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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The mystery surrounding the fate of the aeronauts Donaldson and Grimwood is at last revealed. The *Cincinnati Times* gives a detailed account of the finding of Donaldson and his confession before his death of having thrown overboard Grimwood into Lake Michigan in the vain hope of saving his own life. The *Times* says, a party headed by a Mr. Wilson were fishing in the Ottawa district and found Donaldson dying in the forest, fifty miles from Lake des Quinzes, amid the dense and untrodden forest through which the Montreal River runs, that the doomed aeronaut was found, partially protected by the ruins of a fishing hut, with his left arm and leg broken and starvation slowly making its way against the few roots and berries that he had been able to drag himself out to gather. Gangrene had also set in, in consequence of his unattended wounds and even the most unprofessional eye could see that death was inevitable and that a few more hours must terminate his sufferings. Donaldson says, "when about thirty miles from Chicago, and about 2,000 feet high, while passing over Lake Michigan, a terrific storm burst upon them. This storm was a succession of furious gusts, collapsing the balloon on one side before it could yield on the other and driving the gas out of the neck in such volumes as almost to stifle us. Of course, to fasten up the neck would have resulted in immediate bursting. We had to let the gas go, though our lives were going with it. The rain, too, added greatly to the weight of the balloon, and in less than ten minutes all our ballast was out and we were still settling. An immediate discharge of all the ballast at the time the storm first struck us might possibly have shot the balloon up clear of the storm level, but I feared at the first moment to risk a counter current that should carry us up the lake and in the next we were so stupified with the escaping gas as to be able to work only with great difficulty and slowness. It was only when the ballast was gone and our descent still rapid, that the thought forced its way into my mind that one of us must die to save the other. I think the thought occurred to Mr. Grimwood at the same moment as to myself only with this difference, that to me it was only a new element of danger which I had confronted all my life time—I faced it quietly. To him it had an appalling strangeness—he sat cowering in the basket, his teeth chattering, his face livid, his hair blowing wildly in the storm. He was completely unmanned and I pitied him deeply, but—it was life and death. For the moment the thought occurred to me of giving him a chance for his life by drawing lots; but in the next I saw

clearly that it would be to him only another mode of death, for he had not the nerve, even if he had the experience, to manage the balloon. At that moment and it seems to me the strangest thing of the journey, there flashed across my mind a passage of Blackstone—I studied law a little bit once in my life you know—which refers to two men on a plank at sea. It stood out before me, in the pressure of the moment, as distinctly as if the book was in my hand and I think I can recite every word of it yet. Men think very rapidly at such times, sir; and all this occurred far more quickly than I can tell it to you. How the matter would have ended in my mind I cannot say, had I not seen at that moment Mr. Grimwood trying to draw a derring-dog from his pocket. His hand trembled so that I have no idea now that he could have hit me, but the movement was sufficient to end my hesitation. All the instinct of self-preservation leaped into my muscles, and it seemed to me but a single wave of my hand before Grimwood was falling towards the lake and the balloon shooting up above the storm. The scream of agony which the poor wretch trailed down to the water was horrible, horrible. I can hear it yet, but I do not regret what I did. It was my life against his, and my life was the better of the two." But for his broken limbs there is little doubt that his great physical endurance and nerve would have carried him safely out of the wilderness; but, injured as he was, death was only a matter of a few days. Some provisions rescued from the wreck of the balloon, together with such sustenance as he could gather from the forest, kept body and soul together for a short time; but once in the hands of his fellow beings, and his story told, the will which had sustained him seemed to fail, and a quiet death soon followed.

The American war steamers *Congress* and *Hartford* arrived at Tripoli on the 21st inst. A number of officers who landed from the *Congress* were hoisted by the rabble. Satisfaction was given for the insults to the officers who landed, but not for the previous insult to the American Consul. Up to Sunday both vessels remained at Tripoli.

The Canadian steamer *Manitoba* came in collision with the propeller *Comet* about Whitefish Point, on Lake Superior, on Thursday evening, and sunk her almost instantly. Ten lives were lost and ten persons saved, including the captain and first mate of the *Comet*. No one injured on the *Manitoba*, and she is now bound down with the survivors of the *Comet*.

It is said that the route of the Canada Pacific Railway between Lake Nipissing and French River is to be changed. A new survey will shortly be commenced.

Hayes, the Arctic explorer, publishes a call for aid to the suffering Icelanders. He says starvation will surely be on them this winter unless assistance is rendered. One third of the whole country of Iceland is rendered uninhabitable by the recent volcanos.

Lord Carnarvon recently received a deputation of gentlemen interested in the colonies, who advocated the erection of a Colonial Museum. His Lordship replied that he had been in correspondence with some of the colonies on the subject, and he was not without hope of overcoming the difficulties which were in the way. He had received offers in support of the proposal to the amount of nearly £10,000, which, however, was scarcely a third of the sum that would be required.

L'Univers announces the intended marriage of King Alfonso of Spain, and the eldest daughter of Duke Montpensier.

A special despatch to the *Times* from Berlin says the European powers have been unable to induce the Sultan to suspend hostilities against the insurgents pending their mediation. This refusal, however, is a matter of indifference, as the Turkish reinforcements have been unable to penetrate the mountain defiles. Telegrams to the effect that the Turks had succeeded were premature. The despatch adds that the Herzegovinian insurgents reject the proposed mediation. Austria, who has assembled an army corps in Dalmatia, will be in a position to offer the Sultan her good offices.

Three men of-war with troops and marines have been despatched hastily to that portion of the Egyptian coast bordering on Abyssinia, to punish a band of blacks who have been invading Egyptian territory. Four thousand infantry are held in readiness for emergency at Suez. The Khedive is determined to exact full satisfaction for the infringements upon his soil.

Captain Webb has succeeded in swimming the British Channel, from Dover to Calais, without aid of float or life preserving apparatus. The passage occupied 21 hours 40 minutes. The Captain is in good health and spirits, although a little fatigued after his aquatic journey.

The Russian General Kaufman has replied to the Khokand rebels, agreeing to acknowledge the new Khan if Russia be indemnified for losses by the insurrection, and the treaties between the Russian Government and the late Khan be accepted and observed by the new one.

The Porte is concentrating a large force in the direction of Nissa in consequence of the part taken by the Servians in the insurrection in Herzegovina. The military occupation of Servia is regarded as not improbable.