

# NOTHING NEW UNDER *The* SUN..

## Some Old-time Inventions Credited to Modern Days.



A Magic Lantern and the Picture it Cast in 1720



A Paddle-wheel Boat Crossing the English Channel in 1430



Diving Bell of 1320—Invention Credited to 1538

"Canst thou send the lightnings, these, here we are?" questioned that Job, in one of his argumentative discourses.

Many years ago an eminent American divine announced, as his opinion, that Job, in this sentence, referred to the electric telegraph, the principle of which, at least, the clergyman believed, was known in that remote day.

Be this as it may, proof is continually arising in support of the contention that "There's nothing new under the sun." Many inventions regarded as modern really had their roots in prototypes hundreds of years ago.

At most, the diving bell and diving suit, the moving picture machine, the rapid-fire gun, and the paddle-wheel boat—all are but amplifications of ideas conceived in the brains of ancient geniuses, and, to a certain extent, in a crude way, worked out by them.

In the British Museum and in other collections of antiquities and curios are pictures and models of inventions which long antedate the recent age in which such things have been brought to perfection, and to which they are generally accredited. Most of these pictures and models are presented as roughly as were the times in which they were devised. Really fantastic in some cases are the drawings and construction, but they carry the ideas and principles involved quite clearly.

Who supposed that the magic lantern—forebear of the kinetoscope and other moving and color picture machines of to-day—was in use so far back as 1420? And yet such was the case.

The magic lantern of that day was styled "The Nocturnal Apparatus for Fearful Pictures," and was devised as a weapon of warfare. The idea was to frighten solitary sentinels from their posts when approached by a gigantic image of the sort.

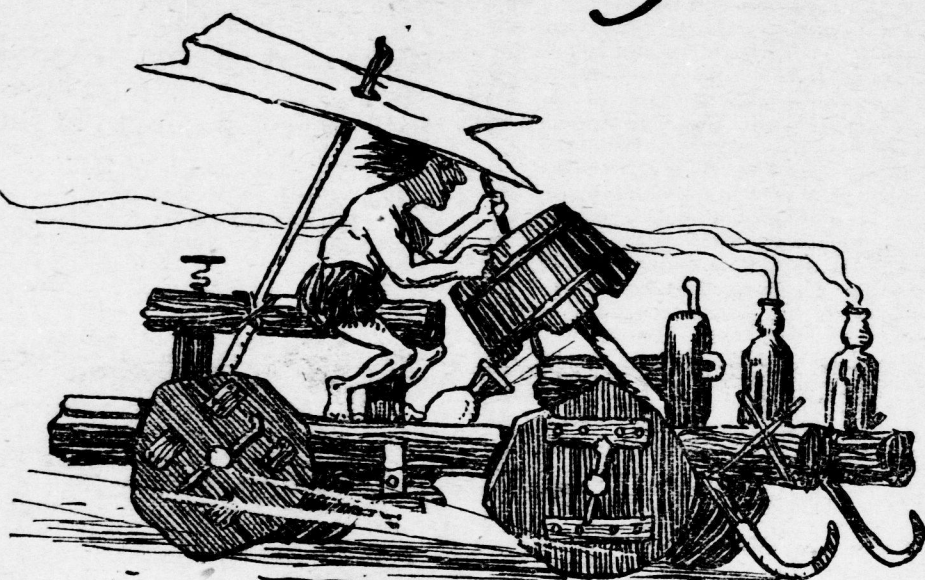
The apparatus itself seems to have been merely a kind of lantern, in the front of which was fixed a miniature figure or picture of the grotesque shape intended to be projected.

That oars and sails were not the only agencies for propelling boats is shown by the model of a paddle-wheel craft which, it is said, crossed the English Channel in 1430, or three score years before Columbus set out upon his search for a new world.

As well as can be seen by the model, this ancient mechanical ferry-boat resembled a bathtub, with high peaked bow and stern. It appears to have been operated by two men, sitting back to back, and there does not seem to have been much, if any, space for passengers.

Of simple construction were the paddle wheels—merely strips of wood intersecting at right angles and fastened to a beam running across the craft. A crank on the inboard portion of the beam was where the motive power was applied.

By turning this crank the human



the idea was born has been lost long ago.

This early apparatus appears to have been a kind of cask lowered by means of ropes from a boat. Perhaps it had an air tube attached, but how deeply it could be operated or how long the diver could remain under water are facts not now known.

### OLD DIVER'S OUTFIT.

Not unlike the diver's outfit of to-day was the watertight suit invented in 1500 by Hieronimus von Eyck, a Dutch mariner. This had the long air hose reaching to the surface, and the lead-weighted body.

In addition, the diver was provided with a kind of scaling ladder, probably to facilitate climbing the sides of sunken vessels.

The mitrailleuse of 1350 was by no means the efficient weapon that was devised in 1861 and supposed to be the first rapid-fire invented.

It was simply a bundle of tubes, bound in circular form and mounted upon a pivot, the aim being controlled by a rude screw device. Still, it contained the idea that, over 500 years later, was worked out in the shape of an effective and terrible engine of war.

A weapon similar to the Gatling gun of modern times was constructed at about the same period. This consisted of three cannon tubes, one above the other, inclosed in a metal casing that bound them tightly together, the elevation of which was controlled by a large screw.

As gunpowder had been used in warfare only a few years—it was first extensively employed, so far as known, in the battle of Crécy, in 1346—those early inventors of armament lost little time in planning formidable weapons.

While ballooning, as a practical science, dates only from 1783, Leonardo da Vinci was so far ahead of his time that, as long ago as 1514, he constructed a parachute that did its work satisfactorily.

"If any one has an awning of linen, 12 ell wide and 212 broad," the inventor wrote, "he can let himself down without fear of hurt from the greatest height."

As there were no balloons in those days from which to test long-distance drops, the efficiency of da Vinci's parachute had to be proved by such jumps as could be made from tall buildings and cliffs.

Had it not been for the wholesale blood letting of the French Revolution, the modern guillotine, perhaps, would not have been called into being.

A device of the same kind, however, is said to have been used by the ancient Persians, and by the Italians and Germans of the Middle Ages. One of the unpleasant models still preserved illustrates a decapitating machine of 1510.

It consisted of an upright frame-work, holding a sliding board beveled at the lower edge to a knife-like sharpness. The neck of the unhappy victim was placed under this crude knife, and the executioner, armed with a ponderous mallet, hammered vigorously on the top edge of the board until the head was severed from the body.

It would seem from the relics of the past that to whatever field modern invention turns, whether it aims at the perfection or the slaughter of mankind, it is likely to unearth an idea or a principle that was worked out, in some kind of rude way, centuries ago.

Real trouble assailed Mrs. Joseph H. Pineau, of Williamsport, Pa., a few weeks ago when she missed her jewels. Believing that she had been robbed during a spell of sickness, she had a servant arrested on suspicion.

That night Mrs. Pineau dreamed that she saw her jewels at the bottom of a basket containing chinaware. In the morning she hastened to the closet where the basket was, explored beneath the china, and there found her gems, just as she had seen them in her sleep.

While hunting in the woods last winter, William Ward, of Freehold, Pa., lost a watch. It was two weeks before the dream in this case revealed the spot where the watch lay, but when Mr. Ward made a search there, he found it.

The London Spectator told a few weeks ago of an English woman whose reduced circumstances caused her great anxiety. At one period of her greatest trouble she dreamed that, while listening to a sermon in church, she noticed people all around her getting up and going out.

"I asked some of them why they were leaving," she said afterward, "and they replied: 'To look for the

# TRAGEDY and COMEDY in DREAMS that REALLY COME TRUE



Found her Jewels in the China Basket as She Dreamed

From the time of Joseph's interpretations in Egypt—and long before no doubt—the mystery of dreams has had a remarkable fascination for mankind.

Passing strange are their prophecies and warnings, and stranger still when these come true, as is often the case.

By what mystic power are dreams enabled to project their visual sense through space, to lift the curtain that veils the future?

Quite often dreams foretell disaster, or deal with some trouble that besets the dreamer. Still, dreams have their comedies as well as tragedies, and not infrequently essay the role of assistant to Master Cupid.

Missing persons and lost property are sometimes found through the agency of dreams. The death angel, hovering near, seems especially liable to cast its dream shadow over a sleeper.

Not long ago, Connie Fletcher, a young woman of Burton-on-Trent, England, disappeared from home. Her family, greatly distressed, were unable to gain any traces of her through the ordinary channels of information.

A few nights afterwards, Thomas Trigg, a relative who had joined in the unavailing search, dreamed that he encountered the missing girl walking along a certain street.

So greatly was he impressed by the vision during the following day that he left his work and went to the spot where he had seen Miss Fletcher in his dream. Sure enough, almost at the exact place, he found the young woman wandering helplessly along.

Just as vivid and twice repeated but failing as yet to result in the same success, was a mental vision that sent William R. Huntford, of Portland, Ore., half way across the continent.

When Mr. Huntford was a boy in Iowa he deeply loved a pretty girl schoolmate. Fate and removal of both families from the State separated them, and Mr. Huntford lost track of the sweetheart of his youth. Forgetfulness, however, did not blot her picture from his mind. A few months ago—he is now a successful young business man—he dreamed of meeting her in a strange city.

### VISION REAPPEARS.

Mr. Huntford did not know the city revealed in his vision, and no clue was given him as to its identity; but he recognized promptly the young woman who was apparently in it, and saw that, like Rachel of old, she was fair to look upon.

Three times the dream illumined his slumbers, and it was always the same scene and the same happy meeting with the sweetheart of his youth. There were high buildings about, trolley cars rolled past, and a light fall of snow covered the ground.

A few days following his last dream the perplexed vision of Denver, in one, labeled "Seventeenth Street," recognized the thoroughfare of his dreams.

"Mine was a snow dream," he said, "and there must be a white carpet on the ground. Still, I have faith enough to believe that I will meet my classmate here sometime. I will wait until the last snowstorm of the winter has swept over the city, confidently expecting the girl with whom I used to go to school back in Des Moines."

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Dreamed her Barn was Afire—Found it Burned



Dream Foretold his Son's Death in a Railroad Frog



Workmen Fell from a Skyscraper as the Foreman Dreamed



A Dream Led Him to a Missing Girl

magic bird in the churchyard. You will always have luck if you find it." So I went out, too, and, scrapping away some leaves, found a beautiful speckled thrush, which dropped one pound in my hand.

### GETS HER MONEY.

"The next morning I went into our garden, and there, among the fallen leaves, found the body of a speckled thrush, which had been killed by a cat. I was greatly comforted, as I knew then that the money I needed would come. Sure enough, two checks came in the mails that day."

Warnings of disaster frequently come to sleeping persons. While travelling through Texas a short time ago, a woman living in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, dreamed that her barn was burnt and two valuable horses lost with it. She related the dream to several persons. That day she received information that her barn had actually burned, and the details tallied with her vision.

Started from sleep by a vivid dream that his best Alderney cow was choking to death in the stable, Robert Richards, a prominent farmer of Bridgeville, Del., hurried at dead of night to his barnyard a short time ago. He found that the cow was really choking, and it died before he could effect relief.

While Aaron Smith, railroad section foreman of Medora, Ill., was working near the station at Fidelity, Agent D. E. Monahan came out upon the platform and waved a sheet containing a telegram message just received for Smith. Walking up to receive the message, Smith quickly acknowledged, "Is he dead?"

"How did you know?" gasped the astonished agent.

"I dreamed it," replied the foreman, taking the sheet that told of the tragic death of his son. Many miles away, Irvine Smith, a brakeman on the road, had been run down by a train while frantically endeavoring to release his foot from a switch frog in which it had been caught.

"His death was no surprise to me," said the father, as he learned the fact. "Twice during the last week I dreamed of seeing my son killed in exactly that manner."

### THE FOREMAN'S DREAM.

Falling from the fifteenth story of the Candler Building, in course of erection at Atlanta, Ga., Peter McGearry, an ironworker, was dashed to death a few days ago.

The strange part of the story is that only the morning of the accident Foreman Peck, who had charge of the iron and steel workers, halted his men as they were about to begin their labors, and warned them very earnestly to be careful.

"I dreamed," he said, "that one of the men fell from the top of the building and was killed. I have been unable to get the terrible impression off my mind, and I request that each of you exercise more than usual caution in your work."

Dominic Carmono, of Mount Washington, Pa., dreamed that his nephew Giuseppe Samazzi, was dead. When he read the newspapers that an unknown man had been killed by falling from a car on the Smithfield street bridge, Pittsburg, he felt convinced that the unfortunate was his nephew. Calling at the morgue he made the identification.

## SOME OF THE CURIOSITIES OF THIS MUNDANE WORLD

The caaba, or sacred stone of Mecca, is recovered every year with a mask sent by the Sultan of Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost \$75,000.

For a feat of dexterity and nerve it would be difficult to surpass that of the Boesjeman, of South Africa, who walks quietly up to a puff adder and deliberately sets his bare foot on its neck. In its struggle to escape and attempts to bite its assailant, the poison gland secretes a large amount of the venom. This is just what the Boesjeman wants. Killing the snake, he eats the body and uses the poison for his arrows.

For every ton of genuine ivory imported into Great Britain, there are imported three tons of vegetable ivory. The latter comes chiefly from the Republic of Colombia, in South America. It is obtained from the seeds of the ivory-nut palm.

Spain receives more sunshine than any other European country. The yearly average is 3000 hours, while in England it is 1400.

A plant which grows in certain parts of India possesses curious "magnetic" power. The hand which breaks a leaf from it immediately receives a shock. At a distance of twenty feet a magnetic needle is deflected by it, and will be quite ranged if brought near. The energy of this singular influence varies with the hours of the day. It is at its strongest about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, but is absolutely annulled during the night. At times of storms and insects never alight on this plant; an instinct seems to warn them that it is deadly.

Rain falls more frequently between 3 and 8 o'clock in the morning than at any other time during the day.

Australia does not support orphan asylums. Every child who is left parentless becomes a ward of the State, receives a pension for support, and is placed in a private family, where board and clothes are provided until the fourteenth birthday.

Visiting cards of iron are popular on the continent of Europe, the name being printed in silver. The thickness of the cards is one four-hundredth of an inch.

An ostrich feather, if held upright, will be seen to be perfectly equal on both sides, the stem dividing it exactly in the centre. In other feathers the stems are found to be more or less on one side.

A Munich professor has invented a remarkable sick-room clock. When a button is pressed an electric lamp behind the dial throws the shadow of the hands and hands, magnified, upon the ceiling, so that an invalid can see it from his bed without craning his neck.