STEEPLE JACKS.

The Perils of Climbing Lofty · Church Towers.

The Romantic Career of Two English Jacks-The Peculiar Fascination of Dizzy Heights.

this country is concerned, and there were not many before my time in

England. The speaker was James Irvine, who but he emigrated here in early man-hood, and until 1864 followed the sea. During the war he distinguished himself more than once as a blockade run-

"I would sooner work on a steeple than on the ground. I cannot realize any danger in it. A peculiar sensetion creeps up your back when you are swinging to an fro 200 feet or more above the surface of the earth, which is pleasurable to an extent I cannot describe. Of course the slightest defect in the rope or the pole to which the rope is fastened would launch me into eternity, but I never think of that. I have never felt what fear is. I can look up or look down at will. It is absurd to say that a 'Steeple Jack' dares not look down. He could not do his work unless he did. A man who experiences any feelings of that sort should not attempt the business, for he is sure to fall some day. Now I will try to describe some of my work. First I will tell you how steeples are built. From the ground they all appear to be conical, but they are, with few exceptions, octagonal. They are built, as a general thing, of wood, the structure consisting of eight legs, tapering from the base until they join each other at the summit. The spaces between the joists are securely planked and the whole is carefully slated. Not the least dangerous portion of a Steeple Jack's work is the building of these te epler. They, are often erected above a square tower seventy or eighty teet, and it is no joke standing in a gale of wind placing the first joist in its place. After the first three are

REPAIRING STEEPLES. the Annunciation at Tenth and Dickinson streets, was injured by a strong wind, so that it was feared it would topple over into the street. I was instructed to take down the old cross and put up another. The total height was 225 feet from the ground. I was able to climb inside the steeple as far window I inserted a long pole, which reached sixteen feet above the cross. Through that window I inserted a long pole, which reached sixteen feet above the cross. The pole was only two or three inches in diameter, and near the top was an eye bolt, to which was fastened a rope, and at the end of the rope was a boatswain's chair—that is, a piece of inch plank two feet long and and no small job it was, I assure you, for it weighed many scores of pounds. On another occasion I stood upright on the top of the cross of St. Joachim's Catholic Church at Frankford, over 200 feet above the earth, for nearly two hours, while they took my photograph. The snow was then lying several inches thick on the ground, soyou can imagine how cold it was. I had no support whatever, but the idea of falling shriek, threw himself headlong to the skywards again around a series of the most remarkable curves, skirting from home, and a few hours afterward he was brought home dead on a shutter of the care and a few hours afterward he was brought home dead on a shutter. He had wandered to a fair that was being held in the neighborhood where he waited his turn at the greasy pole. He climbed it with all his former agility, and on reaching the top he balanced himself at his full height on the summit, and then, with a wild as his fascinated eyes sweep over shrived. me so long. But my biggest feat was when I climbed up one of the wire guys affixed to the observatory at Belmont. I had the job of taking down the tower and found that the car was out of order, and I had to get to the top somehow, so as to place my tackle in order. I thought over that job for for three days, and at last I determined to climb the wire guy; and up I went, hand over hand, for 300 feet, and I reached to the wire guy; and the solution of the size of the solution of the size of the solution of the wire guy; and up I went, hand over hand, for 300 feet, and I reached to the wire guy; and the size of the size of the solution of the size o up I went, hand over hand, for 300 feet, and I reached the top in twentyfive minutes. I was rather proud of that job. I saw an account lately of a Steeple Jack who talked about three days being occupied in climbing a steeple. I will mount any steeple in

America in half an hour. NARROW ESCAPES. "I have never met with any particular accident, although on one occasion I had a narrow escape. In different ways. The common mode of finishing a steeple it is necessary to expressing the feeling against the asremember that you have got to get sassin is to send a rope suggesstively down. I fix an eye-bolt in the ex-treme top of the steeple, and pass a rope with a bowline in it, and give word to my mate below and he lowers me down. One day I let myself go, but my mate had not noticed the signal, and I found myself coming down room at the jail is strewn with ropes nal, and I found myself coming down like a streak of lightning. I never go up without being prepared for an accident, so I did not lose my presence of mind, but managed to catch on to the small window as I passed, and there I hung until a pole was sent to my assistance. I employed several men on the less dangerous portions of my work. They are all men who have passed some time at sea, and I watch each man's nerve very carefully before I trust him in certain positions. The ewages are \$3 50 a day. Only one fatal accident has occurred since I have been in the business, and that was in German town A slater fell seventy-five feet to the ground, and was smashed to atoms. I have heard of accidents to other Steeple Jacks. One man slipped just as he was coming down in the dusk of the evening, and he hung by his legs in a noose of rope till day-break next morning. He was working alone and his crees for help were heard after a while, butthey could not lose my presectived from various parts of the country. Some of them are ropes such as are generally used in executions, with the conventional hangman's noose skillfully made. Many other little reminders of the fate that awaits him come in the mail of the assain but the Warden as a rule keeps it from his eyes.

Cheap comic valentines representing the gallows with a dangling victim are also sent to the assassin. In every nook in the District Attorney's office can be found some testimonial of popular feeling respecting the assassin. Many of the things received from various parts of the country. Some of them are ropes such as are generally used in executions, with the conventional hangman's noose skillfully made. Many other little reminders of the fate that awaits him come in the mail of the assasin but the Warden as a rule keeps it from his eyes.

Cheap comic valentines representing the gallows with a dangling victim are also sent to the assassin. In every nook in the District Attorney and it is a same of the country. Some of them are country. Some of them as are generally used like a streak of lightning. I nevergo received from various parts of the ing alone and his cries for help were satin tie, the tips of which he dyed heard after a while, but they could not blood red. He sent these with a re-

appeared. His hair turned white, prit on the scaffold, the red marks to but he did not lose consciousness for testify the innocent blood of his vic-

one moment. THE ENGLISH STEEPLE JACKS. "The earliest Steeple Jacks in England were both killed under rather romantic circumstances. I will not vouch for the truth of the store. I will simply relate it as it was while a score of paper women were story: I will simply relate it as it was told to me. There were two broth- hauling on the rope. These were, ers, twins, Tom and Harry, who from according to the inscription on the early boyhood had been in the habit box. "The women of Ohio,"

let in the vicinity of Yorkshire,
England, and their parents used to
take the boys to all the fairs in the
neighborhood, until at last they won
sufficient articles in the way of shirts
and bandkershiefs from the years in repairing steeples in this city and through the State of Pennsylvania. He is a wiry, determined looking man, and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. Glasgow, Scotland, was his natal place, but he appropriate looking man and evidently takes a great pride in his lofty profession. stocked a hosiery store. Both boys were sent to sea on reaching their fourteenth year in the same vessel. However, the lads grew tired of the sea; the masts weren't high enough for them, perhaps, so at the end of their apprenticeship they decided to remain at home, and for awhile they diligently followed the plow on their father's farm. Their favorite recreation was climbing up the water pipes alongside the house; in fact, that was a their usual method in mounting to their bed-room in the attic, for they regarded stairs with contempt. About this time, and I am speaking of 40 years ago, the weather-cock on the top of a steeple of a certain church in New York City fell to the ground. in New York City fell to the ground. The authorities began to consider how the damage could be resider how the damage could be re-paired, for in those days Steeple Jacks were almost unknown, and steeples were built on the ground, and when fitted with weather vanes and other.

Scoville to aid in the defense. A fitted with weather vanes and otherwise completed were hoisted by means of pulleys to the square portion of the tower and there adjusted in position. Well, the town council were cogitating

climbed the steeple, using, no doubt, similar means to those I have described to you. It took them four days to complete their work, each ascending in turn, and a very handsome sum of money was the reward in addition to the local celebrity. "After this there were not many church wardens left in New York city who did not soon discover that the towers of their churches were out of order, so the brothers soon had a veritable "flight to glory. in position the rest is comparatively plenty of work on their hands. One easy. So much for the building, now day, it was the anniversary of their birth, the twins arranged with each other to climb the steeples of two "In 1877 the cross on the apex of churches half a mile apart, and when the steeple of the Catholic Church of there to exchange greetings by sig-the Annunciation at Tenth and Dick-nals. Tom, the elder, did not arrive remedy so kind, so gentle in itseffects, and

Miniature Scaffolds and Coffins, Val entines, Cartoons and Letters Encumberinging the District Attorney's

Incinnatti Commercial

The popular reprobation of the assassin's crime is still manifested in

manage to help him until daylight quest that they be worn by the cul-

District Attorney's museum.

Among other curiosities saved by the Philadelphis Press.

"I think I may justly claim to be the original 'Steeple Jack,' as far as this country is concerned, and there

The District Attorney has also re-ceived a large amount of Confederate money to be turned over to the priletter received from New Waterford, Conn., yesterday, from a rope maker, proposed to make for the assassin a red, white and blue rope out of silk, the expediency of taking down the or any material the District Attorney steeple and repairing the weathercock might select. One of the most ghastwhen the brothers volunteered to climb the steeple and do the necessary cap sent by an unknown friend of jusclimb the steeple and do the necessary patching. After some hesitation the offer was accepted, and, watched by thousands of the citizens, the twins climbed the steeple using, no doubt, official, with a sketch of his career over the title, "Il Colonello Giorgio

B. Corkhill."
To-day another rope was received by the District Attorney. This was from Versailles, Ky. A letter that came to-day from Chicago suggested as a proper mode of execution that the assassin be fastened to a rope 300 feet long, the other end being attached to a balloon, which would give him

The Law of Kindness

Is universal; it affects all the human family, all animals, and may be even found in pat nt medicines. Some are drastic, and the patient'is obliged to suffer pains worse than the disease; but in cases of ob-

piece of inch plank two feet long and him with such paroxysms of rage that rango, over to Sangre de Christo six inches wide—and I was seated on he was confined most of his time in a range and around the wonderful Mule that. And there I swung, backward darkened room, or when taken out for Shoe curve at La Veta pass, reaching Shoe curve at La Veta pass, reaching and forward, for two hours on a freez- an airing a bandage would be placed an altitude of 9,500 feet at the sum ing day in March. I was often carried as much as ten feet away from the pole, but I managed to lower the broken cross to the men below, and after a while the new cross was hoisted up to me and I fixed it in the socket up to me and I fixed it in the socket spoke of the church steeples he had skywards again around a series of the support whatever, but the idea of falling shriek, threw himself headlong to the countless peaks, swimming in blue, never crossed my mind. The photographer could not obtain a good impression until he had taken several land.

Support whatever, but the idea of falling shriek, threw himself headlong to the countless peaks, swimming in blue, and dwell admirably upon the match-less beauties of the silver-threaded valleys at his feet; thence downward nearly a mile on the Pacific slope of the Rockies, along beautiful water courses, through dense forest and smiling valleys, and the magic metro-polis of the San Juan is at last reached in the magnificent Animas valley If our correspondent will make this trip, next season, and then go before notary public and certify that he be lieves language can be found that is capable of exaggerating the beauty and grandeur of the scenery along the way, we will agree to buy him the best box of cigars in Durango."

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prit on the scaffold, the red marks to testify the innocent blood of his victim. They now form a part of the District Attorney's museum.

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it; if you are feeble, lack flesh and feel healthful stimulate vour liver. Don't but make this effort in the right direc-

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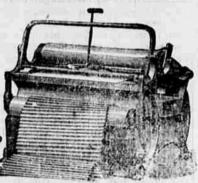
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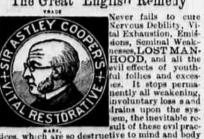
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