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Blondin the Rope-Walker.

and performer, who made such a sensation in this country in the fifties, when he thread bridge, is still living, and is now over seventy years of age. He lives on his own estate, at Niagara House, South Ealing, near London, and is rich. This lacter statement is not surprising when we remember that he rarely made less than five hundred a day while performing. His real name is Jean Francois Gravelet, and he was born near Calais in 1824. His nickname is derived from his father who was called "Blondin" from the color of his hair. These facts we gather from Chamber's Journal, from which we further quote as follows concerning the star of rope-walkers:

"Blondin began to walk along a rope when he was only four years old, and at twice that age gave a special exhibition before the king of Italy at Turin. And last Christmas, although over seventy years of age, when performing on the high-rope in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, he appeared as nimble and active as ever. He went through much the same performance as that which startled the public at the Crystal Palace thirty years ago. He ran along the rope; he did the journey in a sack and blindfolded; he stood upright in a chair, which he had previously balanced in the centre of the rope; he stood on his head on the rope, and concluded by carrying his attendant

"He went to America in 1855; and it must have been about four years later when looking across the Niagara Falls, that he remarked to Mr. Ravel [ his manager ]: 'What a splendid place to bridge with a tight-rope !' Although called idiot and madman, he endeavored to carry this daring project of crossing the Falls on the tight-rope into execution. In the Spring of 1859 he took rooms in the hotel at Niagara Falls village, and began to make his arrangements. . . .

The bank on one side was about one hundred and sixty feet in height; on the other, one hundred and seventy. He crossed for the first time on the 30th of June, in the presence of what was said to be a concourse of upward of fifty thousand people. On the 4th of July he crossed again, his body enveloped in a heavy sack of blankets; with eyes thus blind-folded, his step was as steady as if he saw. In the middle of the month he crossed wheeling a wheelbarrow; and on the 5th of August, in crossing, he turned somersaults and performed various gymnastic feats on the rope. He crossed with a man on his back on the 19th; and on the 27th as a Siberian in shackles. On the 2nd of September he crossed at night, and stood on his head amid the blaze of fireworks. In the summer of 1860 he crossed below the Suspension Bridge; but previously he had great difficulty in adjusting his one-inch rope, and nearly lost his life in fixing the lateral guy-ropes. The difficulty and danger in crossing was increased by a dip of forty feet on the length of the rope. His last performance here, on the 14th of September, 1860, was witnessed by the Prince of Wales and suite and a vast assembly of spectators. The Prince eagerly and anxiously watched his progress through a telescope; and on Blondin being presented afterward, his first words of greeting were: 'Thank God, it is all over.' At this time he crossed with a man on his back, traversed the rope in a sack and blindfolded, and even went across on stilts. In traversing the rope with a man on his back, the time occupied was fortyfive minutes; he set the man down, while he rested six times on the rope. Fancy the man thus climbing again on his shoulders and inserting his legs in the hooks attached to the hips of the gymnast for his support!"

The Prince of Wales afterward sent Blondin a special check; another of his gifts was a cluster diamond ring; and the village of Niagara presented a costly gold medal. Since his triumphs at Niagara, Blondin is said to have given more than four thousand performances in various parts of the world, without the slightest accident. To quote again:

"Apparently, Blondin does not know what nervousness means, and his secret has been described as confidence in himself, obtained by long habit in rope-walking. There is no doubt some of the victims he has carried across his rope have suffered. He would talk to them on the most indifferent subjects; tell them to sit perfectly still, and avoid clutching him round the neck, or look downward when in mid-air. He has frequently detected a gasp of relief from the man on his back, when the end of the rope and platform were reached. What he considers as one of his greatest feats was in walking on a rope from the mainmast to the mizzen on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamer Poonah, while on her way to Australia, between Aden and Galle in 1874. He had to sit down five times while the heav-

iest waves were approaching the ship. "In a fragment of autobiography written some years ago, Rlondin tells us that the rope he generally uses was formed with a flexible core of steel wire covered with the best Manila hemp, about an inch or three-quarters in diameter, several hundred vards in length, and costing about one hundred pounds. A large windlass at either end of the rope served to make of the bowels in children or adults.

it taut, while it was supported by two Blondin, the daring tight-rope walker high poles. His balancing-poles, of ashwood, vary in length, and are in three sections, and weigh from thirty-seven to danced across Niagara Falls on his spider- forty-seven pounds. He is indifferent as to the height at which he is to perform. Blondin has never confessed to any nervousness on the rope, and while walking he generally looks eighteen or twenty feet ahead, and whistles or hums some snatch

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Women who are subject to head aches, sudden faintness, despondency, nervous dread, fits of wild mirth or equally unnatural mental depression, flutterings of the heart: who hear a roaring in the ear and white specks floating before the eyes; women who cannot bear noise, who are easily startled, who feel like laughing at one moment and crying the next; who feel in fact life is little short of constant torture; such women are simply suffering

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### Revival of Trade.

Reports from the United States support the view that trade interests have vastly improved recently and that the business ontlook for future in encouraging. This will be welcome news to the people of Canada, since our own trade interest will be stimulated and improved. In nothing has this improvement been shown in a more marked way than in the increased sale of Putnam's Painless Corn Extrctor. Times being dull everything not absolutely needed become a luxury, and its sale became stationary. Now it is different. Sales have increased vastly, doubtless as it has proven the only safe, sure, and painless remedy for corns, and wise people will use no other.

### Both "At Home."

A story has been current among the students in Aberdeen which showed that, up to a comparatively recent date, ancient prejudices were retained by the old Scotch professors. It related to the late Principal Pirie, who had a weakness for the refine-

Just after "at home" cards became fashionable, one of the dryest specimens of the old professional regime was surprised to receive a missive, which read as

" Principal and Mrs. Pirie present their

compliments to Prof. T- and hope he is well. Principal and Mrs. Pirie will be 'at home' on Thursday evening at 8 This was something which evidently re-

quired an answer, but the recipient of it was quite equal to the occasion. He

"Prof. T- returns the compliments of Principal and Mrs. Pirie, and informs them that he is very well. Prof T. is glad to hear that Principal and Mrs. Pirie will be at home on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Prof. T- will also be at

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