

TRICK BIKE RIDING.

TWO CLEVER AMERICANS PERFORMING IN LONDON.

Riding with the Front Wheel Off—Climbing Through the Diamond Frame—Vaulting from One Pedal to Another—Result of Patient Practice.

Mastery Over the Wheel.

There are many men and women who give exhibitions of "fancy" bicycle riding, but the palm belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Valdare, whose performances have never been rivalled, either in this country or abroad.

The machines they use are of average weight, and similar in appearance to thousands of the Mr. Valdare American bikes, commenced his cycling career in 1888 on an old-fashioned high machine. He was then 14 years old, and used to ride through the streets of Denver, Col., from his home to school on one wheel, having

steering with feet. Ing dispensed with the other as superfluous.

The manager of some traveling circus noticed the boy and persuaded him to join his troupe. On the old high machines, however, trick-riding was comparatively easy. It was only when the safety suddenly became the craze that Valdare saw his opportunity of venturing on an absolutely new field. The



A RIDE ON THE BACK WHEEL.

difficulties are so much greater than on an ordinary that no comparison can be made. Both the Valdare practice two or three hours a day to keep proficient in their work. But in spite of everything they can never be sure that all their tricks will be successful.

As is nearly always the case with performances such as the Valdare give, a comparatively easy trick is quite as likely to appeal to the public as one to which they have devoted week after week of practice to accomplish. The most difficult performance that Valdare takes part in is riding his machine with the front wheel taken off altogether. He does this standing on the pedals, stooping slightly to hold the steering-head tube in both hands, the body thrown forward at an angle of at least 10 degrees in front of an imaginary line drawn from the axle upwards. In this position lies the secret which it took the best part of a year to discover and appreciate.

There is literally no position which is impossible to the Valdare on their machines. They climb over them and

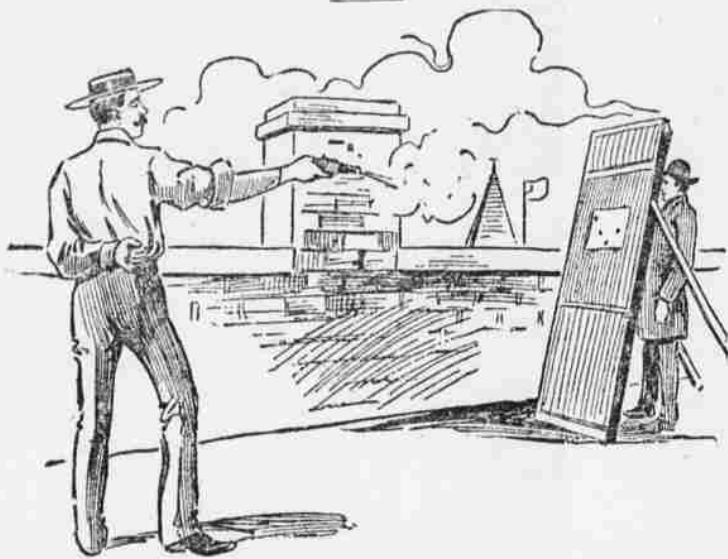


A DIFFICULT MOUNT.

through them and round them until you begin to think some supernatural agency is preventing the bicycles from falling.

The trick which entails the greatest strain physically is that in which Valdare draws the front wheel by sheer

INVENTOR OF BULLET-PROOF CLOTH FACES LEADEN MISSILES



THE bullet-proof cloth invented by Brother Casimir Zeglen of the Catholic Order of the Resurrectionists was successfully tested in Chicago the other afternoon on the roof of a building at West Twelfth street and Ogden avenue. Brother Zeglen stood behind a framework of wood, iron and armor plate, with an opening in it big enough to expose his chest. He placed the bullet-proof coat over his chest, and then Lieut. Sarnecki of the Austrian army fired several shots from a revolver from a distance of ten paces. The bullet-proof cloth did the work. The bullets barely entered the cloth, and could be picked out easily. On the other side of the cloth there was only a small mark to show for the shot. One shot was fired from a 50-caliber revolver. Zeglen's chest was free from any abrasion. There was a corps of physicians present to see the test. After several shots had been fired at the inventor's protected chest, Dr. F. S. Westerschulte put on the armor and had the lieutenant fire at him. He said when the bullet struck it felt as if he had been gently patted by a child. All those present declared the test a complete success.

strength from the ground and rides along gaily with his machine pawing the air, like a rearing horse.

Once in Cincinnati he rode one-third of a mile in this extraordinary position in 1 minute 17.35 seconds. Until he dismounted he had no idea what the strain had been. The moment his feet touched the ground they gave way as if every muscle had been paralyzed.

To climb through the diamond frame of his machine is another amusement in which Valdare indulges. It can be done by any one who cares to imitate his movements, provided they possess the Heaven-sent gift of patience.

Valdare commences by standing on the left pedal with the left foot, and swinging the right leg to the same side, he thrusts it through the frame, sinking down till head and shoulders are even with the front wheel on the left side. Then, with both hands grasping the tire of the front wheel, which is turned at right angles, he swings the head and body back on a level with the frame. Now the head is put through, and the easier half of the trick is accomplished.

He has still to come up on the farther side, and to do this must shift his hands from the wheel to the handle-bars. Thrusting the right shoulder well forward, he grasps the left handle with the left hand from the right side of the machine, keeping the right hand still on the front wheel. Then he lies well forward and straightens up, swinging the left foot over the saddle, and taking care the while not to put too much weight on the right-hand pedal, since there is nothing to prevent the machine



TWELVE MILES AN HOUR ON ONE WHEEL.

starting backwards and throwing out the balance. What could be more simple?

There are several pretty exhibitions which Mrs. Valdare gives alone. In one she mounts her machine with her back turned to the handle-bars and rides it thus round and round, sometimes steering with one hand, sometimes folding both arms before her.

In another, keeping her left foot on its pedal the whole time, she swings her right leg over, and placing it on the brim of the wheel, lowers the machine till it rests on the right pedal. From this posture, and without even touching the ground herself, she throws the machine to an upright position and starts off as if there had been no interruption whatever.

When riding at full speed she will now and then spin her front wheel round like a tsetetum, without wavering an inch out of her course.

More showy even than this, however, is the way in which she rides, standing first on one pedal and then on the other, keeping both legs always on the same side of the machine; or another trick, in which she and her husband swing round and round each other, changing from one side of the machine to the other, while, as if by magic, it continues to run diligently about the stage.

Whenever a woman asks for safety pins at a dry goods store, she says they are for her sister.

LIGHT ON A CLOUDED MIND.

Atlanta Child's Skull Opened to Allow Her Brain to Grow.

Little Emily Woodruff, aged 11, whose skull recently was cut open in order to allow her brain to grow, is making satisfactory progress, and the doctors think she will be well in a few weeks. Although 11 years old, Emily's mind was that of a babe and it was to prevent her being an idiot that the operation was decided on, although the physicians warned the family that death was likely to result. Emily lives with her father and mother and brothers at 41 Castleberry street, Atlanta, Ga.

The child is large for her age—she's as tall as her mother and has the face of a girl of 16. She was an unusual child, quiet and sober, with an expression beyond her years. She learned to talk slowly, but to walk quickly. She stammered awkwardly in her speech and mixed her words. She had a bright, sweet face and an extremely affectionate and clinging nature.

Little Emily grew on for several years before they knew how strangely evil she had been treated by nature. They sent her to school. The teacher struggled for weeks to teach her and then—she made an awful discovery. The child could not be taught. She could not learn figures. She could not add 1 and 1 together. She read, but merely by rote; she did not understand. It was a hopeless task. The baby mind of the girl could not be taught. The teacher told her mother.

In the past several years many physicians have been appealed to to help the little girl. All have given up the case without even locating the trouble. Little Emily grew on, but her brain, prisoned fast beneath the hard skull, remained the same. It grew no larger—could be no larger pressed in a narrow space as it was by a curious and unusual malformation of the head.

The little girl, it was plain to the surgeon's trained mind, was suffering from the confinement of her brain in a too narrow space. There was but one thing to be done to save her. That was to lift the skull from the brain and give the little one's mind room to grow.



LITTLE EMILY WOODRUFF.

Emily's parents were willing to risk any danger or peril to save the little girl.

The doctor told them what a fearful risk it would be. The child might die under the operation. The operation might possibly be of no benefit to her and on the other hand the chances were greatly in favor of her brain growing to its normal size. The skull lifted, the imprisoned brain might grow and expand until it reached the size that an adult's brain should be.

After the Woodruffs had thoroughly considered the matter, they decided to take the chances and have the operation performed. A day was appointed and little Emily was carried down to St. Joseph's infirmary by her father. They cut off the locks, shaved her head closely and then put her under the influence of chloroform. It was a delicate operation which the doctors then performed. At the temple they cut into the skull and on either side they cut out of the skull a round piece about the size of a nickel. Beginning at these openings at the temple they cut the skull open, running back to a point at the very top of the head. The cut was eleven inches long and formed a perfect V, with the sharp points at the crown of the head and the other points at the two temples. The skull was lifted slightly and after all the necessary surgical work the wound was bandaged up. The little girl was left in her bed and the next morning when the physicians called was playing with her doll, all unconscious of the fearful opening in her head.

After ten days at the infirmary she was sufficiently recovered to be taken home. She showed no signs of the terrible ordeal except an increased nervousness. Her parents declare she is improving every day and they have great hopes of her mind growing into normal proportions. The doctors say that improvement must be slow, that growth will be a gradual process, and it will be six months at least before

any perceptible change for the better can be noted. Atlanta physicians have been roused into deep interest over the case, and the scientific world waits with anxious scientific interest.

MAINE'S OLDEST MINISTER.

Rev. Dr. Randall Recently Celebrated His Ninetieth Birthday.

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Randall of Portland, Me., who celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of his birth the other day, is the oldest and most widely known Methodist minister in Maine. For more than half a century he has been engaged in active work in the ministry of his church, and for sixty-nine years he has held a continuous membership in the Maine conference. The doctor was born in a log cabin at Hardwick, Vt., in 1807. He was converted in 1826, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at once and began to preach in 1827. In 1828 he was transferred to the Maine conference and appointed to Augusta, Me.



REV. DR. DANIEL B. RANDALL.

Randall joined the conference three years after its organization, and he has seen every day of its growth in size and importance. His tall, spare form has never been missed at any of the meetings. He was one of the early abolitionists, and as long ago as 1832 he protested in public speeches against slavery. He cast the only abolition vote in his town in 1840. As a preacher Dr. Randall has been most successful. He brought zeal, true religious feeling and an abiding faith in his creed to his work. His one fear in his youth was that he would not live to fill out his career as a preacher. How false those fears were he now knows. At 90 Dr. Randall possesses a clear mind and takes a deep interest in the Methodist Church.

A PECULATING GOOSE.

Carried Off a Gold Watch, and Gots Servant in Trouble.

It is doubtful if another dumb animal ever caused greater mischief than a goose did recently in Lanesboro, N. Y. That goose stole a dozen valuable articles and brought about the discharge of a servant. For a long time the family of Mr. Albert Jenks has been missing valuables, and charged their disappearance to Miss Annie Coogan, a domestic. The girl was threatened with arrest to make her confess and when she protested her innocence she was discharged. As articles continued to disappear the family was in a quandary. A pet goose had a trick of knocking at the door in quest of delicacies, and on being admitted would go all about the house. One afternoon recently Mrs. Jenks was amazed to see the goose take a gold watch and chain in its mouth and go outdoors. She followed and saw it hide the timepiece in its nest. Thus the mystery of the missing articles was explained. Among the dozen articles found in the nest were two gold thim-



GOOSE AND TIMEPIECE.

bles, two scarfpins, a tortoise shell comb and a watch. The parents of the Coogan girl threaten to sue the Jenks for defaming their daughter's character.

A Moor's Madness.

Si Mohammed ben Moussa, the giant Moor, sent as the chief of the Moroccan Mission to Queen Victoria's Jubilee, never reached London, having gone mad in Paris on his way there, then having been sent home. His madness took a very queer form. He thought he was Montjarret, the chief outrider who precedes the President of the French Republic on state occasions, and insisted on being dressed in livery, with riding breeches and high boots.

The first thing the women will do when they get into power will be to enact a law compelling a man to love only one woman at a time.

THE "CANADIAN SCRAPBOOK."

Unique Little Work by Lady Jephson Which is the Talk of London.

Lady Jephson, wife of Sir Alfred Jephson, has brought out her "Canadian Scrapbook," and the unique little work is the talk of London. The scrapbook fashion is winning its way well into the affections of the women in England, and Lady Jephson's book has



LADY JEPHSON.

given it additional charm. It is a pretty book, put together in the style of the old, exact commonplace book, which, by the way, seems to be reviving if London gossip tells the truth. The author of the "Canadian Scrapbook" is a native of Canada, but has lived abroad and in England since her marriage. She has not only a talent for letters, but is adept at art, and spends most of her time in Italy. With French blood in her veins, and with a perfect knowledge of German and Italian, Lady Jephson is a most charming type of cosmopolitan. Although her love of art ties her to Italy for the greater part of the year, Lady Jephson has managed to travel very much in other countries. At present she is established in a pretty new house in Bolton street, London, where she and her husband will spend all of the summer. An evidence of her ability in art is seen in the beautiful drawings illustrating the "scrapbook" and in some of the drawings she recently sent to Prince Charles of Denmark as a wedding gift.

An Electric Hanson.

The new electric hansom which is now plying in New York has some advantages over the ordinary hansom as well as over the motor car. The reader will see from the idea that a "fare" can easily step in and out, while his view is unobstructed by the horse. A speaking tube enables him to speak with the driver, and an electric lamp to read by night. There is no vibration, and the motor is noiseless in action. The electricity is carried in accumulators under the seat of the driver, who controls the starting, stopping, and brake mechanism by hand levers. The vehicle runs on pneumatic tires, and a bell warns people of its approach. It can attain a speed of twenty-five miles an hour on a level road, but fifteen miles an hour is regarded as the most suitable rate.

For Indigestion.

Among the many remedies for indigestion is the agreeable one of the rocking chair. An excellent medical authority declares that the slow, rocking motion after meals stimulates the digestive functions and gives marked relief. The patient ought to be placed in an almost horizontal position.

People make themselves very miserable by telling "jokes" on each other.