

POSTMEN OF THE SKY.

It is a curious link, with long-gone couriers, that the beleaguered people in Port Arthur have been using carrier pigeons to keep in touch with the outside world, just as good folk of Modena did not much less than 2,000 years ago.

But the most interesting use of pigeons in war was undoubtedly when they did such excellent service during the siege of Paris, a generation ago. The pigeons, it may be remembered, were sent out of the doomed city by balloons—365 of them; of these 302 were liberated, but only seventy-three set foot again in Paris. It is amazing, even in this age of miracles to think that a single one of these pigeon postmen carried no fewer than 40,000 messages each containing an average twenty words. This means a grand total of 800,000 words, or the equivalent of half a dozen fairly long novels as the burden of a single bird.

How was it done? Part of the mystery vanishes when we say that the weight of all these despatches was actually less than a grain, about one twenty-eighth of an ounce, and that they were contained within a goose quill one and three-quarter inches long, which was attached by a silk thread to one of the bird's tail feathers. The puzzle, however, remains how it was possible to get so many quarters of a million words within this tiny compass, says a writer in London Tit-Bits.

The secret of this seemingly impossible feat was microscopic photography. The messages were first printed in ordinary type and then reduced by photography several hundred times. The photographs were taken on thin film or pellicles of collodion, each of which though it was less than two inches square, could thus contain 50,000 words. Of these pellicles a pigeon could easily carry a dozen without interfering with its comfort or speed, and, as we have seen, on bird alone conveyed 40,000 messages.

But a pigeon has carried as much as three-quarters of an ounce for a short distance. The weight would represent something like 500,000 messages, or 10,000,000 words; so that, under these conditions, it would be quite possible for a pigeon to carry a small library of 120 volumes on its tail.

So impressive were army men generally as to the usefulness of the pigeon as demonstrated in the Franco-German war that it was not long before practically every nation in Europe had its trained military pigeons, and to-day there are more than sixty military pigeon stations in Europe.

We are among the last to adopt this simple and efficient method of carrying messages in time of war, but now we have excellent lofts at Portsmouth, Dartmouth and elsewhere, where birds are kept and trained in a most scientific manner.

In the Portsmouth lofts, which are in the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard at Gasport, it is an office where the official log books are kept with the utmost detail and precision. There are stud registers and report books in which the doings of every pigeon is chronicled; one volume is devoted to a record of times of liberation, another to pigeons homing at the loft and in another volume the various messages carried by the birds are noted. Among these it is interesting to notice many that have been sent to the lofts by members of our royal family when crossing the channel. The moment a bird enters the loft, it is automatically shut into a box by the dropping of a noiseless slide, and a electric bell summons an attendant to take the message it has brought.

The speed and endurance of these birds are amazing. Not long ago a 24-year-old bird flew 1,700 miles from America, through several storms of hail, rain and wind, and over a distance of 500 miles and over a route comparatively little of. Every year 2,000 or 3,000 pigeons compete in a 500-mile flight, which is usually accomplished in a single day, for prizes given by the king and the Comte de Flanders.

What a pigeon really can do was demonstrated as long ago as 1850. When Sir John Ross started in the Felix in search of Franklin's last expedition he took with him four homing pigeons belonging to a woman in Ayrshire, intending to release two of them when he laid up his vessel for the winter and the remaining pair when if ever he found Franklin.

The first pair of pigeons he liberated in Melville Bay, on Oct. 7th, and six days later one of the birds reached its mate in Ayrshire, though unfortunately its message had been lost during the journey. The distance between Melville Island and Ayrshire is a direct line 2,400 miles, and that is the astonishing journey the pigeon had made in half a dozen days.

CLOCK OF BLACK FOREST.

Queer Automatic Figures Appear at Stated Intervals on the Dial.

One of the most curious clocks known is thus described:

The clock was made by one Christian Martin, who lived in Black Forest, Germany, and is contained in a cabinet 302 meters wide, 272 meters high, and 0.55 meter thick.

The face, or front of this clock is divided vertically into seven sections, and each of these into five smaller sections or frames, displaying in each section the figures of each of which is some movable thing.

Upon this multiple face one may read the seconds, the minutes, the hours, the days, the weeks, the months, the four seasons and the common and leap years. Harmonious music accompanies the movement of each object. Situated in the centre of the front is the time-dial, and at the bottom of the central section of the clock is a large dial, the figures of which one strikes the quarters while the other, with the finger of her right hand, points to the quarter just struck, providing in this way a visible as well as an audible signal.

The lowest frame of the same section displays successively the figures of an infant, a youth, a full-grown man, and a person of old age, corresponding with the quarter struck, extending thus to reproduce the four stages of life. Instead of the time-towered seven ages of man's life.

Death, in the third frame of the fifth section, sounds the full hour. As soon as the hour is struck, the twelve apertures appear in an oval frame just above the clock-face, and after the other, each saluting Christ, who is placed in the frame from him. After playing their part, they withdraw from view, and a cherub guards the doorway.

The day of the month is shown on the dial in the second section of the third section. The maker computed the leap years up to the year 1,000. The days of the week are marked by

mythological figures which appear in the top frame of the third section. The twelve months of the year, are also shown in the bottom frame of the fifth section.

The moon displays her various phases in the circular frame just below the dial. Beginning with 30 a. m., a trumpeter industriously announces the hours upon his trumpet till 4 a. m., when he is relieved from duty by a cock that stands perched upon a pedestal in the next frame. With the dawn the cock, true to its nature, flaps its wings and crows.

Across the front in the fourth frame of section 5 is seen a soldier, who heralds each new year with an air played upon his bugle. In section 1 of the bottom frame is an old bell-ringer, whose duty it is to sound the hours of 6 a. m., 12 a. m. and 6 p. m., the hours of prayer.

An old beggar in the frame next on the right reminds the beholder of his devotion by kneeling, and with folded hands supplicating the deity. At the last stroke of the bell he rises and the scene of action is transferred across the board to an organ grinder, who grinds away, accompanied by a clown and both in the adjacent frame.

The uppermost frames in sections 1, 2, 6 and 7 show the four seasons in the form of a clock, while the second frames of sections 1 and 7 show the seven days of the creation.

Advice for Billiard Players.

Men of average skill often ask what they can do to improve their game, so I shall make a few suggestions for their benefit. In the first place I cannot urge them emphatically enough to play more carefully for position. Nine out of ten players shoot much too hard. In the long run, force without forecast is bad policy. Success by design is the rule. You can't depend on luck. Play over the common shots with special reference to getting a good position of the next play, and remember the chief bugbear of common players is a failure to play the easy shots right. Master the easy shot. Master the players do not strike the cue-ball down low enough in drawing. This is necessary in playing without much force. Then the stroke must be quick and sharp, and when the balls are near together, very delicately applied. One to guard against making a "poke," or to draw well, use an elastic tip of medium size. The very small tips and old hardened ones of any size, so often seen, are poor implements for effective execution. Don't use the English unless you have a reason for so doing, for, with its use, aiming is more difficult. An hour's intelligent practice is better than a year's desultory time-wasting. Play with the best players; use a straight cue, and make a short, stable "bridge" or hand-rest for your cue. Use the same cue continuously, as a good deal depends upon getting used to its weight, balance, and the size and texture of the tip. Use plenty of chalk! Practice much. Practice nursing in the corner and along the rail, trying to avoid the shot which you fail.—John Henry Freese, in February Outing.

Lever's Y-Z (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap Powder is a boon to any home. It disinfects and cleans at the same time.

A Turkey Dinner Without Turkey. No honest newspaper publisher claims that the publicity which he offers for sale is the only kind worth buying, or that money spent for magazine, poster, circular and street car advertising is absolutely wasted. The truth is—and every business man ought to know it—that all forms of advertising bring results, but the newspaper leads. Other mediums are useful mainly as adjuncts of the daily paper. An advertising campaign conducted without newspaper assistance is like a turkey dinner without turkey.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows. His Tongue Becoming Thick. Tankley—Let's see, we've had four rounds of this garget yet. And Markley's cow for a Scotch highball each time. Luschman—Except the last time. He called for a "Hotch skay!" then.

Nell—They say that Count Bogus is a marked man. Belle—Well, I dare say he's marked down, at any rate.

WOMEN'S NEGLECT SUFFERING THE SURE PENALTY. Health Thus Lost is Restored by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

How many women do you know who are perfectly well and strong? We hear every day the same story over and over again. "I do not feel well; I am so tired all the time!"

Miss Clara Beaubien, of Beaufort, Quebec, writes:

Dear Mrs. Pinkham: "For several years I have suffered with a female weakness which proved a serious drain on my vitality, sapping my strength and causing severe headaches, bearing-down pains and general weakness. I really had no desire to live. I tried many medicines, but did not get permanent relief until I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. In two months I was much better and stronger, and in four months I was well; no more disagreeable discharges, no more pain. So I have every reason to praise the Vegetable Compound, and I consider it without equal for the ills of women."

If you are ill, don't hesitate to get a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once, and write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., for special advice—it is free and always reliable.

THE CURE WAS QUICK AND PERMANENT. Dodd's Kidney Pills Soon Drove Away Rheumatism and Dropsy.

Case of a Windsor Man Who Suffered Two Years Before He Discovered the Right Remedy. Windsor, Ont., Feb. 6.—(Special)—How quickly Rheumatism and Dropsy can be cured when the right medicine is used is shown in the case of Mr. Jno. McDonald, a retired farmer living at 130 Langlois avenue here. Mr. McDonald says:

"For two years I was troubled with Rheumatism and Dropsy. My legs were terribly swollen, and though I tried many medicines nothing gave me any relief till I tried Dodd's Kidney Pills. Two boxes of them cured me completely. I have had no return of the diseases in years."

Rheumatism and Dropsy are caused by the poisons disordered Kidneys fail to strain out of the blood. Cure the kidneys with Dodd's Kidney Pills, and the Rheumatism or Dropsy. Without cause there can be no disease.

The Czar. (Chicago Chronicle). The Russian Czar He made a war. Upon the Japanese. The peasants mad. They felt the taxes squeegee.

They tried to see The Czar. They declined the interview; The Czar shot. They tried to see The Czar. They declined the interview; The Czar shot. They tried to see The Czar. They declined the interview; The Czar shot.

And now the Czar is hiding far. Where he can't hear. With cotton in each ear. And sits and shakes. And squirms and quakes.

Minard's Liniment Cures Dismember. A Cleveland Conundrum. The Ad. Club of Cleveland, Ohio, recently listened to a lecture entitled in Advertising. Anything tangible in Advertising. "Can a duck swim?" We

rich forcibly reminds us of that user. "Can a duck swim?" We do know that we can measure the success of an advertisement by the number of people who see it, and if you will, I will

THIS ARTICLE REMOVED

Dying Rich. Andrew Carnegie, at a recent dinner, was asked by a young girl if he was a disgrace to die rich. Mr. Carnegie parried the question gracefully. "Well," he said, "I should hate, after my death, to have such a speech made about me as an old cobbler once made to a millionaire."

This millionaire had been notoriously miserly all his life. His tomb was a magnificent one, and on it was carved the Biblical verse: "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."

The cobbler, having known the millionaire, took occasion to visit his tomb as soon as it was completed. He examined the monument carefully. Then he read aloud the verse upon it. Afterwards he commented on the verse like this: "That's true. But when that man died, the Lord didn't owe him a cent."

SEED TIME

The experienced farmer has learned that some grains require far different soil than others; some crops need different-handling than others. He knows that a great deal depends upon right planting at the right time, and that the soil must be kept enriched. No use of complaining in summer about a mistake made in the spring. Decide before the seed is planted.

The best time to remedy wasting conditions in the human body is before the evil is too deep rooted. At the first evidence of loss of flesh

Scott's Emulsion should be taken immediately. There is nothing that will repair wasted tissue more quickly or replace lost flesh more abundantly than Scott's Emulsion. It nourishes and builds up the body when ordinary foods absolutely fail.

We'll send you a sample free.

Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

SCOTT & BOWNE CHEMISTS Toronto, Ont.

TOBACCO FROM IRELAND. Climatic Difficulties Overcome in Artificial Curing Process.

Brief-mentions has already been made of the attempted production of tobacco as a commercial crop in Ireland and of the 20-acre tract that was being grown on the estate of Colonel Nugent Everard. The crop was successfully matured, but the climate proved so cold and damp that the crop had to be artificially cured. Mr. J. N. Harper, of Kentucky, who was invited by the Irish Department of Agriculture to visit Ireland and take charge of the curing of this experimental crop, has just returned with reports through official agricultural channels that the work was entirely successful, although accomplished by novel means.

A large barn was built on the estate, divided into a number of compartments, each thoroughly insulated and provided with ventilators at the top and bottom, the arrangements being such that the temperature of each room was under control within a degree, and the humidity as closely regulated. The curing experiments having been successful and the tobacco being pronounced of good export quality, much enthusiasm has been aroused over the work, as it gives promise of a new era of activity for the Irish agriculturist.

Selling a Queen's Jewels. The London papers give full particulars of the recent sale at an auction room in London of the jewels and costumes of Draga, the murdered Queen of Serbia. The prices for the small sum of \$575,000 were paid. The small sum of \$575,000 was paid. The small sum of \$575,000 was paid.

There was sold an article which had never been known to be offered for sale before—the Persian Order of the Sun, a star and badge set in diamonds. This was presented to Queen Draga by the Shah of Persia, on the occasion of his visit to Belgrade in 1900. The order is of the greatest rarity, being only represented by sovereign ladies. The only others known to be in existence are those held by the Empress of Austria and Queen Margherita of Italy. The Turkish Order of Merit brought \$750. The total sum realized by the sale was \$11,675.—Leslie's Weekly.

Mr. Carnegie and His Roses. A pleasant story is going the rounds about Mr. Andrew Carnegie. A "Castle during the past summer, a beautiful rose garden, 1 thousands of red and white roses always blooming to the villagers were free to saunter down paths to their hearts' day the head garden.

Mr. Carnegie, "Sir," he lodge a complaint. "Master. "Well, sir," "I wish to inform you folk are plucking the garden. They are delirious, sir." "Ah," said gently, "my people are are they, Donald? Then more."

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FEMININE NOTE IN FICTION.

Passion for Detail is Not the Woman Novelist's Alone.

Not long ago the well-known English essayist, W. G. Courtenay, stated his belief that "a passion for detail is the distinguishing mark of nearly every female novelist, and that this passion for detail is 'a quality which belongs to all the best work done by female writers.'" He cited Miss Austen, in whose books he found "a turning point in literary history, and the great exemplar of this quality."

A London Times critic now comes back at Mr. Courtenay, declaring that other differentials must be found as a power of minute observations is at least as obvious in men's work as in women's. He writes:

"Who had more of it than Fielding? Or than Tolstoy? Both Thackeray and Dickens excelled in it when they chose. Heaven knows there is enough of it in Zola. External detail is not Mr. Meredith's strong point, but Mr. Hardy dwells on it lovingly and with tremendous effectiveness. Passing to lesser names of contemporaries, we might say that in M. Huysmans in France and in Mr. George Moore in England the love of detail amounts to a passion indeed."

The same writer goes on to suggest that "an obvious achievement of women writers which no man can equal with female passion?" and he mentions Charlotte Bronte and Mademoiselle de Lespinasse.

Mesmerism Cure for Snakebite. When I was stationed at Nowahera news was brought to me one morning that one of my coolies had been bitten by a snake and was dying. I hurried to his hut and found the man unconscious and bleeding from his mouth and nose. A few passes from the head downward stopped the bleeding. I continued the passes, and in ten minutes he was able to open his eyes, but unable to speak or move his hands or limbs.

I continued the passes, and after the lapse of another five minutes he was able to speak feebly and indicate the seat of pain. I then gradually worked the position downward, and the man's speech grew stronger by degrees, and in half an hour's time from the beginning of the operation the man was able to sit up. Having worked the poison down below the knee I tied a ligature below the knee and sent him to a hospital, where he eventually recovered. He was bitten in the right foot. I should very much have liked to have carried the extra, trying to avoid the shot which you fail.—John Henry Freese, in February Outing.

How Does the Robin Know? I recently observed a robin boring for grubs in a country door-yard. It is a common enough sight, to witness one seize an angle worm and drag it from its burrow in the turf, but I am not sure that I ever before saw one drill for grubs and bring the big white morsel to the surface. The robin I am speaking of had a nest of young in a maple near by, and she was evidently dragging the grub into the nest for her brood.

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"Pure soap!" You've heard the words. In Sunlight Soap you have the fact.

SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE. Ask for the Octagon Bar.

If the Power Were Shut Off. By way of emphasizing the value of advertising an enthusiast says: "Did you ever stop to think what would happen if every form of advertising in the United States should be prohibited for ninety days? Inside of half that time the mills and manufactories would stop for lack of orders; the almost empty stores would close their doors; millions of people and millions of capital would be thrown out of employment, and this country would be overwhelmed by the greatest financial and industrial panic it has ever known. It is the tremendous power of publicity that turns the wheels of progress.—Philadelphia Record.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria. Tailor-made Servant Girls. A great change was noticeable in the garb worn by the servants soliciting hire at Carlisle hiring fair. A few years ago the women and girls came flaunting into the city on a hiring day in tawdry finery of a frequently ridiculous type, but on Saturday there was none of this. In fact, in their smart tailor-made costumes it was difficult to distinguish them at times from the ordinary city girl.—London Daily Dispatch.

Most people think too lightly of a cough. It is a serious matter and needs prompt attention. Take Shiloh's Consumption Cure. The Lung Tonic.

when the first sign of a cough or cold appears. It will cure you easily and quickly then—later it will be harder to cure. Prices, 25c., 50c., and \$1.00. 211

How Does the Robin Know? I recently observed a robin boring for grubs in a country door-yard. It is a common enough sight, to witness one seize an angle worm and drag it from its burrow in the turf, but I am not sure that I ever before saw one drill for grubs and bring the big white morsel to the surface. The robin I am speaking of had a nest of young in a maple near by, and she was evidently dragging the grub into the nest for her brood.

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