

YEAR 1907 LEAVES A RECORD OF DISASTER

Natural Phenomena and Direful Accident Furnish Long Lists of Dead.

EPITOME OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

Recent Financial Disturbance—Oklahoma a State—Fine and Gift of Millions.

The chronicler who scans the record of 1907 that he may write of it finds himself confronted by an exhibit of destruction and disaster that he had not fully appreciated before. Since the opening day of the year the great catastrophes that have been accompanied by large loss of life have numbered 26, an average of slightly more than two for each month. Several of these have been great convulsions of nature. There was the earthquake that destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, out of which came the disintegrable Swettenham incident; subsequently occurred other earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in Mexico, Chile and China. An earthquake and mountain slide that destroyed the town of Karatagh, Russian Turkistan, snuffed out 15,000 lives, and a frightful typhoon at Hongkong, China, killed unknown hundreds of the inhabitants. A hurricane in the Caroline Islands wiped out 200 lives; a great flood in Japan caused 600 deaths. Among the catastrophes originating in the operations and enterprises of humanity there have been explosions—several of them in mines, others in blast furnaces and on shipboard—collisions of ships and of railroad trains, the collapse of the great uncompleted bridge over the St. Lawrence river near Quebec, and the blowing up of the Du Pont powder works in Fontanet, Ind. All these produced long casualty lists.

The roll of eminent dead is also an extensive one. Sweden has lately been called upon to mourn the decease of its beloved king, Oscar II., and his son and successor has assumed the reins of government. In Persia, also, the old Shah has died and a new one rules. Not death, but abdication has also changed the governmental head in Korea. Politics, art, science, letters, and the platform have each paid its toll to death in the loss of some foremost representatives. Among the names may be recorded those of former President M. Casimir Perier of France, Republican Mayor and approves new traction ordinance by majority of 33,125. 4—Hotel fire in San Francisco kills 17 persons. . . . Lunacy commission declares Harry K. Thaw sane. 9—Howard Nicholas and Leonard Leopold convicted of murder of Mrs. Margaret Leslie in Chicago. 11—Lord Cromer, British ruler in Egypt, resigns. 13—Standard Oil Company convicted in Illinois court of rebating. 14—Death of James H. Eckels of Chicago. . . . Earthquakes at Chilapa and Chilpancingo, Mexico. 15—Great Northern's Oriental Limited derailed by wreckers at Bartlett, N. D. 16—19—Volcanic eruptions in Chile. 20—Great fire in native quarter of Manila. 26—Opening of Jamestown (Va.) Exposition. 30—Hurricane in Caroline Islands kills 200 people.

A financial disturbance of widespread influence has made itself felt during the last three months of 1907. The number of States in the Union has been increased to 46 by the admission of Oklahoma.

That modern minds are not appalled by large amounts is shown by two of the year's transactions. The Standard Oil Company has been fined \$20,000,000 by a Chicago judge, and John D. Rockefeller has made donations of \$22,000,000 to educational projects.

Two great expositions have been held. That at Jamestown, Va., did not receive the patronage expected and it is in the hands of a receiver. The other was in Greater Louisville, Ky.

A public work of vast magnitude was begun when Mayor McClellan of New York broke ground for the construction of the great Catskill aqueduct which in a few years is to convey to the metropolis an inexhaustible supply of pure water.

The Harry Thaw trial in New York and the general strike of telegraphers the country over were subjects of much interest to the public while they continued.

The principal happenings of 1907 are briefly given below:

- JANUARY.**
- 2—Wreck on Rock Island near Voland, Kansas, kills 35 persons. . . . Chas. M. Floyd, Republican, elected Governor of New Hampshire by Legislature.
 - 5—Bomb thrown in Fourth Street National bank, Philadelphia.
 - 8—Death of Shah of Persia.
 - 9—James Cullen lynched in Charles City, Iowa. . . . Gen. Vladimir Pavloff assassinated in St. Petersburg. . . . 30 miners killed by explosion in Pittsburg blast furnace.
 - 10—Typhoon in Philippines kills 100 persons.
 - 11—Fire near Strassburg, Germany, causes 20 deaths. . . . \$1,000,000 fine in Lancaster, Pa.
 - 14—Earthquake destroys Kingston, Jamaica.
 - 19—Sixty lives lost in two Big Four railroad wrecks in Indiana. . . . Mohammed Ali Mirza crowned Shah of Persia. . . . Admiral Davis and American squadron sent away from Kingston, Jamaica, by Gov. Swettenham.
 - 20—Death of Josiah Flynt Willard, tramp and author. . . . England apologizes for Swettenham incident.
 - 23—Twenty miners killed by explosion near Primo, Colo. . . . Thaw trial begins in New York.
 - 24—Death of Senator R. A. Alger of Michigan.
 - 28—Explosions in mine near Saar-

bruck, Prussia, kill 300 persons. . . . 100 lives lost by typhoon in Hongkong harbor.

FEBRUARY.

- 7—John D. Rockefeller makes \$32,000,000 gift to educational work.
- 12—200 lives lost by sinking of Joy line steamer Larchmont off Block Island, R. I. . . . Death of ex-Gov. Frank W. Higgins of New York.
- 16—25 persons killed and 100 injured in train wreck on New York Central in New York City.
- 20—\$173,000 stolen from U. S. sub-treasury in Chicago.
- 21—English steamer Berlin goes down off coast of Holland; 180 lives lost. . . . Cornelius J. Shea and associates acquitted of conspiracy in Chicago. . . . Mrs. Dora McDonald shoots and kills Webster S. Guerin in Chicago.
- 22—Pennsylvania railroad's 18-hour flyer wrecked near Johnston, Pa. . . . Missouri Legislature adjourned by small-pox scare.

MARCH.

- 4—Fifty-ninth Congress adjourns sine die. . . . Three changes in President's cabinet take effect.
- 7—Straker brothers in Culpepper, Va., acquitted of murder under "unwritten law."
- 9—Death of John Alexander Dowie. . . . Will J. Davis freed of responsibility for Iroquois theater disaster by Judge Kimbrough of Danville, Ill.
- 12—Death of M. Casimir Perier, former president of France. . . . Magazines on French battleship Jena explode at Toulon, killing 80 and injuring 500 persons.
- 14—Death of Maurice Grau, impresario.
- 16—Burning of Helicon Hall, Upton Sinclair's colony, near Englewood, N. J.
- 18—Greater Louisville exposition opened.
- 19—Death of Thomas Bailey Aldrich.
- 22—Many persons killed in riots in Moldavia.
- 25—Death of Alexander Beaubien, first white male born in Chicago.
- 31—Death of Galusha A. Grow, former Congressman from Pennsylvania.

APRIL.

- 2—Chicago elects Fred A. Busse, Republican, Mayor and approves new traction ordinance by majority of 33,125.
- 4—Hotel fire in San Francisco kills 17 persons. . . . Lunacy commission declares Harry K. Thaw sane.
- 9—Howard Nicholas and Leonard Leopold convicted of murder of Mrs. Margaret Leslie in Chicago.
- 11—Lord Cromer, British ruler in Egypt, resigns.
- 13—Standard Oil Company convicted in Illinois court of rebating.
- 14—Death of James H. Eckels of Chicago. . . . Earthquakes at Chilapa and Chilpancingo, Mexico.
- 15—Great Northern's Oriental Limited derailed by wreckers at Bartlett, N. D.
- 16—19—Volcanic eruptions in Chile.
- 20—Great fire in native quarter of Manila.
- 26—Opening of Jamestown (Va.) Exposition.
- 30—Hurricane in Caroline Islands kills 200 people.

MAY.

- 2—Great loss of life from explosion in Canton, China.
- 3—Sir Alexander Swettenham retires as Governor of Jamaica.
- 6—Dr. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) dies in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. . . . Tornado wipes out towns of Birthright and Ridge-way, Texas.
- 10—Son born to King Alfonso of Spain.
- 11—Mystic Shriner special wrecked at Honda, Cal., and 31 lives lost.
- 12—Mine fire at Velardena, Mexico, kills 90 men. . . . Earthquake in China kills 4,000 persons.
- 17—Isaac Stephenson elected United States Senator from Wisconsin.
- 25—Death of Theodore Tilton in Paris.
- 26—Death of Mrs. William McKinley.

JUNE.

- 5—Oscar II. resumes reign as King of Sweden.
- 6—Sudden death of Mrs. Helen M. Gougar.
- 7—Fatal and destructive tornado in Kentucky and southern Illinois and Indiana.
- 9—Death of Julia Magruder, novelist.
- 10—Great strike against government in wine growing regions of France. . . . 500 lives lost in burning of Chinese theater in Hongkong.
- 11—Death of Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama.
- 12—200 lives lost in hurricane on Caroline Islands.
- 13—Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco convicted of extortion.
- 14—Olympic Theater burns in Chicago.
- 16—Czar dissolves the Duma.
- 18—Death of Prof. Alexander S. Herschel, English astronomer.
- 20—Mayor McClellan of New York breaks first sod for construction of great Catskill aqueduct.
- 25—Fire destroys block of buildings adjoining Jamestown exposition.
- 30—Death of Francis Murphy, temperance evangelist.

JULY.

- 3—Fatal windstorm sweeps western Wisconsin.
- 6—John D. Rockefeller appears as witness in court in Chicago.
- 7—Tornado damages Long Pine, Neb.
- 8—Death of James McGranahan, gospel song writer.
- 14—Assassination of President Fallieres attempted in Paris.
- 15—Powder explosion on battleship Georgia kills 8 seamen and injures 13.
- 18—Eriker of Korea abductees.
- 20—30 killed in Pore Marquette wreck near Salem, Mich.
- 21—Steamer and freight boat collide off California coast and 150 lives are lost.
- 23—Death of Col. Will S. Hays, ballad writer.
- 27—Death of Senator E. W. Pettus of Alabama.
- 28—Jury in Boise, Idaho, acquits William D. Haywood of murder of Gov. Steunenburg. . . . Big fire at Coney Island, N. Y.

AUGUST.

- 1—Standard Oil Co. fined \$29,000,000 for accepting railroad rebates by Judge K. M. Landis of Chicago.
- 8—Beginning of telegraphers' general strike.
- 12—Death of Robert A. Pinkerton.
- 15—Joseph Joachim, violinist, dies in Berlin.
- 19—Prince Wilhelm of Sweden at Jamestown exposition.

26—Great fire in Hakodate, Japan.

27—Nelson Morris, Chicago packer, dies.

29—Great bridge over St. Lawrence river, near Quebec, collapses, carrying 84 workmen to death.

30—Death of Richard Mansfield.

SEPTEMBER.

- 4—Death of Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer.
- 7—Anti-Japanese outbreak in Vancouver, B. C.
- 9—Japanese battleship Kashima blows up at Kure with loss of 40 lives.
- 15—25 lives lost in wreck of excursion train near Canaan, N. H.
- 17—First election in Oklahoma. . . . Chicago defeats his challenger.
- 21—Frank J. Constanter convicted of murder of Mrs. Louise Gentry in Chicago. . . . Grandstand blown down in Hegins, Pa., and 50 people hurt.
- 25—Flood in Japan drowns 600 persons.
- 28—Eight lives lost in B. & O. wreck at Bellaire, Ohio.
- 30—McKinley mausoleum dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

OCTOBER.

- 6—Death of Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, authoress.
- 10—Steamship Lusitania crosses Atlantic ocean in four days twenty hours. . . . Death of Mrs. Cassie Chadwick in Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary.
- 12—Steamship Cyprus wrecked on Lake Superior and 22 lives lost.
- 14—Town of San Jose del Cabo, Lower California, destroyed by cloudburst.
- 15—Du Pont powder works near Fontanet, Ind., explodes, killing 50 people.
- 16—Wall street flurry causes great slump in copper stocks.
- 22—23—Panic in New York and the East marked by suspension of Knickerbocker Trust Company and of various financial concerns, appointment of receivers for Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, and wild scenes on Stock Exchange.
- 23—Germans win balloon race from St. Louis with France second.
- 27—New \$20,000,000 Union station opened in Washington.
- 30—Earthquake and mountain slide destroys town of Karatagh, Russian Turkistan, and causes 15,000 deaths.

NOVEMBER.

- 1—Great railway strike in Great Britain called.
- 5—End of telegraphers' strike. . . . Elections in many States.
- 11—Death of Dexter M. Ferry, seedsman, of Detroit.
- 15—Death of Monere D. Conway, American author. . . . Fire destroys town of Cleary, Alaska.
- 16—Oklahoma admitted to statehood.
- 24—Jury in Steve Adams case in Rathdrum, Idaho, disallows.
- 25—Thirteen lives lost in New York tenement house fire.
- 26—Death of Gen. B. D. Pritchard of Allegan, Mich., whose regiment captured Jefferson Davis.

DECEMBER.

- 1—Explosion in mine at Fayette City, Pa., kills 40 miners.
- 2—Sixtieth Congress opens.
- 4—King Oscar of Sweden resigns government into hands of Crown Prince as regent.
- 6—Explosion entombs 400 miners at Monongah, W. Va.
- 8—Death of King Oscar II. of Sweden and accession of his son Gustaf V.
- 11—President Roosevelt reiterates his declaration that he will not again be a candidate for chief executive.
- 16—Dust explosion kills 75 men in mine at Yolande, Ala. . . . Great war fleet sails from Hampton Roads for Pacific.
- 17—Death of Lord Kelvin, English scientist.

Two Kinds of Tuberculosis.

Reports from London state that the results of the careful investigations and experiments of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis indicate that there are two kinds of consumption. When the bacilli of these diseases were administered to animals those from one group caused rapidly fatal general tuberculosis, while the germs of the other group, though given in far larger doses, had only a slight local effect, and the disease tended to undergo a spontaneous cure, but the investigations have not yet reached a point where it is practicable to determine with certainty from which type of disease the patient is suffering. One of the results of the experiments made seems to be to discredit Koch's view that bovine and human tuberculosis are different diseases.

Rabies a Real Disease.

Chief Melvin of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Agricultural Department says that many experiments conducted by the bureau now demonstrate that hydrophobia is a real germ-generated and infectious disease. This disease, he says, can be communicated from beasts to men as well as from beast to beast. There are two types of hydrophobia, dumb and furious. In the earlier stages of the former kind a dog is dangerous, but in the late stages it is not, as it sustains paralysis of the jaws; but a dog with the furious type of hydrophobia is very dangerous, yelping and running about with frothing mouth and without any sign of jaw paralysis. Dr. Melvin insists that as yet there is no cure for rabies known to medical science.

New Principle in Structural Work.

A new principle in engineering practice is described by the Scientific American in the case of a lookout tower built by Alexander Graham Bell, in which the structure is composed of tetrahedrons, and is said to be the first iron structure built on this principle. Each tetrahedral cell, which is the unit of construction, is made of one-half inch iron piping, and measures exactly 48 inches from tip to tip. Two hundred and sixty of these cells were employed in the tower, which rises 70 feet above the ground. Some of the advantages claimed for this method of construction are lightness, great rigidity, rapidity and ease of construction, very little false work being required, and the facility with which any part may be renewed.

America Leads in Coal.

Tables prepared by the London Board of Trade show that the United States now mines more coal than any other country, the total being 370,000,000 tons in the United Kingdom and 135,000,000 tons in Germany. But the production per head is still higher in England. America also consumes the most coal.



Postmaster General Meyer, in his annual report, makes several recommendations for increasing the efficiency and extending the scope of the work of the Postoffice Department. Chief among these recommendations was that for the establishment of postal savings banks. Mr. Meyer would have every money order office, and such others as may be deemed necessary, designated to receive deposits in amounts of not less than \$1, but the amount of individual accounts he would limit to \$500. On these deposits interest at the rate of 2 per cent should be allowed. A material extension of the parcels post service is urged. A recommendation is also made for more up-to-date business methods and a revised system of bookkeeping. He also suggests a permanent official corresponding to the superintendent of mails or the agent of a great manufacturing corporation, who would hold office continuously through various administrations. In illustrating the growth of the postal business during the last fifty years, Mr. Meyer states that in 1857 the receipts were \$8,053,952, with a deficit of \$3,454,106, while the last fiscal year the receipts were \$183,585,005, with a deficit of \$3,633,282. He believes that by 1917 the receipts will be over \$350,000,000.

One of the features of the annual report of Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, adjutant general of the United States Army, which has called forth no little comment throughout the country, is the statement that if present conditions continue there will be nothing for the government to do to secure men for the military service but to materially increase the pay of enlisted men or resort to conscription. The report shows that the deficiency below the authorized strength of the army on Oct. 15, 1906, was 8,046, while in October, 1907, it was 20,535. Among the reasons given for this falling off is the strong competition which the government encounters from private employers, who offer higher pay and more attractive conditions.

The annual report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, recently made public, shows expenditures up to date of \$48,285,880.37, and indicates gratifying progress in the work. On June 30, 1907, the total force of skilled and unskilled laborers was 29,446, an increase of 10,000 over the previous year. The death rate among employes for several years past shows a marked improvement in health conditions, mainly due to sanitation, better housing facilities and better food supplies. The report strongly recommends the continuation of the work by the National Government direct and not through a contractor or syndicate of contractors.

At the direction of the President a special commission, consisting of Lawrence O'Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations, and Charles P. Nell, United States labor commissioner, started for Goldfield, Nev., to investigate the labor conditions at that place and to determine whether there is necessity for the presence of the United States troops recently ordered there at the request of Gov. Sparks.

Bids to the amount of \$25,000,000 of the recent offering of Panama canal bonds have been accepted by Secretary Cortelyou at an average price of 103, and nearly all of the accepted bids are from national banks which were in a position to take out additional circulation at once. It was thought that the 3 per cent certificates would not exceed \$15,000,000. The Secretary says that the improvement justifies him in limiting both the issues.

As an indication of a desire on the part of Congress to deal promptly with the currency question, Speaker Cannon departed from precedent in naming the House committee on banking and currency in the opening hours of the session, instead of waiting until after the Christmas recess. Fowler of New Jersey, who recently criticized Secretary Cortelyou for what he termed his "inefficient efforts to relieve the financial situation," was reappointed chairman. The committee is expected to organize at once.

The cash balance in the treasury has been reduced to about \$17,000,000 by the distribution of funds among national banks during the recent crisis, and the officials have decided to cut down the amount of the balances standing to the credit of disbursing officers. Thus, by a simple act of bookkeeping, the available cash is increased for the time being by many millions of dollars.

The opening of proposals for the \$50,000,000 of Panama canal bonds showed that the amount had been subscribed several times over, and that a good figure, well above the market price, would be realized for the securities. While the official figures were not obtainable, it was thought that the average price would prove to be about 104. The allotment of the bonds will be at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

ASK RELEASE OF GIRL SLAYER.

Jessie Morrison, Who Killed Her Rival, Said to Be Dying in Prison.

Interest in the tragic life story of Jessie Morrison, of Eldorado, Kan., is revived through the efforts of influential friends to secure her release from the Kansas State penitentiary for the murder of her school girl friend, Mrs. Olin G. Castle. The young woman, once known throughout the State as a beauty, is said to be dying as a result of her confinement in the woman's prison, with sixteen years of a twenty-year sentence yet to serve.

Her beauty has faded, her spirits are dead, and she pleads pitifully for freedom. Those who were once her bitterest enemies are interesting themselves in her battle for leniency. Ministers are at the head of the movement, and an application for pardon, signed by some of the foremost men and women of Kansas, will soon be in the hands of Gov. Hoch.

The crime for which Miss Morrison is paying the penalty was committed when she and a successful rival in love



MRS. OLIN G. CASTLE

engaged in a razor duel. Her opponent was Mrs. Olin G. Castle, who, as Clara Wiley, was married to young Olin Castle, clerk in an Eldorado store. Both girls had in turn been wooed by him.

July 22, 1900, nine days after the wedding of Clara Wiley and Castle, Miss Morrison visited the young wife and the fatal battle ensued. "I was called to the Castle home by Mrs. Castle, who commenced a furious tirade against me," she says in telling the story. "She attacked me with a razor. I snatched the weapon from her and slashed her." Mrs. Castle died a week later.

Miss Morrison had three trials, in each of which she was found guilty. The first time she was sentenced to three years in prison, the second to ten, and the third time to twenty.

The prominence of the principals of the case made it one of the greatest interest throughout the country. The convicted woman's father was at one time a member of the Kansas Supreme Court.



W. J. Bryan is quoted as being in accord with much of the President's message to Congress. In particular he likes the recommendation that the government pay the expenses of elections, only he would add a provision against private contributions. He also strongly approves of the postal and guaranteed banks.

Upon the eve of the opening of Congress Representative Fowler of New Jersey, head of the House banking and currency committee, issued a prediction of coming financial tragedy of far greater proportions than the present panic unless we stop issuing a fixed bond-secured currency. He says that the banks of the country to-day have about \$12,000,000,000 in deposits and about the same amount of loans outstanding, against which they hold reserves of only \$900,000,000, of which \$200,000,000 is in bank note promises. This he calls "the worst and wildest form of inflation." He defines as "basing one credit upon another credit." Hence he demands the credit currency be sent to bank of issue promptly and necessitate proper reserves.

The letter written by Senator Foraker of Ohio in response to the resolutions of the Ohio Republican League committees last week was his formal announcement of willingness to accept support to the end of his becoming the candidate of the party for the presidency. In it the Senator virtually laid down his platform by saying he will stick to his policy of opposition to executive encroachment and by opposing tariff tinkering.

Three carpenters and one son of Samuel W. Carpenter of Allegheny, Pa., have sloped in a year.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1582—Llewellyn, the last Welsh Prince of Wales, killed at Llanddewey.
 - 1614—The Dutch erected a blockhouse near the present site of Albany, N. Y.
 - 1620—Pilgrim fathers landed at Plymouth Rock.
 - 1642—New Zealand discovered by Tasman.
 - 1653—Meeting of the first General Assembly of the people of New York.
 - 1659—Swedes defeated the Muscovites at Narva.
 - 1738—First bank post bills issued in England.
 - 1775—America Congress determined to build a navy of thirteen frigates.
 - 1776—Continental Congress adjourned to Baltimore, on the approach of the British.
 - 1778—John Jay of New York elected president of Congress.
 - 1781—The British evacuated Charleston.
 - 1786—Sierra Leone founded as an asylum for destitute negroes from the United States and West Indies.
 - 1795—Charles Lee of Virginia became Attorney General of the United States.
 - 1798—King of Sardinia abdicated.
 - 1811—American ship Essex captured British packet Nautilus, with \$55,000 on board.
 - 1813—Burning of Niagara at the instance of the American forces.
 - 1816—Indiana admitted into the Union as the nineteenth State. . . . First savings bank in the United States opened in Boston.
 - 1817—Mississippi admitted into the Union as the twentieth State.
 - 1824—Peruvians achieved independence by defeating the Spaniards at Ayacucho.
 - 1830—National Republican party, at Baltimore, nominated Henry Clay for President.
 - 1833—Jamaica abolished slavery.
 - 1838—"Atherton Gag" law passed by the House of Representatives.
 - 1844—Bill for the annexation of Texas introduced in both houses of Congress.
 - 1845—British war against the Sikhs began. Ended with annexation of the Punjab in 1849.
 - 1848—Louis Napoleon elected President of the French.
 - 1850—Many killed and injured in boiler explosion on steamer Anglo-Norman at New Orleans.
 - 1850—Victoria bridge, Montreal, opened.
 - 1860—Lewis Cass of Michigan resigned as Secretary of State.
 - 1861—The Prince Consort, husband of Queen Victoria, died. . . . Large section of Charleston, S. C., destroyed by fire.
 - 1862—Gen. Burnside repulsed at battle of Fredericksburg.
 - 1866—Oaks colliery disaster in England, with loss of 330 lives.
 - 1868—House of Representatives announced its purpose to pay fully the national debt.
 - 1871—Alarming illness of the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII.
 - 1876—Wade Hampton declared Governor of South Carolina.
 - 1877—Osman Pasha surrendered with his entire army.
 - 1880—Congress commemorated the centenary of the inauguration of President Washington.
 - 1890—North Albania reported to be in a state of sanguinary anarchy.
 - 1895—William O. Bradley inaugurated as first Republican Governor of Kentucky.
 - 1897—Strike of cotton mill operatives at Atlanta, Ga.
- Sea Test of Gyroscope.**
- The claim made some time ago that steadiness might be imparted to ships at sea in heavy weather by means of a gyroscope was revived with some incredulity by practical mariners. Recent dispatches from London, however, indicate that the matter has been put to a thorough test, with most gratifying results. The experiments were made in the North Sea, off Tynemouth, under the direction of Dr. Schlick, the inventor. The vessel used was a boat of the torpedo class, the Seebär, 116 feet long. The water during the three days of the test was such as to cause considerable rolling of vessels of even greater dimensions. The effect of the gyroscope was most remarkable. While the vessel heaved up and down with the waves, the deck remained almost horizontal. It is said that arrangements are being made to install the apparatus on several commercial lines.
- Bell's Aeroplane Flies.**
- According to reports from Baddeck, C. E., the tetrahedral kite Cygnet, invented by Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, made a successful ascent on December 6. While it is intended to have the kite, or aeroplane, propelled by a motor, this motor had not been supplied; therefore the machine was mounted on a platform floating on the waters of a small lake, and was taken in tow by a steam launch. As the speed of the launch increased the apparatus left the platform and soon soared to a considerable height.