

SUPPLEMENT.

A BATTLE FOR LIFE.

The Frightful Experience of a German Aeronaut.

A Thrilling Struggle with Death in the Air—The Balloon Caught by a Whirlwind and Tossed Hither and Thither—A Peasant's Sorry End.

The German aeronaut Wolff recently had a most terrible experience during a trip in a balloon from the grounds of the Cologne Exhibition of the Art of War, says the New York Sun. In company with Peter Schmitz and a manufacturer named Depenheuer he started in the balloon Stollwerk at one o'clock on a cloudy afternoon. The balloon flew one mile almost straight upward into the thick of a storm. Wolff, fearful of the strong winds and hail around him, decided to make a landing as soon as possible.

"There was nothing but woods and woods under us," he said, subsequently. "The balloon descended with violent rapidity. I finally discovered a little clearing on a steep mountain side and prepared to anchor. The balloon descended more slowly, and the people who had observed us hurried together underneath to help us land. I drew the ventilator a little further open and motioned to Schmitz to get out. Depenheuer alighted, and all was well, when suddenly a whirlwind struck us. A terrible jerk sends me on my back in the car. I jump up to find all things swimming down, down below me, and two men clinging helplessly to the edge of the car. I catch the nearest one, a peasant who tried to assist in the landing. Too late! His strength is gone; he lets go, and I hear with horrible distinctness the muffled thud of his body on the ground.

"My heart sickens, but I rally to save my friend Schmitz, who still sticks to the car's side. Already the clouds are sinking beneath us. We are at least two miles above the earth. I try to raise Schmitz into the car but he has sunk so far down from the edge that I can hardly grasp his wrists, and he is too weak to make an effort for himself. Both of us groan our despair, for all seems over. Slowly and painfully I raise him a little, set my teeth in the back of his coat and endeavor to bind him fast with the storm-line. A few moments drag by in hope and despair, and I finally succeed in fastening the rope under his arms and in tying him so to the car. There is no safety in the device, however, for were Schmitz to lose consciousness for an instant his body would relax and he would slip away. I call to him: 'Spread out your arms! Spread out your arms!' I hear his body move in response to my admonition, but his voice is lost to me.

"All this has occupied twenty-five minutes, and we have in the meantime been slipping upward. Every thing now depends on our making a quick landing. I draw open the valve and we begin falling. We plunge into a great storm. The balloon spins around in circles, and sways about like a drunken man. Rain, hail, thunder and lightning sweep over us. The balloon reels so that I must lie on my face to remain in the car.

"Peter! Peter!" I call to my friend. "Hold fast! Only hold fast!"

"No response, for he can not hear me. The agitation of the balloon has loosened the rope and he has sagged back again, down the side of the car, so I can see only his finger tips on the edge. I creep to the side of the car, seize his right wrist with my left hand, and with my right hand and teeth I tug at the valve.

"I can not hold out longer," comes in a weak voice from Schmitz. "I am slipping away."

"One minute, only a minute more, I cry back, 'and we will be there.'"

"The nearer we come to the ground, however, the more violent becomes the oscillation of the balloon. Finally we slip over a house, a barn and drop like a shot to the ground.

"Let go," I shouted to Schmitz, "and jump away from the anchor."

"He obeys and the balloon, 195 pounds lighter, soars upward. I pull at the valve with all my strength till the anchor catches a small tree. But the tree gives way, and with the rebound the car springs up to the balloon, and for a moment I hang on almost by my teeth. The anchor catches again in a tree. Again a jerk, a crack, a rebound, and I am tossed about like a ball. Once more the anchor catches. I find myself just above the top of a dense old cedar. Head first I dive into the branches and fall from bough to bough till I reach the ground. The anchor rattles near me. Another tree breaks, and the balloon sails off to the northwest.

"I had landed near Clive. In an hour I had the whole neighborhood out looking for Schmitz. He was not to be found. 'Dead,' I thought, as I limped painfully along between two peasants in the direction of the Overath railway station. Presently a group of men and women hurried toward us from a side street. Three of them were half-carrying a man. I hastened to them as rapidly as I could, and had Schmitz in my arms.

"To-day my head is dense and weighty. Every bone in my body aches and pulsates. I can not sleep, and I have no peace, since I can get no news of the poor peasant who fell a sacrifice to his willingness to help me."

Sagacious Sparrows.

The little English sparrows in New York have learned a new dodge since electric lights replaced gas in the city parks. When the current is turned off at dawn the bottoms of the globes are filled with thousands of insects which have been attracted by the light and killed. The sparrows come around after the globe has cooled off, slide down the carbons and devour the insects.

A Negro's Monster Head.

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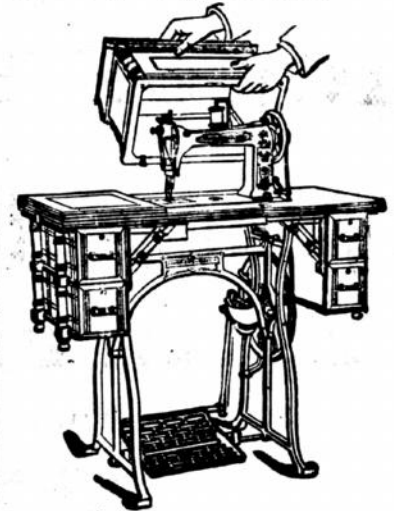
THE FIGURE "9."

The figure 9 in our dates will make a long stay. No man or woman now living will ever date a document without using the figure 9. It stands in the third place in 1890, where it will remain ten years and then move up to second place in 1900 where it will rest for one hundred years.

There is another "9" which has also come to stay. It is unlike the figure 9 in our dates in the respect that it has already moved up to first place, where it will permanently remain. It is called the "No. 9" High Arm Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine.

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