

McARTHUR ENQUIRER

J. W. BOWEN, Editor and Proprietor

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Selected Poetry.

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Particulars of the Death of the Aeronaut Boley.

One of the most frightful scenes men and women ever called upon to witness occurred at this place Thursday, September 25th, about half-past 5 o'clock p. m.—the spectacle of a human being descending from a great height with great rapidity, with the certainty that in a moment he will be dashed to pieces.

Prof. JOHN H. BOLEY, has been making ascensions in Illinois and in this State recently in a hot air balloon. The manner of inflation is as follows: He digs a trench about two or three feet long and two or three feet deep and wide. This is filled with dry wood and other combustible matter, and covered over. At the mouth the fire is set, and a large barrel with a sieve in each end to keep out cinders and covered with cement to prevent burning, constitutes the chimney at the outer end. Over this chimney the mouth of the balloon is placed to catch the heat as it rises. The mouth of the balloon is secured to a strong wooden hoop six or eight feet in diameter, and to this hoop is fastened the ropes that descend to the bar upon which the aeronaut stands in his giddy flight. He did not use a basket, as is usual. During the process of inflation the flames come up through the barrel, and frequently ten or twelve feet into the body of the balloon. When the balloon is full, and just before starting it is customary to have some trusty man enter the mouth of the balloon and place a cover over the top of the barrel, so as to prevent danger from fire. His cousin, JAMES R. SPENCE, who travels with him, usually performs this duty. Occasionally Mr. Boley has started without this precaution, but it is always hazardous, and once before his balloon caught fire, burning slowly without blazing, and he got down in safety. Thursday Mr. Spence was unwell and could not bear the intense heat of the balloon, and ascent was attempted without the precaution of covering the top of the barrel. The sickening scene which followed was the unfortunate result.

The wind was blowing briskly from the south, and it was not prudent to make the attempt, but the Professor was to receive some pecuniary aid from the Agricultural Society, and one or two of the Board of Managers had given their assent to the appropriation only on the ground that one of the ascensions should be made that day. Hence the inducement, in part, at least, to brave the peril. Besides, Mr. Boley was a brave, conscientious man, and he felt that he must redeem his promise to make the ascension. No sooner had the balloon been let go, than to the horror and dismay of every one, it was discovered to be on fire near the mouth, and the Professor, instead of standing on his bar, was holding to it with his hands and dangling below. It was a fearful sight and sent an indescribable shudder through the crowd. There was no outcry, but a sort of smothered groan that was more appalling. Women sank to the ground, or hid their eyes, or burst into tears, and men held their breath in awful suspense.

Mr. Boley did not appear to notice the fire until he had gained an altitude of a hundred or more feet, and then it was too late to let go. Besides his assistants say the balloon was not fully inflated, and not

one of them thought it would rise so high. But up it shot, and he held on to his frail support, the flames every moment cutting away the canvass above the hoop, and thus hurrying the instant that would launch him into eternity. There were long ropes attached to the top of the balloon that were used during inflation to control it, and one of these swinging out over the sphere came near him several times, and he attempted to grasp it. Could he have done so he would have had one other means of support; besides, his weight on this would have inverted the balloon, turning the burning end up, and though he might have descended with frightful rapidity, it is probable that the volume of canvass would have saved him. But he missed his grasp and lost his hat in the effort, which came whirling down in advance. A moment more and the canvass parted, and he came darting through the space, feet foremost like an arrow. Who can forget the sight that witnessed it. The fall occupied but a few seconds, but they seemed all too long.

He fell in a stubble field of low ground nearly half a mile from the starting point, coming down on his feet, with such force as to drive them into the ground a foot, and breaking the bones of his feet in many places and thrusting their ragged ends through the flesh. The body, head and arms were not visibly injured. The upper end of the balloon, shortly after he left it, turned inside out and fell, a burning mass, a quarter of a mile away.

BOLEY moved to Allensville, Vinton county, Ohio, leaving that place June 25th, for Alledo, Ill. His age was about thirty-one. He had made twenty-eight ascensions before coming West, and has made twelve since. He leaves a wife and four children in destitute circumstances. His wife has been staying in Ohio, and the three oldest children are now there. Recently she became so uneasy about him that she felt she must come soon or never see him again. She was here and entreated him several times during inflation not to make the ascension, as she felt he would never come down alive, and at last, when everything was ready, she bade him adieu and told him to kiss the baby for the last time. Her presentiment seemed to have been too true.

SIXTEEN years ago a North Carolina boy was threshed and sent out to hoe corn, and that was the last seen of him until the other day, when he came back from California worth \$50,000. Some parents hereabouts ought to try the experiment.

The next tax in South Carolina will probably be twenty-five mills on the dollar. The tax-payers stand a good chance of being ground out there before long.

A NORTH CAROLINA jury decided the case of a man on trial for murder by pulling fingers. After a lengthy contest the prisoner was acquitted.

A BUTCHER at Warrenton, Va., became enraged at his horse and tied the animal up and was sawing him in two when parties interfered, but too late to save his horse.

CERTAIN heirs in Pennsylvania broke a will last week by proving that the deceased once paid twenty dollars for a dog.

Worried Over Many Things. He is a happy mortal who each night of his life is not haunted by fears and worries lest thieves break into his house to disturb his slumber; Or, lest to-morrow will be a stormy day which will interfere with important engagements; Or, lest the bill for his last suit of clothes will be sent in before the money is ready to cancel the debt; Or, lest the pigs will creep under the garden fence and root up the cabbage plants; Or, lest the dirt in the next yard is blacker and will make the carrots and turnips yield better than his own; Or, lest brother so-and-so will be considered more fluent in class meeting; Or, lest he will end his days in poverty; Or, lest the house will take fire, and he be driven forth with singed garments; Or, lest the morning paper may announce the failure of the bank where his money is deposited; Or, lest somebody may say something bad about him which his neighbor will believe; Or, lest the house may be struck by lightning; Or, lest sometimes he will get his just deserts, and have to begin at the lowest round of the ladder of fortune, and try working up on an honest plan; Or, lest the fashion may change during the night, and he have to send for a tailor before breakfast; Or, lest there may be a frost that will nip the buds and kill off the fruit; Or, lest the baby may have the croup.

For a fact, he who is not worried over many things is a marvel, who has time and frequent inclination to alleviate the real troubles of those around him. Those who are utterly bound up in self, as to fret, and fret continually lest imaginary ills may interfere with personal desires, are too selfish to observe the needs of their fellow beings. —Elm Grove.

Ingenious Thefts. One of the most ingenious and daring thefts on record was perpetrated a short time since at the village of Brerly Hill, England. A lad entered the store of a grocer of the place and brought a roll of bread, which he asked the man to stuff down the back of his jacket, as his companion outside would take it away from him if he saw it. The grocer complied with the apparently innocent request, and having had his loaf placed in its original hiding-place, the boy left. Hardly had he quitted the store when another lad rushing in exclaimed: "Do you know what that chap has done? He has prigged your watch!" The grocer looked in horror, and saw his watch-chain dangling and his watch gone. "There he goes!" said his informant, pointing to a figure seen going down the street; and the storekeeper immediately rushed out in pursuit, leaving the store unguarded. When he reached the corner the supposed thief had vanished, and returning to his store, he found that during his absence the informer had emptied the till and gone off with the money. The two thieves have, so far, escaped capture.

A CITY is growing up like magic at Malvern, Ark.

General News.

CAN a cord of music be called a string of notes? GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN has an income of \$28,000 yearly, from rents alone. COLORADO has nine dailies, one semi-weekly, and thirty-two weekly newspapers. The new silver mine at Ontonagon, Mich., is creating considerable excitement. If a bookkeeper wishes to borrow a novel he had better not tell his profession. THE Pacific Railway now runs a "honeymoon car" for the use of bridal parties. UPWARDS of 8,000,000 copies of "Pilgrim's Progress" have been sold by the English Book Society. A PORTION of the Memphis bluff has for some time been gradually sliding into the Mississippi river. A CLEVELAND boy crawled under a lounge to avoid a thrashing, went to sleep, and 200 persons searched four hours to find him. MR. BRASLIN, of Congress Hall, Saratoga, states that one day last week he had cooked 2,500 chickens and 4,000 eggs for breakfast. A COMPANY in Chicago have invented a process for preserving wooden telegraph poles. Its essential features is the substitution of iron ones. AN Englishman who is visiting in Danbury, says he has but a poor idea of a country that has to get its weather from the government. THE new forts around Paris, twenty-two in number, are to be begun this month, and when they are completed, Paris expects to be siege proof. A MAN who served during the war as colonel of a Pennsylvania regiment and who was once worth \$30,000, is now working on a propeller which crosses Lake Michigan. A TEN-YEAR-OLD child was carried off by an eagle in the Italian mountains in August. Some soldiers saw the flight, and soon found the mutilated body. THE original Indian of Kalamazoo is Kekuamazoow, and means Great Smoky Town—a delicate compliment to the mists, which gather in the valley. SAVANNAH is proud of a dry goods clerk who has been horse-whipped by seven different women, but he remains in his place as if nothing had happened. A LEAD mine has been discovered in Banta Springs, Kansas, where solid nuggets of four to seven tons are discovered within eight feet of the surface. TEACHER—"Can you tell me why Adam and Eve were driven out of Paradise?" Bright Pupil—"Because they wouldn't go on their own accord." NOTWITHSTANDING the Abyssinian war and the Geneva award, the public Debt of England has been reduced by \$328,722,775 within the last fifteen years. YOU can tell when a news boy has been struck with one of the new \$500 greenback counterfeits, by the usually thoughtful expression upon his countenance. A CONVICT of the Michigan City Penitentiary feigned death for three hours, but when they jabbed a pin into him, he rose up and wanted to put a head on the jabber. ONE gentleman in Congress saying: "We must return to the food of our ancestors," somebody asked: "What food does he mean?" "Thistles, I suppose," was the reply. EARL SAGINAW, Mich., citizens complain of heavy taxes, but the city is making many and needed improvements, in the way of drainage, water works, public parks, etc.

Original Story. Written for THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS. MIDNIGHT AND NOONDAY. BY ECCE FRATER. CHAPTER III. "You will; up and make a fire and don't let me call you again," so cried out Mr. Lorenzo about 4 o'clock the next morning. A rustling was heard in the little bed room, and soon a little boy of about ten summers was seen making a fire in the warming stove, then in the kitchen. "Have you fed," enquired the stern man of the house, as soon as he was fairly out of bed. "Not yet, Uncle; it was too early I thought." "To early! you are a pretty boy to talk about too early, here at this time of day. Away with you and feed the stock." "Husband!" spoke the wife, you must start Willie to school again this morning." "Yes, yes, but he must stay at home to-morrow and help me clean a grist of wheat." "No, that will not do; you had better keep him at home to-day, for if you must have him to help you."

"I have other fish to fry to-day, and besides that, to-morrow is the day to go to the mill for me." "But, Mr. Lorenzo, it is no use to send the boy to school, after any such style; it will do him more harm than good." "Wife, I do wish I could do as I please about something."

"Husband, do I ever interfere with your business, are to your inquiries?" "I promised Bill Jones to go to the mill to-morrow, and so I must do so, and I cannot change my plans."

"Well, then, I will help you, and you must let Willie go to school."

"Pretty how-to-do, make a water out of yourself to indulge a boy."

"No I don't look at it that way, but —"

"I want my breakfast some-time to-day, if I am going to get any."

The breakfast was over, and the important Mr. Lorenzo took a seat by the fire, and began the enjoyment of his morning

smoke, (a very bad and filthy habit for a gentleman to indulge in, especially in the tidy sitting room of his wife.) Soon the good Mrs. L. had her kitchen work done up, and appeared in neat and tasteful attire in her morning dress, taking her seat on the opposite side of the stove.

"Mr. Lorenzo," said the wife, "I told you last night I had something strange to tell you, and now if you will listen I will proceed."

"Well, first and foremost, I want to know if Will brought in wood before he had started to school; I bet he didn't."

"Yes, there is plenty of wood in the kitchen."

"Sarah! I believe I can guess what strange thing you are about to tell. I heard it before you did. It is this: Margaret Vorheese and Sam Jones are about to run off and get married."

"No, no, dear, I heard that talked of among the women at the quilting, but I am so averse to telling that I never mentioned it, even to you. That is not the strange thing."

"Wife, stop, I want to guess again. Its this: you and someone else of your sect, have made up your mind to buy an organ for the new church. Now, I've guessed it."