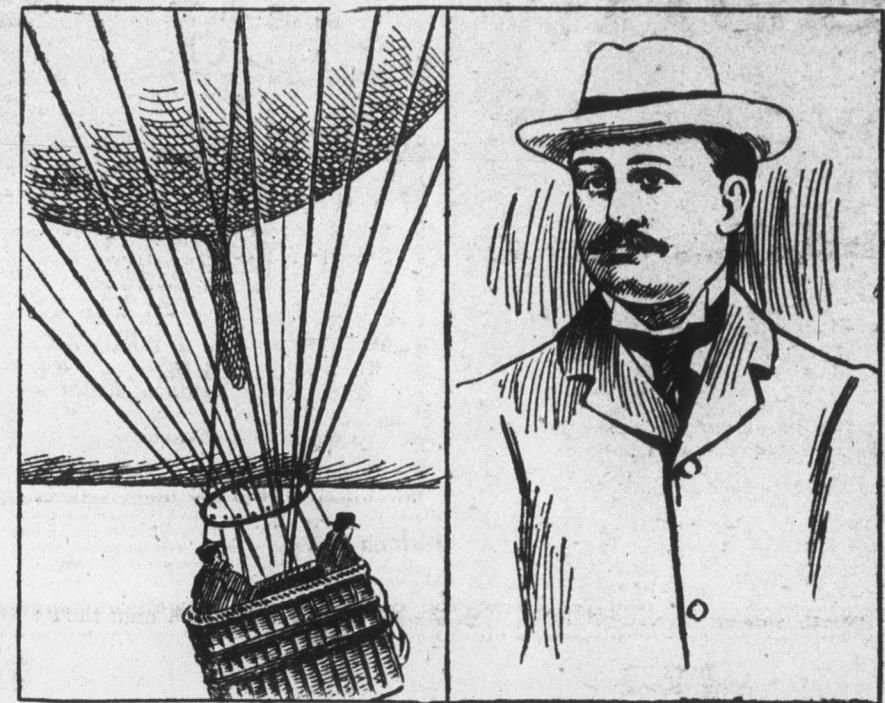


# Comte de la Vaulx and His Balloon.

The Comte de la Vaulx last week made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Mediterranean sea in a balloon under the escort of two French naval vessels, is one of the most daring aeronauts in Europe. This young nobleman is in love with his exciting pastime, but he has likewise a desire to help his country and to benefit mankind. Last year he attracted the attention of the world by making one of the longest balloon voyages on record. He and a companion crossed a large part of the continent of Europe in his balloon, the "Centaure." They traveled upward of 1,300 miles through the air and alighted none the worse for the journey. Vaulx's constant companion in his aerial flights is Castillon de St. Victor, who, like his daring friend, is a nobleman of an old and aristocratic family.

The new governor of Porto Rico was a classmate of the governor-general of the Philippines. Judge Taft and Judge Hunt were friends throughout their course at Yale and graduated together in 1878.



## Russia's Success in Manchuria.

A correspondent of the London Chronicle who recently traveled Manchuria gives some interesting details showing how complete is the Russification of that important Chinse province. Ten years ago, when he traveled over the same route, the dragon banner of Chin was still in the streets, over which Cossack troops dash with indifference of the long familiarity.

The significant feature of this sweeping change is the fact that the Manchus rather like it. The nomadic Tartars never had much sympathy for the fossilized conservatism and absurd ceremonialism that seem so dear to the Chinaman. Their independent spirits revolted against the abject kowtow demanded by every petty Chinese official.

yards. Russian gunboats command the river passes and Russian officials and they appreciate the difference. The Russians also are developing the mines and industries of the country with amazing energy, and have brought prosperity in their train. Tartars who formerly worked for \$1 a month can earn 50 cents, or even \$1, a day. The Russians do not trouble the natives with any sanitary or social reforms, and their ideas conflict with none of the ancient prejudices of the Mongols.

The net result is that the Manchus are rapidly reconciled to Muscovite rule. The silent methods of Russian conquest have availed to annex the new empire without a struggle. On the whole the change appears to be as beneficial to the Manchus as it is profitable to the Russians, for, when all is said, the Russian government is to be preferred to that of the Chinese Empire.

## An English Duster.

The ordinary feather duster in the hands of the housemaid has the faculty of stirring up the dust and causing it to alight elsewhere about the room instead of cleaning it up, as should be done. There are already in use pneumatic dusters, which will draw the dust into a tube connected with the brush, but it was impossible to use them for light work on account of the motor necessary to run the suction fan at the end of the hose. The illustration shows a duster which applies practically the same principle but with the suction arrangement inside the back of the brush. The mechanism is formed of front and back plates, with a flexible fabric joining them and an internal spring to hold them normally apart. The handle is attached to one plate and the brush to the other, with a valve at the rear of the brush. A slight pressure on the surface to be dusted closes the bellows-like plates and shuts the valve to prevent the outflow of air through the bristles, and as soon as the pressure is removed the opening of the bellows sucks air in through the bristles, drawing the dust with it. As the plates again close the air inside is filtered through a second valve, leaving the dust inside, where it remains until the duster is opened for cleaning.

Minnesota is called the "Bread and Butter State," and rightly, too, for the last year her mills turned out 26,630,500 barrels of flour and churned over 60,000,000 pounds of butter.

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A few months later, however, an act was passed "to increase the usefulness of the volunteers" in "great emergency." The militia, the yeomanry and the volunteers have hitherto been free from compulsory service abroad. According to tradition that was the duty of the regulars exclusively. The reserve and the auxiliary have been maintained as home defense, with no exception of being called into action. The yeomanry are an ancient corps of mounted men with an organization of their own.

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