

Blondin and Sam Patch Combined.

When Signor Henry Balleni, the young Italian funambulist, issued his card to the public a few weeks since, and announced that he would walk on a tight-rope over the river at Niagara Falls, and then jump off his rope into the river, people made up their minds that there was some trick about it, and determined that any man who would talk of leaping from a tight-rope into the Niagara River must be insane. Time, however, sets things right, and time in this instance proved the Signor to be no humbug.

Yesterday afternoon was the time appointed by Balleni for his first attempt in the performance of the daring feat, and as the time approached the curiosity of everybody in the village—young and old—became thoroughly aroused. Hundreds of people congregated about the place, and the cars which left this city yesterday for the Falls were well filled with anxious spectators, all on their way to see the man who "was going to break his neck."

Upon arriving at the Falls a few minutes, walk brought the sight-seers into Prospect Park, in which place one end of the rope was fastened. This rope, as we stated in a previous issue, is fifteen hundred feet long and over two inches in diameter. Long before the Signor made his appearance both the banks on the American and Canadian sides were black with people. While the spectators were waiting for Balleni to come to time, they amused themselves by laying small wagers that he would back out, kill himself, etc., etc.

At precisely six minutes after four o'clock, railroad time, a form clad in white was seen to proceed from the crowd on the Canada side. Instantly the people on the American grounds set up a cry, "There he is," and the excitement became almost intense. The man in white quickly jumped upon the rope, and was seen to venture out a few feet and then turn back again. This, of course, created additional commotion among the spectators, for they thought the Signor's courage had failed him. This movement on the part of the Signor was soon explained, however.

It was found that the rope had not been drawn tight enough, and men were immediately dispatched to fix it, which was done, and at fifteen minutes to five o'clock the start was made. All action and conversation was now suspended, and everyone's attention was given to the man on the rope, who marched along, apparently with the greatest ease, to the music of the "Drummondville" band, which was stationed in front of the Clifton House. At six minutes to five o'clock Balleni reached the middle of the rope, where he halted to return his salutation to the tremendous applause which greeted his exploit. After resting himself for a brief period the Signor again started on his tramp.

This was the only stop made, and ten minutes after five o'clock the funambulist, looking as pale as death, had reached the American end of his rope, he having made the trip in twenty-five minutes. He complained of feeling very tired, in consequence, he said, of the extra exertion in walking, caused by the slackness of the rope. After another rest of thirteen minutes, Signor Balleni again took his pole in hand, and was off to the middle of the rope, to make the great leap.

It took him just six minutes to arrive at the centre of the rope, and when thereat once began making preparations to jump. While thus engaged he lost his balancing-pole, which fell into the water and sank. A cord six feet long, made of rubber bands, was attached to the rope at a point just one hundred and fifteen feet above the surface of the water. Balleni caught hold of one end of the elastic cord before the spectators thought he was ready to go. He descended like an arrow, and the recovering snap of the rubber was almost simultaneous with the loud splash of his fall in the water.

Is he alive? were the words breathlessly spoken by the crowd of excited people, as they looked nervously over the banks into the water below. To be sure he was, and no sooner was the splash heard than the head of the Signor came peeping out of the water, and he struck out vigorously and heartily toward the boat which was there to pick him up. He was quickly haul-

ed into the little craft, carefully wrapped up with heavy blankets, and rowed to the shore.

The Signor intends to give performances of this character every Monday and Wednesday during the season, and next Wednesday he will walk blindfolded, wheel a barrow over the rope, besides performing on a trapeze, etc. He is worth seeing, and doubtless will draw large assemblages during his stay.—*Buffalo Express.*

"THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SAINTS."

—It is now perhaps three years since, one Sunday afternoon, Mr. —, then a leading Mormon of Salt Lake City, spent as many as four hours in the company of the writer, in the parlor of a hotel in that place, giving his views and answering rigid, direct and cross-examinations in regard to Brigham Young and the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In that conversation Mr. — pronounced Brigham Young the prophet and revelator, one of the best of men, honest and sincere in all his purposes, functions and labors. Mr. — avowed his belief in polygamy as a Christian and wise ordinance of the Almighty, and was then living with three wives, to one of whom he was kind enough to introduce us. Mr. — praised Joseph Smith and his "system" as he called it, as the best religious system the world ever saw, and with equal fervor, Brigham Young, his God-appointed successor. He spoke of the Mormon religion with the zeal of a new convert, and extinguished all objections with the vigorous assertion of the cardinal tenets and arguments of the Mormon Faith. George Q. Cannon himself never appeared so zealous as — appeared then as a believer and promoter of Mormon doctrines and practices.

Mr. — now appears to us with his compliments written in the fly-leaf of a highly ornamented and handsomely-printed volume of more than 700 pages, "by one who had the fellowship of the Church for over a quarter of a century, * * * enjoyed familiar intimacy with the apostles and leading elders, and for a dozen years had daily intercourse with Brigham Young." We thank him for the favor. The book is attractive in its style and arrangement, and proves the literary ability of its author, as well as the erratic and elastic cast of morals and mind of Mr. —.

The object of this book is to write down what its author labored more than twenty years to talk and write up.

It is not our intention to review this book in any detail. The Introduction says its author has "simply outgrown the past." He says the change in his views "has not been the work of a day or a year." To those who know Mr. — well, there may be some room for doubt here. It was only a few months after he waxed eloquent in defending Brigham Young and the Mormon Faith in our hearing that he came to the *Herald* Office to tell us that the whole Mormon scheme was a delusion and a cheat. He had been deluded all his life. Doubtless Mr. — was honest on both occasions, and we only remark the brief interval in which he made such a grand stride to show that the author of the book before us is probably mistaken when he declares that he was long in undergoing this remarkable change. It is probable he would have been still longer in bringing it about if Brigham Young had not sent him to Ogden with that unfortunate newspaper, and then declined to make good the pecuniary losses of his then most obedient servant.

Of the actual merits of the book by Mr. — as at once a history and a judgment of the Mormon Religion, Work, and People, we do not now undertake to speak, but it may well be doubted whether it would be possible for such a man to tell the truth about a people whose confidence he so long enjoyed and so suddenly betrayed.—*Omaha Herald*, Aug. 21.

Possibly the failure of the gentleman above indicated to obtain a certain young lady as his fourth wife had something also to do with his sudden and remarkable change of religious opinion.

—The Minneapolis *Tribune* becomes serious. "Oakes Ames" will reveal 5,745,254. And yet he died of disappointment and chagrin. Happier is honesty in a hickory shirt and an oilcloth cap than dissimulation in a plug hat and a shirt that buttons behind."

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