## A SCIENTIFIC BALLOON.

BY W. L. ALDEN.

(Copyright, 18%, by W. L. Alden.)

"You're quite right, sir," remarked the "What do you say to that?" says Van Wagener to Montgomery.

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"What do you say to that?" says Van wou've got any more portable teeth beave you've got any more portable teeth beave 'em over. We must get rid of every ounce 'em over. We must get rid of every ounce 'em over. colonel in reply to young Thompson's question, "I have been in some pretty tight netive life without finding himself occasionally in middling tight places. But
wherever I am so long as I am on solid
ground I generally calculate to be able to
work myself out of almost any difficulty.

It's when you put me aboard a ship or in a
balloon that I begin to lose my grip. Speaking of balloons, I'll tell you right here, if ing of balloons, I'll tell you right here, if you don't mind, of a little adventure I had-

the only time that I ever was fool enough to trust myself in a balloon. "One day there came to my house in New Berlinopolisville a fellow with a letter of introduction from Sam Kendall, who used to be ringmaster of the 'Hail! Columbia'

shaft professionally never thinks of giving himself any such title. Sam's letter didn't say that Prof. Montgomery was a billionist and so I supposed he was a regular college professor who had caught the look of a righting man through teaching foot ball and other athletic games to the students; and so, when he accepted my invitation to dinner, I just sent over for my old friend, Prof. Van Wagener, the great electric sharp, to come and Join us, thinking that the two professors would be good company for one another.
"Now it happened that Van Wagener, who

was always interested in everything that was scientific and useless, was mightily interested in ballooning, and instead of being disappointed when he found out that Mont-gemety was an ignorant chap who couldn't speak ten words of good grammar he was just delighted to find that the man was a practical balloonist. The two got to work and talked balloon till you couldn't rest. Van Wagener said that it was his belief that a balloon properly constructed ought to be able to stay in the air for a month or a year at a time, and when Montgomery said that the thing wasn't possible Van Wagener wanted him to explain why, "'It's plain enough,' says the balloonist.

'When the balloon rises and gets into thinner air, the gas expands and escapes through the mouth of the bag. Even if it didn't escape It would always leak out through the silk or cotton, or whatever stuff the bag is made of That's the reason why you can't stay up only a few hours. No man ain't never been able to invent a balloon that won't lose gas, and nobody ever will invent one, for it can't

"'If I make a balloon that can't possibly leak a single cubic inch of gas, will you make an ascension with me, and attend to the practical management of the machine?"

asked Van Wagener.
"'You can just bet I will,' says the other chap. 'Why, man, there'd be an everlasting fortune in such a balloon. But what's the use of talking about it? The thing can't be done, as you'll find out when you set down to invent your gas-tight balloon."
"Well, the upshot of it was that Van

he had to do was to light a big spirit lamp that would heat the gas in the globe and make it expand. When it had expanded to a certain point, it would flow over into the certain point, it would flow over into the rubber bag, and the lifting capacity of the machine would be increased about one-third. Of course the balloon would rise, and when the balloonist writed to descend again, all he would have to do, according to Van Wagener, would be to put out his lamp and let the globe cool off. It was a mighty ingenious contrivance, and Montgomery, who began by having no sort of confidence in Van Wagener, ended by thinking that per-

haps he had really invented a balloon that could be made to stay up forever. "Nothing would satisfy Van Wagener but that I should go along on the trial trip of the balloon. I wasn't in the least anxious to do it, for solid ground was always good enough for me, but Van Wagener, being an old friend, and liable, like all scientific chaps. o get himself into difficulties when he didn't have some practical man to look after him, I finally agreed to go. The ascension was to be made from my back yard, where we



DROPPED MY FALSE TEETH OVERBOARD."

would be out of sight of Mrs. Van Wagener and the general public. The machine was carted over to my house after dark, and the next morning, when we were ready to start. no one knew anything of our intention except my colored man, and he knew how to hold his tengue.

"I was surprised to find that Van Wagener had calculated the lifting power of the balloon so closely that he knew to an ounce just what weight she must carry in order to float, as he meant her to, a couple of hundred feet above the earth, and stay right there. Consequently all three of us had to be weighed, and we were a good two hours in reducing the weight of things in our pockets, or of increasing, our weight with bits of gravel until at last Van Wagener was satis-fied that the whole weight of the machine, with us and our matrix numents and trans in this would be exactly what he calculated that it ought to be. Then came the filling of the globe with pure hydrogen made on the spot, and caraquently it was 5 o'clock in the afternoon before everything was ready and we made our start. The balloon rose slow and gently, and when it was up to about the height of the steeple of the Roman Catholic church it gradually cased rising and hung there perfectly quiet. There wasn't a breath of air stirring, so the thing had no sort of drift, and promised to stay just where she was until the wind should rise. The professor was mightily pleased, and to my mind Montgomery ought to have been satisfied that the limitation was all right, but he seemed a little uneasy, so I asked him what fault he had to find with the balloon.

"We're all right so far, says he, but the difficulty is going to be in keeping our weight just up to the standard and no more. I'll have more confidence in this yer thing when the trial trip is over, and nobedy killed. There's one thing that I don't exactly see, and that is how we are going to descend.

"I declare I forgot to provide for that," says he and should says van Wagener. 'However, it will be time enough to think of that when we get through ascending.'

"He was as delighted as a child, and about as capable of locking hint the future. With that he lights his spirit lamp, and presently with us and our instruments and traps in it, would be exactly what he calculated that it ought to be. Then came the filling of the globs with pure hydrogen made on the spot, and consequently it was 5 o'clock in the globe with pure hydrogen made on the afternoon before everything was ready and we made our start. The balloon rose slow and gently, and when it was up to about the height of the steeple of the Roman Catholic church it gradually ceased rising and hung there perfectly quiet. There wasn't a breath of air stirring, so the thing had no sort of drift, and promised to stay just where she drift, and promised to stay

tion, "I have been in some pretty tight places in the course of my life. A man can't fool along through fifty or sixty years of no more this afternoon," and he blows out the

and there ain't no earthly way of pulling

"Van Wegener and I both looked over the van wegener and I both looked over the side, and we could see that we were about twice as high in the air as we had been. Just then the machine took a fresh start, and we could feel her going up at a pretty good pace.

"What's the matter, now? says I.
"Matter enough, says Van Wagener, Tve and proprietor of the concern. Sam was one of the best of fellows and consequently any friend of his was welcome at my house. Prof. Montgomery, which was the name of Sam's friend, was a small, determined looking chap that at first sight I would have taken for a lightweight feeting man, but as

ward a good-sized lake.

"If we can only stay up till we're over that lake we shall be all right," said Montgomery, "Colonel, just heave overboard everything there is in this car."

"With that he seized whatever he could lay his hands on, and I did the same, and for a minute or two it just rained instruments and things over that section of the country.

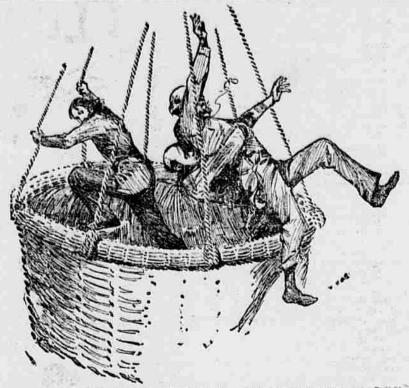
mile high, and it drifted us westward to-ward a good-sized lake.

of weight if we want to reach that lake."
"Well, we reduced our clothing down to pretty low point, and Van Wagener went so far as to throw over his glass eye, he having no more teeth ready for discharging. Then we sat down and waited to see what the end would be.

"We were perhaps a quarter of a mile high when we came over the lake, and the moment we got where the water looked as if it might be fairly deep Montgomery caught the pro-fessor in his arms and threw him over, with out waiting to ask him if he was ready to go. Then Montgomery yelled to me to jump, and we all three left that balloon so suddenly that we all struck the water at pretty near

the same time. "I went down to the bottom, which was as I judged, about fifty miles from the though I afterward heard that the lake was nowhere over forty feet deep.

ing chap that at first sight I would have taken for a lightweight fighting man, but, as it appeared, he was a balloonist. It's a sitigular thing that every man who goes up in a balloon professionally calls himself a professor, while a miner who goes down a shaft professionally never thinks of giving



fortune in such a balloon. But what's the use of talking about it? The thing can't be done, as you'll find out when you set down to invent your gas-tight balloon.'

"Well, the upshot of it was that Van Wagener set to work and made a balloon that even I could see was going to meet his requirement. The main balloon was a big globe of aluminum, and on top of that was a bag of thick rubber, connected with the globe by an automatic valve. The idea was that the globe would hold just enough gas to float the balloon at a height of 200 feet above the earth. Now, being at that helght, if the balloonist wanted to rise, all

"Van Wagener was in high spirits, and began wringing out his coat and putting it on again. All of a sudden he sings out something which I didn't quite understand, not being familiar with scientific terms, and at the same time the balloon began to mount up

again. "What has that blasted scientific idiot dropped overboard now?' yells Montgomery.
"'I happened to drop my purse out of my coat pocket, says Van Wagener, but that is no excuse for your objectionable language. are done for; the sun will be out presently, and then the gas will expand. Colonel, I'm sorry you're in this scrape, but I'm glad you're not a family man. you're not a family man.

"It did lock middling scary. We sailed slowly upward till the sun had warmed up the aluminum globe, and then we traveled straight up at a pace that couldn't fail to bring us up to 20,000 or 30,000 feet before noon. There was only one way of making the balloon descend, and that was by letting out the gas. There being, however, no escape valve, we couldn't let out gas, and it didn't seem as if there was any possible way for us to escape. I will say this for Montgomery and the professor, that they both showed that they were brave men. Montgomery and the professor, the showed that they were brave men. gomery cussed Van Wagener, and science generally, but that was natural under the generally, but that was natural under the circumstances. Van Wagener sat quietly on the bottom of the car watching the barometer and making entries in his notabolk, which he said would be of immense value to science in case they should be found. Neither of the men flushed should be found. Neither of the men flinched a particle, though they knew that in all

probability they would in course of time have a clean fall of, say, 40,000 feet. Of the two I was more sorry for Montgomery than for the professor, for he didn't have the love of science to sustain him, which

the professor had.
"We went up and up. The gas expanded with the heat of the sun and flowed over into the rubber bag, as Van Wagener had meant it should, and when this happened we about doubled our pace. We lost sight of the earth by 9 o'clock in the morning and by 11 o'clock the air had grown so thin that we began to have difficulty in breath-ing. Prof. Van Wagener, whose lungs were weak, suffered worse than the rest of us, but he kept right on making his scientific notes, and to all appearances was enjoying himself as much as he had ever done in his life. Montgomery sat quiet, having grown tired of cussin' the professor, and not hav-ing anything else to occupy his mind. I turned around to look over the side when the

"'I'll take the chances,' says Montgomery.

"'I'll take the chances,' says Montgomery.

'If you let out the gas we shall have a chance, even if it is a slim one, but if you don't let it out we're as dead as Julius Caesar.'

'''What do you say professor?' I said, for I didn't want to act rashly,

"'Certainly!' says the professor. 'By all means try your experiment, colonel, though I should prefer that you wait till we reach an elevation of 27,000 feet, which will be greater than anyone else has ever attained.'

turned on the professor and told him that sconer than go up in a balloon that a scien-tific man had invented he would take and fill his pockets with dynamite and then get a New York policeman to club him. Then he said good night to me and went of down the street, swearing to himself in a way that was really unfit for publication.

never saw or heard of the man fgain.
"There was one thing I will tay for Montgomery. When the balloon began to sink he might have thrown both the professor and much science in him to have any muscle. A selfish man would have done this, and ing that Van Wagener wouldn't jump promptly enough to save himself. Well, as I said, I've been in tight places a good many times, but I was worse scared in that bal-loon than I ever was before or since."

Oh, if I only had her complexion! Why, it is easily obtained. Use Pozzoni's Complexion Powder.

FRIGHT IN HIGH PLACES.

ing a hand into a blazing fire. An irresistible impulse comes over them to jump, and this impulse is stronger when the feet are closs to the edge of the roof of a high build-

Dr. Edward Lanning, the American phy sician who practiced his profession in Paris for ten or eleven years, says he has seen more cases of "elevation fright" in the French capital than he has in any other city he has ever been in

"I do not know," said he, "that it is any piculiarity of the French character, but I have frequently been called in cases where death has resulted in a leap from a tall building or tower—not that I could do any good, but simply to see whether I could de-termine from previous family history whether or not the victim was insane or not.
"About two years ago I was visited by a sailor, an Alsatian, who told me he experienced the peculiar sensation of terror when at an elevation, and that he was unable to turned around to look over the side when the hilt of my revolver, which was in my hip pocket, caught in the wickerwork of the car and gave me an idea.

"'See here, Montgomery,' I said, 'I can let the gas out of this balloon, but we'll have to take the risk of its escaping so fast that we shall land in almost as much of a hurry as we will when the thing bursts.'

at an elevation, and that he was unable to take a berth on any vessel where his duties would require him to go aloft further than twelve or fifteen feet from the deck. He consented to go with me to a tail building and go on the roof, so I could observe his condition when he locked over the edge into space. I took two assistants with me as a precaution. One of them brought a lope at the sailor's request. He said he would not dare venture to the edge of the as a precaution. One of them brought a rope at the sailor's request. He said he would not dare venture to the edge of the roof unless he had one end of the rope around his waist and felt that the other end was securely held. I acceded to that and told him to go as close to the edge as he pleased.

Indolently Reign.

THE LORDS LOAF, WOMEN DO THE WORK

Customs and Characteristics of the Sinmese-Glinipse of High and Low Life in Bangkok-American Activity and Enterprise.

The ancient kingdom of Siam, even more than Burmah, has been a favorite field for the exaggerations of ancient geographers, and the more reasonable, though perhaps less excusable, statements of travelers in comparatively recent times. Yet the country and its people are sufficiently interesting without the assistance of fable, says a writer in Harper's Weekly.

Situated as they are in a sort of border land between the Indian and Chinese regions, both people and country present some featured that appear to belong to each race and province. Originally, indeed, the people of Siam had nothing of the Mongolian about them, being, in fact, a race of nearly pure Malay origin, with possibly a elight admixture of that Oriental negro type which has been termed Papuan, or, perhaps more properly, Australian. though it has maintained its independence of Chinese domination, it has re-ceived a large share of Chinese immigration, and it is probable that something like one-half of its people are now of more or less pure Mongolian descent.

Its people are almost entirely agricultural in their occupations, and, as a consequence, there are no large cities, Bangkok, the capital, being, indeed, the only place in the king-dom with any pretensions to a large city population. The true Siamese is, as a rule, a population. The true Stamese is, as a rule, a very easy-going and lazy specimen of society, who looks to the women of his family to do all that must be done in the way of active work. His wants, indeed, are few, and nature is kind. Food is simple and easily raised in Siam; clothing is represented for both sexes by a simple cloth round the lons; and lodging is provided by a thatched but of the simplest form and construction. In the towns, and particularly the capital, a little more clothing is commonly worn, but even there not very much.
All the pemp and splender of a great In

dian prince surrounds the king of Siam and his family, and this, to a limited extent, is also true of the few great officers of the kingdom, which include the chief representa-tives of the national Buddhist religion. Out-side this charmed circle of luxury and applicate there is almost literally not have like splender there is almost literally nothing like real prosperity, or even comfort, to be met The general impression given by travelers to the outside world as to the conditions of life in Slam have been drawn almost exclusively from this very small class, and conciusivily from this very small class, and con-sequently it is wholly mieleading. There is thus little to be met with that is archi-ticturally excellent in the country. By far the best specimen of palace archi-tecture soen by us, even at Bang-kok, was the summer palace at Bang Pain, situated on the river Menam, at some little distance from the capital. This with its grounds forms really of up for the professor's teeth and the spirit he's been burning. It's our only chance.'

"It knew then that I was in a pretty tight never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait never agreed to goalong with Van Wagener. However, there was gothing to be done extended by the word of the women and children didn't care to wait intervent agreed to go for us.

"We came quietly asher, and a farmer in miniature of the imperiat palace at Peking, and was presented to the king of Slam by his Chin se subjects were years ago. Although professedly a goal that the real parameter is study by no means small, and in beauty of finish and ordered in the skill and then drove us twenty-two miles to New Berlincpolisville.

"The professor seemed as happy as a fall the skill and then drove us twenty-two miles to New Berlincpolisville." The six and fountains of the finest European desirable in with additional market palace at Peking, and was presented to the king of the king of the sing has done in miniature of the imperiation palace at Peking, and was presented to king by the most of the women and children dure

iver to overawe the capital. The one which we have termed the King's yacht is a fine modern cruiser of the best type, of 4,500 tons, and fully armed with first-class Arm-strong guns. It is kept, as, indeed, the whole fleet seems to be, in first-rate ord r, but, so far as app are, its only practical use is that of serving the royal family for a pleasure yacht. For this purpose it is mag-nificently fitted with every luxury and splendor, and affords accommodations for the king and perhaps a score of his wives, with their respective families, when they desire to go

on a pleasure cruise.

The land forces of the kingdom are not. it must be confessed, quite so imposing to the stranger's eye as the navy, although it is at least possible that in cases of emergercy they might prove not less efficient. Our picture of foot soldiers realy for parade that Montgomery didn't do it was greatly to his credit. Of course he threw the professor into the lake out of kindness, knowanything very formidable or up to date in their equipment. The elephant corps also is probably more imposing than formidable to any external enemy at all likely to assail the kingdom, yet it is curious as an exampl of the ancient use of the elephant in war as a kind of compromise between a fort and an argenal of spare weapons.

Bangkok itself stands in the position of an eastern and uncivilized edition of Venice. It is essentially a city of watere, with cannis instead of streets and canoes and boats substituted for carriages and wagons. For the stituted for carriages and wagons. For the most part the capital of Siam is built upon the barks of the Menam itself, or upon a network of channels cut into the alluvial flat through which it flows. The effect is decidedly pretty and romantic, but it has no pretensions to being considered, like the famous, queen of the Adriatic, an imposing the cuts. The total absence of anothers like city. The total absence of anything like architectural beauty in the houses would, of course, account for the difference, but even if this were removed the circumstances of the far easiern capital would effectually forbid it. The soil produces with amizing rapidity a growth of trees and tall shrubs, which,

while they add immensely to the romantic beauty of the place and conceal many of its more objectionable features, serves also to shut in each channel with a leafy screen and isclate it from the one next it as effectually to the eye as miles of distance. Thus the stranger may, as indeed we did, paddle down one street and up another for half a day, passing through long visits of green trees and shining water, bordered by the shops, store; and dwellings of the capital—the stores, by the way, are nearly all kept by Chinise— and at the end of his journey have no idea whether he had seen half a dozen or half a hundred of the canal streets of Bangkok. Everywhere the views are the same, every-where the little mean thatched houses are alike, except when a bigger one displays on its veranda the goods the owner deals in; overywhere the people are equally unclothed and undistinguishable—it is strangely diffi-

LAND OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT and everywhere the general appearance, both on land and water, is one of unsanitary fifth such as can hardly be met with even in one of the sacred cities of India, and imagination can scarcely go beyond that point.

The river, indeed, is the only salvation of

Bangkok, and it is no easy matter to under-stand how even the river avails to save the city from continual pestilence. It is treated by the people as a common scavenger, to whose care too much cannot possibly be left. Its channels are the receptacles for the whole of the filth and garbage of the city, and from the dead bodies of men and animals to the refuse, vegetables and dirty water from the houses, everything is thrown into and floats at leisure down the liquid streets, jostled by boats, and also by the inhabitants -men, women and children-who swim from place to place with the ease of ducks, and also apparently with their indifference unsavory sights and smells. And yet, alcholera is never absent from the city, it does not sweep away the people with a plague. This no doubt it owes to the ever-moving current of the river.

There is a section of Bangkok which is on dry land, and extends beyond the region of canals. It consists mainly of one long street, which forms a sort of grand parade with houses and stores on both sides. It is here that modern ideas have made an inroad on the eastern city which produces the indirous effect of utter incongruity. It is here that a syndicate—mainly American—has established a trumway operated by electricity, and has also installed the electric system of lighting for public use. Both projects have met with remarkable success and popular favor. Thus the small end of the wedge of modern ideas has been introduced in Siam, and when the railroad now in course of construction to connect on one hand with Burmah and on the other with Tonquin, shall have been completed, it is at least possible that a new era of substantial progress may dawn upon the land of the white elephant.

#### THE TRANSVAAL RAIDER.

Prisoner. Of all the men who have gained fame in Africa none is more picturesque than Dr. Jamison, administrator for the British South

Adventurous Career of Paul Krueger's

Africa company in Mashonaland. In the first place, it seems remarkable that he should have gone to South Africa at all. He was born and bred in Scotland, of an anclent Scittish family. His father was a writer for the Signet. But those who knew Dr. Jameson in his youth tell strange stories of his dash, cleverness and adventures. He was educated as a physician. He had had an admittedly distinguished medical career, and had taken honors in arts when sailed away to South Africa, settling in imberiey. He speedily gained a large Kimberley. He speedly gained a large practice and a commensurate income. He was the leader in his profession. His fame as a medical man alone is very great.

That wonderful "uncrowned king of South

Africa," Cecil Rhodes, saw the stuff of which Dr. Jameson was made, and offered him the opportunity of playing a part in the opening of a new country. He embraced it gladly. The fat, luxurious and cunning Lobengula, king of the Matabele nation, bitterly opposed granting the concession to the Chartered company, and its budding operations were in danger of destruction. The first emissary sent to him, Thompson, saw Lobengula kill an Induna for advising the concession. Temissary was glad to escape with his life. Dr. Jameson, alone and unarmed, then started for Lobengula's court. Few dared

The Siamese navy, as it lise at anchor in the Menam river, prisents an appearance so formidable that it is difficult to understand how its owner could so tamely have allowed one or two Fruch gunbouts in the liver to overswe the capital. The one which chief Gungunyana through the warst cour try in South Africa. It was a two montl journey, practically on foot, through guide. At the start all provisions were lost. Jameson pushed on. He and his small band lived on fruits. It rained for eleven days Fourteen days were passed in the gloom of a dense African jungle. During the whole journey the only "game" that was seen was a skunk. The three white men were stricken with fever, yet they pushed on and accomplished the mission.

Since that time the doctor has controlled Mashonaland and he has risen superior to every crisis. He had much trouble with King Lobengula. He watred against the savage soldiers in 1893 with remarkable succers. The natives attacked the Mashonas. Dr. Jameson gave warning. He was told that Lobengula could not control his young

"Take back those whom you can control and I will deal with the others," was Dr. Jameson's message.

He ordered an invasion of Matabeleland and it resulted in the downfall of the great

The boers are wonderful fighters. In th ago, their markmanship was the talk of th world. A party of boers scaled Maguba hill occupied by Sir George Colley and 400 men. They drove off the British in a panic, killing Sir George, six other officers and ninety men, wounding and capturing many others. The boer loss was one killed and five wounded. On another occasion sixty-three boers killed 258 British soldiers with a loss to themselves of only five or six.

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Albert Edward's Mishap.

For a sportsman who does so much in th way of shooting, the prince of Wales has enjoyed an immunity from accident which makes his recent mishap somewhat remark able. This is the first time that the prince has suffered any inconvenience either from any failure of skill on his own part or from any other conditions from which accidents with the gun arise. The prince was firing almost directly overhead, and to do this with a strong wind blowing into one's face is to run considerable risk of receiving a few grains of powder. The quickness with which not fomentations were applied checked the inflammation, and the prince was able to ome to town after dinner by special.

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