

the middle of the body, in which the person who wishes to make an ascension sits. Then there are pedals exactly similar to those used on bicycles on either side of the body. That is the bicycle portion of the machine. Over the head of the man is a huge fan, which is worked by strings connected with the pedals. This fan, by means of a series of cogs, goes round at a terrible rate of speed when the pedals are worked. The result is that the machine, man and all, rises slowly into the air. They can stop at any time, rise slowly or rapidly, as they choose, go backward or forward, and descend when they please. There are also a series of fans under and on the sides of the machine which will propel the pegasipede after the top fan has raised it into the air. These fans work rapidly or slowly, as the operator chooses, and the inventor is positive that they will do the work he is bullying them to do. The whole machine will be worked by the man in the saddle. In front of him he will have a switchboard and a series of levers. He can connect or disconnect any of the fans from the pedal strings by means of these levers. Accidents in midair, he declares, will be impossible. There is a safety attachment by means of which a parachute springs into play in case of accident and the machine then falls slowly to the ground.

Perhaps the problem of aerial navigation will be solved in our day, perhaps not. It sounds a little harsh, in the light of the great achievements recently perfected, to say that it is unsolvable, but we fully believe we are as far from it now as when Mongolfier launched his first balloon; perhaps, in a practical sense, we are even farther.

VICTORIA'S OPPORTUNITY.

The statement has found its way into the published news reports and apparently with semi-official sanction, that on the occasion of the royal marriage in London next month Queen Victoria will liberate the Irish-Americans confined for years in English dungeons. It is to be hoped this is true; her majesty has much to gain and by no possibility could she lose anything by such action. In saying this we have no reference to the rewards or punishments of political life or the achievements or failures of pronounced partisanship, but solely and altogether to that higher and greater impulse which proceeds from the heart and appeals to the soul.

In some respects Great Britain stands exactly where it did a century ago, and most conspicuously is this the case regarding its treatment of many of its political offenders. Its advanced and civilized Christianity has driven anti-Semitic bigotry well-nigh out of existence while permitting anti-Celtic prejudice to vegetate undisturbed in the soil where it has been growing and taking deeper root as time advanced for a dozen generations. It is this that has made Gladstone's task such a monstrous one. He dared not press or even initiate measures for the relief of the prisoners, because to do so would be, at the present critical juncture of affairs, to prejudice the cause now so

near a successful outcome and in which the prisoners themselves must be as deeply concerned as they are in their personal situation. Queen Victoria can release them and escape censure; and she could not characterize the sunset of her brilliant life with an act more becoming to her as a woman, more gracious and just and Christianlike as a sovereign.

On Decoration day a mass meeting of citizens under the auspices of the amnesty association was held in San Francisco, at which many things appropriate to the occasion were said and done. The speeches were in a tone of moderation, yet animated and expressive. That of the chairman, Frank McCoppin, was particularly able. He deemed it fitting that on such a day, when we were commemorating the valiant dead, something should be done for the living dead in English prisons. Further on he said:

It is the intention, I believe, to ask President Cleveland to inquire into the trial, conviction and imprisonment of those prisoners who were found guilty of offenses against the English political laws. Because they were born in Ireland is no reason why we should relinquish our care of them. They are said to be guilty of crimes. Often the political action of Irishmen are considered as crimes by Englishmen, and the only crime these men have been guilty of is the crime of patriotism. This will probably be the last meeting called in this city in the interests of Ireland. In a short time there will be no reason for Irishmen to hold meetings for Irishmen, for I assume that they will soon have a government of their own and be no longer mendicants before the world.

Congressman Maguire made a more lengthy and decidedly eloquent speech, saying among other things:

We are not here to glorify their deeds in the cause of Irish liberty, because the fight is being won on constitutional grounds. The cause for which they suffer is the cause of the Irish race. It is a cause which has commanded the admiration of the civilized world and has at last been vindicated by the better judgment of the English people. It is a cause to which Gladstone, Donnelly, Grattan, Parnell, Davitt and other great Irishmen and Englishmen have loaned the luster of their genius to accomplish the end which is fast approaching. But the glory of the victory will be dimmed if we leave those patriots to suffer in English dungeons. It is a harsh commentary on the English prison system that three out of twenty-one political prisoners have died and three have lost their reason as a result of their imprisonment. Into such a condition the United States government has a right to inquire.

It is hoped and believed that the necessity of an inquiry by this government will be obviated by the action of the queen herself, as previously stated. Surely it would detract in no respect from the general joy which it is expected will pervade Britannia on the occasion of the union of Duke George and Princess May to know that the prison doors of men whose offenses were more political than criminal have been thrown open and that they once more breathe the air of freedom.

It is quite a jump from cold rains, snow and frosty nights to sweltering midsummer; but the meteorological trick has been done.

NEWSPAPERS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* notes as an indication of the utter collapse of business on the Isthmus of Panama the sheriff's sale of the Panama *Star and Herald*. It says this journal for several years derived an enormous revenue in subsidies from the Panama Canal company, besides the legitimate advertising which came to it. While the canal boom lasted it coined money, and even in the days of the decline it had a royal time. When canal work ceased, however, the ruin of business on the Isthmus was total, and for many months the paper has been filled with stereotype matter sent on from New York. The history of this journal during its flush days would make a very readable article. The chief difficulty of its manager was to get competent newspaper men to remain at Panama. The deadly fever was a menace that outweighed all the advantages of a handsome salary and liberal allowances for expenses. One New Yorker, who was lured by the golden bait offered, reached Panama only to learn that his predecessor had succumbed the night before to a sudden attack of fever. The new man's nerves were so badly shaken that he took the steamer for San Francisco, after spending less than twelve hours in the place that proved so deadly to an army of adventurous spirits.

It is a settled fact that the newspaper business has a fascination which everybody cannot resist, no matter what the drawbacks. Some of the papers we receive from nearer home look as if the ones who conduct them were engaged at logging in the canyon also and got the two occupations mixed up now and then as it were.

TINTIC MOLLY MAGUIRES.

There are a good many idle men at Eureka, Tintic mining district, and their idleness is not as a rule the result of unwillingness to work. Some, perhaps a majority, of these men have families to support and while doubtless most of them could and would face dangers and hardships without complaint when only themselves were exposed to them, it is a vastly different matter when they are daily confronted with women and children in want of the necessities of life. These things naturally make them desperate as they naturally would others. To this extent they are entitled to sympathy, while the Christian feeling pervading the community would scarcely permit them to go unfed or unclothed; but it is a hard thing to have to receive charity, or sympathy either, when the recipients are not only able but willing to work, and thus is the situation constantly aggravated.

There are two ways in which men grapple with a desperate situation—a lawful and an unlawful way. When the latter is resorted to the sympathy previously felt diminishes in proportion to the turpitude exhibited and is apt to become extinct altogether. Furthermore, it sometimes brings those who are innocent under the ban of condemnation if not punishment and is