

CONVERSAZIONE.

What do we live for if it is not to make
less difficult to each other?—George Eliot.

The Possibility of Mechanical Flight.

[The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,
in the September Century.]

Above us is the great aerial ocean,
stretching over all lands, and offering an
always open way to them, a way that has
never yet been trodden. Can it be that
the power we have always lacked is at
last found, and that it only remains to learn
to guide it?

Let me, in answering, compare, the case
to that which would present itself if the
actual ocean had never been traversed, be-
cause it was always covered with fields of
thin ice, which gave way under the foot,
which indeed permitted vessels to be
launched and to float, but which compelled
them to move wherever the ice drifted.
Such vessels would resemble our bal-
loons, and be of as little practical use, but
now suppose we are told, "The ice which
has always been an obstacle may be made
your very means of transport, for you can
glide over the thinnest ice, provided you
only glide fast enough, and experiments
will prove not only how fast you must go
to make the ice bear, but that it is quite
within the limits of your strength to go
with the requisite speed." All this might
be true, and yet if no one had ever learned
to skate, every trial of this really excel-
lent plan would probably end in disaster,
as all past efforts to fly have done.
Indeed, in our actual experience with the
air, men have come to the same kind of
wrong conclusion as would have been
reached in supposing that the ice could not
be traversed because no one had the
strength to skate, while the truth would be
that man has plenty of strength to skate,
but is not born with the skill.

The simile is defective so far as it sug-
gests that man can sustain himself by his
unaided strength on calm air, which I be-
lieve to be impracticable; but it is the object
of these experiments to prove that he has
now the power to sustain himself with the
aid of engines recently constructed, and by
means I indicate, as soon as he has skill to
direct them.

If asked whether this method of flight
will soon be put in practice, I should have
to repeat that what has preceded is matter
of demonstration, but that this is matter of
opinion. Expressing, then, a personal
opinion only, I should answer, "Yes." It
is hardly possible that these secondary
difficulties will not be soon conquered by
the skill of our inventors and engineers,
whose attention is already beginning to
be drawn to the fact that here is a
new field open to them, and that I have
not experimented far enough to say
that the relations of power to weight here
established for small machines will hold for
indisputably large ones. It is certain they
so hold, as any motorist is able to enable
us to transport, at speeds which make us
practically independent of the wind,
weights much greater than that of a man.
Progress is rapid now, especially in the
direction of the motor, and it is possible—
it seems to me even probable—that before the century closes
we shall see this universal road of the all-
embracing air, which recognizes no man's
boundaries, traveled in every direc-
tion, with an effect on some of the condi-
tions of our existence which will mark this
among all the wonders the century has
seen.

Preparations for a Winter Journey
in Siberia.

George Kennan, in the September Century,
our equipment for this long and difficult
journey consisted of a strongly built
pavlova, or seatless traveling sleigh, with
four runners, wide outriggers, and a sort
of carriage-top which could be closed with
a leather cushion in stormy weather, very
heavy sheepskin bag six feet wide and nine
feet long, in which we could both lie up
side by side in full length; eight or ten pillows
and cushions of various sizes to fill up the
chinks in the mass of baggage and to break
the force of the jolting on rough roads;
three overcoats apiece of soft, shaggy
sheepskin, so graded in size and weight
that we could adapt ourselves to any tem-
perature from the freezing point to 80°
below; very long and heavy felt boots,
known in Siberia as valiliski far caps,
men's, and a small quantity of provisions,
consisting chiefly of tea, sugar, bread, con-
densed milk, boiled ham, frozen soup in
cakes, and a couple of roasted grouse.
After having packed our heavy baggage as
carefully as possible in the bottom of the
pavlova, so as to make a comparatively
smooth and level foundation, we stuffed the
interstices with pillows and cushions;
covered the somewhat lumpy surface to a
depth of twelve or fourteen inches with
straw; spread down over all our spare over-
coats, blankets, and the big sheepskin bag;
stowed away the bread, boiled ham, and
roast grouse in the straw, where we could
sit on them and thus protect them to some
extent from the intense cold; and finally,
filled the whole back of the pavlova with
pillows. A temperature of 40 degrees be-
low zero will turn a boiled ham into a sub-
stance that is as useless for edible purposes
as the famous "chunk of old red sand-
stone" from Table Mountain. You can
neither eat it, gnaw it, nor break it
in pieces with a sledge-hammer; and
unless you have facilities for thawing it
out, and time enough to waste in that way,
you can no more get nourishment from it
than you could get beef-tee from a paleozoic
fossil. Having learned this fact from sad
experience, Mr. Frost and I were ac-
customed to put articles of food that ought
to retain moisture either under us or into the
sheepskin bag between us, where they would
not freeze so hard. At 10 o'clock
Friday morning all was in readiness for a
start, and as soon as the driver came with
the horses from the post station we sang
"Home, Sweet Home" as a prelude to the
next act, wrapped up the baggage carefully in
a soft rug and put it behind our pillows,
took seats in the pavlova with our feet
and legs thrust down into the capacious
sheepskin bag, and rode away from the
Hotel Deko amid a chorus of good-byes
and shouts of "May God grant you a safe
journey!" from the assembled crowd of
servants and clerks.

American Geography.

The confusion which foreigners make of
our geography is well illustrated by a Ger-
man poem which appeared several years
ago. The poet, with utter unconcern about
locations and distances, makes such a mass
of blunders that his literary value is
entirely lost. The argument is something
as follows:

Under a palm tree on the shore of Lake
Erie the hero is devoured by an alligator.
The heroine, hearing of his fate, rushes
from her home in the Everglades of Florida
on the banks of Lake Superior, captures
the alligator, extracts the hero's body and
buries it with magnificent pomp in Green-
wood, in the city of New York in the State
of St. Louis.

Another German who really wished to

know the geography of this country, fell
into the mistake so common with Euro-
peans of not appreciating the rather large
scale on which nature has dealt with us in
the matter of area of land and water.

Near Concord, Mass., is Walden Pond,
the little body of water near which Thoreau
lived alone in a hut for about two years.
His most famous book is entitled
"Walden." It purports to be an account
of his life in the hut, and it is with the
masterpieces of American literature.

Not long ago a German professor, en-
gaged in studies of America, received from
Washington a large map of the continent.
Soon afterwards, writing to an eminent
American professor and historian, the Ger-
man scholar said he had looked all over the
map without finding Walden Pond. This
seemed to him an amazing omission.

A Unique Book.

An English minister has written a
wonderful book about Jack and Jill. The
first four pages are numbered one, the next
four are numbered two, and so on up to
page eight. The stories are so written that
any page marked two can be read after any
page marked one, making good sense, and
so with all the other pages. "Now," says
the clergyman, "if you will inquire of your
clever cousin, who has been at college and
knows all about figures, you will learn that
there are 65,236 stories which can be read
in this book about Jack and Jill, and no
two of them just alike!"

WORDS THAT BURN.

TWO SONNETS.

I.
"Virtuosque Dei calet ut vitam durescit
Felix esse mori,"—Lucan.
"Let them whose destiny it is to live
Refuse to endure the yoke, the gods conceal
How blessed a release it is to die."

The doomed to live are blinded, for the gods
are cruel when they know that if man
How human hearts are crushed by pulchre
law,
How life's poor stakes against tremendous
odds.

Are weaged, how the lictors' murderous rods
Remorseless lash the quivering slaves who
draw
The fear of progress, how there lurks a flaw
In every diamond-hope, how great Jove nods
While mankind wanders guileless in the
maze,
Foodless in deserts, footsore, friendless,
faint—
He would not live, he could not choose but
die.

For them that die,
The joys of cold nights and wintry days
Supremely direct to walk with fatuous
plains,
When Death, the tardy friend, at last draws
nigh.

TWO SONNETS.

II.
"It is not well for Life
To learn too soon the lovely secrets kept
For them that die,
(Edwin Arnold, The Light of the World,
Book vi.)

Were we to know what blessed rest awaits,
Impatient might we grow of flinty ways;
The unveiled Light Eternity would only draw
Barbedown eyes, Angels were no fit mates
For mortal men. In love, not scorn, the fates
Have sealed our eyes, that our appointed
days
On earth will may be spent; and blame, not
praise,
Be theirs who—fond, rebellious, rash, ingrateful
Chafe at the limits which are man's defense.
Children, what manhood means we cannot
know,
And need not, if we could. To learn to
grow,
By earthly joy, pain, labor, rest—through sense
To blossom into soul—is given us breath.
Who truly lives, nor dreads nor longs for
death.

TWO SONNETS.

Ernest Hawthorn, in Spectator.

TEMPERANCE JOTTINGS.

IN THE September North American Re-
view there is a symposium upon the question,
"Is Drunkenness Curable?" All of the physi-
cians participating—Dr. Hammond, Dr.
Crothers, Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Elisha—
dismiss with a word the claims that chloro-
form of gold can cure the drinking habit. All
of them likewise agree that by voluntary or
compulsory abstinence, for a shorter or
longer period, the morbid craving for drink
which characterizes drunkenness may be
cured, just as any other physical disease
can be. Dr. Crothers gives some interest-
ing statistics in support of his position. At
Binghamton, in 1873, inquiries were made
of the friends of 1,500 patients, who had
been treated five years before at the asylum.
Of 1,160 replies, 61 and a fraction per cent.
were still temperate and well after a period
of five years. It was a reasonable inference
that if 61 per cent. were still restored after
this interval, a large percentage would con-
tinue so through their remaining lives.
Another study of 2,000 cases was made at
Fort Hamilton, N. Y., which revealed the
fact that 38 per cent. of these cases re-
mained temperate and sober after an inter-
val of from seven to ten years from the
time of treatment. In the returns of 3,000
cases studied at the Washington House,
at Boston, Mass., 35 per cent. of the
living persons who had been under treat-
ment from eight to twelve years before were
temperate and well. In many smaller as-
sums both in this country and Europe,
where the number studied was limited to
a few hundred or less, and the interval
of time since the treatment was from four
to eight years, the number reported as
from all use of spirits ranged from 32 to 41
per cent. In conclusion he summarizes as
follows the scientific methods by which he
believes that drunkenness is curable.

First, legislate for their legal control;
then organize industrial hospitals in the
vicinity of all large towns and cities; tax
the spirit traffic to build and maintain such
places—just as all corporations are made
responsible for all the accidents and evils
which grow out of them; arrest and commit
all drunkards to such hospitals for an in-
definite time, depriving on the restoration
of the patient of all credit all persons
who use spirits to excess and imperil their
own lives and the lives of others; put them
under exact military, medical and hygienic
control; make them self-supporting as
far as it is possible, and let this treat-
ment be continued for years if necessary.

A most remarkable innovation in temper-
ance legislation is that which the people's
party conventions in Ohio and Massachu-
setts have recommended. The plank reads
as follows:

"We believe that the solution of the
liquor problem lies in abolishing the ele-
ment of profit, which is a source of constant
temptation and evil, and we therefore de-
mand that the exclusive importation, ex-
portation, manufacture and sale of all
spirituous liquors shall be conducted by
the Government or State at cost through
agencies and salerios established in each town
and cities as shall apply for such agencies."

This is, of course, the principle upon
which distilled liquor is manufactured in
Sweden, and upon which it is sold in Swe-
den and Norway. The famous Gothenburg

system has at its bottom just this feature,
that the sale of liquor by salaried public
officials, who have no pecuniary interest in
increasing the amount sold, or violating the
law in any way, furnishes the best warrant
for short hours, small sales and little drunk-
enness. The reason, however, that the
people's party are so favorably inclined to
this plan is, first, its nationalistic or social-
istic character, inasmuch as it puts more
industry directly under public control; and,
second, that it is such an admirable com-
bination of prohibition, local option and
the personal liberty German workmen and
the prohibition farmers.

A KANSAS CITY alderman has hit upon
what he evidently believes to be a fine
scheme for adding to the revenues of that
city. He proposes a municipal ordinance
requiring people who drink intoxicating
liquors to take out a license, the fee to
range from \$20 to \$50 a year, according as
the holder is a drunkard, distilled liquors
or champagne. The author of the measure
has carefully classified Kansas City drinkers
and computed the revenue likely to result.
The grand total of his calculations is the
tidy sum of \$985,000, or \$50,000 more than
the entire tax for the present year. The
scheme does not contemplate any special
changes in the present order of things so
far as the evils of intemperance are con-
cerned. The one idea is to raise a revenue
from the business of drunkard-making, and
in this particular the scheme is quite as
constant and plausible as the present
license system. The only thing to be gained
in either case is revenue.

IN OFFICIAL Circular No. 4, issued by
Grand Master Workman John H. Mize, of the
Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United
Workmen of Ontario, dated July 31, the
grand master deals with the question of
intemperance as follows:

"I find many of our lodges are not as
strict as they should be in rejecting appli-
cants who are addicted to the excessive use
of intoxicating liquors. Brethren, I trust
you will allow me to enter your lodge that
have such a record. Pledge your member-
ship of this evil and our death-rate will be
lower. The following amendment to the
Supreme Lodge constitution was made at
its last meeting: 'No person shall be ad-
mitted to membership in the order who is
engaged in the sale by retail of intoxicating
liquors as a beverage.' Members, faithfully
guard the portals of your lodge."

WEED BEFORE last there were over twenty
brutal and blood-thirsty murders and homi-
cides committed by drunken men in the
United States. Nine hundred and seven
of the average citizen due directly to whisky
for the year 1890, as admitted by a leading
liquor paper, the Chicago Champion. And
yet prohibitionists are blamed for agitating
the liquor question. It looks as though it
didn't require much agitating to keep it
before the public.—[The Voice.]

Corn Sowing.

It is a process conducted by the agency of tight
boots all the year round. Corn sowing is
best conducted through the agency of Putnam's
Patent Corn Extractor. The only safe and
sure-pull corn cure. Putnam's Extractor is
the only safe and sure-pull corn cure of all poisonous
and sore-producing substitutes.

The production of molasses in Louisiana
is so great that it does not pay to buy bar-
rels to ship it. Arrangements are now
being made to burn it, mixed with some
other substance, and thus save a great
amount of coal.

Among the pains and aches cured with
Electric Oil, is ear-ache. The young are
especially subject to it, and the desira-
bility of this Oil as a family remedy is
proved by the fact that it is so admirably
adapted not only to the above ailment, but
also to the hurts, disorders of the bowels,
and affections of the throat, to which the
young are so liable.

An American machine which will success-
fully work out the fibre of sisal from the
plant has produced a boom in that in-
dustry never realized with the English
machine heretofore used. The new ma-
chine does not cut the fibre, and the pro-
duct leaves the machine ready for the mar-
ket.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

An English lady is actually giving out
25 "free" names, and each letter of
the alphabet in its proper order, as An-
Berth Cecilia, and so on down to Xenophon
Yetta and Zeus.

The great lung healer is found in ex-
cellent condensed milk. It is the most
sumptuous Syrup. It soothes and diminishes
the sensibility of the membrane of the
throat and air passages and is a sovereign
remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness,
pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis,
etc. It has cured many when supposed to
be far advanced in consumption.

China is losing her hold on the tea trade,
as Ceylon, Assam and Japan are vigorous
competitors. In Japan alone the increased
output of tea amounts to 3,500,000 pounds
per annum.

How to Cure All Skin Diseases.

Simply apply "Swiss" the "Glycerin."

No internal medicine required. Cures, better,
eczema, itch, all eruptions on the face,
hands, nose, etc., leaving the skin clear,
white and healthy. Its great healing and
curing powers are possessed by no other
remedy. Ask your druggist for SWISS'S
OINTMENT. LYMAN, SWISS & CO., Montreal
wholesale agents.

The exclusive Prussian blue is made by
fusing horses' hoofs and other refuse
animal matter with impure potassium car-
bonate. This color was discovered acci-
dentally.

We have no hesitation in saying that Dr.
J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cure is with-
out doubt the best medicine ever introduced
for dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera and all
summer complaints, sea sickness, etc. It
promptly gives relief and never fails to ef-
fect a positive cure. Mothers should never
be without a bottle when their children are
teething.

The cochineal insects furnish a great
many colors. Among these are the
gorgeous carmine, the crimson, scarlet, car-
mine and purple lakes.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became a Woman, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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ST. JACOBS OIL
THE GREAT REMEDY
FOR PAIN.
DIAMOND VERA CURA

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THE GREAT REMEDY
FOR PAIN.
DIAMOND VERA CURA

GILLETT'S
PURE
POWDERED
LYE

Histogenetic
System of Medicine.

Histogenetic
System of Medicine.

Histogenetic
System of Medicine.

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System of Medicine.

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MANUFACTURERS OF
CRUCIBLE CAST STEEL
For Axes, Tools, Taps, Dies; also, Spring Steel, Locomotive Tires
and Mild Steel Castings.
JAMES HUTTON & CO., AGENTS FOR CANADA,
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"EXTRA" BRAND.
BELTING
ESTABLISHED 1868.
MONTREAL & TORONTO,
THE J. C. McLAREN BELTING CO.

BINDER TWINE.
BINDER TWINE.
BINDER TWINE.
All kinds—Composite, Crown, Red Cap and Blue Ribbon.
Prompt shipments from stock guaranteed.

Bowman, Kennedy & Co
LONDON ONT.
FURNITURE—FOR THE FALL TRADE—FURNITURE
Full lines in Parlor and Bedroom Sets, Library and Dining-
room Suites in Oak, Walnut, Ash, Birch, Maple and Cherry, polished
artistic finishes, trimmed in Antique Bronze, Cast Brass and
Oxidized Hardware. All the latest novelties in odd pieces for the
Drawing-room. "Low prices, rapid sales and quick returns," our
motto. Note the address—
JOHN FERGUSON & SONS,
174 TO 180 KING STREET.
P. S.—A visit to our large establishment means money in your pocket
every time.

Smoke Blossoms.
"Did you ever see a smoke blossom?" Well, the way to
make them is this: Buy one of the latest new CAT CIGARS.
Light it and blow a ring in a still atmosphere, and then watch
it. The smoke making the ring revolves towards the center
as the ring slowly away from the rest forming a loop.
When the two sides of the loop come almost together the
loop seems to burst at its apex and a lily-shaped blossom ap-
pears thereon. Try it. Manufactured by
BRENER BROS.
182-190 Horton Street, London, Ont.

MISS IT NOT.
Visitors to the Western Fair should not fail to see
the magnificent display of Furniture shown by the Lon-
don Furniture Manufacturing Company. Take particu-
lar notice of the excellence of their work, beauty of
design and superior finish. Also visit their warehouses,
the largest in Western Ontario. Their show of Furniture
cannot be surpassed.
Folding Beds a specialty. All goods shown manu-
factured in London.

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ASSETS AND CAPITAL
FOUR AND A QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS.
INCREASES MADE LAST YEAR

H. GIBBENS, Agent for London, 169 Dundas Street
W. C. MACDONALD, Actuary. J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director.

FOR
[Under this
any subject
must be brief
paper. The
the space will
be given to
the subject
of the
day.]
DEAR AUNT
I wrote to
you, and of
course, you
in the cold.
has died since
account of my
morning when
pa read that
my last let-
you said I
an opinion
not" and look-
Last spring
a sad god.
caught him
tery. I kept
right but one
feed it on and
and said I
and on and
indeed, any
died and I
could get
funeral proce-
marched alone
where we bur-
over its grave
grayer advice
onions and
know better
real sick and
my kite and
sick I was
shin, sent m-
plaster on me
mustard plasters
kissed but put
it off for ques-
see a mustard
Prudence, wi-
would die ver-
[It seems to
sell a very ba-
you are of
about it. The
crow, was per-
perience, I mu-
bird will live
of.—AUNT PRU-
DEAR AUNT
As I am not
other thing for
years old thou-
all. You re-
Aunt Pruden-
man at the At-
tache. I wou-
you are not,
think a boy or
he does not
and mother
school, and di-
new but it is
say in the m-
time, and gave
they wouldn't
the case at all
let me be co-
lam to do. I
could wear a
spurs on my
write and ask
you were
teacher, and
me that I can
with you and
be a beautiful
pair of skates.
I think but
plain-looking
and much, don-
nephrer.
[Why, you
course Aunt
am as innocent.
are I. I re-
ing, being a
wear a red fl-
have a weak-
cowboy is a
ce in my look-
or child and
child and a
letter, I am af-
ene.—AUNT PRU-
ST. THO-
DEAR AUNT PRU-
This is my for-
the fourth book
new studies in
sition and Fre-
little pet dog I
it was run over
the poor little
minutes after I
It made me get
ferred to get m-
I didn't want
the same to me
week month or
hardly like I
dreadful I fel-
stars leading t-
been aching d-
the way down
completely.
old man,
all the time
tooth. It h-
anything but
Saturday after-
today. I am
you ever not
generally like
their teeth. I
doesn't stick in
a very safe
easily for she
sweets. I will
your niece,
[I think I kn-
I believe I saw
very few girls
be now. A vic-
chance to show
—AUNT PRU-
No one need
complaint if the
Kellogg's Dysen-
it corrects all
promptly and
youth. This is
young and old,
becoming the m-
cholia, dysent-
Turkey red
which grows in
Minard's Li-
India ink in
The Chinese are
this ink.
Give Hollow-
mored ten corn-
out any pain. W-
do again.
A man's real
is nothing else
poor.—[Alex-
Children Cry