

HIS FLYING CAT.

BY W. L. ALDEN.

"Sparrows," said the colonel, "may be very upright, respectable, middle-class birds so long as they stay in England...

"Prof. Van Wagener and I were discussing the sparrow question one day, and I was complaining of the inefficiency of the American cat.

"The trouble is," said Van Wagener, "that the cat isn't a flying animal and the sparrow is."

"That's true," said I, "but it don't help us out of our difficulty. Cat-wenters made with wings, and neither you nor I can invent a new model of cat that will be able to fly, and to catch sparrows on the wing."

"Don't be too sure of that," said the professor. "Science has improved everything that has put its hand to it, and I see no reason why science shouldn't improve cats."

"All right," said I. "When you get your flying cat finished just notify me, and I'll come and see her fly. Then, if you are going in for improving animals, perhaps you will invent a cat that can sing like a nightingale."

"Well, the professor buckled down to business, and from his daily interviews with his private cat, and the consequent scratches that diversified his good old scientific countenance, I judged that he was doing his best to make a cat that would fly."

"You know, colonel," said he, "my method as an inventor. I ask myself what is needed in some particular purpose, and then I proceed to supply that need."

"The cat rose slowly, kicking and yelling, until she was just about level with the eaves. The sparrows were so occupied with the fight that they paid no attention to her, and when she saw that there were at least 20 of them gathered close together, her desire to get at them made her temporarily forget her balloon and her paddle-wheels. She

lashed her tail, as cats will do when bent on murder, and, just as the professor predicted, the effect was to steer her in the direction of the sparrows. Her paddle-wheels were working smoothly and regularly, and though they were not large enough to give her any speed, they steadily carried her across the yard towards the sparrows.

"Now, you see," said the professor, "how completely successful my invention is. My flying cat will either catch the sparrows and kill them, or she will frighten them out of the country. In either case the great sparrow problem is solved. It makes no difference to me, as a patriotic American citizen, whether all the British sparrows in the country are killed, or whether they are driven over into Canada."

"The professor, being a scientific crank, was naturally a political crank also, and he was more than two-thirds mad on the subject of the Monroe doctrine. When the professor once got fairly started on the subject of the Monroe doctrine he forgot everything else, and he had clean forgotten his flying cat when Mrs. Van Wagener leaned out of a second-story window, and advised him, in case he was going to make a political speech, to hire a hall. She was a mighty sarcastic woman, and her contempt for her husband's political views was even greater than her contempt for his scientific achievements."

"The professor tried to explain that it was only the cat, and begged his wife not to injure the flying apparatus. It didn't seem to occur to him that he ought to run to his wife's assistance till I had taken him by the shoulders and started him upstairs. I don't want you to think for a moment that he wasn't anxious to help his wife, but he was so in the habit of looking at things from a scientific point of view, that he forgot that while he was explaining things, Mrs. Van Wagener might be clawed to such an extent that she would never be recognized by her nearest friend."

"Mrs. Van Wagener made peace with her husband on condition of his making a solemn promise never to have anything more to do with flying cats. I consider that she was wrong in so doing, for Van Wagener's invention was bound to be a success. If he had been allowed to carry it out, flying cats would have become as common as bats, and every sparrow in the states would have emigrated. If it wasn't that I don't believe in using other people's inventions I would go in for the manufacture of flying cats myself, and as it is I believe that Edison will some day hear of Van Wagener's experiment, and will immediately invent a flying cat and spend the rest of his life in trying to make the invention work."

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Harrisburg, Pa., January 23, 1897. The legislature did little more than convene and adjourn Monday evening. Speaker Boyer announced that he would not be ready with the standing committees before next Monday evening.

The legislative committee appointed two years ago to ascertain the number of aliens in the state penal and charitable institutions is ready to report. It shows that the insane hospitals, almshouses and jails are crowded with foreigners. The hospitals and almshouses in some counties contain 95 per cent of this class of patients.

The question of finances is the most important that confronts the law makers. Two years ago Governor Hastings found it necessary to send a special message to the legislature calling a halt on the indiscriminate appropriation of public moneys. At that time a movement was started to reduce the appropriation to the public schools. It was checked at the start by 125 members of the house signing an agreement to oppose such a reduction.

The revenues for the next fiscal year, it is estimated, will not be as large as they were during the past year, when they amounted in round figures to \$10,000,000, which was derived by the collection of taxes due by the state by delinquent corporations. Some of these concerns were back several years in their taxes and the state will not have this resource to draw upon in 1897.

The People's Alliance, organized to carry on the free silver and anti-trust fight on educational lines, met at Johnstown last week, when several letters were read, including one from Democratic State Chairman Garman, who wrote in part as follows: "I believe that your proceeding, if extended throughout the state, would do a great deal of good."

Harrisburg during the session to look after legislation. A bill is to be introduced to protect the retailer, the wholesaler and the bottler.

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Prominent citizens of Allegheny are working on a scheme to take the public schools out of politics, and a proposition will be submitted to the councils at their next meeting that will provide for state legislation to this end.

It is hard to formulate any system of selecting officials that will insure the choice of only honest and thoroughly competent men and their retention in the positions where they are useful to their fellow-citizens.

An attempt was made to burn the Pottsville Mission building early Friday morning. The blaze was discovered by the police and extinguished before much damage was done.

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Advertisement for Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria, featuring a testimonial from A. W. Gleason, Notary Public.

EUGENE FIELD'S DONKEY.

Don Cesar de Bazan Was a Great Favorite With His Master.

The most famous donkey that ever resided in the city of Chicago is Don Cesar de Bazan of the tribe of Jerusalem.

When Mr. Field moved to Buena Park, Don became a trouble to his master. Don would get into mischief among the flower beds or stray into some neighbor's lot.

It was ever after Mr. Field's opinion that animals think more than they are given credit for.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

RACING COCKROACHES.

An Amusement of Turkish Prisoners During Their Tedious Confinement. Racing cockroaches is the latest device of the prisoners who are languishing in Turkish prisons.

The zinc wall paper is the latest oddity and several residences of the highest class new building will be equipped with it.

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Hon. W. J. Bryan's Book

ALL who are interested in furthering the sale of Hon. W. J. Bryan's new book should correspond immediately with the publishers. The work will contain

- An account of his campaign tour... His biography, written by his wife... His most important speeches... The results of the campaign of 1896... A review of the political situation...

Mr. Bryan has announced his intention of devoting one-half of all royalties to furthering the cause of bimetalism. There are already indications of an enormous sale. Address

W. B. CONKEY COMPANY, Publishers, 341-351 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.

Advertisement for W. L. Douglas \$3.00 Shoe, featuring an image of a shoe and descriptive text.

RAILROAD TIMETABLES

THE DELAWARE, SUSQUEHANNA AND SCRUYKILL RAILROAD.

Time table in effect December 15, 1896. Trains leave Drifton for Jeddo, Eckley, Hazle Brook, Stockton, Beaver Meadow Road, Roun and Hazleton Junction at 5:30, 6:00 a. m., 4:10 p. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS. LEAVE FIRELAND. 6:05, 8:45, 9:30 a. m., 1:40, 2:35, 4:30, 5:15, 6:57 p. m. for Drifton, Jeddo, Foundry, Hazle Brook and Lumber Yard.

Advertisement for C. A. Snow & Co. Patents, Bicycles, and Buggies, featuring various services and products.