

BLONDIN STILL WALKING.

The Famous Tight Rope Artist Agiles In Old Age.

Old folks who read and wondered when Blondin crossed the chasm of Niagara on a tight rope thirty-three years ago will be pleased to learn that the mercurial (as still) alive and vigorous. But they will be amazed to learn that he is now giving exhibitions in England, some of them almost as wonderful as his Niagara performance. At the Botanical gardens of Manchester, recently he walked a clear stretch of 188 feet on a rope eighty-eight feet above the ground, carried his son over and back, took a little stove out to the central part of the rope, cooked an omelet and lowered it to the ground—all the old tricks he did in the United States nearly forty years ago. Yet he is sixty-eight years old. He was literally born without fear and without capacity for getting giddy. Every one laughed at his reply to the interviewer in 1830 who asked, "Was it not really very dangerous?" "To be sure. The rope might have snapped."



BLONDIN.

He was born in the south of France, and his name is Jean Francois Gravelle. At twenty-seven he was noted in the provinces, and the famous Ravel engaged him for an American tour. When his name was signed Ravel said: "Pah! That will never do for the billboard. Ha! I see. Blue-eyes—light hair. Henceforth you are Blondin." And so he has since been J. F. Blondin. The Niagara performance made him champion of the world, and he could command his own price. He grew very rich and retired, but has recently given occasional exhibitions to preserve his standing in the profession.

His father was a gymnast, and he began rope walking at four years of age; but, he says, rope walkers are born—not made. None of his children was born that way, and so none of them has been trained to it. He has a small museum of trophies, but he values none so highly as that presented by the citizens of Niagara Falls in honor of his carrying a man across the gorge on a tight rope on Aug. 13, 1860. He crossed Niagara many times after that, but the first time made him the world's king in that line.

She Met Him the Second Time.

De Wolf Hopper has the reputation of being the most credulous man that walks the streets. It is not that he is hoodwinked by applicants for charity, but he has a repugnance to giving any one a chance to say that he is stingy. For all this it gives him a three-carried pain to know absolutely that he has been taken. During his present engagement here he was taking a stroll one afternoon and a woman met him on the street and asked if he could inform her which depot she should go to to get a train for Evanston. Mr. Hopper happened to know that, Evanston was on the Northwestern road and he knew that the depot was on Kinzie street. All this he told the woman, and while he was doing so she suddenly burst into tears and informed the comedian that she was very desirous of reaching that point, but that she only had fifteen cents in her pocket. As she was rather comely in looks and not badly dressed, Mr. Hopper at once concluded that it was a case of deserving charity, and he was not an instant in producing a silver dollar, which he pressed into her hand, saying: "Take this, my lady, take this, I will not apologize and don't thank me." Mr. Hopper continued his walk. He was trying to count all the buildings in the city that were over eight stories high, and had reached the corner of Dearborn and Adams streets, when he heard a familiar voice say: "Excuse me, but I am a stranger here, and I wish you would direct me to the right depot for Evanston." Mr. Hopper gave her one look. It was the same woman who had accosted him two hours before. With a sudden voice he replied: "Yes, my lady, I can. You take the train I directed you to about two hours ago for Evanston, and if you have good luck you will get there."—Chicago Herald.

A Great Genius.

A young lady went into the office of a literary magazine. "I have a pretty story," she said to the editor. "It is striking and strictly original." "Leave it," the editor growled. "Let me read it to you." "Not if you value your life!" the editor exclaimed. "Sir?" "I said that I might go home to my wife." "Well, let me tell you a part of the story: A young girl is working in a hat factory. One day she stitches her name in the hat!" "And afterward meets the fellow who buys the hat and marries him!" the editor exclaimed. "Oh, no. That night the factory catches fire and is burned up." "What! does no one rescue the hat and marry the girl?" "No." "Miss, your fortune is made. We want everything you write. You have done a great work for American literature."—Arkansas Traveler.

The First Gas Furnaces.

The gas furnace most commonly used in the American iron and steel works was invented about thirty years ago by the brothers Frederick and Charles William Siemens, German engineers resident in London. The first "Siemens furnace" built in this country under the sanction of these inventors was erected at the works of John A. Griswold & Co., at Troy, N. Y., in 1867, and was used as a "heating furnace." This was followed in the same year by a heating furnace at the works of the Nautilus Iron and Steel company, Naubna, N. H., and early in 1868 the first "Siemens furnace" for melting steel in crucibles (often called a "pot furnace") was started in the works of Anderson & Woods, at Pittsburg.—W. E. Durfee in Popular Science Monthly.

STRANGE PHASES OF LIFE IN INDIA.

Formerly There Were Hundreds of Creeds and Countless Assassins.

Up to the breaking out of the Sepoy rebellion in India there were no less than 236 different religious creeds in that country, each having a numerous following. There were no less than thirty-two grades of caste, and the lines were so rigidly drawn that it was almost impossible for one to travel or do business. Even in the ranks of the troops maintained by the East India company everything went by caste. If a soldier of second caste walked near enough to the campfire of a soldier of the first caste to cast his shadow across it, the fire had to be put out and rebuilt on another spot. Out of a regiment numbering 800 men not more than 100 could use the same vessels for carrying water or cooking food.

Up to this same date it was estimated by English statisticians that there were in India 300,000 professional thugs; 175,000 professional strangers who used the hands alone; 100,000 professional poisoners, and at least 250,000 men who made theft, robbery and murder by violence their daily and only avocation. All but the latter class traveled about as religious devotees and sheltered themselves behind the mantle of "faith." India was intensely religious, and yet each and every creed was declared by all others to be a fraud and a sham. Every ruler, even down to the head man of a village, had arbitrary powers, but so long as murder and robbery were perpetrated in the name of religion the authorities dared not interfere. The British were in India for money. Previous to the mutiny they were careful not to interfere with caste or creed. If a British official in a town on the Nerbudda, Gadavery or Ganges river counted forty corpses per day floating down stream, or if he figured up 300 murders in a month in his territory, but even an official inquiry was set on foot. So long as the natives kept their hands off the English there was no desire to punish them. At Nagpore, 500 miles east of Bombay, the number of deaths at the hands of thugs, stranglers, poisoners and professional robbers during the twelve months preceding the outbreak was 1,384, and yet not one single criminal was brought to justice.

After the mutiny had been put down the British seized the reins of government everywhere, and one of the first steps taken was to insure life and property. Caste was temporarily knocked out, and religious creeds were mixed up like beans in a bag. This confusion was a great aid, and laws were passed and enforced, which stand today. In five years over 7,000 robbers and murderers were arrested, convicted and executed. During the same time 1,600 thugs, about 7,000 stranglers and 500 poisoners went to the scaffold. It took fifteen years to clean out these professionals, but the feat was accomplished at last. Not that murder has ceased in India, but that it is no longer practiced as a profession by bands of men traveling over the country.

No English Catholic Cardinal.

Three years ago there were three English cardinals—Newman, Manning and Howard. Today there is not one. The late Cardinal Howard had been in a poor condition, physically and mentally, for some years. He failed to remember his oldest friends, and sometimes would not take meals for days together. For years past it would have been difficult to recognize in the pincered and emaciated frame of the cardinal the gay young life guardsman who was chosen for his good looks and fine physique to lead the procession at the Duke of Wellington's funeral. In those days young Howard looked every inch a soldier, and it was gratifying to his friends' surprise that they learned of his going to Rome and entering the ecclesiastical state. He latterly occupied the dual position of acolyte of St. Peter's and bishop of Frascati. These offices had never been united in the same individual since they were held by the cardinal of York, last of the house of Stuart.

Hotting Things at Jackson Park.

Since the last issue of the World's fair grounds and buildings at Jackson park, Chicago, was pointed nearly six months ago many important changes have taken place. Almost every day indeed adds to the magic growth of that wonderful enterprise. Many new buildings which have been provided for have sprung up. New schemes of transportation about the grounds have been devised. Additional concessions upon the Midway plaisance have been granted. The scheme for a railway entrance at the southwest corner of the park has been perfected. The pier at the south inlet has been extended from 1,500 feet to 2,000. Its width has been increased, and for the convenience of passengers a movable sidewalk 2,500 feet long has been located on the pier.

Bits from Amateur Novels.

A western paper recently offered a prize for the best story to be written by a pupil of a public school. Here are a few passages from the contributions: "Corra Brown was fortunately the possessor of a birthday, for she was the daughter of rich friends." "But all this time a cloud was gathering over Mrs. Delaney, which grew large as years went by, and that cloud was full of grasshoppers." "My father desired me to marry a bank president, a handsome, reckless man, fond of night and the gaming table." "Yet I tell you, and I tell you!" shouted the Irishman. "As she entered the room a cold, damp smell met her eyes." "She forgot the Lord and all his blessings, and after that she went and got married."—New York Tribune.

A Poor Prescription.

Mr. Whiffles—Doctor, I bear you have a sure cure for insomnia. I wish you would treat me for it, as it is almost impossible for me to get to sleep. Doctor—Certainly. My plan is very simple. As soon as you lie down at night begin to count, and keep on counting until you get to sleep. "Is counting all it is? Why, doctor, counting is just what I do every night of my life, and it doesn't put me to sleep at all." "Eh! What do you count?" "Oh, household expenses, unpaid bills, time left on notes and all sort of things."—Pittsburgh Record.

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By Impure Vaccination—Covered with Sores

How Their Lives Were Saved.



Mrs. James Thrower San Jose, Cal.

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After they had taken the medicine for about a month, the eruptions lifted, their appetites

Hood's Cures

became natural, their spirits well and commenced to gain in flesh. They have not had a sick day since. No children are more robust and healthy." Mrs. JAMES THROWER, San Jose, Cal. (Genuine)

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