The Tioga County Agitator
Is Published every Wednesday Morning, at $2,00 Year, invariably in advance, by
COBB & VAN GELDER.
G. H. COBB.] [P. C. VAN GELDER.

ADVERTISING RATES.
TEN LINES OF MINION, OR LESS, MAKE ONE SQUARE.

No. of Sq'rs.	1 In.	3 Ins.	4 Ins.	3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Year
1 Square.....	$1,00	$2,00	$2,50	$5,00	$7,00	$12,00
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☞ Business Cards inserted at the rate of One Dollar a line per year; but none for less sum than $5,00.
☞ Special notices, Fifteen Cents per line; Editorial or Local Notices, Twenty Cents per line.

The Tioga County Agitator.

"The Agitation of Thought is the Beginning of Wisdom."

VOL. XIV. WELLSBORO, PA., MAY 1, 1867. NO. 18.

JOBBING DEPARTMENT.
The Proprietors have stocked the establishment with a large assortment of modern styles
JOB AND CARD TYPE
AND FAST PRESSES,
and are prepared to execute neatly, and promptly
POSTERS, HANDBILLS, CIRCULARS, CARDS, BILL-HEADS, LETTER HEADS, STATEMENTS, TOWNSHIP ORDERS, &c., &c.
Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, and a full assortment of Constables' and Justices' Blanks, constantly on hand.
People living at a distance can depend on having their work done promptly, and sent back in return mail.
☞ OFFICE—Roy'e block, Second Floor.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

W. D. TERBELL, & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS, and dealers in Wall Paper, Kerosene Lamps, Window Glass, Perfumery, Paints and Oils, &c., &c.
Corning, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1866.—1y.

W. A. NICHOLS. JOHN I. MITCHELL.
NICHOLS & MITCHELL,
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW.
Office formerly occupied by James Lowrey, Esq.
WM. A. NICHOLS. JOHN I. MITCHELL.
Wellsboro, Jan. 1, 1866—1y.

WILLIAM H. SMITH,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Insurance, Bounty and Pension Agency, Main Street Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1866.

S. P. WILSON. J. B. NILES.
WILSON & NILES,
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW, (First door from Bigoney's, on the Avenue)—Will attend to business entrusted to their care in the counties of Tioga and Potter.
Wellsboro, Jan. 1, 1866.

D. ANGELL & CO.,
MANUFACTURERS of, and Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Doors, Sash, and Blinds. Also Planing and Turning done to order.
Knoxville, Tioga Co., Pa., Jan. 16. 1867—1y.

F. W. CLARK,
ATTORNEY AT LAW—Mansfield, Tioga co., Pa.
May 9, 1866—1y

GEORGE WAGNER,
TAILOR, Shop first door north of L. A. Sears's Shoe Shop. ☞ Cutting, Fitting, and Repairing done promptly and well.
Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1866.—1y.

JOHN B. SHAKSPEARE,
DRAPER AND TAILOR. Shop over John R. Bowen's Store. ☞ Cutting, Fitting, and Repairing done promptly and in best style.
Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1866—1y

JOHN I. MITCHELL.
AGENT for the collection of bounty, back pay and pensions due soldiers from the Government. Office with Nichols and Mitchell, Wellsboro, Pa. m30, '66

WM. GARRETSON,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, Notary Public and Insurance Agent, Blossburg, Pa., over Caldwell's Store.

ISAAK WALTON HOUSE,
Gaines, Tioga County, Pa.
H. C. VERMILYEA, PROPRIETOR. This is a new hotel located within easy access of the best fishing and hunting grounds in Northern Pennsylvania. No pains will be spared for the accommodation of pleasure seekers and the traveling public. [Jan. 1, 1866.]

Pennsylvania House.
AMARIAH HAZLETT PROPRIETOR.
THIS popular hotel has been lately renovated and refurnished, and no pains will be spared to render its hospitalities acceptable to patrons.
Wellsboro, May 9, 1866.

PETROLEUM HOUSE,
WESTFIELD, PA., GEORGE CLOSE, Proprietor. A new Hotel conducted on the principle of live and let live, for the accommodation of the public.—Nov. 14, 1866—1y.

J. C. STRANG,
ATTORNEY AT LAW. Any business entrusted to his care will receive prompt attention.
Knoxville, Pa., Nov. 14, 1866.—tf

GEO. W. RYON,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, Lawrenceville, Tioga Co., Pa. Bounty, Pension, and Insurance Agent. Collections promptly attended to. Office 2d door below Ford House.
Dec. 12, 1866—1y

C. F. SWAN,
AGENT for the Lycoming County Insurance Company, at Tioga, Pa.
June 5, 1866.—3m*

FARR'S HOTEL,
TIOGA, TIOGA COUNTY, PA.,
Good stabling, attached, and an attentive hostler always in attendance.
E. S. FARR, ... Proprietor.

Blacksmith and Farrier.
JOSEPH MANLY would inform the citizens of Wellsboro and vicinity that he has leased the old Mack stand, on Water street, lately occupied by Mr. Ritter, where he may be found prepared to shoe horses and oxen, and do all work pertaining to his trade. He also is a practical Farrier, and will treat horses for diseases.
October 24. 1866—tf

Hairdressing & Shaving.
Saloon over Willcox & Barker's Store, Wellsboro, Pa. Particular attention paid to ladies' Hair-cutting, Shampooing, Dyeing, etc. Braids, Puffs, coils, and switches on hand and made to order.
H. W. DORSEY. J. JOHNSON.

GOLD received on deposite, for which certificates will be issued, *bearing interest in gold.*
E. W. CLARK & CO, Bankers.
No 35 south Third street, Phila.

DR. BACON, M. D., late of the 2d Pa. Cavalry, after nearly four years of army service, with a large experience in field and hospital practice, has opened an office for the practice of medicine and surgery, in all its branches. Persons from a distance can find good boarding at the Pennsylvania Hotel when desired.—Will visit any part of the State in consultation, or to perform surgical operations. No 4, Union Block, up stairs. Wellsboro, Pa., May 2, 1866.—1y.

NEW PICTURE GALLERY.—
FRANK SPENCER
has the pleasure to inform the citizens of Tioga county that he has completed his
NEW PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY,
and is on hand to take all kinds of Sun Pictures, such as Ambrotypes, Ferrotypes, Vignettes, Cartes de Visite, the Surprise and Eureka Pictures; also particular attention paid to copying and enlarging Pictures. Instructions given in the Art on reasonable terms. Elmira St., Mansfield, Oct. 1, 1866.

ATTENTION SOLDIERS.
WM. H. SMITH, Knoxville, Tioga County, Pa., (U. S. licensed Agent and Attorney for soldiers and their friends throughout all the loyal States,) will prosecute and collect with unrivalled success,
SOLDIERS' CLAIMS AND DUES
of all kinds. Also, any other kind of claim against the Government before any of the Departments or in Congress. Terms moderate. All communications sent to the above address will receive prompt attention. Jan. 17, 1866.

DENTISTRY.
C. N. DARTT,
WOULD say to the public that he is permanently located in Wellsboro, (Office at his residence, near the Land Office and Episcopal Church,) where he will continue to do all kinds of work confided to his care, guaranteeing complete satisfaction where the skill of the Dentist can avail in the management of cases peculiar to the calling. He will furnish
ARTIFICIAL TEETH,
set on any material desired.
FILLING & EXTRACTING TEETH,
attended to on shortest notice, and done in the best and most approved style.
TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT PAIN
by the use of Anæsthetics, which are perfectly harmless, and will be administered in every case when desired.
Wellsboro, Jan. 1, 1865—1y.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—J. B. Shakespear, dealer in Decker & Brother and Haines & Brothers pianos, Mason & Hamlin cabinet organs, Trent, Linsey & Co. melodeons, and the B. Shoninger melódeons. Room over J. R. Bowen's store. Sept. 12, 1866.

LAMPS.—A new kind of lamp for Kerosene—no breakage of chimneys—at FOLEY'S.

John W. Guernsey,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW. Having returned to this county with a view of making it his permanent residence, solicits a share of public patronage. All business entrusted to his care will be attended to with promptness and fidelity. Office 2d door south of E. S. Farr's hotel. Tioga, Tioga Co., Pa.
sept. 26, '66.—tf.

WELLSBORO HOTEL.
(*Corner Main Street and the Avenue.*)
WELLSBORO, PA.
B. B. HOLIDAY, Proprietor.
THIS is one of the most popular Houses in the county. This Hotel is the principal Stage-house in Wellsboro. Stages leave daily as follows:
For Tioga, at 10 a. m.; For Troy, at 8 a. m.; For Jersey Shore every Tuesday and Friday at 2 p. m.; For Coudersport, every Monday and Thursday at 2 p. m.
STAGES ARRIVE—From Tioga, at 12 1-2 o'clock p. m.; From Troy, at 6 o'clock p. m.; From Jersey Shore, Tuesday and Friday 11 a. m.; From Coudersport, Monday and Thursday 11 a. m.
N. B.—Jimmy Cowden, the well-known hostler, will be found on hand.
Wellsboro, Jan. 1, 1866—1y.

W. D. LANG.
DEALER IN
DRUGS, MEDICINES,
BOOKS AND STATIONERY,
PATENT MEDICINES, Perfumery, Musical Instruments and Musical Merchandise of all kinds, Fancy Goods of all kinds, &c.
MANSFIELD, PA.
Physician's Prescriptions carefully compounded
October 31, 1866.—6m.

PHOTOGRAPHIC.
E. & H. T. ANTHONY & CO.,
Manufacturers of Photographic Materials,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
501 BROADWAY, N. Y.
In addition to our main business of Photographic Materials we are Headquarters for the following, viz:
Stereoscopes & Stereoscopic Views
Of American and Foreign Cities and Landscapes, Groups, Statuary, etc.
Stereoscopic Views of the War,
From negatives made in the various campaigns and forming a complete Photographic history of the great contest.
Stereoscopic Views on Glass,
Adapted for either Magic Lanterns or the Stereoscope. Our Catalogue will be sent, to any address on receipt of Stamp.
Photographic Albums:
We manufacture more largely than any other house, about 200 varieties, from 50 cents to $60 each. Our ALBUMS have the reputation of being superior in beauty and durability to all others.
Card Photographs of Generals, Statesmen, Actors, etc., etc.
Our Catalogue embraces over FIVE THOUSAND different subjects, including reproductions of the most celebrated Engravings, Paintings, Statues, etc. Catalogues sent on receipt of stamp.
Photographers and others ordering goods C. O. D., will please remit 25 per cent. of the amount with their order. The prices and quality of our goods cannot fail to satisfy. Jan. 2, 1867—6m.

LAWRENCEVILLE DRUG STORE.
THE undersigned having purchased the Drug Store of W. G. Miller, will keep a full stock of
DRUGS AND MEDICINES,
PATENT MEDICINES, PAINTS, OILS, Dye Stuffs, Kerosene Oil and Groceries, which will be sold at as low prices as any other establishment in the country for cash.
C. P. LEONARD.
Lawrenceville, Nov. 5, 1866—tf.

To the Farmers of Tioga County.
I AM now building at my manufactory, in Lawrenceville, a superior
FANNING MILL,
which possesses the following advantages over all other mills:
1. It separates oats, rat litter, and foul seeds, and cheas and cockle, from wheat.
2. It cleans flax seed, takes out yellow seed, and all other seeds, perfectly.
3. It cleans timothy seed.
4. It does all other separating required of a mill.
This mill is built of the best and most durable timber, in good style, and is sold cheap for cash, or produce.
I will fit a patent sieve, for separating oats from wheat, to other mills, on reasonable terms.
J. H. MATHER.
Lawrenceville, October 10, 1866—tf

SAVE YOUR GREENBACKS!!
AND CALL OFTEN AT
Nast & Auerbach's
CHEAP CASH STORE,
BLOSSBURG, PA.,
Where you can always find the best assorted stock of
DOMESTIC & FANCY DRY GOODS,
CLOTHS, NOTIONS, READY-MADE CLOTHING,
Manufactured under their own supervision.
Also Gents' furnishing goods, &c., &c.
In their merchant tailoring establishment they defy competition; having the best tailors of New York city, and an experienced cutter. Mr. H. P. Erwin. [feb2'66]y

E. R. KIMBALL,
GROCERY AND RESTAURANT,
One door above the Meat Market,
WELLSBORO, PENN'A,
RESPECTFULLY announces to the trading public that he has a desirable stock of Groceries, comprising, Teas, Coffees, Spices, Sugars, Molasses, Syrups, and all that constitutes a first-class stock. Oysters in every style at all seasonable hours.
Wellsboro, Jan. 2, 1867—tf.

JOHN SUHR,
WOULD announce to the citizens of Wellsboro and surrounding country, that he has opened a shop on the corner of Water and Crafton streets, for the purpose of manufacturing all kinds of
CABINET FURNITURE,
REPAIRING AND TURNING DONE
to order. COFFINS of all kinds furnished on short notice. All work done promptly and warranted. Wellsboro, June 27, 1866.

J. STICKLIN, CHAIRMAKER, Turner, and Furniture Dealer, opposite Dartt's Wagon Shop,
MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA.
Orders promptly filled and satisfaction guaranteed. Fancy Turning done to order.
Oct. 31, 1866.—tf. J. STICKLIN.

WELLSBORO PETROLEUM CO.—Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of this Company at a meeting held December 15, by resolution decided to close up the affairs of the Company and distribute the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, *pro rata* among the holders of paid-in stock. The property of the Company will be sold and the proceeds divided in like manner. Stockholders will present their receipts to the Treasurer. By order,
Dec. 19, 1866. M. H. COBB, Clerk.

RICH Bohemian Glass Vases, at
dec19 FOLEY'S.

AT GARDNER'S
YOU CAN FIND A FIRST CLASS STOCK OF
GROCERIES & PROVISIONS,
TEAS OF ALL KINDS, COFFEE, SUGAR, MOLASSES, SYRUPS, SALT, SPICES, DRIED FRUIT, FIGS, CANNED FRUITS, PRUNES, ENGLISH CURRANTS, RAISINS, CITRON, CREAM TARTAR, SODA,
PORK, FLOUR, MACKEREL, WHITE FISH, CORN MEAL, BUCKWHEAT FLOUR,
ALSO HARDWARE,
NAILS, AXES, TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY, SHOVELS, SPADES, HOES, FORKS,
Crockery, Jars, Jugs, Lamps and Chimneys, Lanterns, Wooden-Ware of all kinds,
Bedcords, Rope, Brooms, Brushes of all Kinds; Plug & Fine Cut Tobacco, Segars; also a large variety of Fancy Smoking Tobacco.
In regard to the sale of these goods I have a word to say, in strict confidence, of course. These goods were purchased for cash and will be sold for cash at prices which will make it an object for housekeepers to purchase. I mean to do a square and fair trading business. Call and see me—at the J. D. Jones' stand.
L. A. GARDNER.
Wellsboro, Dec. 12, 1866—tf

FARMERS' EXCHANGE.
C. G. VAN VALKENBURG & BRO.
HAVING purchased the Store lately occupied by William Townsend, are ready to supply customers with
PORK, HAMS, SHOULDERS, WHITE FISH, MACKEREL, CODFISH, SMOKED HALIBUT,
FLOUR, CORN MEAL, BUCKWHEAT FLOUR, FEED, AND ALL
HEAVY GROCERIES,
AT
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
and at reasonable prices.
FARMERS & OTHERS
Will find it to their advantage to call and look at our Stock before purchasing elsewhere.
Remember the place,
TOWNSEND'S OLD STAND,
MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PENN'A.
Feb. 27, 1867—tf.

COBBLER'S EMPORIUM.
BENJAMIN SEELEY, shoemaker, over Jerome Smith's store on Main Street, would just say to the Shoeless and Bootless—that is, that portion of them who have the *dudads* to change their condition—that he is now prepared to manufacture coarse gentlemen's fine Boots, or fine gentlemen's coarse Boots in as bungling a manner, and at as dear rates as any other establishment this side of Whitney's Corners. Anything in the line of Shoemaking or Cobbling will be admirably botched on the shortest notice. Don't examine my work; it won't bear inspection; but "go it blind." Remember the place, next door to Shakspeare's Tailor Shop. B. SEELEY.
Nov. 14. 1866.—tf.

Of all the trades from East to West,
The cobbler part contending;
He's like in time to prove the best,
Who every day is mending;
How happy he who can amend,
The soles of all his neighbors;
He's ever unmindful of his end,
And to his last still labors.

HAND POWER LOOM.
[Patented 1865.]
ALL persons interested in the introduction of practical machinery into our country, are requested to investigate the merits of
HENDERSON'S HAND POWER LOOM.
This loom will do all kinds of hand weaving. It will weave jeans, blankets, plain cloth, satinet, kersey, flannel, seamless sack, double width blankets, or any kind of cotton, wool or flax cloth. It treads the treadles, throws the shuttle, lets off the web, and takes up the cloth. It makes the upper shed as the button comes forward, and beats up the filling after the cross is made, making better cloth and better selvage than can be made in any other way.
Looms made to order and warranted. Apply at the shop on Water Street, sign "Loom Factory."
LEWIS WETMORE.
Wellsboro, March 20, 1867—tf.

INSURANCE AGENCY.
MESSRS. NICHOLS & MITCHELL would respectfully inform the people of this vicinity, that they have the agency of some of the best
Life & Fire Insurance Companies
in the States, and are now prepared to insure at reasonable rates.
Mr. MITCHELL having been appointed
NOTARY PUBLIC,
will attend promptly to any business relating to his office, which may be entrusted to him.
They will be found at the office formerly occupied by Lowrey and Wilson, on Main Street, Wellsboro, Pa. March 13, 1867—1y.

HARKNESS & RILEY,
BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS,
OVER HUGH YOUNG'S BOOK STORE.
BOOTS AND SHOES of all kinds made to order and in the best manner.
REPAIRING of all kinds done promptly and good. Give us a call.
JOHN HARKNESS,
WM. RILEY.
Wellsboro, Jan. 2, 1867—1y.

SMITH & SHAW,
GENERAL POLICY AGENTS for the leading Stock Companies in the United States; also Agents for the Lycoming County Mutual, Columbia Mutual, and Farmers' Mutual Insurance Companies.
Non-Hazardous, Hazardous, and Extra-Hazardous Risks taken at reasonable rates. Policies Issued, and all Losses adjusted at our Office.
Wellsboro', Pa., Feb. 20, 1867.—tf.

Original Poetry.

BROWN.

The long lonesome road is brown,
Brown, brown, brown!
Winding up and creeping down
Yond the bridge below the town—
Brown, brown, brown!
Like a Titan's giant frown
All the dreary hills look down
Brown, brown, save their crown,
Save their regal em'rald crown,—
Thank Our God! they wear a crown—
Else the mead and mount of brown
Would so weigh our spirits down
That no love or fair renown
E'er could lift the tiresome frown;

Thus this life is sometimes brown,
Weary, dreary, dismal brown!
All its paths or up or down—
All its fair hopes of renown
Brown, brown, brown;
All its dead leaves rustling down—
All its heavens wear a frown,
Wear a somber, boding frown;
Have our lives, then, no bright crown?
Aye, I tell thee, 'spite the brown
Spite the darkness and the frown
Either Love or rich renown
Gives to every life its crown
Gives its cheering, gladening crown.

E. S. S.

Miscellaneous.

THE STORY OF A HERO.

And I don't think I ever shall get to take it as a matter of course, sir—taking it coolly's out of the question. Here we are living about as an exciting a life as men can lead—always on duty, and ready at a moment to have a set-to with the worst fire that ever broke out. No, I shall never get to take it as a matter of course, for it's all dark, rush, and excitement; and I love it, sir. Flash comes the news to us by telegraph; most likely out come the horses; there's a light put to the ready-trimmed fire, and then, with a train of sparks flying out behind us, as the fire roars, and the steam's getting up, away gallop the horses. Ay, it's "Hi! hol! hollo!" and they clear the road for us; and away we go on full gallop down the streets, with the horse's hoofs striking fire, the crowd shouting, and the running mob increasing at every step. There's something in it as warms one's blood; and as to the danger—well, of course, it's dangerous; but, when we feel that we're doing our duty, and know what's before us, why, somehow we don't remember the danger, but go at it in earnest.

Now there was only last week, sitting as I was waiting for a call—there it was at last, late on in the night, when the streets were clear; and away we tore at something like a pace. Oxford street, Holborn, down the Hill, up Skinner street, and Newgate street—whoop! and away full gallop, with the horses enjoying it, bless you, and lashing out till it's hard to say whether they didn't make more sparks than the fire under the boiler. We wanted no more instructions, for there was the red glow on ahead; and as we got nearer, we could almost see the sparks; and at last we did see them come pouring and rolling along with the smoke, and being a heavy, hot night hanging like a thick star-spangled cloud just over our heads.

Two engines were there, and as it happened so late, there were not so many people as might have been expected; but as soon as I got there I saw as something particular was the matter, and this is what it was:—The fire was in quite a narrow court, where they couldn't get the escapes, and there was people burning to death; while above the shouting of the mob and clanking of the engines hard at work, you could hear their awful cries for help.

Now, don't you suppose, that I'm proud of all this I'm going to tell you because I'm not. Now, if you were to dash in and save any one's life, why, no doubt, it would be brave and gallant, because you would have done it out of true compassion for a suffering fellow creature; but then with me it's quite different. I'm paid so much a week to save life and property from fire, consequently, I only do what's my duty to do.

I runs up the court axe in hand, and soon sees the state of affairs. One house was in a blaze from top to bottom, and the flames had worked through into the next, and were attacking the one opposite, while, with their escape regularly cut off, there were about a half a dozen people at the upper windows of the second house and no way of getting to them. There was no back door to the place, being in one of those crowded city places; while the door in front and staircase were now fast getting into a state of glow, off which the water sputtered and steamed without making any impression.

There was no time for ladders or anything else but the sheets, and them we got stretched out for the people to jump into, but, poor things! they dared not, and what to do I could not tell. There was the fire blazing up higher and higher, lighting up two of them old city churches that you see lost down those old courts, and looking as if they'd been put there out o' the way because people didn't have any use for them now.—There they were lit up and glowing, and the pigeons that lived up there scared and flying round and round the fire; there was the rush and the roar of the wind along the court as it set towards them; and there were the flames leaping up, the clouds of sparks rising, the clouds of smoke rolling away, and the crackling sputter of the slates as they flew with the heat, and then old rattling off into the court beneath, smash upon the pavement. Every now and then came a loud roar and crash as a rafter or beam fell in, and sent the sparks up in the whirlwind. And there all that time were those poor creatures uttering the wildest piercing shrieks for help you ever heard. Now I've heard so much of that sort of thing that you'd expect I shouldn't mind it; but I do though, and as I said about fires, I don't think I shall ever get to take it as a matter of course; for there is something very awful in seeing fellow-creatures, strong and hearty, and yet dying before your eyes, and you not able to save them.

But I wasn't idle all this time—not a bit of it—for every minute's worth something at a fire, and if you give it too much time it will beat you. Under the circumstances, the first thing was to save life, and whilst them that had branches did their best to keep the fire back from them at the third floor window, I got hold of a rope, and in at the house opposite, and made my way up stairs to the third floor, which, like the rest of the place, was used as a warehouse, and crammed full of packages.

Being a strange house, it wasn't easy to find your way, but I got up at last, and opposite to the room where the poor things were all now huddled together at one window, for the fire was gaining on them, so that unless they were soon helped they wouldn't want it.

"Crash! crash!" didn't I let my little axe play round the sashes of that window, and soon have a clearance, for it was nailed up, and then when the poor things heard me, and saw the light shining on my helmet, how they did shriek for help.

Just then I looked down at the depth, and I caught sight of one fellow standing below with a short ladder in his hand, which might have been of use if the poor things had been on the first floor; and then I made ready to throw my rope across, when just as I was going to let go and then going to try and catch it, a thought struck me, and I let the coil of rope fall down into the court, and all but one end as I kept hold of, and then when the poor things saw it let down they shrieked again, and one of them fell back from the window.

"Tie on that ladder," I shouted, "and some of you come up;" and one of my mates soon tied the ropes to one of the rounds, and then with two or three more run into the house, while I hauled away till I got hold of the bottom of the ladder, for they sent the heaviest end up first, and then dragged it in at the window, and balancing the other end up continued to push it across and into the window of the other house across the court, and so made a sort of bridge, only it was all askew, for the houses were not quite opposite to one another.

Just as I'd done this, in comes my mate with two more men, and I sets them to work to hold the ladder while I took hold of the rope, and then made ready to crawl across on the thin bridge I'd rigged up. It was for life and death, or I wouldn't have ventured on the slight, bending wood; for though a ladder set nearly upright may be strong enough, it makes it a deal weaker to lay it down level and then go and crawl along it. I knew how it would be though, so I tied the rope round my body, and made my mate hitch the other round a big hook in the wall used for a pulley, so that in the event of a fall, if the rope held good, I shouldn't have gone all the way. They tied one end of the ladder, too, for to keep it steady, and then there I was scrambling across, with the ladder bending and quivering, and the crowd underneath hurraking and clapping their hands, just as if I was doing a bit of Blondin to please them.

How the ladder did bend; so that I thought it must give away, and me go crash into the court, but it didn't, and the next moment I was in the window of the burning house, with the trembling women clinging to me.

"Now, then," I says, to one man, "you can creep across and I, pointed at the ladder.

"I can't leave my wife," he says, holding a half fainting woman against the window, where the smoke wasn't quite so dense.

"You're a trump, you are," I thinks and then I hauls more of the rope over, and makes it fast around the poor woman's waist; and then we laid her on the ladder, and the three on the other side hauled, and we held on to the rope this end, we got her half across, when she slipped off the ladder, and hung right over the court, while there arose a regular shriek of horror. But there was people, you see, at each end of the rope, and we loosened as the others hauled, and so they soon had her in at the other window, though the rope was so tight that it must have hurt the poor thing terribly.

Then they loosened the rope again, and we sent another woman over, and she was insensible with fear, and we got her over all right, though she, too, slipped off the ladder. Then there were two little girls, one after the other; and it was sad to see how they trembled and shook—too much frightened to cry, as well they might be, for the heat was awful; and I knew that another quarter of an hour would find the room we were in red hot.

We got another over—a young man and he was dragged over, too, for he dare not try to crawl across, and I suppose to a man as ain't used to such things to creep over a place like that, all those feet over the pavement, and when you've been frightened to death nearly by waking out of your sleep to find the next place on fire, is rather trying; and now there was only that chap whose wife was sent over first, and who had worked all he could to help me, and another cowardly chap, whom I'd had quite a set-to with to keep back, so as to save the women and children first.

And now this chap as I've just spoke about made a rush to get to the ladder, and he was in such a horrid fright that I don't believe he'd got over safe, and besides I knew there was time for us all to get away if things were done quietly; so, considering as it wasn't his turn, I held him back for the married man to go first to his wife, when the other one almost shrieked out with rage and fear.

"Let him go first," says the married man, "I'll wait."

"Tain't his turn," I says, rather obstinate like. "Over you go!" and at such a time one can't be interfered with, and having made my plans so far I didn't want them altered. So, "Over you go!" I says.

"I think I can crawl," he says, and he got out on the ladder; but instead of crawling, he sat astride of it and worked himself along, with the crowd hurrahing and cheering him tremendous.

And came the flame and smoke, and the roar and crackle, and falling in of timbers was getting terrible. Every place was light as day, while as to the heat, I declare it seemed to scorch you fearfully.

"The sooner you're across and me with you the better I shall like it." I says, and then I took a look round, to see how matters were, when there came a crash and a buff, and in a moment the flames wreathing and twirling up from underneath where I stood, and just as the last chap had his leg on the window sill, and I was going to tie the rope round him, he gave a yell and fell back, or rather I pulled him back into the smoky room, and he fainted dead away.

He must have gone down crash into the court if I hadn't dragged at him; but there was no time to lose. I made the rope fast and got him on to the ladder, with the flames darting up through the rounds and burning his hair; and then I shouted to them to haul, and haul they did, with me trying to steady him with my end of the rope, but before he was quite across something went snap, and I staggered back into the room, holding on by the piece of burnt-through rope, and with my heart sinking, as I felt that my own salvation was partly gone.

Just then the flames were wafted on one side, and I saw that they were dragging in the last of the seven, and I felt now as if I'd done a good night's work, and it was time to save myself. I'm not ashamed to own it, I did feel frightened as I threw down that piece of rope, and it must have been something like a cry of horror I gave when I got hold of the ladder and felt it burn my hands, and then I tried to bear upon it and felt it crumble away, and that I was without a way to escape.

Far above the noise of the fire and water came the shriek of the crowd as the burnt ladder fell away and hung blazing by one end against the opposite house, while there came up such a rush of flame past the window that I could not look out, but directly after I heard the fierce rush of the water and could see that four branches were deluging the window and all beneath, for my mates knew what a danger I was in.

I ran to the window, and was beaten back by the water while the smoke that came up was quite blinding. Then I tried through the hot vapor in the room to see if I could get out of the door and reach the roof; but just at that moment there came a dull flash through the smoke and I could see that the back of the house was all on fire, while from the way the flames rushed up again and filled the court, I knew there was no help to be had from the opposite, for they must be beaten from the window.

I had been in some dangers in my time, but till now there had always seemed a way out, and as I tore furiously around the place with the sweat dripping off me, and the horrible fear of death so close at hand, I seemed to be regularly unnerved, and fell to shrieking and crying out that my mates had deserted me, when they were on the roof and had let down a rope to me, but I could not see it; and then at last one of them was let down and tried to get in at the window, but the flames beat him back, and a groan came from the people as they saw all that had been done.

As I told you, I seemed quite to lose my nerve, and ran about shrieking for a few minutes, and then fell down on my face upon the hot floor; but directly after my mind seemed to come again, and I felt that if I must die I should have done my duty, and I had saved seven poor creatures; and as I thought that, I rose to my knees, and some words came to my lips—words that came to my heart as I thought of those who were once saved from the heat of the burning, fiery furnace, and I prayed that I too might be saved.

And oh! it was hard to pray there—to keep your thoughts in the midst of that fierce, suffocating heat of smoke and steam from the water pouring into the room. And now everything else but the words of prayer came into one's mind; and it was as if devils—despairing, blasphemous devils—were hissing in my ears to curse and shriek oaths. Then, too, came the thought of those at home, and the little golden curls that I should play with no more; and how I could now understand the dread my wife always had of what she called my frightful business. Yes, I had saved seven that night; but it was hard to die—hard to give up life at eight-and-twenty, and suffer the death from which I had saved so many.

I couldn't help it just then, for a grim smile came over my face as I thought it was my old enemy, the fire, being revenged upon me; but directly after I tried to pray once more, and then in the midst of the smoke I gave a wild cry, dashed off my helmet, dragged my belt undone, and kicked off my heavy boots, half suffocated, and had off my thick coat, too; and then, with my heart beating with hope, I thanked God for the thought, and the next moment I was over the grate bars and in the big chimney of the old house.

It was full of smoke, and I could hardly breathe; but it was a sure way of escape to the roof; and though I could feel that I was tearing the skin from my elbows and knees, I managed to climb higher and higher, slowly and painfully, but soon I could feel a current of sweet, refreshing air setting down to me, and every breath gave me fresh strength till I reached the top, when my heart sank, as I found it would be impossible to get any further on account of the chimney-pot.

To shout was useless, and for a while I was in despair; but at last I got my hands well above me, and tried to move the pot. I tried again and again, and then to force myself through, till I was so wedged in that I could not get back, but I found that I had loosened the pot, and at last completely forced it off, and raised myself panting to a sitting position on the chimney stack, but afraid to move, for my head was wedged in the pot, which was fixed down upon my shoulders.

I knew that I could not stay where I was for long, and tried once more to get rid of my awkward helmet; and now, having both hands at liberty, I loosened it, and it fell with a crash into the court beneath.

Just then there rose a cheer, for some one had made me out from below; and sick and faint as I was, I managed to wave my hand and try to cheer; but it stuck in my throat, and I could not get down without help. And I suppose English people must be fond of cheering, for how they did shout when I got down through another house and was there amongst them; and after all it was only one's duty.

Sponge Divers.

The mode of operation preparatory to a dive is very peculiar and interesting. The diver whose turn it is takes his seat on the deck of the vessel at either the bow or stern, and placing by his side a large flat slab of marble, weighing about 25 lbs., to which is attached a rope of the proper length and thickness, (1½ inch,) he then strips and is left by his companions to prepare himself. This seems to consist in devoting a certain time to clearing the passages of his lungs by expectoration, and highly inflating them afterwards, thus oxydizing his blood very highly by a repetition of deep inspirations. The operation lasts from five to ten minutes or more according to the depth, and during it the operator is never interfered with by his companions, and seldom speaks or is spoken to: he is simply watched by two of them, but at a little distance, and they never venture to urge him or to distract him in any way during the process. It seems to a spectator as if the divers were going through a sort of mysterious ceremony or incantation.

When from some sensation known only to himself after those repeated long-drawn and heavy inspirations, he deems the fitting moment to have arrived, he seizes the slab of marble, and, after crossing himself and uttering a prayer, plunges with it like a returning dolphin into the sea, and rapidly descends. The stone is always held during the descent directly in front of the head, at arm's length, and so as to offer as little resistance as possible: and, by varying its inclination, it acts likewise as a rudder, causing the descent to be more or less vertical as desired by the diver. As soon as he reaches the bottom he places the stone under his arm to keep himself down, and then walks upon the rock, or crawls under the ledges, stuffing the sponges in a netted bag with a hooped mouth, which is strung around his neck to receive them; but he holds firmly to the stone or rope all the while as a safeguard for returning and for making the known signal at the time he desires it. Now let us notice the proceedings of his companions in the boat floating some twenty or thirty fathoms above him:

The two men who were nearest to him previously to his making the dive, but who systematically seem to place themselves so as to prevent him from conceiving the idea of being impatiently watched by them whilst undergoing the preparation, spring to their feet as he disappears, and rush to the rope, which one of them holds in his hand, veering it out or shortening it, as the diver moves about on the bottom; and as soon as the signal indicative of his wish to return is felt, they commence hauling up the rope with great energy and earnestness, and in a way calculated to insure the greatest expedition of ascent, since the over-stay of a few seconds, may be a point of life or death to the diver. The hauling up is thus effected:—The assistant who has hold of the rope, awaiting the signal, first reaches down with both hands as low as he can, and there grasping the rope, with a great bodily effort raises it up to nearly arm's-length over his head; the second assistant is then prepared to make his grasp as low down as he can reach, and does the same, and so on the two alternately, and by a fathom or more at a time, and with great rapidity, bring the anxious diver to the surface.

A heavy blow from his nostrils to expel the water and exhausted air, indicates to his comrades that he is conscious and breathes. A word or two is then spoken to him by one of his comrades, to encourage him, if he seems much distressed, as is often the case; and the hearing of the voice is said by them to be a great support at the moment of their greatest state of exhaustion. A few seconds rest at the surface, and then the diver returns in the boat to recover, generally putting on a under garment or jacket to assist the restoration of the animal heat he has lost, and to prevent the loss of more by the too rapid evaporation of water from his body. Such is the trying life of a Levantine sponge-diver; and doubtless there are very few of us who have any idea of what a fellow creature has suffered in procuring that little article which has become a necessity of our toilet-table, and the luxury of our morning ablutions.—*Spratt's Crete.*

"DEAD BEATS."—James G. Clark, the vocalist, writes to the Utica Herald, on 'dead-beats,' as follows:

Mr. Editor, are you a sportsman enough to tell me the definition of "dead beat?" Last Saturday night, on my way to Canton, I found myself seated in front of a brace of well-dressed, but rather suspicious looking chaps, who seemed familiar with the term, at least, if not its meaning. One of them, addressing his partner, said, "Bill, the papers say that them dead beats in Congress are going to 'peach. Andy Johnson, do you think they'll do it?" Bill replied, "Can't tell, 'praps they will; the d——d abolitionists 'peached Andrew Jackson once, and its jest like 'em to 'peach Johnson." "Well, Bill," replied the other, "they'll have a nice old time if they do—bet yer life; Andy ain't no dead beat, ye know, and if they do 'peach him it'll make lightin; the South'll fight for him, and the Democrats'll fight for him. I'll fight for him if I'm in the States; I was in Canada durin' the war, but I used my influence there against the d——d abolitionists and will do it if we have another war, and my biz' calls me away from the States; I ain't no dead beat, ye know."

This interchange of thought was cut short by the car whistle, as the train approached a station, and the next moment, when the conductor sung out, "Antwerp," the two men were apparently asleep.

The train started up, and in due time the conductor reached the sleepers, and said, "tickets," at which one of them awoke, and in a confused manner, replied, "Tickets! didn't we pay to Antwerp?" "Yes," was the answer, "but we've just left Antwerp." "Devil, then we'll have to go on to the next station." "Well, pay your fare to Keene's, then." "We'll be cussed if we do." "You'll be cussed if you don't." With this gentle hint the conductor pulled the bell