

Safe in a Thundercloud. O be in the very heart of thundercloud and escape unharmed is an unusual if not a unique experience. That is what happened to the Rev. John M. Bacon and some companions in one of his balloon ascensions from Newbury England.

Mr. Bacon in telling of the experience, says: "In scarcely more than twenty minutes from the start a sudden and surprising change took place in our circumstances. Our environment, which had appeared absolutely calm and clear, began changing with the rapidity of a transformation scene. Below us the few hundred feet which separated us from earth began filling in with a blue haze quite transparent, but growing palpably filmier, while ahead, as also right and left, the horizon at the level of our eye and higher opposed a dense fog barrier of an ashen hue. Overhead of course the sky view was entirely hidden by the huge silken globe. At this time we were being swept along on our course, which remained sensibly unaltered in direction, at a speed which we subsequently were able to fix at approximately forty miles an

"To ourselves the full significance of these circumstances was not immediately apparent, but the onlookers at our point of departure-the town gas works, now some five miles in our wake-clearly detected the approach of a heavy thunder pack and as they reasonably asserted, coming against the wind. It towered above balloon, now seen projected plainly against its face. It came on rapidly and assumed formidable proportions. The balloon was flying due west at high speed, and at apparently no great distance overhead the thundercloud was progressing at a moderate velocity not accurately determined, but due east or directly opposed to the surface

"And now with a whistle a blinding sheet of bail attacked the aeronauts. stinging their faces so sharply as to give the idea that the stones were falling from a great height, and immediately afterward from all sides and close around flashes of lightning shot out with remarkable frequency and vividness. We were, in fact, fairly and near observers narrowly watched the phases of phenomena now in progress. These were the countrymen who became interested spectators and who presently came to our assistance. They seemed to have imagined that the balloon must be infallibly struck. lnasmuch as it appeared to them completely encircled with lightning. It was, indeed, the worst storm the countryside had known for many At Devizes, only a few miles ahead, it lasted for five hours continuously. A little way on our right a house was struck and burned to the ground, and on our left a couple of oldiers were killed on Salisbury plain.

"Though the storm progressed, it also appeared to lag behind the wind that bore it along. It did not seem to what a few moments before had ap-

"The lightning as seen by the people in the balloon seemed to leap from cloud to cloud and not from the clouds to the earth, and the poise of the thunder consisted of short, sharp reports like the explosions of gun cotton without any of the rolling reverberations heard on the earth. The aeronauts passed through the thunderstorm uninjured, but it was trying to the nerves. The question is: With the lightning playing all around it and houses and men being struck on the earth below, why was not the balloon demolished by a thunder-bolt?"-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Shipwrecked Sailors Ent Comrades. The Empress of India, from China and Japan, brought a story of shipwreck, murder and cannibalism on the high seas, from Singapore. It was the narrative of two derelict seamen. Hjahman Johannessen, a Swede, and Miguel Marticoreann, the only survivors of the bark Angola, who were landed at Singapore by a Chinese

junk, which picked them up on the

Island of Soubi, in the South Natuna Angola sailed from Cavite, P. L. and was wrecked on a reef 600 miles away from Manila a week later, and as the oats were smashed the crew had to take to two rafts made out of wreckage. Of the smaller of these rafts nothing further is known. The two survivors and nine others were on the larger one. The unfortunate mariners were for forty-two days exposed to every torture of the ship-wrecked and

natural results followed. poor wretches to go mad, and he slew A Frenchman was the first of the first mate with a batchet, drank blood and ate his brains. The other men then killed the Frenchman and drank 'is blood and ate his

They drifted day by day, and under the glaring equatorial sun the wretch-ed survivors died off one by one and were cast out to the sharks that folowed their frail craft. Eventually only the two above-named were left, nd they drifted ashore on Soubi

nuts and fish by the natives and were thus kept alive until they were picked up by the native junk which brought them back to civilization.

In detailing the story of horror to the court of inquiry which sat at Singapore to look into the wreck, Johannessen and Marticorenna said that when they and nine others left the wreck on their raft they knew nothing of what had become of the remainder who left the wreck on the other raft.

They had four tins of dried meats, and when this gave out, a Frenchman who went mad wanted to eat an American sailor who died. When Captain Crocker prevented him he tried to kill the captain, and on the mate interfering he killed him with an axe, and it was then that the cannibalism commenced. The Frenchman ate the mate's brains and drank his blood, and the remainder of the crew killed and ate the Frenchman. They did this because the second mate had said that it was better to kill the Frenchman than let him kill them all, for he was mad and ran amuck with an axe on the raft. They all drank some of his blood and ate the flesh raw.

Soon afterward two others, an Englishman and a Russian, went crazy and jumped into the sca and one by one they died, till only the two were left and they subsisted by catching small fish with a bent nail and a line made from small strips of canvas.

When they were washed ashore on Soubi Island, they were too weak to walk, and with sores all over their bodies were crawling along the beach when the natives found them. They had regained their strength somewhat when the Chinese junk which took them off arrived, and they went on the junk to Pulo Madi and then to Singapore, where they arrived in mid April.

At the inquiry the master of the Chinese junk testified to having seen the raft of the two men and of how the natives had told him of their being washed ashore.

#### Child Alone in a Balloon.

A balloon ascension was to have been made at West Liberty, Iowa, recently by Baldwin Brothers, Quincy, Ill., and in the crowd watching the preparations was Carlton Meyer, twelve years old.

Boy-like, he was eager to aid in the undertaking, and was helping to hold the balloon down, when suddenly it sprang into the air, with young Meyer banging head down, with his feet entangled in one of the ropes.

The aeronaut who was to have gone up in the balloon had the presence of mind to call to the boy: "Hang on to the rope."

The boy bravely clutched the line and squirmed around until he caught one of the dangling parachute ropes, embosomed in the thundercloud, Other and he did not once make a slip as he twisted himself about and gradually worked himself up to the balloon. Mrs. Meyer, the boy's mother, fainted as she saw him carried away.

Straight upward shot the balloon with its little captive. When it had reached an altitude of about a mile a current of air struck it and it began to drift away.

Then began a novel and exciting chase. As the balloon moved the crowd followed it, expecting every instant to see the boy dashed to death on the earth. Along the roads, over fields and fences they ran, and when those on foot were distanced the pursuit was kept up by men in wagons

or on horseback. After five miles had been covered the balloon began to slowly descend. advance against us as a whole, but As the air in it cooled it steadily as churches, for, whereas with the orsective and the settled, wavering now and then, and dinary method the air heated on or bedrifting about with the breeze, as low the nearly spent followers.

Finally it came to earth in a field of grain,, where the youthful aeronaut was gently dropped. When his friends came up he met them with a broad

A triumphal procession was formed and the boy was carried back home. There a purse of \$100 was raised to reward the little fellow for his pluck.

## Rescued by a Horse.

The almost human sagacity of the horse was demonstrated when elevenyear-old Ray Campbell, whose mother was drowned in a cloudburst near through the aperture is Marion, Ohio, told his experiences durthat crowns the edifice. ing the frightful night.

According to the boy's story, he and his mother were driving along the road about 9 o'clock, the water being well up over the animal's knees. The rain was yet falling in torrents, and It was dark as pitch. Suddenly the people used no preservative art, as horse stopped. Mrs. Campbell hit it did the Egyptians. It is said that they with the whip, but it didn't budge, had no knowledge of arsenic or of Against the little boy's entreaties she | those spices which were employed by hit the animal a second time, when it the ancient Egyptians in expelling plunged forward and horse, buggy, moisture from the body. The mum-The boy was thrown on a log. one of the many being washed down the the dry air and certain preserving creek. The log was driven into a salts in those sands. Many desiccated piece of high ground and stuck fast. bodies have been found in Alaska and Several hundred yards below the boy heard his mother crying for help. He tution is the desiccated body of an Inanswered her, but was afraid to trust dian woman discovered in 1817 in himself to the swift current. At his Short Cave, eight miles from Mamsecond answer he heard a horse's moth Cave, Kentucky. - Washington neigh, and soon the animal appeared | Star. swimming out from the bank. It came to him and rubbed up against him. He then quit his hold on the log and grasped the horse's harness, when the

animal swam with him to the bank. There he must have become unco scious as it was midnight when he reached a farmer's house, half a mile away, and the watch found on his mother's body had stopped at nine o'clock.

The Pacific Ocean covers forty and a half per cent. of the water surface of the globe, the Atlantic twenty-one per cent. and the Antarctic nineteen per cent. A HARD LIFE.

The Mental and Physical Hardentps of

Mail Car Clerks. The life of a railway mail clerk or route agent at the best is not easy, says a contributor to Collier's Weekly. He travels under a constant strain and is subject to unremitting mental and physical hardship. He is always overworked, but he must be ever alert, expert and accurate. The businews of a continent depends on the rrectness of his instantaneous mental processes, and his rapid manipulations a letter "misthrown"may break a beart or burst a bank

or ruln a railway corporation. The lurching of cars going at tremendous speed around sharp curves. the continued succession of efforts to maintain equilibrium, the monotonous vibrations, terribly destructive nerve tissue, to spinal column and to brain texture, are the daily and hourly concomitants of his ordinary work. Probationers often relent and go back to their former duties. One aspirant for employment in this field was assigned to a notably rigorous route. He never finished his trip. He went half way, bought a ticket for home and returned as a passenger. Replying afterward to some questions as to the labor involved, he replied: "Lifting and unlocking 200 pound pouches, shaking out contents, locking same, carrying on mail matter, rearranging sacks, then going over the same work, continuing the same seventeen hours without rest, with trains flying around curves and slinging you against every-

thing that is not slung against you." Vigor, vitality and resolution are essential in a beginner as well as keenest intelligence and upwearled spirit of application. But the physical qualtties are slowly sapped and undermined by such steady exactions of duty, and the mental qualities are proportionately deteriorated.

Hence the railway mail system is a huge Gorgon, incessantly, cruelly devouring specimens of the best manhood of the nation. Under present conditions it must continue to demand and devour in order that the curren of trade and the tides of civilization may continue to flow. Suspend the man wrecking process a single week for needed, universal rest, and social chaos would ensue.

Chinese Traits.

While China is as autocratic as is Russia, she is, at the same time, the most democratic country in the world. This may seem a paradox, but, at the worst, the Chinese Government is a patriarchal despotism. In the village the head man rules as a father would rule a family. Lawsuits are abhorred. There are no lawyers, no jury trials. Equity governs the judgments of the courts. I know of a case in Shanghai in which there was a fluding for the plaintiff, but because his conduct had not been perfectly just the amount assessed in his favor was ordered to be paid to a charitable institution.

If a magistrate fails of his duty he s set upon by a mob and dragged from his chair, and the insignia of his office are removed, especially his official boots. The gods are treated in like manner. They are put out in the sunshine in times of drought that they may see for themselves the inconvenience of the hot weather, and during rains which last too long they are lashed with whips as a punishment .-Charles Denby, in the Forum.

The Heating of Lofty Buildings.

Professor Fischer maintains that the system of heating the upper more than the lower regions of the air is the only proper course in such lofty buildings ground is cooled on reaching though to torment the anxious and the roof, and, fouled by the products of respiration, descends again on the heads of the congregation, unless withdrawn by an exhauster, in his system the fresh air is warmed to an agreeable temperature in its passage through the channels in the walls. Furthermore, its ascent is encouraged by its being led through two sets of heating cells. In the dome there is a third set of cells, which, although they do not contribute to the warming of the parts occupied by the worshipers, serve effectually to prevent the descent of the foul air by promoting its continued ascent toward and escape through the aperture in the lantern

Mummified Bodies Found in Alaska. Although many thousand mummies of the aborigines of the Western Continent, it is said, have been found between Alaska and Patagonia, those boy and mother were in a torrent. mies that have been taken from the burial sands of Peru are the result of in Mexico. In the Smithsonian Insti-

Germany's Herring Fisheries.

Germany is deeply interested in the migration of herripgs. Year after year the shoals have continued to move further north, and the Hydrographic Congress now sitting at Christiania is discussing the best means of bringing them back south. The question is one of the highest importance for German fisheries.

California as a Silk-Growing State. It is estimated that the soil of California would suffice to produce all the raw silk needed for all the silk factories in the United States—some 600 in number.—The Book World.



Desperate.

I'll get licked I'll bet a dollar

I'll bet a dollar
I don't care
Ain't goin' to hol'er,
I'll take twenty,
Et I must,
But I'll go swimmin'
Ef I bust.
—St. Louis Post-Dispatch,

Time For Him to Look Out.

"I tell you, sir, there is danger in the higher education of women.' "Yes-for the uneducated man."-Chicago Post.

A Sad Mistake.

"He kissed her on the impulse of the moment," said Jaysmith, telling the story. "Why didn't he kiss her on the lips?"

asked the Cheerful Idiot .- New York

Wise. "She called me 'pet," said the wit-

"Oh!" the lawyer returned, "and what else?" "I don't know, I ran then."-Chicago Record-Herald.

Sure Enough. "You said that I was the first girl you ever courted." "Yes, dearest."

"Well, what made you look under the sofa before we sat down?"-Chicago Record-Hernid.

Twenty Years Hence. "Is he what you would call a self-made man?" said one multimillion-

should say so," answered the other. "Why, I can remember the day when he had scarcely a million dollars to his name."-Washington

Tact in the Courtroom. The courtroom was hotter than the Soudan in a sandstorm. The Judge

was a wreck, the jury had wilted. "Your Honor and gentlemen," said the attorney for the defense, "I will indulge in no heated argument, but their bravery against the Bavarian proceed at once to marshal the cold

facts." Plain Lealer.

Thoughtless Woman. Mr. Krusty-"Well, it's too late now, Why didn't you come to my office when you were downtown to-day and

tell me all this?" Mrs. Krusty-"Why, I didn't think to stop at your office.

Mr. Krusty-"That's just like you. If you'd only stop to think occasionally, perhaps you would have thought to stop."-Philadelphia Press.

Help Wanted-Male.

Mrs. Hauskeep-"Goodness! This ment is absolutely raw. This new cook is wretched; she never cooks anything half enough."

Mr. Hauskeep-"Don't blame her, She's only a woman." Mrs. Hauskeep-"What has that to do with it?"

Mr. Hauskeep-"Well, 'woman's work is never done, you know."-Philadelphia Press.

Proud of Her.

"I want to get your wife interested in our new system of manual training," said the woman with a short skirt and a felt hat.

"Well," answered Mr. Meekton, "you can come in. But if you are trying to teach Henrietta anything about training a man I'm thinking you are wasting your time. Henrietta can come pretty near giving lessens in manual training, Henrietta can."-Washington Star.

Deserved Promotion.

It was a sultry afternoon, and the teacher of a geography class was endeavoring to get a few good answers before the closing of the lesson. "Now, boys, the word 'stan' at the end of a word means 'place of.' Thus we have Afghanistan, the place of the Afghans: also Hindustan, the place of the Hindus. Now, can any one give au-

other example?"
"Yes, sir," said the smallest boy, proudly; "I can. Umbrellastan, the place for umbrellas."-Tit-Bits,

Entitled to Damages.

"But why," asked the lawyer, "do you wish to sue this critic for libel?" "Because of the irreparable damage he has done to my reputation as poet," replied the writer. "But in the line of criticism-"

"Ah, but this wasn't criticism. could have stood fair, honest criticism even if unfavorable, but this was bitterly and unnecessarily cruel and damaging. Why, sir, he said that my productions were excellent specimen of what are now known as literary magazine poems."-Chicago Post.

What He Sought. "Yes," said the architect, "I can build you a nice summer home for

about 8800." "That's what I want," returned the perspiring individual, "and it's cheap enough, too." "Right out in the woods," went on

the architect. "Woods!" exclaimed the perspiring individual, "Woods!" "Oh, well, on the shore of the lake

"On the shore! A summer home of the shore!"

"Certainly. Where would you have

"Uader the water, sir; under the water," said the perspiring individual emphatically. "You don't seem to understand that this is a summer home that I want."—Chicago Post.

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Colored Troops to War.

In view of Mr. Chamberlain's asserion of our right to employ our colores troops in any war, it may be asked whether any other European Power has ever used such a right. wer is that France used African sol diers from Algeria in the Franco-German war. Several regiments of Turkos and Spahis fought all through the campaign, and the former particu larly distinguished themselves troops in the terrible engagements of Websenburg, Worth and Bazeilles. And he won his case.-Cleveland The term "Turko" was really a nickname given to infantry regiments composed of negroes and Bedouins and opecially organized for service in Algeria. Their uniform was similar to that of the Zouaves, except that it was pale blue. Their black faces were of so sinister a east that it is said the German Government circulated pictures of them among its army in order to accustom the soldiers to the sight of these African op-ponents. Many of the Turkos fell in ponents. Many of the Turkos fell in action and large numbers were taken prisoners. A few of them managed to get back to Paris at the time of the Commune. There, without the restraint of discipline, they gave way to driak, and eventually made themselves such a missing fact the Paris. selves such a nuisance that the Parisians were very glad to see the last of

> A period of five seconds between a flash of lightning and thunder means that the flash is a mile distant from observer. Thunder has never been heard over 14 miles from the flash, though artillery has been heard at 120 miles.

> The first patent was granted to Samuel Hopkins in 1790 for making "pot or pearl ashes."

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