

THE JEFFERSONIAN.

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Science, Morality, and General Intelligence.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA., SEPTEMBER 4, 1873.

NO. 17.

VOL. 31.

Published by Theodore Schoch.

TERMS—Two dollars a year in advance—and if not paid before the end of the year, two dollars and fifty cents will be charged.

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The Balloon Life-Boat.

The life boat which is to be suspended from the Daily Graphic balloon on its voyage across the Atlantic, and upon which Professor Wise and his party will depend for safety should any mishap overtake their more commodious air ship, is now in rapid course of construction at the extensive workshops of Mr. A. M. Ingersoll, on South street in this city.

The boat is twenty two feet and six inches long. Her breadth of beam is five feet ten inches, and she is two feet six inches deep. The keel is of the best Ohio white oak, and the timbers and staves of the same material. The "skin," or body, is constructed of American white cedar, chosen on account of its extreme lightness, combined with great strength. All the wood employed is of the very best quality, and has been selected with such care that not the slightest flaw can be discovered in any of the strips. The boat is "clinker built;" each streak of planking overlaps the other and all are fastened with copper nails, riveted on each side. No less than eight thousand rivets have been used, and two men have been constantly employed for days past in "heading" them. A most difficult task, and one in which great care is indispensable. In the bottom of the boat a patent center board is to be placed. It is constructed of Georgia yellow pine banded with galvanized sheet iron, and working automatically. Air cylinders of thin galvanized iron are fitted up in the bow, stern, and sides, and, in connection with the Ingersoll valves, are so arranged that the boat will not only "right," but will free herself of water in thirty seconds, even were she full to the gunwale. This desirable result is arrived at by a process patented by Mr. Ingersoll, and may well be termed the perfection of life boat building.

The balloon boat is built after the model of the famous Red, White and Blue, which crossed the Atlantic in 1866. She has a greater "shear," however, her lines are more graceful, and her general appearance more in accordance with the amphibious role she may be called upon to perform. Fore and aft she is to be decked over with light planking—the entrance to the diminutive cabin being through a small companion-way aft. Forward, in the bows, a look out house is to be placed. This will be provided with sliding "peep holes" and with two dead lights. It is expected that it can be so arranged as to make it possible for a full sized man to stand erect in it. At each end of the little vessel ring-bolts will be placed, as in ordinary life boats. In addition to these, she is to be furnished with two eye bolts, constructed of 1-inch iron. These run through to the keel, at equal distances from the bow and stern. They are to be secured with great care and riveted on the under side. By these eye bolts the boat is to be suspended from the balloon. Extending around the entire boat and above the decking, a slight but strong bulwark is to be placed. It will be three inches high, of black walnut, and so arranged as to prevent those on deck from sliding off when the boat mounts a sea. At the stern posts and in the bows—indeed, at every part which is particularly exposed—great care is being taken to exclude the possibility of a leak; many of the seams are to be filled in with fine cotton, and no pains are being spared to make everything as "tight and snug" as the most exacting seaman could desire. To the water line the boat will be painted a fine light green. The body will be a bright gloss white, and under the gunwale, extending all around the boat, a broad gold band will be drawn. The bulwarks are to retain their natural walnut color, but will be highly polished and varnished. Inside, the prevailing color will be a dull white; the deck will be painted a soft delicate yellow.

The boat's rig has been the subject of much earnest thought on the part of her builders. At length, however, it has been decided to adopt the schooner model, and she is to be rigged after that pattern. The jib will be six feet long on the "heel" or lower part. Each mast will have a hoist of eleven feet six inches, and will be eight feet six inches on the heel. They are to be sixteen feet eight inches long, well and gracefully proportioned. The two sprits will be fifteen and a half feet long. One boom will have a length of nine and a half feet. The forestay is to be lug-rigged, and will trim eighteen inches aft of the mainmast. The sails are being made of fine cotton duck, they are double bighted or seamed, and every effort is made to render them at once light and durable. All the masts, spars and sails of the Liliputian bark are detached, and will be stored away in the hold to await an emergency.

The steering apparatus will be most complete. The rudder is of oak, iron-bound, and, in addition to this, a steering oar is to be added for use in heavy weather. The boat will also carry a full supply of canned provisions, and from six to eight ten gallon kegs of fresh water. She will be furnished with charts, compasses and other instruments of navigation, and also with one of the patent umbrella dregs which has been found so efficient in keeping a ship's head to the wind, and which is now in use on many of the steamship lines. The boat will be fitted out with every appliance for rowing as well as sailing. Three rowlocks of plated silver are to be placed on each side, and six oars of well seasoned ash, each fourteen feet long, will be stowed in the hold.

All the minor details are attended to with as much care as those of greater importance. Brass belaying cleets are to be furnished, a copper stem and scag band will be added, and a number of patent life preservers placed in the cabin. The apparatus for detaching the boat from the balloon is of the most perfect character. The great aim of the Graphic Company and the builders has been to secure a boat which would live in any sea, and which would at the same time be so light as to present no hindrance to the balloon. In this they have been entirely successful; the boat, when finished, with all her spars and sails, will only weigh seven hundred pounds.

Should it by any unforeseen chance be necessary for the voyagers to take to the life-boat in mid ocean, is it possible for so small a vessel to reach land? This question can be easily answered by a reference to the exploit of the Red, White and Blue. This daring little craft, which is just three and a half feet longer than the balloon boat, sailed from New York for Paris on the 9th of July, 1866, and arrived in London, England, on the 16th of August, making the passage in the short space of thirty eight days. The crew consisted of two men, Captain John M. Hudson and Frank Fitch, both of whom were old and experienced navigators. During the voyage a succession of head winds and strong gales were encountered at all times. However, the little ship behaved admirably, and though from stress of weather she was no less than four times thrown on her beam ends with masts in the waves, each time she righted, and, throwing the water from her decks, again sped in safety on her way.—Graphic.

SENTENCED.

JUSTICE OVERTAKES AN ALDERMAN—AN IMPRISONMENT OF NINE MONTHS IMPOSED.

Alderman John Nichols of Philadelphia, in June last was tried before Judge Fichter for extorting exorbitant fees, and was convicted. His counsel moved for a new trial, and pending the decision of this motion Nichols was admitted to bail. Fearing conviction he fled the jurisdiction, and only last week he was rearrested in a drinkery on Walnut street, near Eighth. Yesterday morning the alderman was arraigned in court, and Judge Fichter finally disposed of his case, overruling the motion for a new trial, in support of which he said no legal reason had been assigned. Causing the crestfallen alderman to stand up, the judge then addressed him in the following words:—

The people of the Eighth Ward, confiding in your integrity and intelligence, selected you to protect the rights of your fellow citizens and to do justice. In violation of all your duties you have dishonored your office and oppressed the citizen. Yours has been a system of extortion long continued. Immunity made you reckless and defiant. In the transaction for which you were justly convicted, you deprived a citizen of his liberty without the shadow of authority, because he would not comply with your extravagant and illegal demands.

You cannot plead ignorance as an extenuation. You are an intelligent man, and every one is required to know the law. It is more reasonable that this should be most rigidly required of those who undertake its administration.

The fees of aldermen are defined with great certainty. It was your duty not to know them, but to have them posted up in your office for the inspection and protection of the public.

About a year ago this court, believing that very many of our magistrates were honest and anxious to do their duty, carefully examined the question of fees, and fixed precisely the charges which might be made. The only advantage that you appear to have derived from this was that you prepared discharges from commitments, which perhaps you had never done before. You did not catch the spirit of our instructions, which was to prevent and not to encourage extortion.

We greatly fear that our action in this regard has not received a kindly welcome from whom it was intended to benefit. The evil does not seem to abate. Admonition having failed we must resort to harsher means. In Gallagher's case this court fixed nine months' imprisonment as a proper punishment for the offense. Justice should be evenhanded. In criminal matters there should be equality of punishment whenever the circumstances will permit. We find nothing in your case to distinguish it from Gallagher's.

The judge then sentenced the alderman to an imprisonment of nine months.

Nebraska is one of the youngest States, and its productions are just beginning to attract the serious attention of the commercial community. It is estimated that its surplus crop of wheat this year will amount to three million bushels, while its corn, oats, barley and live stock have become important considerations for the shipping merchants.

Chicken cholera is making havoc among the poultry in Bedford, Plumstead and neighboring townships. Old and young are dying with it, and some farmers have lost so many as two hundred chickens. Turkeys are somewhat affected with the disease, but not so much as the chickens.—Bucks County Intelligencer.

A Good Watch Dog.

For many weeks past, Hiram Ripley, a teamster living on Fort street, below the railroad bridge, had been thinking he ought to have a good watch dog around the house and barn, as his wife was much of the time alone, and as bad boys frequently raid his barn for old junk. So the other day, when a farmer came along with a big brindle dog under his wagon and wanted to sell him for \$5, Ripley criticized the canine, inquired as to his merits, and said it was a trade. He tied the dog up in a woodshed, fed him bountifully, and then went into the country after a load of potatoes with a light heart, believing that no human being could come fooling around his house and live long. He was gone over night, and it was afternoon Friday before he returned home. He drove up to the barn, and went in by the stable door to throw open the big doors. He had just got on the main floor when a buzz saw began ripping up and down his leg. He thought it was a buzz saw, but wasn't; it was that watch dog of his, Mrs. Ripley, desiring to go off to a relative's, had turned the dog in to the barn, and he was watching, as was his business. Ripley yelled, "Oh! hokey to saltpe're," as he made a long skip into a corner, and faced about and saw the dog. The old canine deliberately picked the woolen and flesh out of his teeth, and was then ready for business. His eyes were fixed on Ripley's lower vest button, his stump tail stood up straight, and his fore legs had an uneasy motion, as if he wanted to reach out after something.

"Nice old fellow!" began Ripley, thinking to beguile the dog; "good doggy—nice doggy—don't you know me?"

The dog seemed to have heard the voice before, and he sat down and lost a little of the fierce look. This encouraged, and he started to go out, but had taken but a few steps when the dog took half a yard from the back of his coat, and brought away a piece of flesh. Ripley fell over the peck measure, and the dog took another mouthful, but did not pursue to the corner.

"Oh! jeshittaker to Jerusalem!" groaned the dog buyer, as he leaned up against a barrel and saw the dog calmly ruminating over the last mouthful.

The canine sat up again and smacked his lips, and uttered a low growl, which reverberated around the barn like thunder. He closed one eye and peered at Ripley with the other, and then moved his paws around with that reckless, uneasy manner before mentioned. Ripley began yelling for help, but he hadn't yelled more than three times when the dog checked him with a look that spoke volumes. Then he went at the beguiling business again.

"Here, Tiger," he called, snapping his fingers, "nice Tiger—best dog in Detroit—poor old doggy."

Tiger uttered a whine and beat "Ben Butler's Dream" on the floor with his stumpy narrative, while a tear of tender love stole into one eye. The thing was all right now, and Ripley started out again, keeping his back behind him. He had half crossed the floor, when he felt buzz-saws and red hot irons and pitchforks jabbing him all over. He went up and came down, turned hand-springs and jumped from the trapeze, and in a moment was back in the corner, and the old dog was sitting up as before. Ripley couldn't sit down, and didn't feel like standing up, and so he leaned up against the barrel and recklessly abused and insulted the dog. He called him an old loafer, a "ring" thief, a back salary stealer, a carpet-bagger, and a Mormon, and then went on and abused every one of the canine relatives back to the great grand father.

At length, after being a prisoner for nearly three hours, some boys discovered the man's situation. By his direction they went for a grocer who keeps a revolver, and the grocer came and released the prisoner by shooting the dog. Ripley came up town to have the wounds dressed, and they numbered twenty-three different bites, and were in partially distributed over a large extent of territory. However, there's nothing like keeping a family watch dog.—Detroit Free Press.

Three bootblacks were arrested in New York on Saturday, and in the possession of one was found the fifty three hundred dollars in drafts and a portion of the four hundred and seventy dollars in greenbacks which Captain Blake, of Chicago, lost at Saratoga July 31st.

A pair of twin brothers named Ullum, of Waynesburg, cut one hundred logs with a cross cut saw, in one day, recently, the logs averaging two feet in thickness. Henry Amos felled the trees and trimmed for the sawers.

Leather made from the skin of the white whale is now a regular article of manufacture at some of the villages in Canada. It is both fine and durable, and shoe througs made of it are said never to break.

The Graphic says that over a thousand persons have applied for seats in Prof. Wise's balloon. Several ladies have entreated earnestly to be allowed to go, and some persons have even offered to pay a liberal fare.

Contrary Chickens.

Mr. Cobleigh, of Nelson street, bought three hens on Saturday night, and put them under a box until he could build a coop. On Sunday morning he saw one of them in the street, and bestowed a brief curse on the somebody who had overturned the box and jeopardized his property, he started out after it to drive it back into the yard. It took fifteen minutes to convince him that that hen could not be driven into the yard, and then he attempted to catch it. Three times he rose up with his hands full of feathers and his chin full of sand, but yet that hen eluded him. Once he got it cornered and thought sure he had it, but it flew straight up over his head and flapped its wings in his face, and filled his eyes with dust. O how mad Mr. Cobleigh was. It was Sunday morning. The bells were ringing, people were starting to church, and there he was in the street, with no coat or hat on, and with nothing but slippers on his feet, and every one in a while one of them would come off and fly through the air, and his naked foot would come in contact with the cruel gravel before he could stop himself.—Then he would have to hop back on one foot after that slipper, while the hen stood on the walk and cackled, and the little Sunday school children stopped and laughed, and their parents reproved them and laughed too. Finally the hen got away from him and started down the street at a wonderful speed for a hen, and he started after her, his face redder than ever, and every time he cleared a rod he would stop and hop back two after one of those slippers. When he reached Essex street he jumped out of both slippers at once, but instead of stopping to go back he picked up a stick of wood and kept on. Then, as the hen dodged into a gateway, he hurled the stick and broke the leg of a strange dog, which added its piercing "ki yi" to the entertainment.—But Cobleigh didn't stop. He tore into the yard after his property in his bare feet, and chased the hen into a wood pile, and caught it just as the owner of the premises came out and wanted to know what Cobleigh was going to do with his hen, and what he meant anyway by getting drunk and kicking up such a hullabaloo in a peaceful neighborhood. Cobleigh first thought he would knock the man down with an axe, and what he could not eat of him bury under a barn, but the new comer succeeded in proving to Cobleigh that the hen was his, and then the miserable man burst into tears, and limped back home, where he found his three hens under the box.—Dawbury News.

A Wife's Memorandum.

The following is a Hannibal woman's memorandum of articles for her husband to get "down town," on one of the cholera days last week:

Get a pound of tea.

And don't forget to go to Brown's drug store and get 8 pounds of copperas and a pint of carbolic acid.

Get a dollar's worth of loaf sugar.

Bring a dozen lemons.

If you have a chance you had better bring a bushel of lime.

We ought to have a pound of ground mustard and some ginger.

Get a gallon of coal oil and a demijohn of whiskey. Be particular and don't get them mixed—have the coal oil put into the can, and the whiskey in the demijohn.

If you see a nice piece of calico, you might bring me enough for a wrapper.

Go to Orynski's and get a bottle of blackberry syrup.

The flour is out.

Be careful and don't drink any well water while in town.

Be sure and get a bottle of Hamlin's cholera cure.

We ought to have a dozen knives and forks for the kitchen.

Go to McCleery's and get a bottle of Dr. McCabe's blackberry brandy.

Don't bring any green thing home to make the children sick.

Don't forget the coal oil and the demijohn, and be sure to keep them separate.

Go to Cheever's and get a bottle of syrup of blackberry and ginger.

Get a pint of cognac brandy.

Keep away from them nasty ponds unless they are filled up.

Get a few pounds of crackers and rice, and some oatmeal.

If you see the doctor ask him to give you a prescription to cure cholera.

Be careful and don't break the demijohn.

You had better call at all the drug stores and see who has got the best cholera medicine.

Now don't forget any of these things, and keep this list in your hat where you can find it.

Come home early.

A New York clergyman has been making a close study of statistics to ascertain if the charge is true that Methodism has declined in New York city, and finds that it is. Since 1845 its membership has increased but seven hundred and twenty-five.

Kate Grant, an old Indian squaw, living at Grant, Wisconsin, has killed eight bears this summer. Kate is still unmarried. Many a bear has attempted to bug her, but she never permitted such familiarities.

New Mode of Producing Gas.

One of the most recent inventions for producing illuminating gas is that known as the Kromschroder process, just applied, successfully, in the town of Great Marlow, England. It consists in simply passing air through the vapor of a light hydrocarbon, the two combining in a gas of high illuminating power. The apparatus for this purpose is erected in the gas works of the town, and consists of a sheet iron chamber five feet long, four feet wide and three feet six inches high, the lower portion being two feet wider than the upper part for a height of about twelve inches. In the upper chamber is placed a valve arrangement driven by clock-work, and by which the atmospheric air is forced into the lower or enlarged portion. Here it is made to pass through a mass of open fibrous material, the lower part of which is ket immersed in a liquid hydrocarbon. The air in its passage combines with the vapor of the hydrocarbon in the proportion of seventy parts of air to thirty of the vapor. In this condition the gas—for such it has now become—is conducted from the mingling chamber by a pipe into a receiver, capable of containing one hundred cubic feet of the gas. As soon as their receiver is filled, its contents are discharged into the gas holder formerly used for the storage of coal gas. The intermediate receiver is used because the incorporating apparatus, although equal to producing the required quantity of gas, does not give sufficient pressure to lift the large holder, which is thirty feet in diameter.

Kissing in Church.

A Columbia, Pa., clergyman, while preaching his sermon one Sunday evening, perceived a young man and woman under the gallery in the act of kissing each other behind a hymn book, but did not lose his temper. He did not fly into an unseemly rage, and called upon the sexton to rush up the aisle and disband the rioters. No! he remained calm. He beamed mildly at the offenders over his spectacles, and when the young man kissed her the fifteenth time, he merely broke his sermon short off in the middle of "thirdly," and offered a fervent prayer in behalf of "the young man in the pink necktie, and the maiden in the blue bonnet and gray shawl, who were profaning the sanctuary by kissing one another in pew No. 68." And the congregation said "Amen." Then the young woman suddenly pulled her veil down, and the young man sat there and swore softly to himself. He does not go to church as much now as he did.

A Camp Meeting Incident.

In connection with the progress of the camp meeting of the M. E. Church at Chester Heights, the West Chester Republican relates the following incident:—"In connection with one of these lots, last week an incident occurred which the owner is disposed to regard as a special providence. Rev. T. A. Fernley, Secretary of the Association, owns a lot in a very eligible position, and had contracted for the erection of a cottage, and wished to bind the carpenter to have it done by the first day of August. This the carpenter could not promise to do, so Mr. Fernley concluded he would not build his cottage this season, and directed that a tent should be erected on the site. The workmen had erected the platform, when the storm of Friday night, the 1st inst., blew down a large tree across it. This was the very day that Mr. Fernley was anxious to have moved his family in, and had he done so, the consequences must have been lamentable."

Instinct of Ants.

An observer of the habits and instinct of ants relates that a vase on the mantel-shelf in his sitting room, which was usually filled with fresh violets, was haunted by very small red ants. The insects issued from a hole in the wall above, and gradually increased in number until they formed an almost unbroken procession. He brushed them to the floor for several days, but, as they were not killed, the result was that they formed a colony in the wall at the base of the mantel, and, ascending thence to the shelf, the race was soon attacked from above and below.

"One day," says the writer, "I observed a number of ants, perhaps thirty or forty, on the shelf at the foot of the vase. Thinking to kill them, I struck them lightly with the end of my finger, killing some and disabling the rest. The effect of this was immediate and unexpected.—As soon as the living arrived near where their fellows lay dead and suffering, they turned and fled with all possible haste.—In half an hour the wall above the mantel shelf was cleared."

"There were giants in those days." The tooth and part of the jaw bone of some enormous prehistoric animal have recently been found in Illinois at a depth of eight feet. The tooth was a foot in length, and three and a half by six inches in size, and was considerably worn.

At Virginia City, Montana, wheat is selling at fifty cents a bushel, while cattle are being driven by the thousand to Nevada and Utah, there, being absolutely no home market. No town in the world can boast of cheaper living?