

# MADE MONEY ON A ROPE.

SOME INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE GREAT BLONDIN.

How the Famous Walker Laid the Foundation of His Fame and His Fortune—His Great Feats on the Tight Rope in America and Other Places.

Blondin, the daring tight-rope walker and performer, who made such a sensation in the country in the fifties, when he danced across Niagara Falls on his spider-thread bridge, is still living and is now over seventy years of age says an exchange which quotes from Chamber's Journal. He lives on his own estate, at Niagara House, South Ealing near London, and is rich. This latter statement is not surprising when we remember that he rarely made less than five hundred dollars a day while performing. His real name is Jean Francois Gravelet, and he was born near Calais in 1824. His nickname he derived from his father, who was called 'Blondin' on account of the color of his hair.

Blondin began to walk along a rope when he was only four years old, and at twice that age gave a special exhibition before the king of Italy and Turin. And last Christmas, although over seventy years of age, when performing on the high-rope in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, he appeared as nimble and active as ever. He went through much the same performance as that which startled the public at the Crystal Palace about thirty years ago. He ran along the rope; he did the journey in a sack and blind-folded; he stood upright in a chair, which he had previously balanced in the centre of the rope; he stood on his head on the rope, and concluded by carrying his attendant across.

He went to America in 1855; and it must have been about four years later, when looking across the Niagara Falls, that he remarked to Mr. Ravel (his manager): 'What a splendid place to bridge with a tight-rope!' Although called idiot and mad man, he endeavored to carry this daring project of crossing the Falls on the tight-rope into execution. In the spring of 1859 he took rooms in the hotel at Niagara Falls village, and began to make his arrangements. The bank on one side was about one hundred and sixty feet in height; on the other, one hundred and seventy. He crossed for the first time on June 30, in the presence of what was said to be a concourse of upward of fifty thousand people. On July 4, he crossed again, his body enveloped in a heavy sack of blanket; with eyes thus blind-folded, his step was as steady as if he saw. In the middle of the month he crossed wheeling a wheelbarrow; and on August 5, in crossing, he turned somersaults and performed various gymnastic feats on the rope. He crossed with a man on his back on the 19th; and on the 27th, as a Siberian exile in shackles. On September 2, he crossed at night, and stood on his head amid a blaze of fire works. In the summer of 1860 he crossed below the Suspension Bridge; but previously he had great difficulty in adjusting his one-inch rope, and nearly lost his life in fixing the lateral guy-ropes. The difficulty and danger in crossing was increased by a dip of forty feet on the length of the rope. His last performance here, on September 14, 1860, was witnessed by the Prince of Wales and suite and a vast assembly of spectators. The Prince eagerly and anxiously watched his progress through a telescope; and on Blondin being presented afterwards, his first words of greeting were: "Thank God, it is all over." At this time he crossed when a man on his back, traversed the rope in a sack and blindfolded, and even went across on stilts. In traversing the rope with a man on his back, the time occupied was forty-five minutes; he set the man down, while he rested six times on the rope. Fancy the man thus climbing again on his shoulders and inserting his legs in the hooks attached to the hips of the gymnast for his support!

The Prince of Wales afterwards sent Blondin a special cheque; another of his gifts was a cluster diamond ring; and the village of Niagara presented a costly medal. Since his triumphs at Niagara, Blondin is said to have given more than four thousand performances in parts of the world, without the slightest accident. Apparently, Blondin does not know what nervousness means, and his secret has been described as confidences in himself, obtained by long habit in rope-walking. There is no doubt some of the victims he has carried across his rope have suffered. He would talk to them on the most indifferent subjects; tell them to sit perfectly still, and avoid clutching him round the neck, or look downward when in mid-air. He has frequently detected a gasp of relief from the man on his back when the end of the rope and platform were reached. What he considers as one of his greatest feats was in walking on a rope from the mainmast to the mizzen on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamer 'Poonah,' while on her way to Australia, between Aden and Galle in 1874. He had to sit down five times while the heaviest waves were approaching the ship.

In a fragment of autobiography written some years ago, Blondin tells us that the rope he generally used was formed with a

flexible core of steel wire covered with the best Manila hemp, about an inch or three-quarters in diameter, several hundred yards in length, and costing about a hundred pounds. A large windlass at either end of the rope served to make it taut, while it was supported by two high poles. His balancing-poles of ash wood vary in length, and are in three sections, and weigh from thirty-seven to forty-seven pounds. He is indifferent as to the height at which he is to perform. Blondin has never confessed to any nervousness on the rope, and while walking, he generally looks eighteen or twenty feet ahead, and whistles or hums some snatch of a song.

## HOW TO REST OURSELVES.

An Accomplishment in Which Most of us are Sadly Deficient.

The trouble with many of those who are perfectly willing to take physical rest is they do not know how to go about it. Our household furniture was fashioned to suit the notions of our ancestors, who were not in the habit of resting. Chairs were merely benches or stools with backs to them, while sofas were simply longer benches with shorter backs.

As many of you know from experience, the old-fashioned chair had a straight back. It was thought that this would in some measure counteract the tendency of men and women to become hump-backed. It did not occur to them that this deformity was due to the exhaustion of physical energy, and not to carelessness on the part of the individual. Round shoulders and hollow chests are due to the relaxation of the muscles of the back, and no amount of straightening up will remove the cause. When the muscles of the back become weak from loss of energy, the muscles of the chest naturally pull the shoulders forward. To restore the body to a perpendicular position, the muscles of the back must have their energy restored.

Lying flat down and stretched out at full length is the most restful position the human body can take, because it requires no effort whatever to maintain this pose. The Japanese understood this, and they make good use of their knowledge. Instead of having their houses full of stiff-backed chairs, they spread mats, skins, or cushions on the floor or low platforms, upon which they recline when resting, reading, or whiling away the time. In this way they stop the waste of the energy necessary to keep one in a bolt-upright position. The blood circulates more freely, because there is no tension on the limbs. This reduces the labor of the heart to a minimum. The energy thus saved goes to restore tired or weakened organs or to the invigoration of the brain.

We must rid ourselves of the notion that it is a sign of laziness to lie down or lounge about on the floor, or cot, or bed; also that it is not proper for women to lie down when tired.

Were our women in the habit of taking more rest, and taking it properly, they would not be compelled to wear stays in order to keep them straight. Having to wear these constantly, the muscles of the chest and back do not develop normally, and are, therefore, weaker than other muscles of the body.—Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette.

## PHOTOS FOR BALD HEADS.

An Artist Hides the Defect Very Ingeniously.

An agent soliciting trade for a Broadway photographer recently called at the Park avenue home of one of New York's best-known physicians and tried to convince the doctor that he should have his picture taken. He was selling—his photograph coupons. The physician has a terribly bald head. Nothing but a trefal fringe of hair remains on an erstwhile head of hair. On that account he had long ago given up having photographs of himself made, so he replied:

"No; thank you, I want none of your coupons. I have broken myself of the photograph habit. My head is too bald for the business."

But the agent was persistent, and finally the physician said: "I will make you a fair proposition. I will take a double dose of your coupons if you will promise to fix my pictures so the bald spot will not show."

"All right," said the agent, after a moment's reflection. "Mr. — can arrange that. Such things are done every day in our business. Here are your coupons. Come to the gallery for your sitting next Saturday."

When he went to the photographer's studio the following Saturday, "Ah," said the man in charge of the cameras, "this is Dr. —, is it not? The man for whom we are to make photographs which will not show the baldness of his head, as our agent promised. Just kindly step over to the other end of the room. No, do not lay your coat and hat down. Keep the overcoat on your arm and kindly place your hat on your head. That's right; now look pleasant, please. There! Your picture's taken."

"Well! I hope I can get home without being taken in by a gang of bunco-steerers," said the physician, after he realized that he had been made the victim of a clever trick.—New York World.

## "Say Uncle."

A man of New Bedford, whose name had coaxed him to buy her a parrot, succeeded in getting a bird that was warranted a good talker. He brought it home, and after putting it in a cage, stood before it and said "Say uncle, Folly!" The bird did not respond, and after repeating the sentence a dozen times or more, with no better success, the uncle put his hand into the cage and grabbed the bird by the neck, shook him until his head wobbled around, all the time yelling at him: "Say uncle, goll don yer, say uncle!" The bird looked limp and lifeless, and, disgusted with his purchase, the old fellow took the parrot out into the yard, where he had a coop of thirty chickens. Thrusting the half-dead bird in with the chickens, he exclaimed: "There by gosh! You'll say uncle before

you get out!" Next morning the uncle went out to see how the parrot was getting along. Looking into the coop, he counted twenty-nine dead chickens, and in the centre of the coop stood the parrot on one foot, holding the thirtieth chicken by the neck and shaking it till its head wobbled, and screaming: "Say uncle, goll darn yer, say uncle!"—Boston Herald.

## HIS AUDIENCE OF ONE.

One of the American Experiences of a big Headed English Writer.

Several amusing stories are told of the slim audiences which greeted Sir Edwin Arnold in some of the Western cities. But it remained for Omaha to give the author of "The Light of Asia" the slimmest of all. Sir Edwin had travelled all night from Indianapolis to Omaha, and expected great things of the people of the latter city. He had been greeted by a respectfully sized audience in Minneapolis, but in some way or other the famous author had pictured Omaha to himself as an enormous metropolis, whose citizens would flock to hear him. Upon reaching his hotel early in the morning Sir Edwin said to his hotel manager when he called upon him:

"I suppose we'll do well here, won't we?"

"Well, I don't know," said the manager, in a crestfallen way. "I have just been to the place where the advance sale has been going on for ten days, but the rush has not been very great."

"Oh, well," said Sir Edwin, encouragingly. "It can't help having been tolerably large. How many seats have been sold?"

"Well, since you ask, Sir Edwin, so pointedly, I will tell you. We have just sold one seat, and the buyer of that is now waiting down stairs to see you."

The English poet was crestfallen, but, recovering himself, he asked that his visitor be shown up to him. It turned out to be a young woman who was an intense admirer of Sir Edwin. He kept his visitor there for two hours, reading to this audience of one the entire lecture. Then, bowing his audience out, he called his manager and said:

"Well, I have delivered my lecture. Why should we stay here?"

This struck the manager as rather a sensible idea, and hurriedly arranging with the owners of the hall, the lecture was cancelled, and by noon the lecturer and his manager were off for the next stop. In the evening just four people turned up at the hall, to be met with the notice that there would be no lecture.

## SCOTLAND'S THISTLE.

How it Came to be Adopted as the National Emblem of old Scotia.

Nearly every nation has some emblem which is patriotically revered as a symbol of the country itself. The lion and the unicorn are emblazoned on the shield of England. The fearless, bald-headed eagle is wrought on the arms of the United States, Persia, Austria, Russia, and France have adopted an eagle as a national military symbol.

The eagle of Russia has two heads displayed, the whole imperially crowned. The eagle of Austria is also displayed with two heads; the Prussian eagle has one only. The shamrock is the emblem of Ireland, and the thistle of Scotland. Why the Scots chose the thistle is told in this legend:

It was at the time of the invasion, when the destinies of Scotland hung upon the result of a battle soon to come. The invaders were upon the soil, and if they gained the victory in the first encounter, they might not afterward be overcome. The invaders knew the Scots were desperate, and if they could surely conquer them they must fall upon them suddenly. To this end they availed themselves of a dark night, and planned to fall upon the Scots on all sides at once. They would have succeeded in destroying the Scots, but an accident betrayed them.

When near the Scottish camp, the foremost of the invaders removed their heavy shoes from their feet, so that their steps would not be heard; and thus stealthily advancing barefooted, a heavy, quick-moving soldier trod squarely upon a huge thistle, the sharp points of which gave him such sudden and acute pain, that he cried out with a curse in his agony. His cry aroused the outlying Scots, and apprised them of their danger.

With wonderful alacrity they sprang to their arms, and meeting the foe so widely divided they were prepared to overcome them which they did with great slaughter. When the Scots discovered that it was to a thistle they owed their victory, they resolved to adopt it as their national emblem.—The Young Idea.

## Still Figuring on It in Scotland.

The other day, at a trial of divorce case the parties to which were a nobleman of advanced years and his young wife, the judge remarked that this was another instance of the evil effects of "marriages contracted between May and December." Shortly afterwards the learned judge received a letter from the secretary of a Scotch statistical society, intimating that that body would be obliged if he would favor them with an account of the facts from which he derived the singular rule enunciated by him as to the infelicity of marriage solemnized during certain months of the year, and adding that some of the members wished to utilize the information which might thus be afforded them in the shape of a paper to be read before the society, with a view of public discussion.

This Dog Buys Oranges and Eats Them. "Do you want a good story?" asked a well-known man last evening. "Well, here's one about a dog, and it's a true one, too."

"The dog's name is Sam. He is a setter, and belongs to a man named McCormick, who keeps a restaurant down at Atlantic City. I was down there last week and saw the dog going through a remarkable per-

formance. A man in a crowd of six or eight people will take a nickel from his pocket, wrap it in a piece of paper, and give it to the dog. Sam then trots off to the corner, where an Italian keeps a fruit stand. The Italian places an orange in a paper bag and pretty soon Sam comes trotting back with his purchase, wagging his tail and tickled to death. He will then hunt out the man who gave him the nickel, never making a mistake, apparently wishing to show that he hasn't squandered the money foolishly. After that he takes the orange from the bag and plays with it until he gets tired. Then he eats it. He first bites a piece out of the skin, just as a man who has no knife might do, and then breaks it in two pieces. He is fond of oranges, but although he manages to get the meat of the fruit, he will never swallow even a morsel of the skin"—Phil. Record.



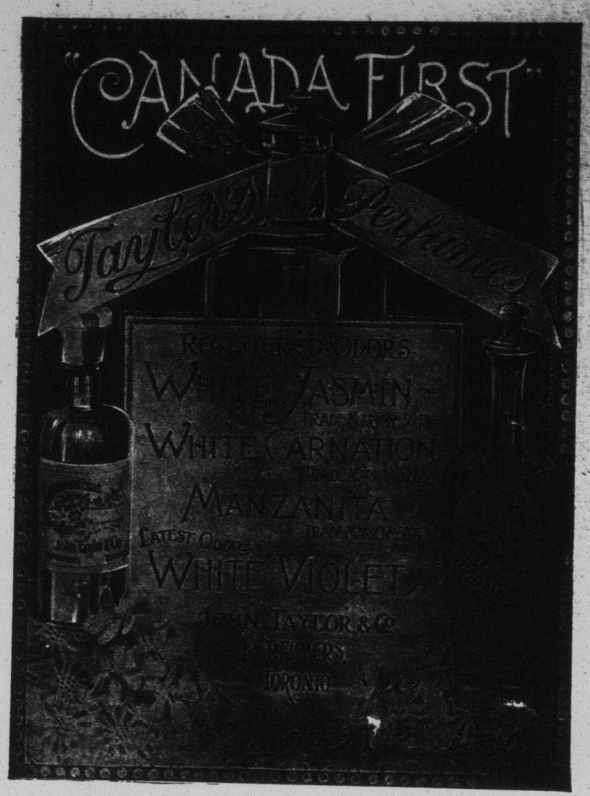
Effect of the French Treaty.

## Wines at Half Price.

The Bordeaux Claret Company, established at Montreal in view of the French treaty, are now offering the Canadian connoisseur beautiful wines, at \$3.00 and \$4.00 per case of 12 large quart bottles. These are equal to any \$6.00 and \$8.00 wines sold on their label. Every swell hotel and club are now handling them and they are recommended by the best physicians as being perfectly pure and highly adapted for invalids' use. Address:

Bordeaux Claret Company

30 Hospital Street, Montreal, Quebec Office: 17 Allee de Bostant.



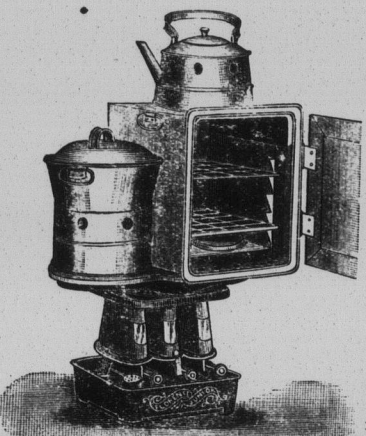
# WEDDINGS

Thousands of useful and inexpensive articles and very attractive for

## WEDDING PRESENTS.

SOLID SILVER, SILVER PLATED, LAMPS, DESSERT SETS, KNIVES, CARVERS, WATER PITCHERS, CAKE BASKETS, CRUET STANDS, GRANITE WARE, ICE CREAM FREEZERS. Bear in mind we keep the largest stock and variety to be found in the Lower Provinces.

W. H. THORNE & Co., LIMITED Market Square, St. John.



## Oil Stove

is a safe and convenient

## STOVE

for Summer use, and costs less to

## COOK

a meal than it does to build a fire in the COOKING RANGE, and be sides comfort and economy there is a great saving of Time,—and further the price is so low now, that an OIL STOVE has become a NECESSITY rather than a luxury.

# EMERSON & FISHER.

P. S. Refrigerator, Ice Cream Freezers and Window Screens in endless variety.

## THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

## Ice Cream Freezer,

The Leading Freezer of the World.

Improved for 1895, with which the finest quality of Cream can be produced in four minutes. Positively the only Freezer in the world having the celebrated "Duplex" Dashers, with self-adjusting wood scraping bars by the use of which Cream can be frozen in less time, yet finer and smoother than can possibly be produced in any other Freezer now in use. By using the White Mountain you run no risk of being poisoned, as the cans are made of Best Charcoal Tin Plate, and the Beaters of Malleable Iron, Tinned.

## FOR SALE BY—

T. M'AVITY & SONS, 13 to 17 King St., ST. JOHN, N. B.

## CELEBRATED

# Monarch

ECONOMIC BOILERS,

# Robb-Armstrong Engines.

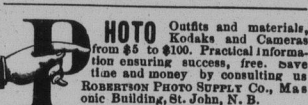
Full equipment for saw mills. Complete stock of

## General Mill Supplies.

J. S. CURRIE,

Agent for Robb Engineering Co.,

57 WATER STREET - SAINT JOHN, N. B.



## PHOTO

Outfits and materials, Kodaks and Cameras from \$5 to \$100. Practical information, free, save time and money by consulting us. ROBERTSON PHOTO SUPPLY CO., Main Building, St. John, N. B.

## STAMPS

For Hand Printing, Blanks, Rallies, Man, etc., and Merchants supplied. Lin in markers, Monograms, Stencils, Seal, etc., so order ROBERTSON PRINTING STAMP WORKS, St. John, N. B.

## ONE MILLION

CUSTOMERS wanted for beautiful gold parcels. We will send you post free for only 25 cents, 50 cents, or \$1.00, a parcel of eight inch imported, stamped cloth dolls. Address: Gorbell's Art Store, 307 Union Street, St. John, N. B. 11-17-95

## RESIDENCE

at Robb's for sale or to rent for the summer months. The pleasant situated house known as the Thru property about one and a half miles from Robb's Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennelby, cash best reasonable. Apply to E. S. P. N. B. Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24-2-95

## AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Printing and general finishing for amateurs. Also taking and fixing solutions for sale. LOUNIS PHOTO STUDIO, 22 Charlotte St., St. John N. B.