

## MOVING PICTURES

Ingenious Methods of Producing Startling Effects.

### TRICKS OF THE CAMERA MEN.

Expedients by Which Puzzling Situations and Incidents That Seem to Contradict the Laws of Nature Are Recorded on the Finished Film.

The ingenuity of man is exercised to a wonderful degree in the creation of novel and seemingly impossible situations and episodes for production in the moving picture shows, and audiences are often bewildered in trying to decide how the curious effects, which at times seem to contradict the laws of nature, are secured. Yet, like the conjurer's tricks, it is all very simple when the veil is lifted.

There are some scenes depicted which, while amazing enough in their way, do not puzzle the critical beholder in solving the ways and means of their making. There are the railroad accident, obtained by means of children's toys; the warships and the aeroplanes, which are also photographs of playthings; the burglar in his unheard of performance of climbing the front of a house, and—last, but not least—the man clinging to the ceiling of a room. The pictures explain themselves.

But when we see a man jumping out of a fourth story window, see him fall fifty feet to the ground and then get up and run away unhurt, we ask, How is this possible? The origin of the picture is very simple. The fugitive jumps out of a low window in the studio, which is fitted up in the style of the desired room. Then the photographing process is interrupted. The next picture is taken in the street in front of a real house. A life sized puppet is dropped from one of the windows. When it has reached the ground the machine stops, the actor puts himself in the place of the figure, the reel is started again, the man gets up and runs away.

In like manner auto accidents and similar episodes are arranged. Another impossibility—a man swims through a river and on the other side he climbs a ten foot wall without difficulty. Origin of the pictures: The man is photographed sliding from the wall into the water, but in taking the picture the reel is reversed when the picture is reeled off in the right direction.

The last obstacle in representing the seemingly impossible was cleared away when some clever mind conceived the idea of stopping the photographing process, not after a series of pictures, but after each single picture or after each two or three of them. The work involved was enormous, as eighteen pictures are taken every second—that is to say, about 50,000 pictures are required for a reel, which is to amuse the public only ten minutes! But human perseverance has accomplished the task, and the results obtained are extraordinary. The following examples will prove it:

A pile of small stones is put on a black table, and the apparatus is fastened vertically above the stones. Then a short turn of the crank, and a few identical pictures of the stone pile are taken. One of the stones is then removed from the pile; another short turn, which gives two or three pictures showing the first stones separate from the pile. The process is repeated until the stones laid aside by hand show the writing, "Good Night!" The finished film does not show the hand that removed one stone after another, but creates the impression that the stones arrange themselves in the form of magic writing.

Instead of the stones, a lump of clay may be placed on the table and some kind of a figure is gradually modeled from it by hand; but, this hand being invisible, it seems as if the figure formed itself.

In the same way a herring can gradually be sent back into the tin can from which it was taken.—Gartenlaube, Leipzig.

**A Trifle Withered.**  
In his native tongue no one could have made more graceful speeches than M. Blanc, but when he essayed compliments in English he was not quite so successful.

"Have I changed in the five years since we met in Paris?" asked an elderly woman who desired above all things to be thought younger, much younger, than she was.

"Madame," said the courtier, his hand on his heart, "you look like a rose of twenty years!"—Youth's Companion.

**A Drain on the Company.**  
On his way home from the theater, where he had seen a performance of "Othello," Bobby was unusually quiet.

"Didn't you enjoy the play?" grandfather asked, at last.

"Oh, yes, very much," replied Bobby.

"But, grandpapa, there's one thing I don't quite understand. Does the black man kill a lady every night?"—Youth's Companion.

**Two of a Kind.**  
"You fondle that pug puppy," complained the lover, "until I am actually jealous of him."

"You're all alike," answered the girl.

"This puppy is jealous of you."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

He who conceals a useful truth is equally guilty with the propagator of an injurious falsehood.—Augustine.

### RED TAPE IN GERMANY.

A Railway Ticket, a Controversy and a Delayed Train.

In an account of the duchy of Teck and its inhabitants by the Rev. S. Barling-Gould an amusing experience is thus described by the author:

"We are wont, we Englishmen, to grumble at red tapism, but with us it does not go beyond the government offices. In Germany it is everywhere. I had an instance of it between Ober Lenningen and Owen. I had asked at the former place for a third class ticket to Owen and had stepped into a third class carriage. On these branch lines nearly every one travels fourth. I counted twelve compartments fourth, nine third and three second. There was no first class compartment. Before reaching the next station—in fact, a mile from Ober Lenningen—the inspector came round.

"Huh, you have a fourth class ticket and are in a third class compartment! The fine is 6 marks."

"I explained and offered at once to pass into an inferior carriage or pay the difference.

"That will not do. You have infringed the law and must pay 6 marks."

"I get out at Owen and will explain matters to the station master."

"I did so.

"The fine is 6 marks," said this latter peremptorily.

"But," said I, "I demanded a third class ticket and was given one for which I had not asked. This was an oversight of the clerk."

"You should have examined your ticket."

"The train was delayed five minutes while the matter was thrashed out on the platform, the travelers craning their necks out of the windows of their respective carriages, looking on and listening with lively interest. At last reluctantly the station master yielded. I must pay the difference.

"What is it?"

"One penny!"

### MADE THE GUESTS PAY.

Demanded Tips For the Servants at the Court of Napoleon III.

"Before we left Compiègne at the conclusion of our visit at the court of Napoleon III.," writes Mme. de Hegermann-Lindencrone in Harper's, "when we were taking our morning tea we were interrupted by the coming in of the major domo, who handed us a paper. We were not unprepared for this visit, as we had been told by one of the guests who had been here before that every one was expected to remain in their rooms until this important personage had made his rounds in order to collect the pourboire. I say pourboire because what one generally gives separately is lumped into one sum. This paper, which he handed to us almost at the point of his halberd, proved to be a *glia scritto* receipt for 600 francs—our pourboire!

"We were rather a subdued party in the train. The conversation mostly turned on the subject of pourboires. The hussier decided the exact amount that each ought to give. For instance, he knows an ambassador ought to give 2,000 francs. For a minister of state 1,000 francs suffice. Unofficial people like ourselves cannot be expected to be out of pocket more than 600 francs. As for the poor nobility of France, they escape with 500! Some were of opinion that it was pleasanter to give en masse in one big sum than to give in dribsels, others thought it more satisfactory to hand one's offering personally to the different servants, but we all with one voice voted the officious beadle an imposition."

**The Stickleback Legend.**

The stickleback is one of the species of fish that build nests. There is a legend that the stickleback builds a nest because during the deluge it pulled the tow out of the bilge hole of the ark, and if it had not been for the hedgehog, who plugged up the leak with his own body, Noah and his sons would have had an exciting time baling out their boat. When Noah found out who had done the deed he ordered as a punishment that the culprit should be compelled each year to build a nest, while other fishes would have an easy time of it.

**Her Act.**

"Well, have you heard the news," asked a friend brightly. "My wife and I are going on the vaudeville stage. A clever friend has written an act for us and we are going to put it on next week."

"Good work, old man," we exclaimed enthusiastically. "What is it—a song and dance act or a society sketch?"

"Neither—it is a monologue."

"A monologue? I thought you and your wife were both in the act."

"We are. But—do you know my wife?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Physical Difficulty.**

"Is it anything serious, doctor?" asked a youth of a doctor after the latter had examined him.

"No, no; not at all," replied the medical man. "Nothing serious—just a little stiffness in the back of your neck my lad. But you must keep an eye on it."—London Telegraph.

**Came Partly True.**

"Before marriage I used to dream of life in a fine house, with sixteen servants."

"Dreams never come true."

"They do, partially. We live in a flat instead of a house, but we've had the sixteen servants."—Washington Herald.

**A Sure Sign.**

Bangs—Are you a good weather prophet? Blings—Only when the baby swallows a safety pin. Then I know there's to be a squall.

### ART IN ICE.

Wonderful Palace That Was Built by Czarina Anne of Russia.

The use of ice for architectural purposes is an art that has been carried to a high state of perfection in northern countries, and some almost incredible feats have been accomplished in this curious branch of industry.

Probably the most remarkable building constructed wholly of ice was the palace built on the Neva by Czarina Anne of Russia in 1739. The first attempt to construct this building was unsuccessful, as the slabs of ice were too thin and the building collapsed in the first thaw. Subsequently large blocks of ice were cut and squared with great care and laid on one another by skillful masons, who cemented the joints with water, which immediately froze. The building when completed was fifty-six feet long, seventeen and a half broad and twenty-one high. It was of but one story. The facade contained a door surmounted by an ornamental pediment and six windows, the frames and panes of which were all of ice. An elaborate balustrade, adorned with statues, ran along the top of the facade, and another balustrade surrounded the building at the level of the ground. The side entrances to the inclosure were flanked with pillars supporting urns, the latter containing orange trees, whose branches, leaves and flowers were all of ice. Hollow pyramids of ice on each side of the building contained lights by night. The grounds were further adorned with a life size figure of an elephant, with his mahout on his back. A stream of water was thrown from the elephant's trunk by day and a flame of naphtha by night.

A tent of ice contained a hot bath, in which persons actually bathed. There were also several cannons and mortars of ice, which were loaded with bullets of ice and iron and discharged.

The interior of the building was completely furnished with tables, chairs, statues, looking glasses, a clock, a complete tea service, etc., all made of ice and painted to imitate the real objects. A bedchamber contained a state bed with curtains, a dressing table with a mirror, pillows, bedclothes, slippers and nightcaps, all made of ice. There were ice candles, burning naphtha and, most wonderful of all, an ice fireplace containing burning ice logs—i. e., blocks of ice smeared with naphtha and then kindled.—Scientific American.

**The Doctor's Fee.**

There came a letup in the rush of patients, and the doctor opened two small envelopes lying on his desk.

"It's all right," he said, "I couldn't open the envelopes in the presence of the persons who gave them to me. They contain the fees left by two Englishmen who called close on each other's heels. English etiquette is rather embarrassing for a physician who is used to patients who hand over their money with the denomination right on top, American fashion. In England it would be considered an insult to give a physician his fee unwrapped. You can't insult an American physician that way, but newcomers credit him with an excess of sensibility and give him a good many uneasy moments wondering if he hasn't been underpaid."—New York Sun.

**Penn Very Much a Londoner.**

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, was born on Tower Hill on Oct. 14, 1644, was christened in All Hallows church, became a student of Lincoln's Inn, and then, joining the Quakers, he abandoned the law and preached along with George Fox in a meeting house off Lombard street. He once occupied a house in Norfolk street, Strand, chosen on account of its closeness to the river, which facilitated escape from duns, and he was imprisoned both at Newgate and in the Fleet. So Penn was, after all, very much a Londoner.—London Standard.

**A Cruet Stand.**

Several villagers were discussing a departed sister, who had been given to good deeds, but was rather too fond of dispensing sharp spoken advice.

"She was an excellent woman," said the deceased lady's pastor. "She was constantly in the homes of the poor and afflicted. In fact, she was the salt of the earth."

"She was more than that," remarked a villager. "She was the vinegar, the pepper and the mustard as well. She was a perfect cruet stand of virtues."—London Tit-Bits.

**Street Through a Church.**

One of the best known instances of churches with streets through them is that of St John the Baptist's church in Bristol, England. The church is situated right over the ancient gateway into the city on the Avon, and the towering spire, standing high above the neighboring houses and streets, is a remarkable sight as one surveys it from the roadway below.

**Mommsen's Peculiarity.**

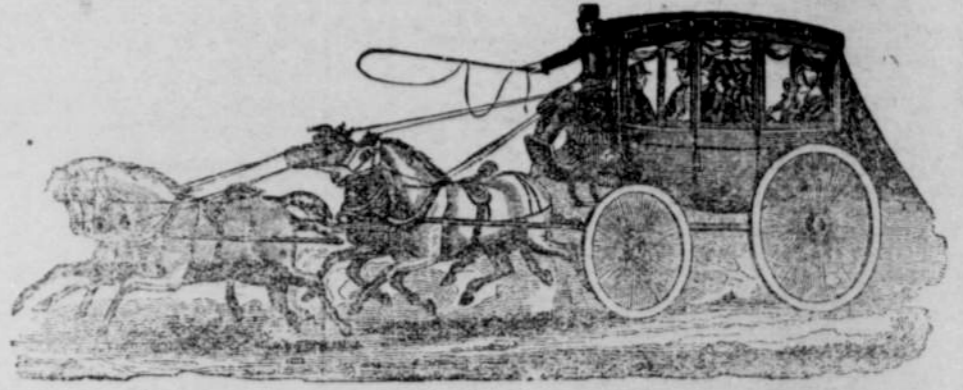
On his eightieth birthday Theodor Mommsen, the historian, received a visit from a great delegation of students, who marched out to his home, but he could not be induced to leave his work to greet them. "They see me every day at the university," he said. "Why do they want to disturb me now?"

**Inquisitive.**

"That fellow is a positive joke."

"Relative of your wife's or holding a better job than you?"—Detroit Free Press.

Faith and hope themselves shall die, while deathless charity remains.—Prize.



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