

"Turoes!"

I stood face to face with my opponent.

"Fire!"

Both pistols, discharged simultaneously, made one sharp report.

"Was I unhurt? I moved my limbs slightly, feeling no pain in any of them.

My opponent, seen fairly through a cloud of smoke, was standing erect—uninjured perhaps, like myself. And yet my aim had been sure; or, at least, I fancied so.

Suddenly George Erskine's voice sounded at my side, raised to a tone of the most extraordinary loudness. "Three cheers for Sternforth! He has stood the test bravely!"

I looked about me in utter bewilderment, while the cheers were given clamorously from every side.

I turned towards Erskine and asked, "What does that singular behavior mean on the part of yourself and the other members. What have I done to deserve this enthusiasm? Oblige me by explaining."

"That task is mine," said the voice of Rivers, as he approached to where I stood. "I have been acting a part to-night, Mr. Sternforth, which I assure you was a most disgraceful one. This evening's entire performance may be summed up in two words—your initiation. Perhaps you can now understand why it is that the Exclusive Club is so difficult to enter. The men who fail to stand the test put up on you this evening fail in becoming members. The secrecy of our initiation system is nothing remarkable. Those who have experienced it without afterwards becoming members are not the ones to inform society of their inability to 'stand fire.' Mortification usually keeps them silent. And now," continued Rivers, extending his hand, "I trust that an apology for the ridiculous insults I hurled at you this evening will be fully accepted. Let the whole matter, like the charge of these bulletless pistols we fought with, end in smoke."

He offered me a cigar. I accepted it and his extended hand likewise, and so ended my first evening at the Exclusive Club.—N. Y. World.

Somebody Was Surprised.

"Funniman"—"Now there's your husband coming, Mrs. Candor. Let's make a little surprise for him. Mrs. Funniman and I will hide behind the curtains here, and you tell him that your expected guests haven't come. Then we'll step out and surprise him."

Enter Mr. Candor.

Mrs. Candor (obeying orders)—"Well, John, our expected guests have disappointed us, Mr. and Mrs. Funniman haven't come."

Mr. Candor (heartily)—"I'm d— glad of it."—Somerville Journal.

Water leaking through a hole just large enough to pass a needle through, during twenty-four hours, at a fourteen-pound pressure, would be sufficient to supply a house for the day. The waste through a one-inch pipe under the same conditions would be 1140 gallons.

The latest experiments made with carrier pigeons in connection with various European armies show that the normal velocity of the carrier in calm weather and for a short distance is about 1210 yards a minute. With a very strong wind in the direction of the flight a bird has reached 1985 yards a minute.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The highest meteorological station in Europe is on the top of the Sonnblick, in Austria, 10,168 feet above the level of the sea.

A German scientist finds the human eye more sensitive to light of medium wave length, being more affected by green rays than by red, and red more than by blue.

An army officer who had his arm amputated while perfectly conscious, says that it does not hurt except where the first cut around the limb is made, through the skin.

The largest crane in the world is at Chatham (England) dockyard. It lifts 240 tons, and stands 125 feet high and has a radius of 75 feet 8 inches.

The Local Government Board in London has collected a mass of testimony proving that cats catch diphtheria from human patients, and carry the disease to healthy persons.

A petrified tree nearly four feet through with roots extending over about fifteen square feet, was found recently in a coal mine at Osnabruck, Germany, and has been set up in the Berlin School of Mines.

A new red glass has recently been produced in Germany. Besides its use for the manufacture of bottles, goblets and vases of various kinds, it is applicable in photography and chemists and opticians laboratories.

PROFESSOR Forbes declares that the only types of underground cables apparently suitable for permanent work are either bare copper supported on insulators or else vulcanized india rubber, or perhaps okonite.

It has recently been shown by a series of experiments on dogs that while the alternating current is distinctly more deadly than the continuous, its fatal superiority is far less than some former experiments would lead us to think.

The use of the phonograph among certain Indian tribes leads to the conclusion that the main characteristics of their language can be recorded and permanently preserved either for study or demonstration with this instrument.

The piece of crown glass, forty inches in diameter and two and a half inches thick, made in Paris for the object glass of a telescope for the University of Southern California, will require two years' labor to turn into finished lens.

By means of a Mangin projector and the electric arc light on the summit of the Eiffel tower, in Paris, observers at a distance of 2000 meters from the illuminated area were able to distinguish objects the size of a human being six and a half miles from the tower.

CHEMICAL experts who have been analyzing lager beer say that but comparatively little malted barley is now used in

its manufacture, and that its ingredients are provocative of kidney disease and other fatal maladies when a person drinks much of the beer.

An apparatus of iron and glass, in which a pressure of 1000 atmospheres can be developed for the purpose of studying the influence of great pressure on animal life, has been exhibited to biologists in France. With it, deep-sea animals can be observed under their natural compression.

The result of the investigations of Dr. Donaldson, of the brain of a famous deaf and dumb pupil of Dr. Howe, is to substantiate several theories which medical experts have advanced about the functions of the brain as organ of thought. Conclusive evidence is adduced to prove that the brain is an intricate phonographic medium, which registers all that sight, hearing, taste, smell and feeling bring to it.

At Bahrin, which is about the hottest part of earth, no water can be obtained from digging wells to a depth of 500 feet in many cases, but, thanks to copious springs which break forth in the waters of the Persian Gulf, over a mile from shore fresh water is obtained by divers, who fill goatskin bags with the cooling liquid and sell it to the inhabitants.

CARTRIDGE TO OIL THE WAVES.—A cartridge has been invented by Mr. H. Walker, which, when filled with oil and discharged, will pacify the stormiest of seas. The receptacle is of ordinary cartridge size, but is made of heavy paper, and weighted at the further end with a small piece of lead. It will hold about two ounces of oil. It is fitted in an ordinary cartridge shell, and fastened to it by means of cotton shreds. The cartridge is put into a breechloader, and the trigger is pulled. The cotton connecting the cartridge and the shell is ignited by powder. It is burned, and the cartridge, filled with oil, is sent spinning away over the waves. Then, at any point the navigator may wish, the cartridge, because of the lead at the head, will sink into the waves. The oil being lighter than the water, rises to the top of the sea, and spreads over it like a film over the waves. By means of these cartridges a path an eighth of a mile broad can be made through the heaviest of seas.—Court Journal.

The crow is er mighty peart bird, but, for all his fine looks he sucks eggs jess the same.

Some folks kin 'tend to other people's business a blamed sight better'n they kin to their own.

'Tain't the hardest licks that allus drives a wedge in the furdest; sometimes gentle taps 'll make it stick a heap the best.

Hard times will cause the most stupid to become intelligent enough to try and find out what the matter is.

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