ROUND THE MOON

CHAPTER VII.

A MOMENT OF INTOXICATION Thus a phenomenon, curious but ex-

plicable, was happening under these strange conditions.

jectile would follow the same course and never stop until it did. There was a whole evening could not exhaust.

Besides, the excitement of the three travelers increased as they drew near the end of their journey. They expectphenomena; and nothing would have they were getting fat. astonished them in the frame of mind they then were in. Their over-excited imagination went faster than the prostretched out their hands they could they reposed on the solid earth.

at five in the morning, all three were in eighteen hours, exactly at the full disc. The next midnight would see into space like a remorse." that journey ended, the most extraordinary of ancient or modern times. Thus from the first of the morning, through the scuttles silvered by its rays, confident and joyous hurrah.

ly along the starry firmament. A few more degrees, and she would reach the projectile was to take place.

According to his own observations. Barbicane reckoned that they would the projectile." land on her northern hemisphere, where

ed in Europe on the summit of Mount Blanc, or in Asia on the top of the forbidden. Himalayas, would not be quite in the right place."

a flat ground, the projectile will remain | not impossible, a word which he never motionless when it has once touched; whereas on a declivity it would roll like So it is all for the best.'

Indeed the success of the audacious attempt no longer appeared doubtful. on the subject,

The direction the projectile was taking towards the moon's northern hemisphere, showed that her course had been slightly altered. The discharge, math- get back again?" ematically calculated, would carry the projectile to the very centre of the lumust have been some deviation. What | the first time. had caused it? Barbicane could neither imagine, nor determine the importance of the deviation, for their were no points to go by.

have no other result than bringing them near the upper boarder of the moon, a region more suitable for landing.

Without imparting his uneasiness to his companions, Barbicane contented himself with constantly observing the moon, in order to see whether the course of the projectile would not be been terrible if it had failed in its aim, and being carried beyond the disc should be launched into interplanetary space. At that moment the moon, showed its convexity. If the sun's rays high mountains, which would have been clearly detached. The eye might have gazed into the crater's gaping without a gun!" abysses, and followed the capricious "The gun," replied Barbicane, "can mense plains. But all relief was as yet levelled in in intense brilliancy. coal can fail in the depths of the moon, out them. We have only to make keeping the REMINGTON ahead of all competitors. They could scarcely distinguish those and we need only go 8,000 leagues in Selenites. Down with the Selenites!" large spots which give to the moon the order to fall upon the terrestrial globe appearance of a human face.

"Face, indeed !" said Michel Ardan ; "but I am sorry for the amiable sister tion "Let it be no longer a question of Apollo. A very pitted face?" But of returning; we have already entertainthe travelers, now so near the end, were ed it too long. As to communicating incessantly observing this new world. with our former earthly colleagues, that They imagined themselves walking through its unknown countries, climbing its highest peaks, descending into its lowest depths. Here and there they lunar volcanoes." fancied they saw vast seas, scarcely "Well thought of, Michael," said the congress," cried Michael; "and as I kept together under so rarified an at- Barbicane in a convinced tone of voice. mosphere, and water courses emptying "Laplace has calculated that a force elected!" the mountain tributaries. Leaning five times greater than that of our gun over the abyss, they hoped to catch would suffice to send a meteor from the sident Barbicane," exclaimed Nicholl. some sounds from that orb forever moon to the earth, and there is not one mute in the solitude of space. That volcano which has not a greater power chel Ardan. last day left them.

They took down the most trifling de- "Hurrah!" exclaimed Michel, "these doubled had they felt how their speed | But now I think of it-" had decreased. It would have seemed to them quite insufficient to carry "A capital idea. Why did we not them to the end. It was because the fasten a thread to our projectile, and projectile then "weighed" almost no- we could have exchanged telegrams thing. Its weight was ever decreasing, with the earth?" and would be entirely annihilated on "The deuce!" answered Nicholl.

that line where the lunar and terrestrial "Do you consider the weight of a attractions would neutralize each other. thread 250,000 miles long nothing?" liquified by the heat of the gas; no- time. thing better than the preserved meat. "There is but one little objection to Some glasses of good French wine make to your proposition," replied Barcrowned the repast, causing Michel bicane, "which is that, during the ro-Ardan to remark that the lunar vines tary motion of the globe, our thread warmed by that ardent sun, ought to would have wound itself round it like distil even more generous wines; that a chain on a capstan, and that it would is, if they existed. In any case the far- inevitably have brought us to the seeing Frenchman had taken care not ground. to forget in his collection some precious "By the thirty-nine stars of the

upon which he founded his hopes. worked with great regularity. Not an notion that, if we do not return to English and Canadian Cloths atom of carbonic acid resisted the earth, J. T. Maston will be able to come potash; and as to the oxygen, Captain | to us.' Nicholl said, "it was of the first "Yes, he'll come," replied Barbicane; quality." The little watery vapor en- he is a worthy and a courageous com-

morning Michael visited the escape exactly the same place as to-day?" regulators, tried the traps, and regulat- "Yes," continued Michel "yes

ter. Everything had gone well up to friends Elphinstone, Blomsberry, all that time, and the travelers, imitating | the members of the Gun Club, and they subject for conversation which the the worthy Joseph T. Maston, began to will be well received. And by and by acquire a degree of embonpoint which they will run trains of projecwould have rendered them unrecog- tiles between the earth and the moon nizable if their imprisonment had been | Hurrah for J. T. Maston!" prolonged to some months. In a word It is probable that, if the Hon. J. ed unforeseen incidents, and new they behaved like chickens in a coop; T. Maston did not hear the hurrahs

In looking through the scuttle Barbicane saw the spectre of the dog, and other divers objects which had been jectile, whose speed was evidently thrown from the projectile obstinately he was trying to find the invisible prodiminishing, though insensibly to them- following them. Diana howled lugubselves. But the moon grew larger to riously on seeing the remains of Satelltheir eyes, and they fancied if they ite, which seemed as motionless as if

"Do you know my friends," said The next day, the 5th of November, Michal Ardan, "that if one of us had succumbed to the shock consequent on on foot. That day was to be the last of departure, we should have had a great their journey, if all calculations were deal of trouble to bury him? What am true. That very night at twelve o'clock | 1 saying? to etherize him, as here ether takes the place of earth. You see the moon, they would reach its brilliant accusing body would have followed us

"That would have been sad," said

"Ah!" continued Michel, what I regret is not being able to take a walk they saluted the orb of night with a outside. What voluptuousness to float amid this radiant ether, to bathe one-The moon was advancing majestical- | self in it, to wrap oneself in the sun's pure rays. If Barbicane had only thought of furnishing us with a diving exact point where her meeting with the apparatus and an airpump, I could have ventured out and assumed fanciful attitudes of feigned monsters on the top of "Well, old Michel," replied Barbi-

stretch immense plains, and where cane, "you would not have made a mountains are rare. A favorable cir- feigned monster long, for in spite of cumstance if, as they thought, the lunar | your diver's dress, awollen by the exatmosphere was stored only in its pansion of air within you, you would have burst like a shell, or rather like a there? "Besides," observed Michel Ardan, balloon which has risen too high. So "a plain is easier to disembark upon do not regret it, and do not forget this than a mountain. A Selenite. deposit- | -as long as we float in space, all sentimental walks beyond the projectile is "I do not know."

Michel Ardan allowed himself to be convinced to a certain extent. He ad-"And," added Captain Nicholl, "on | mitted that the thing was difficult, but

The conversation passed from this an avalanche, and not being squirrels subject to another, not failing for an we should not come out safe and sound. I instant. It seemed to the three friends as though, under present conditions, ideas shot up in their brains as leaves shoot at the first warmth of spring. But Barbicane was preoccupied with They felt bewildered. In the middle one thought; but not wishing to make of the questions and answers which his companions uneasy, he kept silence crossed each other, Nicholl put one question which did not find an immediate solution.

> "Ah, indeed!" said he; "it is all very well to go to the moon, but how to

His two interlocutors looked surpris- | to know why I am going. ed. One would have thought that this nar disc. If it did not land there, there possibility now occurred to them for

"What do you mean by that, Nicholl?" asked Barbicane gravely. try," added Michell, "when we have He hoped, however, that it would not yet arrived there, seems to me digies of art, of science, and industry; rather inopportune."

> back," replied Nicholl; "but I repeat my question, and I ask, 'How shall we

"I know nothing about it," answer-"And I," said Michel, "if I had

altered; for the situation would have known how to return, I would never "There's an answer!" cried Nicholl.

"I quite approve of Michel's words," said Barbicane; "and add, that the instead of appearing flat like a disc, question has no real interest. Later, when we think it advisable to return, had struck it obliquely, the shadow we will take counsel together. If the thrown would have brought out the Columbiad is not there, the projectile

fissures which wound through the im- be manufactured. The powder can be separating his two companions; "if STITCH. by virtue of the mere laws of weight."

"Enough," said Michel with animawill not be difficult. "And how?"

"By means of meteors launched by tion," replied Barbicane.

of propulsion than that."

tails. A vague uneasiness took pos- meteors are handy postmen, and cost session of them as they neared the end. nothing. And how we shall be able to This uneasiness would have been laugh at the post-office administration-"What do you think of?"

But in spite of his pre-occupation, "As nothing. They could have tre-Michel Ardan did not forget the morn- bled the Columbiad's charge; they ing repast with his accustomed punctu- could have quadrupled or quintupled ality. They ate with a good appetite. it !" exclaimed Michael, with whom the Nothing was so excellent as the soup verb took a higher intonation each

cuttings of the Medoc and Cote d'Or, Union!" said Michel, "I have nothing but impracticable ideas to-day; ideas Reiset and Regnault's apparatus worthy of J. T. Maston. But I have a

closed in the projectile mixed with the rade. Besides, what is easier? Is not

air tempered the dryness; and many the Columbiad still buried in the soil apartments in London, Paris or New of Florida? Is cotton and nitric acid York, and many theatres are not in wanted where with to manufacture the such a healthy condition. But that it pyroxyle? Will not the moon again might act with regularity, the apparatus pass to the zenith of Florida? In must be kept in perfect order; so each eighteen years' time will she not occupy

Every object thrown from the pro- ed the heat of the gas by the pyrome- Maston will come, and with him our

uttered in his honor, his ears at least tingled. What was he doing then? Doubtless posted in the Rocky Mountains, at the station of Long's Peak. jectile graviating in space. If he was thinking of his dear companions, we must allow that they were not far behind him; and that under the influence of a strange excitement, they were devoting to him their best thoughts.

But whence this excitement, which was evidently growing upon the tenants of the projectile? Their sobriety could not be doubted. This strange irritation of the brain, must it be attributed to the peculiar circumstances under which they found themselves, to their proximity to the orb of night, from which only a few hours separated them, by some secret influence of the moon acting upon their nervous system? Their faces were as rosy as if they had been exposed to the roaring flames of an oven; their voices resounded in loud accents; their words escaped like champaigne corks driven out by carbonic acid; their gestures became annoying, they wanted so much room to perform them; and, strange to say' they none of them noticed this great tension of the mind.

"Now," said Nicholl, in a short tone, ' now that I do not know whether we shall ever return from the moon, I want to know what we are going to do

"What are we going to do there?" replied Barbicane, stamping with his foot as if he was in a fencing saloon; "You do not know!" exclaimed

Michel, with a bellow which provoked a sonorous echo in the projectile. "No, I have not even thought about it," retorted Barbicane, in the same

"Well, I know," replied Michel. "Speak, then, cried Nicholl, who

could no longer contain the growling of "I shall speak if it suits me," exclaimed Michel, seizing his companions,

arms with violence. "It must suit you," said Barbicane, with an eye on fire and a threatening hand. "It was you who drew us into this frightful journey, and we want to know what for."

"Yes," said the captain, "now that I do not know where I am going, I want

"Why?" exclaimed Michel, jumping a yard high, "why? To take possession of the moon in the name of the United States; to add a fortieth State to the Union; to colonize the lunar "To ask for means to leave a coun- regions; to cultivate them, to people them, to transport thither all the proto civilize the Selenites, unless they are "I do not say that, wishing to draw more civilized than we are; and to constitute them a republic, if they are not already one!'

"And if there are no Selenites?" retorted Nicholl, who, under the influence of this unaccountable intoxication, was very contradictory.

"Who said that there were no Selenites?" exclaimed Michel in a threatening tone.

"I do," howled Nicholl. "Captain," said Michel, "do not repeat that insolence, or I will knock

your teeth down your throat!"

The two adversaries were going to fall upon each other, and the incoherent discussion threatened to merge into a "That is a step certainly. A ball fight, when Barbicane intervened with one bound.

"Stop, miserable men," said he, made. Neither metals, saltpetre, nor there are no Selenites, we will do with-

us," said Nicholl. "Let us three constitute the republic." "I will be the congress," cried

"And I the senate," retorted Nicholl. "And Barbicane, the president,"

howled Michel. "Not a president elected by the na-

"Very well, a president elected by am the congress, you are unanimously

"Hurrah! hurrah! for Pre-"Hip! hip! hip!" vociferated Mi-Then the President and the Senate

struck up in a tremendous voice the popular song "Yankee Doodle," whilst from the Congress resounded the masculine tones of the "Marseillaise." Then they struck up a frantic dance, with maniacal gestures, idiotic stamp-

ings, and somersaults like those of the boneless clowns in the circus. Diana, joining in the dance, and howling in her turn, jumped to the top of the pro-An unaccountable flapping of wings

was then heard amidst most fantastic

cock-crows, while five or six hens fluttered like bats against the walls. Then the three travelling companions, acted upon by some unaccountable influence above that of intoxication, inflamed by the air which had set their respiratory apparatus on fire, fell motionless to the bottom of the projectile.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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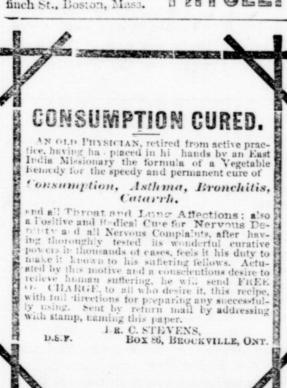
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NOTICE OPENED TO-DAY To Teachers, Parents and the Public. THERE is being sold in this City and Province an Edition of "The World: an Introduction

o Geography. By J. B. Calkin, M.A.," which is

not authorized by the Board of Education. The Edition which is prescribed for use in the hools of this Province is Copyrighted by J. & A. St. John, N. B., J. & A. McMILLAN. There are two other Geographies bearing same name as this Book, but they have been prepared respectively for use in Nova Scotia and Ontario, and differ from the book prepared and prescribed for New Brunswick. Ask for McMillan's Edition, which is for sale by all Booksellers.

Travelers' Column.

in connection with the Intercolonial Railway, daily, (Sundays excepted) as follows:—

Chatham June'n, Arrive 12.10 a. m. 11.40 "
Depart, 12.25 " 12.10 p. 1

Depart, 5.00

Arrive, 5.30

CHATHAM & NEWCASTLE.

Trains between Newcastle and Chatham run as

Arrive, 12.55 "

GOING NORTH

STATIONS.

Chatham,

Miramichi) Time.

oing and returning.

GOING SOUTH.

No. 1

Depart, 11.35 p. m., 11.10 a. m.

EXPRESS. ACCOM'DATION

ACCOMMD'TION. EXPRESS.

12.08 a.m. Chatham, 12.55 a.m.

4.15 a.m. N'castle, 5.10 a.m.

11.10 a.m. N'castle, 12.20 p.m.

N'castle, 11.30 a.m. Chatham, 12.40 p.m.

N'castle, 2.10 p.m. Chatham, 5.30 p.m.

- Chathair, 4.10 p.m. N'castle, 5.17 p.m.

The above Tables are made up on St. John (or

All the above Trains stop at Nelson Station, both

All freight for transportation over this road, if

above Fourth (4th) Class, will be taken delivery of at the Union Wharf, Chatham, and forwarded free

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Express Train from Riviere du Loup on Satur-

Express Train from Halifax and St. John for

day will run through to Halifax and St. John on

Riviere du Loup will remain over Sunday at Camp-

REPullman Sleeping Cars run through to St. John on

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to Halifai

n Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from St.

Halifax, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

the trip both ways at one fare.

ohn, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from

Chatham Passengers wishing to return from the

Junction by the same train may obtain Tickets for

Tickets for the Chatham Railway are sold at the

Junction Station (as well as at the Chatham end of

the line) and all passengers are requested to procure

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Chatham, 29th May, 78.

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