

Peck's Bad Boy in an Airship

ENLISTING IN THE NAVY

When our balloon that sailed from St. Louis came down in Delaware, and I had bid good-by to the two men whom I sailed with, and they had paid me good money for my services and keeping them awake, I thought of that fleet we had passed over at Fort Monroe, the beautiful white battle-ships, and I was afraid I could not get there before the battleship secured my berth, as I had made up my mind to go with it around the horn, and help fight Japan or mosquitoes, or any old thing that came in the way, so I took the first train to Fort Monroe, and found that the whole population of several near-by states were going too, as the president was going to review the fleet before it sailed.

The next day I was at the hotel at Old Point and with hundreds of other people took a launch and went out to the battleship. Everybody was welcome to go aboard the ships, and we visited several of them and were shown all over the vessels by the uniformed packs.

See, but a battleship is like a sky scraper on water, and you can go from the roof clear down half a mile below the water line, and it is like a combination of an engine manufactory, a boiler plant, a coal yard, a wholesale grocery, a packing house, a blacksmith shop, a department store, a hotel, a powder mill, a suburban trolley line, and a bargain sale of blankets, a state fair and a military encampment, and a parade ground, a county jail and an apartment house, with rooms to let on the European plan and all of it in an iron coffin, liable to go to the bottom any minute, if the air tanks are punctured.

See, but I was almost afraid to be down cellar in a battleship without any life preserver, and when I went up on deck, where I could jump overboard if she began to sink, there, away on top of the whole old cook stove, were guns so big that it seemed if one got to moving around on deck it would tip the ship over. It seemed to me like boring a hole in a flat iron and crawling in, and being put in a bath tub, or like rigging up a coal stove with paddles and outriggers, and paddling out in a marsh duck shooting.

The first hour I was investigating the mechanism of a battleship and was scared silly for fear she would get ready to sink, and as I looked at the iron everywhere, which I had been taught in school would sink so quick it would make your head swim, I wondered what my nation could be thinking of to build ships of iron and depend on wind to keep them on top of the water, and I thought it would be just as safe to cover an iron railroad

me back and forth through that 40 foot gun to swab it out, and when I came out alive they laughed and were going to tie a bag of shot to my feet and let me off a plank over the side to practice on a burial at sea, but I yelled for help and a cross looking man came along and pardoned me, and told the fellows to take me to his cabin and wash the powder off my face, and he told me until he could have a talk with me. When they had scoured me with a piece of brick and some yellow laundry soap, the man came into the cabin, and the boys who had hazed me said he was Admiral Evans, and I remembered him cause once when he was in the light house service he entertained pa and me on his light house tender, and held me in his lap at the New Orleans Mardi Gras, and I said: "Hello, Mr. Evans, don't you remember little Henney? I am Peck's Bad Boy," and he remembered me, and said: "What'll you do here?" and I told him I knew what he was up against, going around the horn, and to San Francisco and Japan and the Philippines, and that I wanted to go along on his ship as a mascot, or a trailer or anything, and he said he didn't know but I would be a good mascot, as last trip they had a goat and a monkey for mascots, and I had a combination of both, and if he was going to make a trip to Hades, or any climate hotter than the straits of Magellan, he thought I would be all right.

He asked me what I could do and I told him there was nothing that I couldn't do if properly encouraged, anything from flying a flag of truce from the fighting top, to riding up in the ammunition elevator with 500 pounds of dynamite, to acting as the propeller to a Whitehead torpedo.

We talked it over for an hour and he asked about Pa, and then he gave me a ticket with a number on, and told me to be on the front porch of the Hotel Chamberline at nine o'clock the second morning after, and if a steam launch from the Connecticut landed there and gave two whistles, for me to get on board with my baggage, and report to him before the fleet sailed.

Well, say, this was quick work, and I called a launch and visited the other vessels, promising to be Johnny on the spot at the appointed hour. It was a great sight to see the review when the president came along on the yacht Mayflower and I forgot all about the battleships being of iron liable to sink if the wind got out of the tanks, and was never so proud in my life as I was when I saw the jacks climb up on the rigging and

hang on like monkeys, lined up like they were drilling on deck, and when the Connecticut began to fire a salute to the president, out of those great iron sewer pipes, and all the rest of the fleet began to shoot at the air, the noise was so loud that it made your head feel like you do when you take seditious powders, and it gallops up your nose, and the smokeless powder made the smoke so thick you couldn't see anything but the president's teeth, as he sailed along on his yacht, and I got so patriotic that the chicks went up my back like when you have the grip coming on, and then the smoke cleared away and when a million American flags were flung to the breeze, I began to choke up like you do when you are sick and the callers say, "Well, brace up, boy, you may pull through, but there are a hundred chances against your living till morning," and the tears rolled down my cheeks, and my throat got full like I had the tonsillitis, and everybody else

on our launch except two Japanese were crying, and then the president's yacht took a position, and all the battleships swung into line and marched past, and the bands played, and we all just belled for patriotic joy, and I was so mad to see those Japanese standing there like bottles of castor oil, not even smiling, that I blew up a toy balloon which I have been playing air ship with, and I whacked it on the head of the meanest looking Jap, and when it exploded he was the scariest looking person



When It Exploded the Jap Was the Scariest Person I Ever Saw.

I ever saw, because he thought one of those 16-inch shells had gone off in his hat, and everybody said: "Served him right," and then he laughed, the first time since the review started, and he wanted the skin of my toy balloon as a souvenir of the first gun fired in the war with Japan.

From that day, when I had examined critically our fleet and seen it salute, and monkey around the president, I felt so patriotic that I wanted to fight for my country, and I could hardly wait two days for Mr. Evans to send his launch ashore after me, and I didn't care if the whole thing was iron, that couldn't float under natural conditions and if Bob Evans should put outlocks on a bar or railroad iron, and put me on it, with orders to go sink a Japanese sampan or whatever they call their war ships, I would step aboard that bar of railroad iron with a light heart, wave my hat and tell them all to go plumb.

So we went ashore, and that evening there was a ball at the hotel, and all the officers of the navy were there, and the army, and millions of ladies with clothes on the lower half of them, and talcum powder and black coat plaster on the upper half, and the way they danced and waltzed and flirted and et lobsters would make you dizzy, and when Bob Evans walked limping by me, with a 200-pound lady on one arm, and a 90-pound girl on the rheumatic side of him, I was so full of patriotic fire I couldn't help saying: "Hello, Bob, I will be on deck all right," and he looked at me with an expression on his face that looked as though he had drawn a lobster that had been dead too long, and he marched along with his female procession, and the orchestra struck up a good-night waltz, and everybody waltzed, and took some drinks, and went home to wait the sailing of the fleet the next day and I went to bed with an order to be called at sunrise, so I could be on the porch with my ticket in my hand, ready to jump into the launch when she whistled and sail away "for a frolic or a fight," and I didn't care which.

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SHANTUNG LACE-MAKERS.

Work of Chinese Girls Superintended by Missionaries.

Transmitting samples of silk and thread lace, pongee silks and an illustrated catalogue of laces, silks and drawn-work from the agents of the Chefoo Industrial Mission, Vice-Consul Ernest Vollmer of Tsingtau, reports thereon as follows:

With a view of furnishing home work to a large number of native converts, missionaries in Shantung years ago taught converts lace-making. The industry is carried on more or less throughout the silk districts of Shantung, the center probably being in the Chefoo district. Under careful foreign supervision these products have gained a very high standard of quality, and are comparatively cheap. A large variety of laces, collarettes, ties, mantillas, dollies and drawn-work are prepared mainly by Chinese girls, and sold through the mission stations.

Aside from the hand-made products enumerated, thread laces are also made, and a trade carried on in plain, patterned and dyed pongees in pieces. Retail sales are made to all parts of the world. An export duty of five per cent. ad valorem is collected on all goods leaving China.

Girls and Girls.

Some girls are very hard to please and the rest aren't worth the trouble.—Nashville American.

Infant Mortality in New York.

Nearly one-third of all the children born in New York city die before they become three years old.

The fowls ate their grain in Mexico, and then walked across the line into the United States to lay their eggs. The transaction was, of course, perfectly legitimate; for the proprietor of the henery smuggled neither grain nor eggs. But he availed himself of high prices on one side and low prices on the other.—The Sunday Magazine.

Yearly Coal Output.

The 350,000,000-odd tons of coal mined in the United States each year, if piled together, would make a cube having sides 714 yards long.

INTERNATIONAL HENS

The advantages that people who live exactly on the line between two countries have in escaping the customs and other regulations of both countries have often been recounted. Probably the most picturesque instance of this kind of evasion occurred in the town of Nogales, which lies exactly on the boundary between Mexico and Arizona.

On the United States side of the line in this town eggs are at one time made costly by the revision of

bridge with building paper, and launch it for a trip across the ocean; and yet all the officers and men seemed to enjoy it, and forgot about the danger, for they laughed and played jokes, and put on airs, and mashed the girls who came on board as though they had made up their minds that it was only a matter of time when the ships would sink, and they seemed to congratulate themselves that when they went down with the ships they would close them up hermetically so sharks and devil fish couldn't eat the crew, and they could float around for all time and eternity safe from the resurrection as they would be buried in a safety deposit box in the vault of a trust company.

Some of the jacks played it on me. They took me and wrapped an angora goat skin around me, with the hair outside, and tied a string to my feet, and run it out of the breach of the big 16 inch gun, and another string on my legs, and they pulled

They Pulled Me Through That Forty-Foot Gun to Swab It Out.

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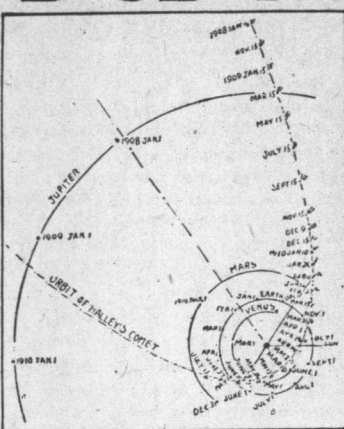
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HALLEY'S COMET DUE IN 1910



THE ORBIT OF HALLEY'S COMET. IT IS DUE IN 1910 AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS.

No one need be at all surprised if, two years hence, the nations of the world suddenly become a family of ardent skywatchers, for in 1910 the return of a certain periodic comet is promised, one lost to mortal eye since 1835. The recorded apparitions of this celestial object are endowed with a hoary antiquity, since they stretch back over eight centuries of the lives and deeds of puny man. At the date of its recurrence in 1682 it was observed and studied by Edmund Halley, a famous English astronomer and colleague of the illustrious Newton. After laborious research he reached the conclusion as the result of arithmetical calculations relating to its perturbations, that the comet was a thing in space identical with the cometary apparatus of 1531 and 1697. He framed a table of the motion of comets.

"In the making of which I have spared no labor that it might come forth perfect as a thing consecrated to posterity, and to last as long as the science of astronomy itself." By reason of the fact that the comet's reappearance once again to human vision was predicted by Halley for the end of 1758, or beginning of 1759—"I dare venture to foretell that it will return again in 1758," were his words—it is universally and properly known as Halley's comet. The discovery of this grand and novel discovery appertaining to the pedigree and identity of a comet (from which so much knowledge in cometary astronomy has since sprung) did himself live to scan the heavens on that memorable Christmas day in 1758 when, true to prediction, the comet appeared, visible to the naked eye, and seen in many lands.

Halley died at Greenwich in 1742 at the ripe age of 86, and was buried at Lee, in Kent. An inscription on his tombstone records that with his dearest wife there reposes by far the chief astronomer of his age, and adds these pregnant words: "That you may know, reader, what kind of, and how great a man he was, read the multifarious writings with which he has illustrated, adorned and amplified nearly all the arts and sciences."

The records of history provide us with a variety of details respecting the apparitions of the comet we are led to expect in 1910. In 1066 its appearance was considered to be an omen in the sky presaging England's conquest by William of Normandy. In 1456 it was a wonderful object, and covered nearly 70 degrees of the heavens, being visible for a month; moreover, it was for a time circumpolar, so that it could be seen above the northern horizon all night. When it came again in 1531 it found America discovered, printing invented, and the Reformation begun. As we already know it was foreseen for its cycle of 75 years. At its last return in 1835 it was first observed at Rome, on August 5, and afterwards was visible to the naked eye throughout October, possessing a tail from 20 degrees to 30 degrees long. It passed within 4,500,000 miles of the earth.

Regarding the 1910 apparition Prof. H. C. Wilson of Goodspeed observatory, thinks it possible that one with the aid of a great telescope and a photographic camera may catch sight of the expected visitor during the winter of 1908-9. That, indeed, we may even begin to search for it this present month. Almost certainly it may be found by September or October, 1909. It is to be noted, however, that it will then be only a small nebula, whatever tail it has being in a position directly behind it as seen from the earth.

The wonderful gaseous streamer which we call a comet's tail increases in luminosity as the comet approaches perihelion—that is to say, the point in its orbital travel when it is nearest the sun. This cometary matter is of varying but enormous length; indeed, we must think of comet's tails in terms of millions of miles. Comet's tail of 1855 reached a length of 60 degrees, and swept as a broad curved

A Taste for Necrology.

The east side school teacher had been telling her small class some facts concerning the life of Lincoln, and she was now asking the children to repeat to her such incidents of the story as they had understood and remembered. One little boy volunteered the information that President Lincoln was dead. Immediately a very small girl in the front row raised her hand and waved it energetically.

"Well, Sarah," asked the teacher, "what did you want to say?" "Please ma'am," exclaimed Sarah, "Mr. Lincoln in our street, he's dead, too!"

To Protect American Patents.

Arrangements will soon be perfected for the proper protection of American patents in Japan. At present the Japs appropriate anything they fancy.

Easy to Keep Eggs Fresh.

A Kentuckian Tried the Process and Found It a Success.

"There is a way to beat the storage commission merchant and the old hen herself: to have fresh eggs all the time, in fact," said Marshall Raymond, a lawyer of Paducah, Ky.

"This method may be as old as the Chinese—at least I learned it in China when I made a trip through the east more than a year ago. I happened to run into the American consul general at Shanghai while over there and when I left he presented me with what he said were eggs.

"Although they didn't look like eggs at all—looked, indeed, more like elongated mud pies with a stone stuffed in them—I faithfully brought them home, and at last opened one.

"Sure enough, there was an egg inside, and when it was broken it proved to be entirely fresh, although it may have been in that mud for a year or more. Well, with that knowledge of how the Chinamen keep eggs fresh I

sailed a whole barrel of them to see how they would do under American mud.

"I bought them at the time of year when they were cheap, not caring much whether they kept or not, but willing to try the experiment. I buried them under more than a foot and a half of earth and left them for several months.

"When winter came along and eggs went up to some enormous figure I just dug down into the earth and pulled out that barrel. Opened to the light of day the eggs looked as they had just been laid. They tasted, too, as if they had never been put away in the earth for many weeks."

Passed Male Competitors.

Three women were among the 89 applicants who recently took the examination for postal clerks at Buffalo. The highest grade, 89.70, was obtained by Miss Mary Pfann. All of the women applicants were successful, while only 25 per cent. of the men passed.



EDMUND HALLEY, F.R.S. ASTRONOMER WHO PREDICTED RETURN OF THE WONDERFUL COMET.

plume across the heavens, a superb and impressive spectacle. Astronomers tell us that the most probable explanation of a comet is that while the head consists of a more or less concentrated swarm of meteors enveloped in gas and dust, the tail is a current of gas and sometimes dust proceeding from the nucleus.

What if Mother Earth came into collision with one of these peripatetic objects from out the depths of space? More than 200 years ago Halley pondered over this very possibility. "May the great good God," said he, "avert a shock or contact of such great bodiless things be entirely destroyed and reduced into its ancient chaos." In 1819 (and again in 1881) Halley actually did move through a comet's tail. No one, however, experienced the least shiver of apprehension. Notwithstanding this, a quite different state of affairs is conceivable, so we are told. Prof. W. H. Pickering of Harvard College observatory, remarks in this connection that were the earth to strike the nucleus of a large comet, like that for instance of 1858 (Donati's), it would be impossible to foretell what might happen; in all likelihood the temperature and shock would be such that within several thousand miles of the point of contact there would be a cessation of organized life.

MISSED POINT OF INTEREST.

When Howells Failed to See Birthplace of Famous Man.

It was fit that on our way to Boston in England we should pause in passing through Cambridge. That was quite as we would have done at home, and I can only wish now that we had paused longer, though every moment that kept us from Boston would have been a loss. There it was all again, and all joy, the gray September 24 that we went this divine journey. My companion was that companionable archeologist who had guided my steps in search of the American origins in London, and who was now to help me follow the Pilgrim Fathers over the ground where they sojourned when they were only the Pilgrim Sons. At divers places on the way, after we left London, he pointed out some scene associated with American saints or heroes. We traversed the region that George William Curtiss people came from, hard by Roxburgh, and Eliot's, the apostle to the Indians; again we skirted the Ralph Waldo Emerson country, with its big market town of Bishop's Stortford; and beyond Ely, where we stopped for the cathedral and a luncheon, not unworthy of it, at the station, he startled me from a pleasant drowse I had fallen into in our railway carriage, with the cry: "There! That is where Capt. John Smith was born." "Where? Where?" I implored too late, looking round the compartment everywhere. "Back where those chickens were."

That was the nearest I came to seeing one of the most famous Virginian origins.—W. D. Howells, in Harper's Magazine.

The Square Deal.

A stout and opulent man dwelling in a suburban town had borne the expense of the annual Sunday school picnic, and the superintendent of the school, out of gratitude, asked the benefactor to address the children. The philanthropist was not much of a speaker, but he was a master hand at poker. When he found himself gazing into the expectant faces of a hundred and fifty children his embarrassment almost overcame him, but he managed to stammer out: "My dear children, what I want to impress upon you is that—er—er—it pays to be good. That er—er—a man who deals from the bottom of the pack is generally buried at the public expense."

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional treatment. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a running discharge from the ear, and the hearing is lost. When the tube is restored to its normal condition, the hearing is restored, and the inflammation can be taken out of the ear by the use of the Eustachian tube.

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SICK MAN WANTED CHANGE.

More Than Willing to Make Transfer with Physician.

A Syracuse business man who, besides being extremely active and ambitious, has much sense of humor, was taken sick with a slight attack of pneumonia. His physician, aware that it would be a task to keep his high-strung patient in bed, sought to impress on him the seriousness of the ailment and the necessity of absolute rest; all of which the sick man listened to in a bored manner. Nevertheless he consented to obey the doctor.

But this enforced inactivity rankled in him; and each succeeding day found the patient importuning the medical man attendant to allow him to get out to business. Then, disgusted, he would lie back to cast imprecations at the inexorable physician.

One morning the physician, after having been up all night on an important case, appeared at his patient's house at the usual hour. He had hardly stuck his head inside the door, however, before the man in the bed gave him a quick glance and sat up.

"Eh? ejaculated the patient. Then showing out his hand to grasp the doctor's satchel, he added: "Doc, I guess you'd better get into bed here and let me go out with the medicine bag."

CURE AT CITY MISSION.

Awful Case of Scabies—Body a Mass of Sores from Scratching—Her Tortures Yield to Cuticura.

"A young woman came to our city mission in a most awful condition physically. Our doctor examined her and told us that she had scabies (the itch), incontinent paresis, rheumatism, etc., brought on from exposure. Her poor body was a mass of sores from scratching and she was not able to retain solid food. We worked hard over her for seven weeks but we could see little improvement. One day I bought a cake of Cuticura Soap and a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent, and we bathed our patient well and gave her a full dose of the Resolvent. She slept better that night and the next day I got a box of Cuticura Ointment. In five weeks this young woman was able to look for a position, and she is now strong and well. Laura Jane Bates, 35 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., Mar. 11, 1907."

A PROGRESSIVE.



"Madame, dot girl of yours make great progress mit her mees. Before she was always two or three notes behind me, and now she is always two or three notes ahead."

The Square Deal.

A stout and opulent man dwelling in a suburban town had borne the expense of the annual Sunday school picnic, and the superintendent of the school, out of gratitude, asked the benefactor to address the children. The philanthropist was not much of a speaker, but he was a master hand at poker. When he found himself gazing into the expectant faces of a hundred and fifty children his embarrassment almost overcame him, but he managed to stammer out: "My dear children, what I want to impress upon you is that—er—er—it pays to be good. That er—er—a man who deals from the bottom of the pack is generally buried at the public expense."

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