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**PERILS OF BALLOONING.**

An Exciting Trip in the Midst of a Wild Thunderstorm.

On one occasion, rising suddenly through a stratum of clouds 10,000 feet in the air into brilliant sunshine, the gas dilated. I let out a little. Down we dropped into a cold air current. The immediate condensation of the gas dropped us back into the cloud layer, which condensed the gas still more and accelerated the drop. We came out directly above a stretch of woods over which lay another cool belt. By this time we were falling like a rock. We were going so fast that the bagfuls of sand we threw out went up instead of down. Hastily we threw out the drag rope, the anchor, the lunch basket—to little purpose. We struck the trees with a terrific crash, but escaped, however, with nothing worse than a shaking up and a few bruises.

The most exciting trip I ever made was a record breaking voyage that began one Sunday evening. The weather was not propitious, but we cast off. We sailed across the Hudson river to New Jersey and plunged into a cloud. After traveling twenty miles I descended to drop a note to my wife, assuring her of our safety. Again we shot into a cloud. Presently we drifted over a village and, with that exaltation that accompanies the sensation of floating in the air, enjoyed to a strange degree the music of church bells drifting up from below. Before we were aware we plunged into the midst of a huge approaching thunder cloud. It seemed to open and swallow us into a pit of gloom and simultaneously into the heart of the wildest thunderstorm I think I have ever seen. The clouds rolled and tossed and twisted. The balloon would now be forced down, then tossed up and again spun swiftly about like a top. We lost all sense of direction. Thunder was crashing and rolling and crackling all around us. Lightning flashed, not in forked zig-zags, but in great flashes of fire. It was frightful. We did not want to descend, but presently we heard the unmistakable sound of water not far away. Letting out a little gas, we shot downward. Faster we dropped and faster. Land was below us. The problem was to land in the high wind without damage. I let out more gas. We landed in a treetop with a jar that fixed the basket so firmly in a crotch that it could not be dislodged by the wind, for now we had dropped below the storm.—World's Work.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS.**

Carelessness is the great sin of most people.

If a man doesn't acquire a little sense with age he cheats himself.

If a man owns a pocketknife it is hard for him to pass a grindstone.

Say what you please about moral courage, the man who has a lot of it is mighty unpopular.

Make the stories you tell on a rainy day as short as possible, especially if you tell them under an umbrella.

There is very little use trying to convince a man who meets your statement with this argument: "I'll bet you," etc.

No matter how highly you may value your own opinion, remember it does not go with other people unless they think exactly as you do, which, by the way, they seldom do.—Arlinson Globe.

**Chinese Hotels.**

The hotels are usually grouped within a square or two of one another. Each one seeks to attract guests by high sounding titles. For example, in Canton are hotels which flaunt the signs of the Fortunate Star, the Golden Profits (an unusually frank confession for a landlord to make), the Bank Conferring and the Happiness. The food is not so bad, but the traveler who goes to one of these houses to sleep will wish that he had gone to another. The bedrooms are small, thin walled boxes in which you may hear the breathing of your next neighbor or be kept awake half the night by the conversation of people at the other end of the hall or, worse still, be almost stifled by the smoke from an opium pipe which is being indulged in by the man across the passageway.

**Naturally Puzzled.**

Among the interested visitors of the marine barracks at Washington on one occasion there was a party of young girls from a Maryland town, friends of one of the officers of the barracks. They proved much interested in everything pertaining to the life and discipline of the post.

"What do you mean by 'taps'?" asked one young woman.

"Taps are played every night on the tangle," answered the officer. "It means 'lights out.' They play it over the bodies of dead soldiers."

A puzzled look came to the face of the questioner. Then she asked:

"What do you do if you haven't a dead soldier?"—Harper's Weekly.

**Hell Gate.**

Hell Gate, at the entrance of Long Island sound, in the East river, was not so named because of its dangers and turbulence, as is generally supposed, but quite the contrary. The early Dutch settlers called it "Hell Gate" because it was a pleasant, beautiful passageway, in allusion to its picturesque scenery, "hell" conveying the idea of pleasantness.—New York Herald.

**In His Own Color.**

To mark his gratitude a man who was acquitted on a charge of counterfeiting coins in India added \$10 to his lawyer's fee of \$50, but the lawyer afterward found that the whole sum consisted of counterfeit rupees.—Allahabad Pioneer.

**A CAT'S EYES.**

The Chinese Discovered Their Use as a Time Indicator.

The first European to learn of the use of a cat as a time indicator was M. Hue, who in a work on the Chinese empire tells how he was initiated into the mystery.

M. Hue and a party of friends set out to visit a Chinese Christian mission settlement among the peasantry. They met a young Chinaman on the road, and to test his intelligence they asked him if he could tell them the time. The native looked up at the sky, but the clouds hid the sun from view, and he couldn't read any answer there. Suddenly he darted away to a farm and returned in a few moments with a cat in his arms. Pushing up its eyelids with his hand, he told Hue to look at them, at the same time volunteering the information that it was not noon yet. While they were puzzling over the case the boy went about his business.

When the party reached the village, they asked the Christian converts if they could tell the time by a cat's eyes and how it was done. Immediately there was a wild hunt, and all the cats obtainable in the neighborhood were brought before them.

The Chinese pointed out that the pupils of a cat's eyes were gradually narrower up to 12 noon, when they became scarcely perceptible lines drawn perpendicularly across the eye, and after that dilation recommenced. Hue examined the eyes of several cats and verified what the Chinese had told him.—Chicago Chronicle.

**AN ODD WAGER.**

The Peculiar Bet a Foreign Prince Laid and Won in Paris.

Gambling has always been a favorite occupation for the sons of royal houses, but none of them probably has ever exhibited so much wit and ingenuity in his betting as a foreign prince did at his stay in Paris.

He laid a heavy wager with a member of the Imperial club of the French capital that within two hours he would be arrested by the police without committing any offense or provoking the officers of the law in any fashion. Accordingly, having clothed himself in rags of the most disreputable appearance, he walked into one of the most aristocratic restaurants in the city and ordered a cup of chocolate. The waiter refused to serve him unless he showed evidence that he could pay. The prince at once drew a roll of bank notes from his pocket and offered one of large denomination to the astonished attendant. The latter took the bill and carried it at once to the proprietor, who sent for the police, in the meantime allowing his "strange guest to be served."

As soon as the authorities arrived they arrested the incognito son of royalty and took him to the nearest station, where of course he was released after he had disclosed the facts of the affair.—New York Tribune.

**Color Blindness.**

The term color blindness implies an entire absence of the color sense, and there are a few persons who are in this condition, but it also includes all the forms of partial color blindness in which the perception of one of the fundamental colors—red, green and violet—is wanting, and which are known as red blindness, green blindness and violet blindness. The line between these various kinds of color blindness and a perfect perception of colors is not sharply drawn, so that a large number of persons have what is called a feeble color sense, which falls short of actual color blindness. There is no doubt that color blindness in its various forms is much more common than is generally supposed, and it is more common among the imperfectly than the well educated classes.

**Barbers Ages Ago.**

The first barbers of whom there is any record plied their trade in Greece in the fifth century B. C. In Rome the first barbers operated in the third century B. C. In olden times in England the barber and the physician were identical. Thus a king's barber was also his chief medical adviser. In the time of Henry VIII. of England laws were made concerning barbers, of which the following is an extract: "No person occupying a shaving or barbery in London shall use any surgery, letting of blood or other matter, except the drawing of teeth."

**After It Is All Over.**

When yarns are being spun one hears a good deal concerning the curious antics people go through when highly excited, but very little is said about the man who "gets scared after it is all over." And the latter, not being so constituted that he can faint, as a woman often does after a fright, generally keeps his own counsel and often is given the credit of being cool and "nervy" when the fact is that his knees are ready to bump together for mutual support.—Forest and Stream.

**On the Safe Side.**

They had been engaged for fully thirty minutes by the cuckoo clock.

"I have a surprise in store for you, Alfred, dear," she said. "I can cook as well as I can play the piano."

"That being the case, darling," he replied, "it will be well for us to board."

**Appropriate.**

The society editor was writing up a church fair.

"Mrs. Green, the wife of our prominent milk dealer," he wrote, "was appropriately gowned in watered silk."

You must hear that which hurts that you may gain that which profits.—Selected.

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