THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, - - - November 7, 1870.

BALLOONING--ITS HISTORY.

As Ballooning is becoming of such importance in the Franco-Prussian campaign, we lay before our readers a few facts concerning balloons, thinking they will prove interesting at the present time. Balloon is derived from the French "bollon," a foot ball, and we presume it was so called from its shape, approaching somewhat to an enormous foot-ball. As may be inferred from the fact, that the word is of French origin, to the French nation belongs the honor of its invention. And not only this, for to a Frenchman belongs first, the earliest treatise on Aerostation, by Galien, of Avignon, who wrote in 1755; and secondly, the application of the science to navigating the air, the first balloon being made by Montgolfier, of Lyons, in 1783. The first balloon was made of coarse linen lined with paper, but as it was sent up by heated air, as this escaped it returned to the surface. After some further experiments, a balloon was sent up from Paris on the 21st of November in that year, filled with hydrogen gas, the aeronauts being M. Rosier and the Marquis D'Arlandes. This new machine was seventy feet high, and 139 in circumference at the middle. It ascended 3,000 feet above the surface, and traveled about five miles and a half in twenty minutes. The success of that trip induced further feats of daring, and in 1785, M. Rosier and M Romain perished in an attempted journey from Boulogne to England, by the ignition of the balloon. Notwithstanding this catastrophe, the French persevered, and a balloon was used by that nation previous to the battle of Fleurus, fought June 17, 1784, when from having obtained a correct knowledge of the situation of the forces of the allies, the French obtained a decisive victory. Balloons were introduced into England in 1784, and in 1785, Blanchard and Dr. Jefferies voyaged from Dover to Calais. The first ascent in America, was made in New York in 1796, the aeronaut being Dr Jefferies before referred to. The longest voyage on record was made by Messrs. Holland, Mason and Green in 1836, when they sailed in the air from London to Wellburg in Nassau, a distance of 500 miles, in 18 hours. Upon the introduction of gas, as a saving of expense, this, or as it is technically called, carbureked hydrogen, was used to inflate the machines, and has continued to be the most frequently used article till the present time. Many improvements have been made, and suggested in aerial navigation, which will doubtless one day be made so perfect as to constitute an ordinary mode of transit, and Californians are familiar with the latest attempt in that direction.—*Ex.*

THE landlady of an inn near Metz pretends to recognize in Prince Frederick Chrles a tourist, who, a few years ago made a pedertrian excursion through the Vosges and along the Moselle. She then took him for a medical man, as he pretended to be a lover of botany, who, with an old gentleman, extremely like the portraits of Gen. Moltke, explored in search of fine specimens of Alsatian flora every pass and forest in the department. They looked like military men, indeed, she thought so at the time, but this did not seem incompatible with their alleged profession, for every Prussian she knew was a soldier. The young gentleman inncocently picked flowers, and the old one had a passion for geology, and increased his knowledge of the science by scanning every wall and cutting. The nephew most conscientiously walked through the passes and over the hills, and the uncle took drives in various directions. They were in the neighborhood more than a month, says this worthy woman, and then paid their bills and went away quietly, but she swears that she recognized the Prince when he came up with his army to fight Bazaine.

OINTMENT.—An excellent ointment for chapped lips and hands, for dry sores, for burns, for sore nose, for softening corns on the feet, for piles, in short for any diseased surface where a soft protecting coating is required is what is called "Glycerine Ointment" This can be readily prepared by any druggist, by simply rubbing into what is called "cold cream" a little glycerine—just enough to give it a soft, lard-like consistency. More glycerine can be added in winter than in summer. A drop or two of oil of roses stirred in, gives it an agreeable perfume. It should be kept well corked, and be made fresh every month or two. When the hands become chapped or roughened by cold weather, smear them with a little of the glycerine ointment at night, rubbing it in, and then wipe off all that will soil the clothing, and the skin will usually be soft and pliable in the morning.

A HEROIC ACTION.—Swinemunde, Prussia, is a fortified place, and within the limits of the fort immense quantities of ammuniton are now manufactured. The process of making shells is finished by the sealing of each with boiling pitch. Each shell must be held, singly, over the vessel of pitch while another man seals it. As might be expected, the operation is a ticklish one, as all about are scattered piles of shells sealed or otherwise. Recently a man who was holding a shell let it fall into the vessel of boiling pitch, when the Chief of Ordnance, who was standing near superintending the operations, without losing one moment, plunged both hands into the hot stuff, and seizing the shell, flung it into a tub of cold water standing near. He fainted immediately afterward from pain. But had he hesitated a second or so there would have been a most disastrous explosion and conflagration, which the heroism of a single individual alone was capable of averting.

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