

ARMADA OF THE AIR

PLAN FLYING MACHINE FLEET FOR THE UNITED STATES.

Congress Will Be Given Chance to Watch Trials at Which Wright Brothers Will Fly Aeroplanes.

Washington—A well-fitted fleet of aerial vessels for this country in the near future, as a means of protection against more advanced European nations, is the prospect which is being urged on those interested in the trials to be held at Fort Myer...

As soon as a hydrogen gas generating plant is set up at Fort Myer the officers of the signal corps will begin to train the men in the balloon squad by making numerous flights in the signal corps No. 11...

As soon as the tent for housing the dirigible has been erected Lieutenants Frank P. Lahn and Benjamin D. Poulter will resume the flights which were terminated in October last.

One of the trips proposed is to cross the Potomac from Fort Myer and fly over the capitol building. The dirigible, the only one in the possession of the government, was purchased last summer from Capt. Thomas S. Baldwin...

The Wright brothers hold the other contract for the delivery of an aeroplane, but their work is so well known that their machine will not arouse the same amount of curiosity...

Orville Wright, who has announced his intention of completing the trials at Fort Myer in spite of the fact that he has just fully recovered from the serious injury which he suffered in the accident to his machine last September...

The Herring Curtiss aeroplane has formed a partnership with Glenn H. Curtiss, the aeroplanist, and it is understood that they and the Wright brothers have patents pending on an automatic controlling device...

This motor is described as having five treated chrome nickel steel cylinders, set radially around a single shaft. Its total weight, including the fly-wheel, spark coils, carburetors and part of the containing frame, is said to be only 25 pounds...

Girl Is Baseball Captain. Seattle, Wash.—The senior law class has established a precedent at the University of Washington by electing its one woman member, Miss Blanche Wink, as captain of its baseball team.

Plan Transatlantic Air Trips. New York—Fantastic as the idea may seem, steps have been taken to incorporate the Europe-American Navigation society, which proposes to promote the flights of dirigible balloons across the Atlantic ocean.

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BATTLE MUSIC NOT MARTIAL

British Soldiers Prefer Music Hall Songs to Heroic Hymns When They Go Into Action.

It is an understatement of deeds of heroism which delights the British soldier, declares Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in "Through the Magic Door."

Our sailors, working the heavy guns in South Africa, sang: "Here's another lump of sugar for the bird."

The Russians are not unlike us in this respect. I remember reading of some column ascending a breach and singing lustily from start to finish...

A spectator inquired what wondrous chant it was which had warmed them to such a deed of valor...

The fact is, I suppose, that a mere monotonous sound may take the place of the tom-tom of savage warfare...

GIFT OF CHINESE EMPRESS.

Miss Carl, Portrait Painter, Has an Interesting Jewel Presented by Tai Ann.

Miss Katherine Carl, the portrait painter, has an interesting jewel presented to her by the empress of China, which reveals Tai Ann, even amid her cares of state...

It was while Miss Carl was living at the palace for the purpose of painting the empress' portrait that the incident occurred. On one occasion when Miss Carl appeared before her the empress was not satisfied with the unveiled gray of the painter's gown...

Finally she drew from her own hair the floral decoration which she herself wore. This was of jasmine blossoms, worn in the Chinese fashion...

"Keep this pin when the flowers have faded as a souvenir of me and to remind you also that it is the duty of all of us to look as well as we can at all times...

A Well-Built Instrument. When the concert was over, and the pianist was driving along the snowy road to the Burnham Inn...

"Yes," he went on, after a minute, "you certainly did first-rate. You showed power and strength beyond anything I ever expected to listen to, and you was lightning quick into the bargain."

"Anybody that heard you could tell you'd worked hard and long and steady to get your trade. But I tell you who else had ought to have some credit—that's the man that made the piano you played on."

"Tain't every instrument that would stand the strain you put on it, not by a good deal."

"I should call it the praise ought to be divided pretty even betwixt ye,"—The Sunday Magazine.

What Beethoven Is. "Now," said the brown-eyed woman, "I will always know how to talk when I hear a symphony or grand opera."

"Well," said he, with a long drawn sigh, "Beethoven is always Beethoven." "Yes," she responded, "Beethoven is always Beethoven."

All Are Busy Digging. "The love of money is the root of all evil," but everybody seems to be digging away at the root...

Bargains Is Bargains. The lady shopper gazed dubiously at the 75-cent article. "I don't think it's worth more than 50 cents," she objected.

GREAT VOLCANO IN SAMOA.

In Eruption Nearly Four Years and Has Emitted Enormous Mass of Molten Lava.

Letters recently received in this city from people who journeying across the Pacific, made a stop at Samoa, give some idea of the stupendous volcanic outbreak that is going on in the island of Savii, German Samoa.

As the island of Savii is very sparsely inhabited, even by the natives, while its white population consists of a few missionaries and traders, there has been but little damage to life or property...

HIS TALK VERY EDIFYING.

Minister's Parrot Guides an Old Lady's Perverse Bird Into More Decent Speech.

Rev. Philip C. Fletcher, the most eloquent and popular of St. Louis' younger clergymen, was discussing the other day the sermon wherein he said he saw no harm in cosmetics.

"What I meant in that sermon," said Mr. Fletcher smiling, "was that a woman owed it to herself to make the most of her looks. According to some people, I advised every woman to lay on powder and paint with a towel. I would never think of giving such advice, of course."

"A certain minister, you know, called on an old lady, and found a new parrot in her parlor. This parrot kept saying every little while: 'I wish the old girl would die!'"

"But I think I can set this matter right for you, dear madam," he said. "I, too, have a parrot, as you know. It is a very honest bird. Its talk is very edifying. I'll send it here; and it will soon guide your own parrot into decent speech."

"He sent on his parrot that evening. The grateful old lady put the birds side by side. Then, with a pleased smile, she prepared to listen to their conversation."

"I wish the old girl would die," said the parrot host.

"And the guest rolled his eyes and declaimed solemnly: 'We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord!'"

He Had Reason to Flee. This affidavit was filed in court of common pleas in Dublin in 1822: "And this deponent further saith, that on arriving at the home of the said defendant for the purpose of personally serving him with the said writ, he, the said deponent, knocked three several times at the outer, commonly called the hall door, but could not obtain admittance; whereupon this deponent was proceeding to knock a fourth time, when a man, to this deponent unknown, holding in his hands a musket or blunderbuss, loaded with balls or slugs, as this deponent has since heard and verily believes, appeared at one of the upper windows of the said house, and presenting said musket or blunderbuss at this deponent, threatened that if said deponent did not instantly retire, he would send his (the deponent's) soul to hell, which this deponent verily believes he would have done, had not this deponent precipitately escaped."

Theater Folk Are Superstitious. Theatrical people are proverbially superstitious. I know of one great actress who never goes on the stage without first crossing herself to insure good luck.

Where Lake Erie Got Its Name. Lake Erie took its name from a tribe of Indians, of Iroquois stock, known as the Eries, who lived in the western part of New York state and on the south shore of the lake.

Pays Firemen in Coppera. East Douglass, Mass.—Just \$3,000 one cent pieces have been received by the members of the Fire King Engine Company of this town from Town Treasurer Walter E. Schuster as their annual salaries.

His Importance. The Lady—What will it cost to take my husband and me to the station? The Caddy—Two dollars, ma'am. The Lady—And how much for me alone? The Caddy—The same, ma'am. The Lady—There, dear—see how much you're valued at!

HE WAS A WONDERFUL JOCKEY

Charles Taylor Rode His Last Race at Age of 96 and Was Model Man.

Charles Taylor, veteran horseman, died this winter at the age of 102. He had made White River Junction, Vt., his home about fifty years.

It is estimated he won 70 per cent. of about 1,700 races, says the Vermont. He knew what his horses could do in any event—was always with them, even slept with them.

He was thorough in trifles. His habits were regular and exemplary. He was always in condition. It was his quiet boast that he never lost a meal, never had a cold or a doctor, never took a glass of liquor or used tobacco, never used an oath or swore.

As a centenarian he drove exhibition half miles at fairs, and even last October at the state fair resented proffered assistance when alighting from the sulky. His mental and physical activities were surprising to the last.

Nothing Mean About Him. Willing to Save Others from Rattlesnake Even If He Had Lost His Mule.

At the railway station of a certain Alabama town a number of passengers, who were waiting for a train long overdue, had distributed themselves on the platform, their feet hanging thereover.

Presently there came along a native, a sour-faced individual, with a rope in his hand. It subsequently transpired that he was looking for a stray mule. He came out of the bush opposite the station and stood for some time looking up and down the tracks.

"Hey, there! You all!" "What is it?" demanded some one, startled by the sudden cry.

"This injunction to 'h'ist' was complied with by all with alacrity, for, as they looked down over the platform, they perceived a big rattlesnake just coiling for a strike. A handy grindstone was dropped on the reptile, dispatching it, of course; and one of the men thanked the native for his timely warning."

The latter smiled grimly. "I don't s'pose I deserve much thanks," said he, "but some men who have lost a mule 'a' been huntin' for it for three days would have been kinder o'nery 'bout that snake. However, gents, there ain't nuthin' mean 'bout me!"

The Divine Sara. Many years have passed and many stories have been told since a critic of Le Figaro wrote: "Last evening an empty carriage drew up at the entrance of the Francaise. The door opened and Mme. Bernhardt got out."

One day, when Montigny, at the Gymnase, gave her a part which she did not like, she went away in disgust, and made up her mind to open a confectioner's shop. She had taken to this idea so seriously that she actually selected a shop which was to let on the Boulevard des Italiens, and which seemed admirably placed. She inspected the front of the shop and was quite pleased.

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M'KEE AND HIS CAT CLUB

Cleveland Bank Manager Didn't Realize What Was Being Done to Him.

Cleveland, O.—Cats comprise the chief aversion of A. E. McKee, manager of the East End branch of the Cleveland Trust Company...

Well, one night McKee was sitting down in a hotel lobby, and a man comes up to him and says: "Come on upstairs with me. I came after my wife, who is attending a meeting of the Cleveland Cat club up there, and I don't like to brace the bunch alone."

McKee said that so long as there were no cats actually present he would take a chance. When he and his friend entered the meeting a committee of men and women members came up and insisted on them having some lemon ice and vanilla wafers.

A month or so later McKee got a notice that at the election of officers he had been made one of the trustees of the cat club. It wasn't long until an additional honor came.

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Doctor's Fat Liquor Fees. Ten Thousand Prescriptions at One Dollar Each Written by One Physician, Says Official.

Morgantown, W. Va.—The anti-alcohol people of this county who have been wondering for some time past why so many drunken men were seen on the streets of this place since the county was voted "dry" over a year ago have been given a rude shock by District Attorney Boyd...

According to an announcement made by Prosecuting Attorney Boyd, one prominent physician of Morgantown alone has written 10,000 prescriptions for liquor during the past year.

The old colored man, how worn his clothes were! bowed again. "That's all right," he said, "that's all right. I'll tell Bertha. She'll be washing for you so long. Bertha'll be washin' for you so long."

Electricity for Dyspepsia. New York Physician Advocates Cure by the Use of High Frequency Currents.

New York.—Dr. Samuel G. Tracey, member of several clinics and of the County Medical society, who announced a year ago that old age could be retarded by the use of "high frequency" electric currents...

Man and His Dog. He lies in front of me curled up before the fire, as so many dogs must have lain before so many fires. I sit on one side of that hearth as so many men must have sat by so many hearths.

Teaching Nothing. Dr. Howe, president of Case school, Cleveland, never fails to express his vexation when he has a student call the zero of mathematics nothing.

Circumstances and Cases. "I want you," said Mr. Dustin Stax, "to show that this law is unconstitutional. Do you think you can manage it?" "Easily," answered the attorney.

Japan's Trade Is Less. Tokyo.—Japan's foreign trade for the first quarter of this year amounted to \$4,500,000, being \$10,000,000 less than in the corresponding period of 1908.

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IRISH BLOOD IN DIAZ LAND.

Many Mexicans Found with Red Hair and Real Hibernian Brogue and Names.

The Mexicans are a dark-skinned race, but in the crowds of idlers who watch the passing train at every railroad station you will be sure to see one or more faces of truly Irish cast, surrounded by shocks of tousled brick-red hair.

"I remember one place in particular where I saw one of these carrot-topped Irish-Mexicans who had such a Hibernian face that I felt sure at once he must be an exile from Erin who had gone broke in the land of the Montezumas."

"Aren't you Irish?" What is your name? I asked.

"Si, senor," he replied in the formal Spanish phrases that even the Indians there use, "my name is Innocente Jesus O'Rourke." And he said it, with a brogue that, aside from his looks, was his sole ancestral inheritance.

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