

THE NOVEL VISTASCOPE.

Method that Makes it Possible to See Pictures Above Clouds. Inventor is William A. Eddy, of New York City—Shows Pictures of Distant Landscapes from Kites.

William A. Eddy, the kite flyer of New York, believes the aerial camera obscure or vistascope will soon be used to amuse crowds on public occasions or to make observations in time of war of the enemies' camp. Describing the working of the vistascope and the difficulties to be encountered, he says: "The name vistascope looks like a simple name, but it cost me a great deal of thought before I had coined it for my aerial camera obscure, which enables me to see pictures of the distant horizon while standing on the ground. It is a well-known fact that a camera obscure picture requires a darkened chamber, in which the excess of light will not efface the picture. Therefore, when I thought about the possibility of seeing a camera obscure picture at a considerable height in the air, suspended from the line leading up to my kite, it at first seemed impossible to see such a picture because of the excessive light from the sky.

I soon found by experiment that if I looked through a small aperture in a black disk held at a proportioned distance from an opera glass to exclude the sky glare the picture was discernible at a considerable distance. It was largely a problem of preventing the glare of the sky from dazzling the eye. The daylight between the eye and the picture does not interfere with one's power to discern the picture unless the direct light from the sky enters the eye in too large amount. "Probably the most important improvement to be made in the construction of the vistascope is to attach four mirrors instead of one to the square block into which the lens at the top of the vistascope is inserted. Then by pulling two strings leading down to the ground one mirror is thrown out of position and another into position, thus in turn throwing four different views into the vistascope instead of one. In this way the vistascope will cast upon the paraffin screen, through which the picture is seen, views covering a large part of the horizon line in four directions.

"I think the vistascope will be useful to amuse crowds on public occasions, to see distant objects at sea without going to the maphead and, to discern the white tents of an enemy encampment in time of war. With the use of large kites, such as hoisted Lieut. Wise into the air on January 21, 1897, on Governor's island, a vistascope could be sent aloft that would paint in the colors of nature and with all its beauty a picture of a landscape as large as the ceiling of a room 15 feet in diameter, because such an apparatus can be made very light."

HAS HELPED IRISH TRADE.

Royal Residence a Result of Visit of Duke and Duchess of York. The tour of the duke and duchess of York, which is being continued at Glasgow, Scotland, where they met with an enthusiastic reception, forms the subject of the heartiest congratulations in many quarters, particularly in Ireland, where the people, politicians and others admit it has done a good deal for Irish trade. The duchess, for instance, accepted a Galway fisher cloak from Father Dooley. The cloak was made at a factory which Father Dooley started in Galway, and already 100 of these cloaks have been ordered, either in white or crimson. The latter color is correct.

FAURE AND TALKING DOLLS.

President of France Presented them to Czar's Daughter on Recent Visit. Everything in connection with the visit of President Faure to Russia was thought out with diplomatic cleverness, and instances of it are leaking out every day. As an example of the tact employed it is pointed out that the French president took with him three speaking dolls, as presents to Grand Duchess Olga, the elder of the two daughters of the czar and czarina. The czar recently filled up a census paper in his own handwriting, giving his name and surname "Romanov," his social status as "czar of all the Russias," his profession as "master of all the land of the Russian empire," and giving as his accessory occupation that of "landed proprietor and agriculturist." For the czarina the czar wrote "czarina of all the Russias, mistress of all the land belonging to the Russian empire and patroness of all the houses of employment."

Obsolete Laws of Virginia.

In the statute books of Virginia, a century ago many laws may be found designed to silence idle tongues. One reads: "Whereas, oftentimes many people babbling women slander and scandalize their neighbors, for which their poor husbands are often brought into charge and vexations suits and cast in great damages, therefore, be it enacted that all women found guilty be sentenced to ducking."

MRS. BESANT ON X-RAYS.

Noted Physicist Says They May Be Applied to Medicine. Mrs. Annie Besant, the Theosophist leader, lectured the other night before a large audience at Steinway hall, Chicago, on the subject: "Clairvoyance, Mental Healing and Allied Powers: Their Relation to Theosophy and Science."

"Clairvoyance," said Mrs. Besant, "is a high grade of seeing, the mental perception of the ultra-violet rays. It is that that actual physical sight, though the vibrations producing it are the same as those that do produce sight. It is the development of a special center in the brain and is in fact an X ray produced by mental instead of mechanical powers. All persons have this power of clairvoyance, though it is not as well developed in some as in others. Mesmerism develops the clairvoyant faculty. A person mesmerized has the complete clairvoyant faculty. A person under such control can diagnose a disease, for the reason that the power enables the seeing of the exact condition of the organs of the body hid from ordinary view. This is a power which the science of medicine already recognizes. It is regularly employed in many of the hospitals of Paris. "Mental healing, which is separate from this faculty of diagnosis, is of three kinds and presupposes three divisions of disease, the first where some substance not in harmony with the body must be removed; the second where there is lack of harmony in the vibrations of the body itself, and the third where there is actual lesion of tissues. The second is the ordinary class and in it cures are frequent; in the other two classes the difficulty of cure is greater."

Having admitted the existence of mental healing, the lecturer proceeded to point out its dangers in use. "If a mental healer," she said, "be not pure in mind and thought the transfer of evils as well as of good will be made to the patient. Here is the danger. The bodily temporary ill may be substituted by lasting mental injury. Theosophy realizes the power of mental healing and does not challenge the facts, but it does say that the higher the power utilized the cleaner must be the hand brought to the task."

MERCHANT MARINE STATISTICS.

For the Last Time in Our History Sailing Vessels Exceed Steamers. The documented merchant marine of the United States on June 30 last numbered 22,633 vessels of 4,769,020 gross tons, an increase of 65,400 tons over June 30, 1896, and a decrease of 275 vessels. The tonnage of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts is 2,647,796, a decrease of 20,000 tons. The tonnage of the great lakes is 1,410,103 tons, an increase of 86,000 tons. Pacific coast tonnage was virtually stationary. American sailing tonnage has exceeded steam tonnage for the last time in our history, the steam tonnage on June 30 amounting to 6,599 vessels of 2,358,558 gross tons, an increase of 51,000 tons over the previous year. Nearly all of this increase is on the great lakes, where steam vessels number 1,775, of 977,235 tons. New York state has the largest merchant marine, 4,857 vessels of 1,331,743 gross tons, an increase of 27,000 tons. The state exempts from taxation its tonnage in foreign trade. Michigan ranks second, with 1,132 vessels of 477,602 tons. Ohio's vessels are the largest and most modern, 553, of 390,052 tons. Maine's fleet numbers 1,871 vessels of 299,592 tons. Steel and iron vessels number 1,023, of 1,907,223 tons, an increase of 117,000 tons. During the year 68 iron or steel vessels of 124,395 tons were built and documented. Vessels registered for foreign trade number 1,230 of 808,584 tons.

PULLMAN ITS PROTOTYPE.

Robert Estate Builds the Town of Overton in California. In the last three weeks there has sprung into existence up in Sierra county, Cal., close to the Nevada line, another such town as Pullman—a city built upon and around a great industry. Overton is the name of the town, a compliment to Capt. James B. Overton, who will be the magnate of the mountain municipality. The town is the result of the proposed exploitation of the immense timber tracts in the vicinity, which were acquired by the late Walter S. Hobart during the last 30 years of his life and subsequently by his executors. They comprise no less than 70,000 acres of white, yellow and sugar pine and fir—all a virgin forest. The new town is a model of its kind in addition to its industrial importance. Every foot of land is owned by the Hobart estate. Not a saloon or drinking place will be permitted to open its doors in Overton. Broad, well-sewered streets have been laid out, running at right angles. The water system is ample and complete, and many buildings have been completed or are under way. The town will have a population of about 1,000, and all the men will be employed in the lumber woods and mills.

Average Walking Pace.

The average walking pace of a healthy man or woman is said to be 78 steps a minute. Living in London and New York. It is said that living is nearly 40 per cent cheaper in London than in New York.

FIND A CAVE IN TEXAS.

Mysterious and Unexplored Caverns Discovered Near Marble Falls. The finding of a revolver at the mouth of a cave in the Burnam pasture, near Marble Falls, Tex., has given rise to much speculation. The peculiar weapon was discovered some months ago by Mr. Henderson, a tenant, but he kept the secret until recently. It is of foreign make, containing a mammoth cylinder and father a short barrel. It is of 38-caliber, and when found contained five loaded cartridges and seven empty shells. The cartridges were fired by means of a needle protruding from near the rim, upon which the flat surface of the hammer fell. The handle to the revolver consists at present of only an iron framework, the wood part having long since decayed. The barrel and cylinder are eaten some with rust, and show a surprising state of preservation. On a metallic plate, or mounting, over the cylinder is the inscription "Fusnet Bruxelles." It was found lying on a rock very close to the mouth of a huge limestone cave.

This cave is at present the center of attraction for relic hunters, but as yet no one has succeeded in exploring it. Superstition keeps many out, but the chief obstacle now is choke damp. The explored part consists of a rectangular opening, from which extend two narrow chambers of unknown lengths, one extending north, the other south. L. E. Ponton, one of an exploring party just returned from there, was let down to the bottom on a rope. The candle refusing to burn on account of the poisonous gas, he signaled to the large horizontal passages leading away from the bottom of the aperture. It is understood that others will make still more daring efforts to find the buried treasure, human skeletons or the mysterious glittering or grim secrets the cavern may have to disclose. Experts say the revolver has apparently lain there half a century or thereabouts and old settlers tell legends of a den of Mexican bandits which seems to correspond closely with this place.

WHAT MEXICANS EXPECT TO DO.

Think They Can Profitably Sell Flour and Shoes to This Country. It is not believed that the president of Mexico will in his message announce any radical change in the currency policy. The manufacturing and agricultural industries are unanimously in favor of the silver standard. It is believed that at the present price of wheat at City of Mexico wheat flour can be shipped to the United States at a profit, as the grain is grown and flour made on the silver basis. Wheat in some parts of the country is selling at prices equal to 50 to 60 cents gold per American standard bushel. Various lines of manufactures can be exported to the United States, among them some grades of hats and leather work. It is believed that a method of tanning leather has been discovered equal to the best American process, and if this proves correct Mexican leather can be manufactured in modern shoe factories and the product exported at a good profit. Manufacturers are looking into the matter of exportation to gold-using countries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.

Admiral Stead's Squadron Heard From by Carrier Pigeon. A message by carrier pigeon was received from Admiral Stead, on the flagship New York of the North Atlantic squadron, at the Norfolk navy yard at eight o'clock the other morning. A copy was immediately telegraphed to Acting Secretary Roosevelt at the navy department. The message was as follows: "6:30 a. m.—Position 30 degrees east northeast, Cape Charles lightship, distant 45 miles. The squadron, consisting of the New York, Brooklyn, Iowa, Massachusetts, Indiana, Texas and Maine, is approaching the southern drill ground, and will probably anchor about eight o'clock. Will dispatch anchor later. Puritan in sight." At the navy department this is said to be the first instance in our naval history of the successful use of carrier pigeons as a means of communication between naval vessels afloat and the shore stations.

TO GROW THE CAMPHOR TREE.

Agricultural Department to Introduce It in Florida. Secretary Wilson, of the agricultural department, said the other day that arrangements would be made by the department for the thorough introduction of the camphor tree in Florida. He added that there was no doubt that the tree would be a success there, as it had already passed the experimental stage. The department will give all possible encouragement in the way of supplying seed and young trees, and Mr. Wilson predicts that the country will soon be producing a sufficient supply of camphor for its own needs. He also announced his purpose to adopt a policy for the encouragement of the growth of the English walnut, the tree of which will, he thinks, do well anywhere south of Washington.

"No Fringe."

An advertisement in an English paper reads: "Wanted, place as house parlor maid; 24; good waiting and needlework; neat; no fringe; abstainer." The "no fringe" means that the maid is not a wearer of curled bangs.

Bullets.

Bullets, partially hollow, which expand in the wound, are sometimes used for shooting deer, while hollow-headed explosive bullets are in request for dispatching tigers, elephants and other big game. Umbrella Insurance. An umbrella insurance company has just been organized in London. It will insure canes as well as umbrellas.

Bulletin Financier.

Mercredi, 13 octobre 1897.

Table with financial data including 'COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS' and 'MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE'.

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with financial data including 'MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE' and 'MARCHÉ DE LA BOURSE'.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mercredi, 13 octobre 1897.

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VALEURS ET BOURSES.

Paris, 13 octobre 1897.

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