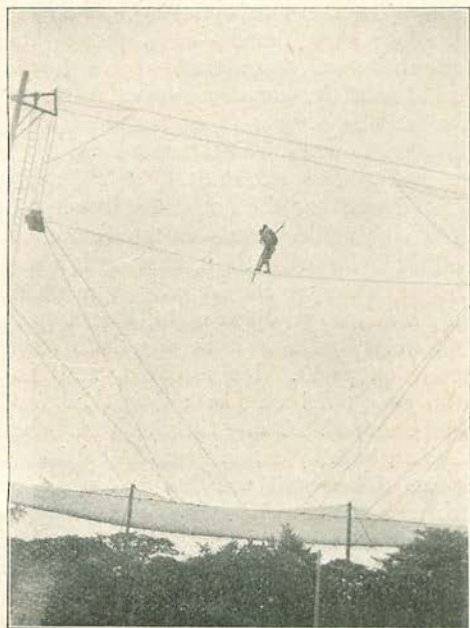


Travelling in Mid-Air

It is rarely that the camera can be arranged in a position to get such a view of an aerial rope-walker as that shown in each of the accompanying photographs, and rarely that the plate when printed off gives such a clear impression. So instantaneously were the snap-shots taken that the swaying of the rope would seem to be absent for there is not the slightest indication of a blur in either view. The photographs were taken recently at Eastham in Cheshire. In the case of the bicycle ride the machine was hauled up to the small platform by a pulley, the rider ascending by the rope ladder. He then mounted and was started by a friend, another receiving him on a similar platform at the other end of the rope. The wheels of the bicycle were grooved to fit the rope, and the handle bars were, of course, fixed, to prevent the machine turning and twisting about when upon so narrow a track. Quite as risky was the walk of the performer with a man upon his back and one fancies that the daring of the rider must have been quite as great as that of the carrier.



A novel photograph of a tight-rope walker carrying a man upon his back

August Bread-feast Day

THIS is what we call Lammas Day, for the word comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word for "loaf" (and has nothing to do with lambs) which it was the custom at one time for the people, after the corn harvest was over, to give as thank-offerings out of the first-fruits of the wheat crop. It is true that at York some of the priests got the people to bring them lambs as first-fruits of the harvest! But, of course, this had no sense in it, for lambs in August are really sheep and have nothing to do with the harvesting of grain-crops.

Every one has heard the phrase "at latter Lammas." It means "never," and if, as Queen Elizabeth did to Philip II., King of Spain, you wish to say very politely that you will *never* do a thing, you can say you will do it "at latter Lammas." The Romans used in the same way to say "at the Greek Kalends" because the Greeks had no Kalends. The Danes say "on the 30th of February" because there is no such day. The Spaniards say "to-morrow" because "to-morrow never comes." We ourselves say "when two Sundays come together"—which they never do.

Lammas Day, August 1, is the day when the Roman Catholics give their "Peter's Pence" to the Pope, because on that day they celebrate the miraculous deliverance of Peter from the prison into which Herod had cast him.

Oyster Day

THERE is an old song that begins :

Greengrocers rise at dawn of sun—

August the fifth—come haste away!

To Billingsgate the thousands run—

'Tis Oyster Day! 'tis Oyster Day!

August 5 is still "Oyster Day," though, nowadays, greengrocers do not sell oysters, nor do people run to Billingsgate to eat them.

St. James' Day, *in the old style*, was August 5, and on that day oysters were supposed to come into season, and be fit for eating in England. Now there is nothing at all extraordinary about this, *but*, as it happens, both scallop shell and oyster shell



were special badges of St. James, and were worn in their hats by all the pilgrims to his shrine at Compostella, in Spain, and left there as mementoes of the pilgrimage, and the monks of the shrine used to pile up the shells into mounds, and during the Saint's festival they decorated them with candles.

Now, in England, on the very same day, little London street boys, and poor children in other towns, used to do the very same thing! They got together all the oyster-shells they could, built them up into little mounds, like hollow bee-hives, and lit candles inside. They called them "grottoes," and if any well-to-do persons passed they trooped after them, with their caps in their hands, begging them to "Remember the Grotto." This used to happen only a few years ago and, very possibly, "grottoes" may still be built by children in our slums on St. James' Day. Could anything be more curious than this survival among street children in London of an old-time worship of Spain?

Of course, oysters were very expensive the first day they came in, and so there is a saying, "Whoever eats oysters on St. James' Day will never want money." Which means that if you can afford to pay for them on the first day of the season you are not likely to be poor. But, as a matter of fact, oysters are not really considered to be wholesome in this country until September 1st.

### St. James the Greater

Now, July 25 is the Saint's Day of James the Greater, who is revered by all Christians as one of the Apostles. Every Bible-reader, of course, knows how highly favoured St. James the Greater was, and the reasons why, and it is very interesting to read how this simple Galilean fisherman, beloved and revered by us all, has become in Spain a great fighting warrior saint, the patron saint of the country, and worshipped in a thousand Spanish churches as the champion of Spanish power! Wherever the Spaniards went in the olden days of their glory, the very first thing they did was to name a city or a church "Santiago," which means, of course, St. James, and to this day this good and holy Apostle is to Spain what St.

George, St. Andrew, St. David, and St. Patrick are to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

He was put to death by Herod for preaching Christ, and was the first of the martyrs in the cause of the Gospel. At his execution, one of the most extraordinary things that ever occurred took place. St. James was being taken away to be put to death when the man who had accused him to Herod, and was the cause of his martyrdom, came up to him to beg his forgiveness. The Saint forgave him cheerfully, bidding him go in peace as his sin was pardoned. Then the accuser, smitten to the heart, fell on his knees and declared himself a Christian too! Then rising he walked behind the Saint to the place of execution, and was beheaded with him.

### King of Pavement Artists

THOUGH James Grant has not undergone, nor is likely to undergo, any coronation ceremony, he is without doubt *de jure*, if not *de facto*, a king amongst those artists who choose the pavement as a medium for the exhibition of their work. That this is no mere assertion on my part the accompanying illustrations bear eloquent testimony—even though the black-and-white reproductions give but a faint idea of the gorgeous sunset colouring in which he excels.

During the month of October I was often attracted to the porch of St. Philip's Church, Earls Court, by the surpassing beauty—I can use no milder terms—of the sketches on the flags in front. At last, thinking it a pity that his colouring should only come on in the morning to go off at night, I went up to him, and asked him if he would do me a sketch on paper. He assented, and the terms he quoted were so low, that I agreed to take several. These sketches were much admired, both by connoisseurs and artists of repute. The result was that for a while he was inundated with orders, and many of his works, handsomely framed, and flanked by old masters, illumine the walls of several well-appointed private houses. This, however, was not enough. To make him famous he must be introduced to the great British public; and the only way to do this success-