sufferers is hopeless.

In Pope county, a frame dwelling house of Mr. George Rockwell was blown entirely down. Mr. Rockwell was knocked senseless by the flying timbers, and Mrs. R. had her collar bone broken. She supposing her husband killed, went for the neighbors, and lost her way in the darkness. The injury to both Mr. and Mrs. R. is comparatively slight.

The log buildings belonging respectively to Harmon and son, were both blown flat to the ground. Their children were blown from twenty to thirty rods, but without serious injury, so far as heard from. In that neighborhood five buildings were blown flat, and ten others were unroofed or otherwise seriously injured. There were no other lives lost so far as heard from at present.

The course of the storm seemed to be from southwest to northeast, and its main fury was in a tract of about fifty rods. At Grove Lake, where the storm passed thro' the timber, the timber was laid in a swath as though a reaper had been through it—a strip at that place about 30 rods in width.

EVERY FARMER, as soon as he wants to start his Mower, had better get Frank Miller's Machine Oil, because it will clean up the bearings, take off all gum or other foreign substance, and always keep them in good order. You do not need to use as much of it, as of ordinary Oils, thereby during the season you will save thirty per cent on Lubricating Oils.

PERSONS in want of Trusses, Supporters, Artificial Limbs, or Surgical Instruments, can be supplied at maker's prices, by addressing I. N. MORTON, Druggist, near to Custom House, Milwaukee. febl6ly

—An Illinois gentleman, who farms 40,000 acres, has 5,000 in corn and 3,000 in wheat, all in very fine condition.

FICTITIOUS PINNACLES.

Our Ocean Mountains.

The correspondent of the London Times on board the Great Eastern contradicts some commonly received conclusions, thus:

"The line of the French cable first starts in very shallow water from Minon Bay, but in four or five miles it deepens from 17 to 20 fathoms, and then gradually shelves from 30 to 60 and 90 fathoms; a depth which is pretty equally maintained over the whole bed of the English Channel. At this level, but on the whole gradually deepening, it continues till in a line with the westernmost part of the Irish coast, where, taking a northern course, it passes down a gentle slope of sand, that continues descending till the depth increases from 200 to 800 and 900 fathoms and then, in a short distance, to 1,700 fathoms. Over all the rest of the course to mid-ocean the bottom is mud, shells, and sand, and with a uniform depth of about 2,000 and 2,200 fathoms. This course would have brought the Great Eastern close to the northward of the ground spoken known as the "Three Chimneys," and which as laid down in the admiralty chart, were confidently believed to exist. When this was mentioned some months ago in the Times, a controversy at once arose in these columns, some naval men merely denying the existence of those rocks; while the other side tendered the evidence of eye witnesses, who averred that they had actually seen them. The matter is now set at rest, and if ever the Three Chimneys' had on existence they have none now. The Atlantic cannot afford to lose the small amount of interest which attached to the supposed presence of these solitary peaks, but facts are stubborn things,' and it has now been placed beyond a doubt that they are not to be found, at least in the latitude and longitude in which they appear on the charts. Lieut Johnstone, in the course of his soundings, went over the exact spot where they are indicated in the chart, and found more than 2,000 fathoms of water, with deep sea all around, and not the slightest trace of rock or shoal in any direction. The sooner, therefore, they come out of the admiralty map the better, and it would be curious to know how they ever got there at all.

"From the locality of these fictitious pinnacles, the cable course is kept in a pretty regular depth of from 1,800 to 2,000 fathoms, and throughout over a soft bed of mud mixed with myriads of the most minute shells. These shells comprise various forms of *diatomacio* which, though perfect in their organization, are so exquisitely small as only to be visible under the most powerful microscopes. They are really as fine as flour, and the greater part of the bed of the Atlantic is covered with the debris of these minute animalculæ, the existence of which proves conclusively, which was long denied, that at these great depths there is an absolute cessation of all motion. Over such a bottom the line is taken in an arc of a large circle, the most southerly point of the cable being in 42 degrees north latitude, and the most northerly 48 degrees. Along the southern end of the Newfoundland bank it is sunk in about 150 to 200 fathoms, the water on the bank itself varying from 50 to 90 fathoms. Thus it is completely sheltered from ice, which, if the icebergs pass the bank in any considerable quantity, it has to dredge its lee by some hundred fathoms or more. From this point it is taken up due north in the channel between the Green bank and the St. Pierre bank in an almost unvarying depth of 500 fathoms. From this point out the course is over very regular shoal water, so to speak—being at no part less than 100 fathoms, and generally over 150 to near Boston."

"Seeing the Elephant."

A couple of lads in Portage City climbed a tree outside the tent to get a "dead head" view of Forepaugh's circus. What came of it, the Register tells as follows:

"As soon as the elephant was through with, in the ring, the managers brought him out and hitched him to the identical tree, from the limbs of which the lads were viewing the circus. To "a boy up in a tree," this thing looked a little out of order, but they kept as quiet as death, fearing that they would either lose the closing portion of the performance, or be the subjects of the displeasure of the circus man, if he should discover them "dead heading" it to his show. In due time the performance closed, the crowd dispersed, and, horror upon horrors, the keeper of the animals now added to the perils of their situation by hitching two smaller elephants and a camel to the same tree. Our lads now discovered that they were in for a night of it, as all hands had left, excepting only themselves and the animals on guard below. All hope of escape was now cut off. About this time Romeo concluded to investigate matters above him, and with his trunk commenced trimming out the smaller branches. Our boys commenced climbing also, until they had got above his reach; and now the camel took up the investigation, and poking his ugly mug up among the limbs, he drove the boys to the very uppermost branches of the tree, where they were discovered, at day-break, by their anxious parents, who had been in search for them from all night, teetering and tossed about like blackbirds on the top of a rice-stalk in a windy day. The boys saw more of these animals than all the rest of the boys in town, and "for nothin," too; and if they don't remember the time for the balance of their natural lives, it will be because they "cut up" with Romeo, then we miss our guess. The phrase, "seeing the elephant," was to them a practical application, which they will always remember."

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Extract of Opinions.—Dr. Wood is a gentleman in every sense of the word; a man doing much good. —Rev. J. E. Fitch, pastor M. E. Church, Upper Iowa Conference.

He has performed wonderful cures on persons to us well known.—Ex. Grant Co. Herald.

Of the thousands he has treated, few relisted his power of cure.—Darlington, Wis. Union.

MEN AND WOMEN AS READERS.—In the Boston Public Library, among those regularly entitled to draw books, the females bear the proportion to the males of about five to six. More than two-thirds of the females have no business occupation; while more than one-fourth of the males are in that category. Of 1,542 females with regular occupations, 300 were pupils or students; 375 were teachers, or of other professional employments; 587 were engaged in some mechanical vocation; and the rest were saleswomen, users of the pen in some capacity, or of various other occupations. Of 6,054 males, 1,645 pursued some trade or manufacture; 2,025 were in some mercantile employment—embracing 911 clerks, 350 salesmen, 320 merchants, 226 bookkeepers, &c.; 523 were of some professional occupation—as 106 lawyers, 88 editors and reporters, 82 clergymen, 100 teachers, 152 physicians, surgeons, dentists, &c., 129 public officials; 237 of the laboring classes; 158 of artistic pursuits; 224 dealers of various kinds; 750 pupils and students; 200 shop or store boys, &c.

—At Saratoga, an advanced female gulps five glasses of Congress water in quick succession, without any difficulty, and another autumnal creature absorbed four glasses and then remarked "she would walk through the park before drinking another glass."

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