MADE MONEY ON A ROPE.

SOME INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE O THE GREAT BLONDIN.

How the Famous Walker Laid the Foundation of His Fame and His Fortune-His Great Feats on the Tight Rope in America and Other Places.

Blondin, the daring tight-rope walker and performer, who made such a sensation in the country in the fifties, when he danced across Niagara Falls on his spider-thread bridge, is still living and is now over seventy years of age says an exchange which quotes from Chamber's Journal. He lives on his own estate, at Niagara House, South Ealing near London, and is rich. This latter statement is not surprising when we remember that he rarely made less than five hundred dollars a day while performing. His real name is Jean Francois Gravelet, and he was born near Calais in 1824. His nickname he derived from his falher, who was called 'Blondin' on account of the color of his hair.

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 and 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 about thirty years ago. He ran along the rope; he did the journey in a sack and blind-folded; he stood upright in a chair, which he had previously balance in the centre of the rope; he stood on his head on the rope, and concluded by carrying his attendant across.

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 tight-rope into execution. In the spring of 1859 he took rooms in the hotel at Niagara Falls village, and began to make | they stop the waste of the energy necessary his arrangements The bank on one side to keep one in a bolt-upright position. was about one hundred and sixty feet in height; on the other, one hundred and June 30, in the presence of what was said to be a concourse of upward of fifty thousand people. On July a heavy sack of blanket; with eyes thus blind-tolded, his step was as steady as it he saw. In the middle of the month he crossed wheeling a wheelbarrow; and on August 5, 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 exile in shackles. On September 2, he crossed at night, and stood on his head amid a blaze of fire works. In the summer of 1860 he crossed bolow the Suspension Bridge; but previously he had great difficulty in adjusting his oneinch 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 September 14, 1860, was witnessed by the Prince of Wales and sui'e 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 when 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 minutes; he set the man down, while he fix my pictures so the bald spot will not 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 sup-

The Prince of Wales afterwards sent Blondin a special cheque; another of his gifts was a cluster diamond ring; and the village of Ni 1gera presented a costly medal, | we are to make photographs which will not Since his triumphs at Niagara, Blondin is show the baldness of his head, as our agent, said to have given more than four thousand promised. Just kindly step over to the performances in parts of the world, without he slightest accident.

nervousness means, and his secret has been | pleasant, please. There! Your picture's described as confidences in himself. obtained by long habit in rope-walking. There is no doubt some of the victims he has car- said the physician, after he realized that he ried across his rope have suffered. He had been made the victim of a clever would talk to them on the most indifferent subjects; tell them to sit perfectly still, and avoid elutching him round the neck, or look downward when in mid-air. He has frequently detected a gasp of reliet from the man on his back when the end of the rope and platform were reached. What he considers as one of his greates treast mast to the mizzen on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamer 'Poonah,' while on

flexible core of steel wire covered with the best manilla hemp, abou: an inch or threequarters in diameter, several hundred yards in length, and costing about a hundred pounds. A large windlass at either end of the rope served to make it taut, while it was supported by two high poles. His balancing-poles of ash wood vary in length. and are in three sections, and weigh from thirty-seven to 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 of a song.

HOW TO REST OURSELVES. An Accomplishment in Which Most of us are Sadly Deficient.

The trouble with many of those who are perfectly willing to take physical rest is they do not know how to go about it. Our household furniture was fashioned to suit the notions of our ancestors, who were not in the habit of resting. Chairs were merely benches or stools with backs to them, while sofas were simply longer beaches with shorter backs.

As many of you bnow from experience, the old-fashioned chair had a straight back. It was thought that this would in some measure counteract the tendency of men and women to become hump backed. It did not occur to them that this deformity was due to the exhaustion of physical energy, and not to carelessness on the part of the individual. Round shoulders and hollow chests are due to the relaxation of the muscles of the back, and no amount of straightening up will remove the cause. When the muscles of the back become weak from loss of energy, the muscles of chest naturally pull the shoulders forward. To restore the body to a perpendicular position, the muscles of the back must have their energy restored,

Lying flat down and stretched out at full length is the most restful position the human body can take, because it requires no effort whatever to maintain this pose.

The Japanese understood this, and they make good use of their knowledge. Inmad man, he endeavored to carry this dar- stead of having their houses full of stiffing project of crossing the Falls on the backed chairs, they spread rugs, skins, or cushions on the floor or low platforms, upon which they recline when resting, reading, or whiling away the time. In this way The blood circulates more freely, because there is no tension on the limbs. This reduces the labor of the heart to a minimum. seventy. He crossed for the first time on | The energy thus saved goes to restore tired or weakened organs or to the invigoration of the brain.

We must rid ourselves of the notion that it is a sign of laziness to lie down or lounge 4, he crossed again, his body enveloped in about on the floor, or cot, or bed; also that | England. The tearless, bald-headed eagle it is not proper for women to lie down when

Were our women in the habit of taking more rest, and taking it properly, they would not be compelled to wear stays in order to keep them straight. Having to wear these constantly, the muscles of the chest and back do not develop normally, and are, therefore, weaker than other muscles of the body.-Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette.

PHOTOS FOR BALD HEADS. Artist Hides the Defect Very Ingeniously.

An agent soliciting trade for a Broadway photographer recently called at the Park avenue home of one of New York's bestknown physicians and tried to convince the doctor that he should have his picture taken. He was selling -----'s photograph coupons The physician has a terribly bald head. Nothing but a fretful fringe of hair remains on an erstwhile head of hair. On that account he had long ago given up having photographs of himself made, so he replied.

"No; thank you, I want none of your coupons. I have broken myself of the photograph habit. My head is too bald for the business."

But the agent was persistent, and finally the physician said: "I will make your a proposition. I will take a double back, the time occupied was forty-five dose of your coupons if you will promise to out with a curse in his agony. His cry

"All right," said the agent, after a moments reflection. "Mr. -can arrange that. Such things are done every day in our business. Here are your cupons. Come to the gallery for your sitting next Saturday,

When he went to the photographer's studio the following Saturday, "Ah," said the man in charge of the cameras, "this is ____, is it not? The man for whom other end of the room. No. do not lay your coat and hat down. Keep the overcoat on your arm and kindly place your hat Apparently, Blondin does not know what on your head. That's right; now look

> "Well! I hope I can get home without being taken in by a gang of buncosteerers," trick-- New York World.

A man of New Bedford, whose neice had coaxed him to buy her a parrot, succeeded in getting a bird that was warranted a good talker. He brought it home, and after putting it in a cage, stood before it and said "Say uncle, Polly!" The bird did not respond, and after repeating the was in walking on a rope from the mair- sentence a dozen times or more, with no better success, the uncle put his hand into the cage and grabbed the bird by the neck, shook him until his head wobbled around, her way to Australia, between Aden and Galle in 1874. He had to sit down five times while the heaviest waves were aptimes while the heaviest waves were approaching the ship.

In a fragment of autobiography written some years ago, Blondin tells us that the rope he generally used was formed with a rope he generally us

you get out!" Next morning the uncle went out to see how the parrot was getting along. Looking into the coop, he counted twenty-nine dead chickens, and in the centre of the coop stood the parrot on one toot, holding the thirtieth chicken by the neck and shaking it till its head wobbled, and screaming: "Say uncle, goll darn yer, say uncle!"-Boston Herald.

HIS AUDIENCE OF ONE.

One of the American Experinces of a big Headed English Writer.

Several amusing stories are told of the slim audiences which greeted Sir Edwin Arnold in some of the Western cities. But it remained for Omaha to give the author of "The Light of Asia" the slimmest of all. Sir Edwin had travelled all night from Indianapolis to Omaha, and expected great things of the people of the latter city. He had been greeted by a respectably sized audience in Minneapolis, but in some way or other the famous author had pictured Omaha to himself as an enormous metropolis, whose citizens would flock to hear him. Upon reaching his hotel early in the morning Sir Edwin said to his hotel manager when he called upon him:

"I suppose we'll do well here, won't

"Well, I don't know," said the manager, in rather a crestfallen way. "I have just been to the place where the advance sale has been going on for ten days, but the rush has not been very great.'

"Oh, well," said Sir Edwin, encouragingly, "It can't help having been tolerably large. How many seats have been sold?" "Well, since you ask, Sir Edwin, so pointedly, I will tell you. We have just sold one seat, and the buyer of that is now

waiting down stairs to see you." The English poet was crestfallen, but, recovering himself, he asked that his visitor be shown up to him. It turned out to be a young woman who was an intense admirer of Sir Edwin. He kept his visitor there for two hours, reading to this audience of one the entire lecture. Then, bowing his audience out, he called his manager and said:

"Well, I have delivered my lecture. Why should we stay here?"

This struck the manager as rather a sensible idea, and hurriedly arranging with the owners of the hall, the lecture was canmanager were off for the next stop. In the evening just four people turned up at the hall, to be met with the notice that there would be no lecture.

SCOTLAND'S THISTLE.

How it Come to be Adopted as the National Emblem of old Scotia

Nearly every nation has some emblem which is patriotically revered as a symbol of the country itself. The lion and the unicorn are emblazoned on the shield of is wrought on the arms of the United States, Persia, Austria, Russia and France have adopted an eagle as a na tional military symbol.

The eagle of Russia has two heads displayed, the whole imperially crowned. The eagle of Austria is also displayed with two heads; the Prussian eagle has one only. The shamrock is the emblem of Ireland, and the thistle of Scotland. Why the Scots chose the thistle is told in

It was at the time of the invasion, when the destinies of Scotland hung upon the result of a battle soon to come. The inuaders were upon the soil, and if they gained the victory in the first encounter, they might not afterward be overcome. The invaders knew the scotts were desperate, and if they could surely conquer them

they must fall upon them suddenly.

To this end they availed themselves of a dark night, and planned to fall upon the Scots on all sides at once. They would have succeeded in destroying the Scots,

but an accident betrayed them. When near the Scottish camp, the foremost of the invaders removed their heavy shoes from their feet, so that their steps would not be heard; and thus stealthily advancing barefooted, a heavy, quicktempered soldier trod squarely upon a huge thistle, the sharp points of which gave him such sudden and acute pain, that he cried aroused the outlying Scots, and appraised them of their danger.

With wonderful alacrity they sprang to their arms, and meeting the foe so widely divided they were prepared to overcome them which they did with great slaughter When the Scots discovered that it was to a thistle they owed their victory, they resolved to adopt it as their national emblem.—The Young Idea.

Still Figuring on it in Scotland. The other day, at a trial of divorce case the parties to which were a nobleman of advanced years and his young wife, the judge remarked that this was another instance of the evil effects of "marriages contracted between May and December."

Shortly afterwards the learned judge received a letter from the secretary of a Scotch statistical society, intimating that that body would be obliged if he would favor them with an account of the facts from which he derived the singular rule enunciated by him as to the intelicity of marriages solemnized during certain months of the year, and adding that some of the members wished to utilize the information which might thus be afforded them in the shape of a paper to be read before the society, with a view of public discussion.

This Dog Buys Oranges and Eats Them. "Do you want a good story?" asked a well-known man last evening. "Well, here's one about a dog, and it's a true one,

"The dog's name is Sam. He is a setter, and belongs to a man named McCormick, who keeps a restaurant down at Atlastic City. I was down there last week and saw



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formance. A man in a crowd of six or eight people will take a nickel from his pocket, wrap it in a piece of paper, and give it to the dog. Sam then trots off to the corner, where an Italian keeps a fruit stand. The Italian places an orange in a paper bag and pretty soon Sam comes trotting back with his purchase, wagging his tail and tickled to death. He will then hunt out the man who gave him the nickel, never making a mistake, apparently wishing to show that he hasn't squandered the money foolishly. After that he takes the orange from the bag and plays with it until he gets tired. Then he eats it. He first bites a piece out of the skin, just as a man who has no knife might do. and then breaks it in two pieces. He is fond of oranges, but although he manages to get the meat of the fruit, he will never swallow even a morsel of the skin "-Phil. Record

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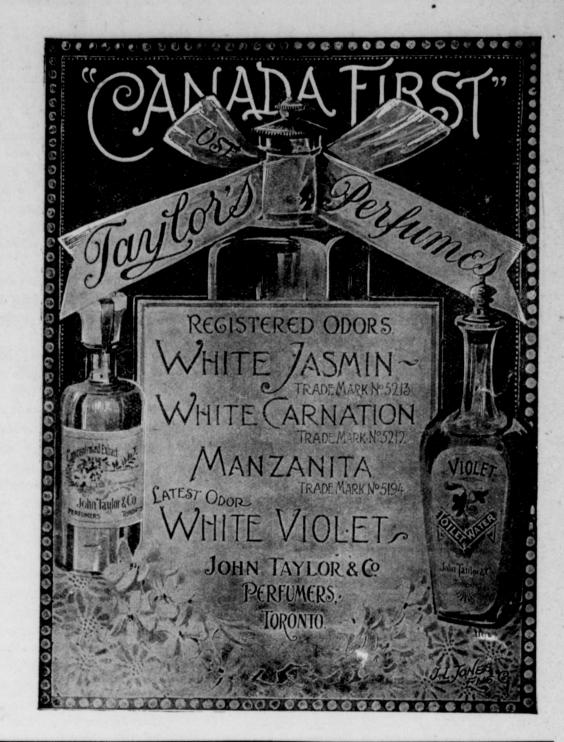
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