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(By LADBROKE BLACK).

N.º 3.—THE COUNTY HOUSE TRAGEDY.

CHAPTER I.

MARRIAGE BY REQUEST.

Some years ago there lived at Orcival—a little town on the banks of the Seine some miles from Paris—a gentleman named Sauvresy. Though a young man of great wealth, and the owner of the largest estate in the neighbourhood, he fell in love with and married the daughter of the local schoolmaster.

Bertha—such was the name of his wife—enjoyed to the full the almost magical change in her fortunes. She had only to express a desire, to find it immediately gratified. It was her husband's delight to spend money like water on her every whim.

They had been married for three years when Sauvresy brought to his beautiful country house at Orcival his great friend, Count Hector. Hector, who had led a very dissipated life in Paris, had just exhausted the considerable fortune he had inherited, and was seriously meditating suicide as an alternative to the debtors' prison, when Sauvresy intervened. He begged the count to make Orcival his home, and, on his invitation being accepted, busied himself in trying to retrieve some of his friend's more serious losses.

His solicitude for the count's interests led him to arrange a match between his friend and Laura Courtois, the heiress of the Mayor of Orcival, M. Courtois.

The proposed marriage never came to anything, for at the end of eighteen months, Sauvresy was taken ill, and, feeling that he was about to die, begged the count to marry Bertha as soon as he should have passed away. The count fulfilled the dying request of his friend, and Bertha and he became man and wife.

They had been married scarcely a year when the terrible catastrophe happened which resulted in my being called upon to investigate one of the most mysterious and intricate problems with which I have ever been faced.

On Wednesday, July 8, the count received a considerable sum of money from his bankers. The same evening his servants, with the permission of their master, attended the marriage of one of the number in Paris, and, in consequence, the count and countess were left alone in the house.

The following morning, at about three o'clock, two poachers found the horribly mutilated body of the unfortunate countess near the river bank. They immediately summoned the mayor and the nearest justice of the peace, M. Plantat, who arrived with all speed to examine the scene of the crime. The unfortunate woman was clad in evening dress, and in her left hand she gripped a strip of common cloth. All around the spot where her body was found the sand and grass had been trampled upon as if in the course of some violent struggle.

The discovery of the count's slippers in the grounds of the house appeared to point to a double tragedy.

When the representatives of the law arrived at the house they were met by the party of servants returning from Paris, all unconscious of the terrible tragedy that had taken place in their absence. The only member of the party missing was the gardener Gespin, who, it appeared, had left his companions at the railway station the previous evening.

Shortly afterwards Gespin put in an appearance, and being unable to give a proper account of himself, and being found to have a considerable sum of money in his possession, was promptly arrested on suspicion. The subsequent inquiries seemed to confirm these suspicions. A bloodstained vest was found in the grounds, with a piece torn from it corresponding in size to the strip of material gripped in the dead woman's hand. The vest was shown to be Gespin's.

Prompt inquiries in Paris by telegraph

disclosed the fact that the man had gone to an ironmonger's in the city soon after his arrival in Paris, and there purchased with a £20 note a parcel of tools, one of them a large sheath knife or dagger.

Meanwhile a telegram had summoned me to the scene. When I arrived I found that the mayor and the examining magistrate had quite made up their minds that Gespin was the murderer. On the other hand, it was obvious, from the manner of M. Plantat, that he opposed this theory, I, Lecocq, as usual, preserved an open mind.

Inside the house the evidences of the crime were appalling, and seemed to lend support to the contention of the mayor and the examining magistrate that the brutal deed had been the work of a gang of miscreants led by Gespin.

In the entrance hall there was a pool of blood, and all the way up the staircase the woodwork was stained and crimsoned. On the door of the countess's boudoir was the imprint of a blood-stained hand. In the boudoir itself nothing unusual was to be noticed, but in the bedroom beyond the scene of disorder was frightful. It was as if a furious maniac had smashed and trampled upon every article of furniture.

A small tea-table in the middle of the floor lay broken, surrounded by lumps of sugar and fragments of porcelain cups. The lamps with which the room was lit had been hurled to the ground, and near by lay the clock, which in falling, had stopped at twenty minutes past three. Even the curtains had been torn from the bed, which was all tumbled and disordered.

In the rooms on the upper floor the same scene of devastation presented itself. Even the coverings of chairs had been cut away, and the stuffing within scattered about the floor. Every book had been taken from its place on the shelves, and all the chests of drawers were lying open.

In the middle of the floor of one of these rooms I found a hatchet. Downstairs in the dining-room it appeared that the assassins had coolly partaken of supper, for the table was loaded with a quantity of food and empty bottles. Five wine-glasses seemed to indicate the number of the miscreants.

In the mind of the examining magistrate Gespin's guilt was so clearly established that he wished to send me back to Paris there and then, considering further inquiry unnecessary. But, fortunately for me, just at this moment there arrived an express messenger from the mayor's wife. It announced the terrible news that daughter Laura, who was staying with an aunt in Paris, had written a letter, the last letter she ever intended to write, declaring she found life insupportable, and was determined to commit suicide.

Faced with this domestic tragedy M. Courtois forgot his public character, and hurried away grief-stricken, leaving me to make what investigations I liked. I began to make them carefully and skillfully, attended only by M. Plantat, who seemed curiously interested and excited as I announced my deductions one by one.

CHAPTER II.

A TELL-TALE CLOCK.

Turning my attention first to the debris of the tea-table in the bedroom. Kneeling down I felt the carpet where it was strewn with the broken porcelain. It was very damp. The tea, therefore, had not all been drunk when the cups were broken, and hence the count or countess must have been taking tea when the murder occurred. But the clock had stopped at twenty minutes past three. Was it likely that the countess, fully dressed, would be taking tea at such an hour? It was not at all likely, I told myself.

Filled with an inspiration, I opened the clock face, and moved the long hand to the figure of half-past three. The clock promptly struck eleven. Clearly the assassins had tried to cover their traces by giving a false idea of the time. They had pushed the hands on, but had forgotten to put the striking part of the mechanism in harmony. The clock fell when the murder took place, and then stopped. Hence the crime must have been committed between half-past ten and eleven. At such an hour the count and countess were not likely to be in bed. The fact that the countess was dressed was proof at least that she had not retired. How, then, to account for the disorder of the bed?

I examined it carefully. The sheets had been thrown back, and the pillows had been tumbled, but the bolster and the undersheet were not rumpled at all, which they must have been had somebody lain in the bed. Therefore, somebody had purposely disarranged the bedclothes; and, therefore, the count and countess had not gone to bed, and hence the murder must, in all human probability, have taken place between half-past ten and eleven.

A towel lying on the floor caught my eye. Examining it closely, I discovered that somebody had wiped a razor on it after shaving himself. In a drawer hard by there was a case of razors, one of which had been recently used.

Turning my attention to the hatchet, in the upper room I detected at once from marks on the carpet, that this weapon had been hurled to the floor with great violence. This violence betrayed great anger on the part of the assassin. But why was he angry? Clearly, I argued, all this damage done to the furniture could only be explained by the person responsible for it being anxious to discover something. Probably, failing to find what he sought, he hurled the hatchet to the floor in a fit of anger.

In the dining-room I next examined the five glasses, and by holding them up to the light, one by one, I saw that nobody had drunk from any of them. Smelling them I detected, to my surprise, that vinegar, and not wine, had been poured into them. The bottles on the table were all empty, except one, which contained vinegar. From the count's valet I learnt that the other bottles were merely "empties," and had never contained wine. Hence this elaborately prepared supper-table was simply another ruse of the assassin to deceive the trackers—a ruse so clumsily planned that, in trying to show that a band of five persons had been responsible for the murder by leaving five half-filled glasses on the table, he had actually poured into them vinegar instead of wine.

After what I had learnt of the crime in the house I was not surprised at the facts. I was able to read into the traces and footprints in the grounds. I found that the countess's body had been dragged from the house across the lawn, and that in all probability she was already dead at the time. The seeming evidences of a struggle near the spot where the body was found, I discovered, been made by the assassin.

These deductions of mine were corroborated by the medical evidence, the doctor informing me that the blow which had killed the countess had been delivered from behind, and that the other wounds on the body had been made some hours after she was dead.

Returning to the house I summoned the count's valet, and sent him to see if a pair of his master's boots was missing. He came back a few seconds later with the information that one pair was missing. To complete my investigations I asked to see a portrait of the count. One was shown me, and I saw that Count Hector had always worn a full beard. There was no necessity to make any more inquiries.

In the grounds they were still searching for the count's body, but I knew they would never find it, for the very simple reason, so I told myself, that it was the count who had murdered his wife and then fled.

All the time I had been making my investigations I had been struck with the excitement and interest evidenced by M. Plantat. He had asked me to dinner, and as we sat at the table I felt convinced that he knew more about the tragedy than he cared to say. Unable to make him speak I determined to give him my confidence by reciting my own theory of the crime, in the hope that by so doing I might encourage a like frankness on his part.

The countess, I said, relating my deductions, possessed some document that compromised the count. She refused to give it up to her husband, and the count, determined at all costs to obtain possession of it, carefully and deliberately planned the murder of his wife. So that the crime he meditated might appear to be the work of thieves, he let it be generally known that a large sum of money, sent from his bank, was in the house.

Then he got rid of his servants by sending them away for the night to Paris, and to avert all suspicion from himself, gave his gardener Gespin a twenty-pound note with instructions to buy a knife and return the change. Left alone in the great country house with his victim, the count stabbed her from behind as she was sitting at the tea-table. Then he set about searching the house thoroughly for the compromising papers. His quest proving fruitless, his anger got the better of him, and he hurled the hatchet, with which he had been breaking open cupboards and drawers, violently on the floor.

Terror next seized him, and he began to think of hiding the evidences of his guilt. First shaving off the full beard that he wore in order to disguise himself, he dragged the body of his wife down to the riverside. There he stabbed the corpse several times, and carefully trampled down the sand as if to show there had been a struggle.

Obtaining one of Gespin's vests, he had torn a piece cut and placed it in the dead woman's hand. The rest of the garment, soaked in blood, he left where it could easily be found. His own shoes he also left in the garden to give the idea that he also had been murdered. But he forgot, in the excitement of his terror, that the fact that a pair of his boots were missing would prove that he could not have been wearing slippers, and that therefore this ruse was not only futile but actually strengthened the proofs of his guilt.

CHAPTER III.

DEAD HUSBAND'S REVENGE.

When I had finished M. Plantat, with

evident signs of emotion rose from his seat and took from a secret drawer in his writing-table a packet of papers.

I have determined to tell you everything," he said, turning to me, "and to place myself entirely in your hands. I would not have spoken had not your wonderful genius for investigation enabled you to read this tragedy aright. Count Hector is the murderer. Listen!"

He began to read from the papers, and for an hour I listened to one of the most dramatic stories I ever recollect hearing.

While Sauvresy was still alive his wife Bertha had fallen in love with the count, and the count had not hesitated to betray the friend to whom he owed so much. By chance Sauvresy discovered their guilty secret, and by chance, also Bertha learnt that he knew the truth.

Maddened by her love for the count, she determined to make away with her husband. From a quack doctor in Orcival she obtained, for the sum of sixteen hundred pounds, some aconite, a poison the effects of which were little known in those days. Sauvresy was taken suddenly ill. After being confined to his bed for a fortnight he began to suspect the truth, and, watching his wife carefully, at last detected her doctoring his medicine with the poison.

He managed to obtain one of the bottles containing the aconite, and, though dying, planned a horrible revenge. Summoning up all his strength, he wrote out a full account of the true facts of his case, and, sealing this up with the bottle of poison, entrusted it to the hands of M. Plantat.

He knew that Bertha loved the count, but that the count, on his part, loved Laura Courtois, to distraction. Sauvresy realised that the greatest punishment he could inflict upon his guilty wife and his false friend was to force them to marry when he was dead.

Summoning them to his bedside, he told them that unless they married M. Plantat had instructions to forward the packet of papers to the police, a step which would certainly lead both of them to the scaffold. Should they marry, however, the truth would never be disclosed, and the papers would be given into Bertha's hands on the day of the marriage. Sauvresy realised that Bertha would always seek to keep these papers from the count, knowing that he loved Laura Courtois, and that once she was deprived of this hold over him he would leave her.

According to his instructions, M. Plantat delivered the sealed packet into the hands of the countess on the day of her marriage. She immediately secreted it and the count, mad with rage, in vain attempted to find its hiding-place. At last the countess, fearful lest her husband should take from her the one thing that kept him faithful to her, returned the documents to the keeping of M. Plantat.

All might have gone well with the guilty couple had not M. Plantat himself been deeply in love with Laura. One night the old justice of the peace saw the count and the girl he loved alone together. Mad with jealousy he broke the trust that had been reposed in him, and read the contents of the sealed package, which he half suspected reflected upon the count.

Appalled though he was by what he read of his rival's crime, he dared not use his knowledge. He had to stand quietly by and see Laura deluded and betrayed by the count.

"And now Laura is dead," M. Plantat said in a trembling voice as he brought his narrative to a conclusion, "and I care no more for life."

But I, Lecocq, guessed the truth. The letter to her parents, stating that she was going to commit suicide, I felt certain had been dictated by the count, with whom Laura had fled. Within twenty-four hours I discovered the place of their retreat. The murderer was already in my grasp. I had but to put out my hand and the scaffold would have claimed him. But I held back.

My heart had been moved by M. Plantat's story. I knew what he suffered from the thought that the girl he still loved would be associated with such a vile murderer in all the glare of a public trial. I allowed the count time to commit suicide, and having sent him to the Highest Tribunal of all, interferred to prevent Laura, now cured of her mad infatuation, from following her betrayer.

To all this tragedy and mystery there was a happy ending. I need not relate it. It is enough to say that M. Lecocq, the detective, nowhere receives a warmer welcome than at the quiet country house at Orcival where live M. and Mme. Plantat.

NEXT WEEK—"THE BLACKMAILERS."

ALL ABOUT COPPER.

The *Financial Times* of March 16 says:—"Apart from a further recovery in Copper shares and American Rails, little movement occurred in the Stock Markets this morning. Gilt-edged securities continued heavy on account of the competition set up by new issues, but the declines in prices were slight, a steadying effect being produced by the defeat of the Unemployment Bill last night and by the favourable monetary outlook, dealers hoping that the Bank of England

would secure the lion's share of the £600,000 bar gold that arrives in the open market on Monday. A good impression was created in the Home Railway market by the remarks made at Birmingham last night by Mr. Asquith upon the subject of co-operation amongst railway companies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes a similar view to that expressed on several occasions lately by Mr. Lloyd-George, as may be gathered from the following passage in his speech:—"He thought they would all agree an enormous amount of money might be saved, that the trader might be better served, and the shareholder have a better prospect of a higher dividend if more were done than had been done in the past to avoid reckless and cut-throat competition, the provision of duplicate and sometimes triplicate facilities in cases where one service would serve, and a thousand other evils attendant upon our present more or less unregulated system with regard to railways. These were all important considerations, if only greater co-ordination and simplicity and greater common sense could be introduced into the working of our railways." So far as to-day is concerned, the speech failed to raise prices, the market having to face a revival of liquidation in the heavy stocks from Liverpool, but dealers were glad to make a mental note of this additional evidence of the Cabinet's sympathetic attitude towards the economy from combination policy."

The March mid-monthly copper statistics published by Messrs Henry R. Merton and Co. show an increase during the fortnight of 1,200 tons in stocks in England and France and of 2,700 tons in visible supplies, including shipments afloat from Chili and Australia. Shipments from America were on a large scale, particularly to London, Liverpool, Swansea and Havre, these four ports taking 5,100 tons in the two weeks, as against only 7,000 tons in the whole of the previous month. There was a notable expansion also in the exports from Chili, which totalled 2,900 tons, against 2,300 tons in February, while from Spain and Portugal supplies also came in more freely. Notwithstanding the larger quantities of the metal on the market, however, the price has advanced, "Standard" being quoted £58 10s, the same figure at which it stood a month ago, but for this the improvement in the American position appears to be mainly responsible.

Messrs. James Lewis and Son, in their March mid-monthly metal report, state that the feeling with regard to the future of copper has considerably improved lately. It is now fully realised that the position in the United States is rally on the mend, and an increasing consumption of copper in the home market is consequently looked for. Work has been resumed at the Anaconda and other Amalgamated mines in Montana, partly in anticipation of the bigger domestic demand and partly to meet shipments contracted on European account. As it must be three or four months before the metal resulting from the renewed operations will be available for delivery, it is clear the market will be pretty bare of stocks by that time. Meanwhile, imports into the States are declining, supplies having been obviously diverted to more remunerative markets. Thus we find a large increase in the imports into European countries. In England for the first two months of the year they advanced from 26,900 to 28,400 tons, and in France from 8,900 to 13,400 tons, and in Germany for January only from 8,300 to 14,400 tons. Consumption in England has risen from 12,000 to 13,700 tons, in France from 9,800 to 12,700 tons, and in Germany from 8,300 to 14,200 tons. The exports of copper from the States to Europe this year have more than doubled.

A Berlin despatch of March 21st says:—"According to the annual copper report of Aron Hirsch and Son, just published, the world's production of copper for 1907 is estimated at 706,460 tons, as against 752,900 in 1906, 693,700 in 1905, and 644,800 in 1904. Of this total the United States leads the way with an output of 373,660 tons (compared with 417,400 in 1906); next comes Mexico with 58,000 tons (60,000 in 1906); the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) with 51,000 tons (as in 1906); Australia 46,000 tons (43,000); Japan 40,000 tons (43,000); Chili, 28,000 tons (30,000); Germany, 24,300 tons (26,000). The exports from the United States to Europe rose from 205,450 tons in 1906 to 228,836 tons in 1907, while the accumulated stocks in the United States amounted to 113,767 tons at the end of last year, as against only 52,369 tons at the close of 1906. It must be borne in mind, however, that unrefined copper is included in the total for 1907."

"The world's consumption of the metal during the year 1907 is estimated at 680,090 tons, as against 787,564 tons in 1906, 742,141 tons in 1905, and 647,427 tons in 1904. It will therefore be seen that the production of copper last year exceeded the consumption by 26,370 tons, while in the preceding year the contrary was the case, consumption exceeding output by over 34,000 tons."

"Among the world's consumers of the metal North America holds pride of place with 214,120 tons, as against 316,964 tons in 1906; Germany takes second rank with 160,217 tons, as against 163,098 tons; then comes England with 118,430 tons, as against 121,256 tons, and France with 70,712 tons, as against 68,927 tons."

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

London, April 30.

On the 28th inst., a boiler tube exploded on board the battleship *Britannia*, a vessel of 16,350 tons displacement. The accident happened whilst the vessel was travelling at full speed, making a trial of her engines. Five of the crew were injured; two of these seriously and one slightly. The *Britannia* arrived at Spithead; but, owing to the rough state of the sea, the injured men could not be landed, nor could communication be made with the shore by boat.

London, April 30.

It is reported that two of the men injured by the explosion on board the *Britannia*, have died.

London, April 29.

The Naval Court of Inquiry which met to make an investigation into the accident to the cruiser *Gladiator*, has declared that the collision was unavoidable and that, consequently, no blame is attached to any one.

Portsmouth, April 29.

A collier came into collision today with the battleship *Formidable*, of 15,000 tons. Both vessels were slightly damaged.

London, April 30.

Mr. Asquith, Chief of the British Cabinet, in a speech delivered at the Reform Club, declared himself to be a firm adherent of Free Trade principles. With regard to the Education question, he desired to obtain further information on the subject before coming to a decision. As regards the Licensing Bill, the Premier declared himself opposed to any concession whatever being made.

The Bank of England has delivered into the hands of the judge the envelope, which, according to Lemoine, contains the explanation of the secret regarding the manufacture of artificial diamonds. The judge will forward the packet to his colleague, M. Le Poitevin, in Paris.

It is officially announced that the Prince of Wales will open the Franco-English Exhibition on the 14th of May.

London, April 29.

The Chief of the French Cabinet, M. Clemenceau, after having attended the funeral of the ex-Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, started on his return journey to Paris to-day. His visit to London has caused an excellent impression in all circles.

London, May 1.

It is reported from India that another frontier war of a much more serious nature than that lately undertaken against the Afridis, is on the eve of breaking out. General Willcocks calculates that the Muhammadan tribe and their allies, (the tribes that have revolted), can muster 12,000 rifles. A large body of the army is being concentrated at the Peshawar camp, formed entirely of Gurkha and Sikh soldiers; the Commander-in-Chief having no faith in the loyalty of the other native regiments. The European contingent is very small and Lord Kitchener is calling for more troops and war material to organise the expedition.

The speech delivered at Liverpool by Mr. Thomas Price, Premier of the Australian Colony, has caused a profound sensation in public opinion, on account of the severe charges made by him against the policy of Great Britain, in the effort to support and strengthen the Japanese Empire. Mr. Price declared that the Australian Commonwealth is compelled to consider, on her own account, the problem of the near future. The Australian Parliament disapproves of Great Britain's action in her relations with the yellow races, and has decided to call on all Australians under the age of 30 to receive military instruction, to be prepared to meet the necessity of repelling an invasion of the Japanese at no distant date. The entire press has called attention to these remarks, which, being pronounced by one so well informed in the matter, is considered to be of transcendental importance.

The celebrated singer, Luisa Tetrazzini, inaugurated the opera season at Covent Garden last night with "Traviata." She obtained a much greater triumph even than on former occasions. Rain was falling heavily; but this did not prevent the public from gathering round the door at an early hour to await the arrival of the artist and give her a hearty welcome. A distinguished audience assembled, amongst them being the Prince and Princess of Wales, many members of the aristocracy and celebrities of all descriptions. The celebrated Adeline Patti came expressly to hear Tetrazzini sing. The Hungarian tenor, Maxak, also met with great success.

According to the latest official report 23 lives were lost in the foundering of the *Gladiator*. A complete list of the victims has been published.

London, May 2.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Spencer Churchill, was received by a large number of people who gave him a cordial welcome on his arrival at Dundee, whither he has gone as a candidate for the seat in Parliament which has become vacant. Mr. Churchill made a short speech in the street and was heartily cheered by the crowd.

London, May 3.

The Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in India has telegraphed for reinforcements of European troops or of troops from some remote district to check the effects of the proclamation of Holy War amongst the Mohammedans of that country. The Afridis, who have now been joined by crowds of fanatics from all the southern part of Afghanistan and Beluchistan, have invaded the frontier and are making attacks on the British forces. In the encounter which took place at Abazal, on the Afghan frontier, the detachment of native troops composed of Mohammedans, who garrisoned the block-houses on the borders, joined the enemy and took part in the attack on the fortress. The battalion of Gurkhas and the European artillery maintained the struggle, in which the British forces sustained a loss of two European officers, killed; five wounded and forty men, English and natives, killed. These reports come in confirmation of the alarming rumours which have been in circulation for several days with regard to the serious state of affairs in India.

A subscription to relieve the sufferers from famine in India, headed by King Edward, has been opened.

London, May 4.

According to a report received from Calcutta by the *Evening Standard*, a plot formed by a group of conspirators to assassinate the Commander-in-Chief of the British troops in India, Lord Kitchener, and other officials of rank, has been discovered in that city.

Simla, May 4.

It is reported that the principal body of Mohammedans has dispersed having refused to continue the revolt into which they were led by their commander. The Afridi tribe has also refused to join the movement. It is evident that owing to the energetic steps taken by the British troops, the situation is gradually improving.

FRANCE.

Toulon, May 1.

It is reported that an English Banking establishment at Hyères has been made the victim of a serious robbery. An unknown individual, provided with a cleverly forged letter of credit and forged letters of introduction, succeeded in swindling the Bank of a considerable sum of money. In spite of all the efforts made by the police to capture the swindler he still remains at large.

ITALY.

Rome, April 30.

From Catania it is reported that the volcano, Mount Etna, continues in eruption, although only in a moderate degree. Great columns of smoke are issuing from the three craters of the volcano.

—The *Messenger* states that the subterranean noises proceeding from Vesuvius are so tremendous that they have been heard at Messina. The inhabitants living in the neighbourhood are greatly alarmed by these manifestations of the volcano and are afraid that some external phenomenon may occur at any moment.

—The Women's Congress was brought to a close to-day with a grand banquet, at which 800 ladies were present. Speeches were plentiful, and all the speakers, as a matter of course, expressed themselves in favour of the emancipation of woman.

NORWAY.

Christiania, May 2.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra left here to-day on their return journey to England. An immense crowd cheered them with great enthusiasm, whilst they were embarking.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, May 2

The situation on the frontier becomes more complicated day by day, and it is to be feared that a serious conflict may break out at any moment. The Kurds, on the one hand, and other neighbouring tribes continue the work of pillage and vandalism, and frequently engage in skirmishes with the Russian troops. They attack whole villages, massacre the inhabitants and set fire to and destroy everything they come across. On the other hand, Russia, unable to tolerate such a state of affairs, is concentrating troops on the frontier. Turkey on her part, has also sent troops to that region. And, finally, Persia under the pretext of suppressing the abuses and disturbances committed by the Kurds and other tribes, has sent a considerable body of troops to the disturbed districts.

—According to the latest telegrams received, the Russian column is advancing in the direction of Belashiwur, and it would not be surprising to hear that a conflict had already broken out amongst the three interested Powers.

INDIA.

Simla, May 1.

A delegation of the Mohammedan tribe is on its way to the south to open peace negotiations with the British authorities.

CHINA.

Hong Kong, May 2.

The boycott established by the Chinese in retaliation against the Japanese is bringing about effective results in the south of the country. The Toyo Kishen Kaisa Navigation Company has been obliged to suspend, temporarily, their service to South America.

JAPAN.

Tokio, April 30.

The country has just experienced a serious misfortune. The magnificent Japanese training-ship, *Matsushima*, has gone to the bottom in consequence of a formidable explosion which occurred on board. The exact number of victims is not yet known, but they are numerous. The report of the explosion was heard at an enormous distance; but at first it was not known on what vessel the accident had taken place. When this became known, the consternation was immense. The inhabitants of the capital are besieging the naval offices to obtain particulars of the catastrophe. The *Matsushima*, constructed in 1908, displaces 4,200 tons and develops a speed of 16 knots per hour.

—It is believed that 200 individuals have perished in the founding of the *Matsushima*. The report that 30 lives have been saved is confirmed.

—A telegram received at the last moment reports that, thanks to the prompt and opportune assistance rendered by several Japanese cruisers to the *Matsushima*, 141 of the crew, nearly all sailors, have been saved. It is inferred, therefore, that the great majority of those who lost their lives in the catastrophe, are officers of the ship.

Tokio, May 1

The official report on the accident to the *Matsushima* states that the divers have discovered a large hole in the side of the ship under the deck and have found that the water-tight compartments have also been destroyed. The same divers have succeeded in recovering the bodies of the Commander and second Commander. The losses include 33 midshipmen, one petty officer and 150 of the crew.

UNITED STATES.

Washington, April 30.

Seldom have more heated or more interesting debates taken place in the Senate than those which, during a whole week, have been heard with regard to the Presidential message requesting authority to order the construction of four large battleships. The meeting was opened at 11 this morning and lasted up till 7 p.m. The galleries were crowded with people. Nearly all the members of the Diplomatic Corps were present and it was remarked that the majority of the members of the Japanese Legation were amongst the audience. It was noticed also that in the free galleries a large number of Japanese who followed the debate with lively interest were present. Senator Beveridge made a forcible speech in favour of the measure, impressing the idea on his hearers that, as President Roosevelt had asked for four large battleships, these would have to be granted. The speaker in conclusion remarked: "The President knows his reasons for requesting the construction of these vessels." A score of forcible and contradictory speeches followed. Senator Stone (Democrat) and Mr. Aldrich (Republican) were the most obstinate opposers of the measure.

In view of the opposition, Mr. Allison, member of the Naval Committee of the Senate, conferred for a moment with President Roosevelt and proposed to the House that a frank and open naval policy be adopted apart from all party politics. As a compromise he presented a motion authorising the construction of two large and powerful battleships of the *Delaware* type, yearly, until the Navy attains a certain degree of strength. When quietness had been restored with the presentation of this proposal, the petition of the Executive for four battleships was first put to the vote. This was rejected by 50 votes to 23. The motion proposed by Mr. Allison was tacitly approved.

New York, May 1.

It is reported from Pittsburg that two daring robbers stopped the express on its way from that city to St. Louis, and, taking advantage of the panic produced amongst the passengers and employes by the sudden and unexpected stoppage, they stole four bags of money and made their escape. The police were advised of the robbery at the next station and a detachment was sent in pursuit.

Washington, May 1.

President Roosevelt has sent a telegram of condolence to the Mikado on the disaster to the *Matsushima*.

—According to official reports received by the Japanese Embassy, the number of lives lost in the terrible catastrophe that happened to the *Matsushima* off Pescadores, is as follows: 230 officers, 33 midshipmen and 151 sailors.

—The Government, accepting the invitation of the Chinese Government, has given the necessary orders for the Fleet commanded by Admiral Evans to visit the port of Hong Kong.

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ENGLAND

Pittsburg, May 2.

It is reported that the sum stolen by the two daring bandits who held up the express train on its way from New York to St. Louis, amounts to \$16,000.

New York, May 2.

According to reports received from Mexico, it appears that the Capital of Guatemala is fast becoming a center of anarchy and despotism, a state that those in power take advantage of to commit all kinds of violence and outrage.

Yesterday afternoon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, señor Juan Barrios, at the head of a detachment of soldiers, taking advantage of the absence of the Uruguayan Consul forced an entrance into the Consulate and arrested the Consul-General of Honduras and his sons who had taken refuge there. On his return, the Uruguayan Consul, being informed of the fact, repaired to the United States Legation where he sought refuge, and drew up a formal protest against the Government of Guatemala. The Foreign Minister, in order to anticipate all other versions of the affair, forwarded an extensive telegraphic dispatch to his Minister in Washington, explaining the motives for his actions and, far from deploring the affair, maintains that he was perfectly justified in proceeding as he did.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Buenos Aires, May 1.

Six young men of certain social position, indignant at the manner in which the Banco Constructor Sud Americano had met its liabilities, entered the offices of the Bank and established the Manager. They then proceeded to the safe, abstracted all the documents it contained and tore them into a thousand pieces.

STRIKE OF GERMAN JOURNALISTS.

(From *The Times* Correspondent.)
Berlin, March 20.

During the debate on the Colonial Estimates in the Reichstag yesterday, the Centre Deputy, Herr Erzberger, in the course of a speech, observed that "the negro was a human being with an immortal soul." This statement was received with laughter and derisive exclamations in various parts of the House, including one or other of the galleries. A prominent member of the Centre party, Herr Grober, vented his indignation at the treatment meted out to Herr Erzberger by exclaiming, "Those pigs of fellows (*Saubengels*) up there (indicating the galleries) are at it again." The President, Count Stolberg, thereupon warned the occupants of the galleries that he would order the galleries to be cleared if these demonstrations were repeated.

The Radical leader, Herr Muller, Deputy for Meiningen, who spoke after Herr Erzberger, took occasion to refer to the incident, and appeared to assume that the derogatory expressions had proceeded from the Press gallery, the occupants of which he described as having repeatedly caused irritation among members of the House by their interruptions.

In his opinion, the journalists who were admitted to the debates had no right to give any expression to their feelings.

The representatives of the German Press in the gallery feel aggrieved by Herr Grober's language, which they believe to have been directed against them, and they have resolved to suspend work until adequate reparation has been made. The Press gallery, to-day was unoccupied, except by the representatives of the semi-official telegraph agency, who, however, have expressed their solidarity with the strikers. Journals of all shades which are in sympathy with the movement have agreed not to publish any reports of the proceedings in the Reichstag until their representatives feel free to resume work. In the meantime the occupants of the Press gallery have held an indignation meeting and have addressed a petition to the President, who has promised to use his best offices with the Centre party in order to arrive at a settlement.

IN MALE ATTIRE.

Great was the amazement of a French magistrate the other day, when a widow, who had been called as a witness, appeared at his office in a top hat and a frock-coat with her hair cut short and trimly brushed, and carrying a neat stick. This must be a mistake or a joke, he reflected and his bewilderment hardly diminished when the good woman calmly related that she had actually been wearing masculine attire for fully thirty-seven years without the exception of a single day. "But this is not allowed," he gasped. "It is in my case as a privilege," the widow replied proudly, and then she explained that she had acted as an empress to Metz in 1870, that she had deposited in the Bazaine trial, and that she had been authorised to retain masculine dress in honour of her prowess in that terrible year. She is in possession of a number of documents testifying to the important services which she then rendered. This heroine, or hero, as she would prefer to be styled, is now in her 64th year.

LOBD TWEEDMOUTH AND THE TWO-POWER STANDARD.

(The Times.)

We are officially informed that the following letter has been addressed by the First Lord of the Admiralty to Lord Cawdor with reference to the naval debate in the House of Lords on Wednesday:—

Admiralty, Whitehall, March 19, 1908.
My dear Cawdor,—In view of what you said in your reply last night, and the line of criticism taken in some of the newspapers this morning, I wish to say that my words, "any reasonably probable combination of foreign Powers," were intended as an extension, and not a restriction, of the definition of a two-Power standard. I go the whole length of the Prime Minister's and Chancellor of the Exchequer's statements, and perhaps a little further.

Very sincerely yours,
TWEEDMOUTH.

THE ANGLO-CHILIAN TIMES

VALPARAISO, SAT., MAY 9, 1908.

No more waste of time.

The Chilean Press has had for a very long time past three stock subjects which are regularly trotted out whenever other matter fails. The practice recalls to mind a story told at the expense of the English Press in the days of old, when armed revolutions for the possession of the Chinchas succeeded each other at brief intervals in Peru, and the condition of that country was a perennial scandal to civilization. The story goes that when there was a dearth of subjects upon which to dilate in the columns of the London Press, leader told by their editors to "Pitch into writers applying for instructions were Peru." Something similar—barring, of course, the scandalous aspect of the story appears to be happening in this country with respect to the three undertakings known as the Arica and La Paz Railway, the Longitudinal Railway, and Valparaiso Harbour Improvements. Is there a dearth of subjects for leaders, trot out the Arica and La Paz Railway. Here there is cloth to cut and to come again. Is this subject becoming wearisome, as will happen when one string is harped upon too long, then trot out the Longitudinal Railway. Here there is matter for articles without number. Are they becoming stale by repetition? Then trot out the Valparaiso Harbour Improvements. This subject has furnished matter for discussion for the past forty years, and if the debate is not cut short by the pick and the shovel, it is a subject which will furnish matter for discussion for another forty years. So long as the matter is left in the hands of contending engineers, no agreement, no final resolution will be possible. It is but a waste of time for the Government to attempt to untie the Gordian knot presented to it by the engineers. The proper course for the Government to pursue is to cut the knot by deciding definitely, without any more beating about the bush, in favour of one or the other of the plans submitted to it. Which of these plans should be accepted? We make no pretensions whatever of deciding this question, but we may be permitted to say that the plans, reports and estimates of the Government's own engineering expert appear to be preferred to all other schemes by practical men, by whom they are considered to be exactly the scheme suited to the requirements of Valparaiso. At any rate, the question of harbour improvements for Valparaiso has been debated long enough in all conscience, and our advice to the Government is to close the debate by accepting the Scott scheme, and by putting ten thousand men on to the works as quickly as time will allow of doing so.

We are taking the three great works we enumerated in the first part of this article in the reverse of the order in which we presented them, but this is a matter of no importance for is it not written... so long as we get the opportunity of relieving our mind of what we desire to say. Of the utility, desirability and necessity of a railway to place the extreme north of the Republic in connexion with the centre we have never harboured the least doubt. To rest content with only one means of communication between the north and centre of the Republic, and that means the sea, is a great want of foresight and of patriotism. But between the construction of such a railway according to well considered and well thought out plans, or in the absence of any plans at all, there is an immense difference. It is easy to comprehend that a staff of competent engineers may traverse a section of a country and may select a route for a railway, and may give a shrewd guess as to the cost of the road, but there is nothing in all this on which to base tenders for the construction of a railway. This is the position more or less of the Longitudinal Railway scheme to-day. There is nothing definite on which to base calculations and much less tenders. In the case of the Arica and La Paz Railway the case is, however, quite different. Here there is ground for contractors to work upon with all

confidence, and it is no secret that an English Syndicate, which is as sound as the Bank of England, is prepared to construct the line in question. If the Government should accept the tender of the Syndicate, it may rest assured that it will be spared all further annoyances of any kind. There will be no "empeños"—those bugbears of Chilean Presidents and Ministers—and no attempts to evade obligations by side doors. It is to the interest of Chile that this Arica and La Paz Railway business should be settled definitely and at once, for there is no denying the fact that the delay is irritating Bolivia, whilst, at the same time, it furnishes a neighbouring Republic with an opportunity for stabbing Chile in the back. Nothing would have such a steady influence on the feelings of Peru with respect to the Provinces which, with or without the iron road in question, are lost to her for ever, as the Arica and La Paz Railway, and no effort should be spared to bring about this result without any further delay.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST CONSUMPTION.

ASOCIACION DE SEÑORAS CONTRA LA TUBERCULOSIS.

We have received from the Lady President of this Society the following interesting statistics for the month of April:—

Consumptives attended to 393
Injections of Cocodilhato of sodio 67
Cauterisations 4
Discharged 7

After repeated requests for more extended information than is conveyed in the monthly statistics, the Lady President, overcoming her aversion to publicity, has placed at our disposal the following communication, which will everywhere be read with great interest:—
To many who are not acquainted with the dreaded disease called "Tuberculosis" the above statement, seven patients considered cured, will attract little or no attention. To us, who have undertaken the work of attending sufferers from this terrible affliction, it means encouragement—to the sick and suffering it means hope.... After long and patient labour, after many difficulties, we affirm that we began with the purpose of giving aid and comfort; whilst now we can as surely say that we can save lives if the afflicted ones come to us in the first stages of the disease to be not only treated with medicine and tonics, but to be helped with food, clothing and rest. We should add better housing. Doctor Bulstrode, medical inspector of the London Local Government Board, who has devoted years of study to the investigation of "Tuberculosis," and the many aspects of this important question, has declared in a report lately issued, that one very significant period of decline in the rate of consumption in England, may be dated from the passing of the 'Housing of the Working Classes Act' of 1890 and the commencement of the sanatorium movement in 1899.

To those who work among the poor in Chile the conditions in which these live are appalling. We can but hope that some attention will be given to this side of the question, and that strict regulations may be carried out at some future and no distant time, to oblige proprietors to build according to hygienic rules, and to abolish the actual "Conventillos," which breed disease and keep the people in a condition too wretched for words.

ANA SWINBURN DE JORDAN.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

FALLING OFF IN APRIL.

In April the Customs receipts amounted to 11,283,210 dols. 45 cents, of which sum 152,790 dols. in gold, and 7,765,611 dols. 11 cents in paper corresponded to Imports; 3,682,435 dols. 78 cents in gold to Exports; and to Other Branches 49,995 dols. in gold, and 173,018 dols. 56 cents in paper.

In the corresponding month of 1907 the receipts amounted to 4,879,780 dols. in gold, and 34,777 dols. 77 cents in paper for Imports; to 4,001,274 dols. 34 cents gold for Exports; to Other Branches 87,870 dols. in gold and 146,102 dols. 09 cents in paper.

The receipts from Imports show a falling off as compared with April of last year of 1,809,210 dols. 85 cents, the duties payable in gold being reduced to paper; the receipts from Exports, which are payable in gold show a decrease of 318,838 dols. 56 cents; Other Branches show a decrease of 50,085 dols. 10 cents; the total decrease being 2,238,133 dols. 71 cents.

The following tables give the details of each branch:—

EXPORT DUTIES. Table with columns for 1907 and 1908. Items include Pisagua, Iquique, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Taltal, and Total.

IMPORT DUTIES. Table with columns for 1907 and 1908, subdivided into Gold and Paper. Items include Arica, Pisagua, Iquique, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Taltal, Caldera, Carrizal Bajo, Coquimbo, Valparaiso, Talcahuano, Coronel, Valdivia, Puerto Montt, Ancud, Frontier Houses, and General Total.

IMPORT DUTIES. Table with columns for 1907 and 1908, subdivided into Paper. Items include Arica, Pisagua, Iquique, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Taltal, Caldera, Carrizal Bajo, Coquimbo, Valparaiso, Talcahuano, Coronel, Valdivia, Puerto Montt, Ancud, Frontier Houses, and General Total.

In the first four months of the current year—January-April—the revenue derived from Import Duties amounted to 26,687,457 dols. 38 cents, as compared with 33,649,278 dols. 60 cents in the corresponding period of 1907.

In the same months the revenue derived from Export Duties amounted to 22,962,281 dols. 85 cents, as compared with 17,609,017 dols. 19 cents in the corresponding period of 1907.

In the same four months the revenue derived from Other Branches amounted to 1,164,607 dols. 74 cents, as compared with 1,186,993 dols. 62 cents in the corresponding period of 1907.

There was thus in the four months a decrease in Import Duties of 6,961,821 dols. 22 cents, as compared with the corresponding period of 1907; an increase in Export Duties of 5,353,264 dols. 66 cents; and a decrease in Other Branches of 22,385 dols. 88 cents.

There was a general net decrease of 1,630,942 dols. 44 cents.

CAPTAIN H. W. HAYES.

This popular and general officer joined The Pacific Steam Navigation Company on the January 24th, 1871, as 4th Officer of the R.M.S. 'Patagonia,' sailed in the Magellan as 3rd; in the Lusitania as 2nd; in the Arucania as Chief; in the Iberia as 2nd; in the Galicia as Chief; and he subsequently commanded the Valparaiso, Patagonia, Puchoco, Ilo during the Chile-Peruvian war; Puchoco, Patagonia, Aconcagua, Galicia, Cotopaxi, Orotava, Potosi, Orellana, Britannia, Iberia and Oropesa and he was appointed commander of the Valparaiso on the 22nd March, 1878, and Commodore of the R.M.S. Orita on the 21st Sept., 1906; and he will in September next bring out the new steamer Orcoma, of 12,000 tons, this being his last voyage in the Orita.

PERSONAL.

We are indebted to Purser Chamberlain of the R.M.S. Orita for a nice selection of home papers, periodicals and magazines for which he will please accept our thanks.

CONSULAR INFORMATION.

There are important documents at the British Consulate-General awaiting Mr. James Herbert Keating, who should personally call.

Information is required regarding Mr. Alfred Busk, last heard of at a hotel (not named) in Valparaiso, in June 1897.

If Charles Alvies, last heard of at Antofagasta, will communicate with H. B. M's Consul-General here, he will receive some good news.

For the following registered articles remain unclaimed at the British Consulate-General:—

Table listing consular information items: Mario Sirola, W. Schopf, A. Corion, G. Ernst, Captain Jones, F. Terry, J. Patterson, G. H. Cramer, V. Urban, Mr. Gerard, Holseradj Ymre, James Sinclair, Kenneth C. Colvin, J. Jambers, and their respective ship names.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Henry Sammes of Ohio, Herkimer County, State of New York, wants information of his uncle, John Sammes, who emigrated from Germany to Valparaiso in 1844. He was a cabinet-maker by trade, and has not been heard of in the last thirty years.

ARREST OF AN EX-BRITISH CONSUL.

Considerable surprise was created here on Tuesday by the publication of a Buenos Ayres telegram announcing the arrest in Rosario de la Frontera, Province of Salta, of Mr. Noel Clarke, ex-British Consul in Iquique. Immediately on receipt of the news the British Consul-General in this Republic, Mr. F. P. Leay, telegraphed to the British Consul in Rosario instructing this functionary to render Mr. Clarke all the assistance in his power. It was known here that Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, in spite of the somewhat delicate state of their health, had resolved to cross the continent from Iquique to Buenos Ayres, and it appears that on arriving at Rosario they were suffering from fever and called in a doctor. The medico, said to be a Dr. Martinez and a Chilean, charged 3,000 dollars for his services, which sum, considering it to be exorbitant, Mr. Clarke refused to pay, and started to resume his journey, but he was stopped by the authorities on the petition of the Doctor. The British Minister in Buenos Ayres, and the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs intervened in the affair, and we understand that Mr. and Mrs. Clarke have been permitted to resume their journey.

EARTHQUAKE.

A short, but sharp, earthquake shock was experienced here yesterday at 8.20 a.m. Owing to the comparative immunity enjoyed by Valparaiso for some time past from these unwelcome visitors, the shock came as a disagreeable surprise.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

DR. EDWARD J. COTTON.

The Transandine Construction Company announces the death, on the 3rd instant, of Dr. Edward J. Cotton, who was widely known to people crossing the cordillera, and to visitors to the Inca Baths. He was also well known in Valparaiso and Viña del Mar. The remains were to be interred at Mendoza.

MAYORAL ELECTION IN VALPARAISO.

Señor Enrique Bermudez has just been elected for the third time in succession "Primer Alcalde" (Mayor) of this city. Valparaiso is to be congratulated on this election for there is no man of doubt that Mayor Bermudez is the right man in the right place.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION WITH VIÑA DEL MAR.

It appears as if the authorities of the States Railway have not yet awakened to the fact that, for several years back, Viña del Mar has been rapidly increasing in population. The same old itinerary that ruled years ago is still in force, the same old antiquated cars are still running; and, in spite of all the supplications and imprecations that are evoked from the long-suffering inhabitants of that much-neglected suburb, the same old rattletrap cars will continue to run under the same old itinerary, until some enterprising individual will have established the "Aeroplane Rapid Transit Company;" when the antiquated cars referred to will perform be superannuated and enjoy a much-needed rest. In the meantime, patience! Job we know had patience, but Job never lived in Viña del Mar.

EXCHANGE. MAY, 1908.

Table of exchange rates for various currencies and commodities like Nitrate, Silver, Copper, Tin, Manganese, Wheat, Barley, Wool, and Bank Rate.

LONDON QUOTATIONS. May 7.

Table of London quotations for Nitrate, Silver, Copper, Tin, Manganese, Wheat, Barley, Wool, and Bank Rate.

STOCKS AND SHARES. May 8.

Table of stocks and shares including Banks (Chile, Santiago, Español de Chile, Hip. de Valparaiso, Nacional, República, Italiano) and Nitrates (Cía. Antofagasta, La Unión, Agua Santa, La Santiago, Americana, Lastenia, Riviera, Salitrera Boquete, Do. Carmen, Candelaria, Castilla, Sloman, Pampa Rica, Aurrerá, Loa).

Mining.

Table of mining stocks including Caylloma, Minera de Oruro, C. H. de Bolivia, Benef. de Taltal, Calama, Estero de Antequera, Pedros de Collahuasi, Las Vacas.

Sheep Farming.

Table of sheep farming stocks including E. de Tierra del Fuego, Ganad. de Magallanes, Cía. Oriental, Glen Cross, Cochamó, Chile y Argentina, Et. Santa Cruz, Bellavista, Agrícola de Magallanes, Gente Grande, San Martín, Río Aysen, Laguna Blanca.

Gas.

Table of gas stocks including De Valparaiso, De Concepción, De Santiago.

Insurance.

Table of insurance companies including Alianza, Italia, Alemana, Anglo-Chilena, América, Central, Chilena Consolidada, Comercial, Española, Francesa, Franco-Chilena, Iberia, Internacional, Nacional, Nueva España, Protectora, Republica, Unión Chilena.

Maritime.

Table of maritime stocks including S. A. de Vapores, Diques Flotantes.

Lifts.

Table of lift stocks including Ascensores Mecánicos, Pantón, Reina Victoria, Barón, Arrayán, Cerro Alegre, Mariposa, Esmeralda.

Miscellaneous.

Table of miscellaneous stocks including Cervecería La Calera, Cervecería Valdivia, Cervecerías Unidas, Refinería Viña del Mar, Refinería de Penco, Refinería de Valparaiso, Ladrillos P. V., Buques y Maderas, Maestranza, Industrial, Chilena de Inversiones, Imprentas Unidas, Molinera Globo, Industrial de Bolivia, Pan y Galletas, Cía. Comercial de Remolc.

A. ANGEL FLORES

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Attends with promptitude to all orders sent to Correo, Casilla 633, or to his office in the Almendral, Calle Chacabuco, 376, opposite the Banco Italiano.

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A PARTNER (English or German) with a Capital of 60,000 dollars to assist in the founding and development of a very lucrative and safe industrial business. Apply to C. J., Casilla 364, Valparaiso.

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Large Stock of Pressed Hay—1st and 2nd Cuttings.

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PRESS WITTICISMS.

There is nothing more disconcerting than to know that someone else knows that we don't know what we ought to know.—*Tatler*.

In these dull days, the humorist is so discouraged in extreme youth that external circumstances become too much for him, and the lively virtue is crushed out of all original beauty till we hardly recognise the thing in its faded manhood.—*The Bystander*.

To protect dentists against claims made by damaged patients, an insurance company is issuing a "dentists' safeguard policy." It must be restful to a dentist's mind to feel that he can adopt the most drastic methods with his patients without any fear of vexatious legislation.—*Evening News*.

John Burns has many admirable qualities; but that of turning his cheek to the smiter is not one of them; indeed, instead of avoiding a row, he seems almost eager to go and meet it; and in case his enemy does not show himself ready to tread on the tail of John's coat, John reverses the process by treading on the tail of his enemy's coat.—*T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in P.T.O.*

A proposal has been made that, with a view to the better safeguarding of Cabinet Ministers, the Government shall erect for their accommodation a special Suffragette-proof building, with underground passages leading to the House of Commons. Arrangements would at the same time be made for a strong force of police to take the gentlemen out for exercise twice a day.—*Punch*.

At Elberfeld, in Germany, a fasting-man resides; and he declared, to everyone's amazement, that he would fast for fifty days. And everybody said, "How can he work the job, this fasting-man?" Well, time rolled on, and one fine day a constable, who passed that way, observed that fasting reprobate swallowing chunks of chocolate, which had been given to him by a kindly friend upon the sly. Twenty-five pounds he's had to pay for fasting in that kind of way.—*Globe*.

Sometimes it is a whole year after her marriage before a woman notices that the halo above her husband's head has completely faded.—*Record Herald*.

A well-known lady golfer arrived at Waterloo the other day with her clubs and luggage, and the porter asked if she wanted a hansom. "No," she replied absently, "I'll have a foursome."—*Throne*.

A young fellow has reached the age of discretion when he removes from his walls the pictures of actresses, and substitutes therefor a portrait of his wealthy bachelor uncle.—*Argonaut*, San Francisco.

The "well-able-to-take-care-of-herself" girl is a feature of the time in England. She generally has sufficient strength of character to resist nine temptations—and to be silent about the tenth, which overcame her.—*Truth*.

Nine-tenths of the unhappiness of people who imagine they have contrived to marry unhappily is purely of their own making. The world would not go right with them whether they were single or married.—*Penny Magazine*.

The Suffragists will not, we fear, take to humble missionary work amongst their own sex. For that is far more difficult and less notorious than making themselves a nuisance and providing a cheap spectacle in Parliament Square.—*Evening Standard*.

Man has to pay the penalty now that women have taken to politics. Here is an advertisement which appears in a Mid-Wales paper: "Wanted, a young man, aged 22, able to cook, scrub, paint, drive, look after a pair of horses, clean a carriage, feed cattle, clean boots, windows, etc., and make himself generally useful."—*Western Mail*.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mr. Sidney H. Godfrey, a native of Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire, has for the second time won the world's championship cup for fast shorthand writing, the competition this year being held at the Olympia Business Show. His speed was 220 words per minute for five minutes (Pitman's).

The directors of the Taltal Railway Company, Ltd., recommend an interim dividend for the half-year to 31st December, 1907, at the rate of 3s per share, less income-tax.

A wholesale realisation of musical instruments took place the other day in the Gavaud piano factory at Fontenay-sous-Bois, near Paris, when 2,000 pianos were destroyed by fire.

A Sydney despatch of March 20 to *The Times*, says of the Australian Coal Trade:—"Owing to the small strikes which are constantly occurring among the miners, the Special Court at Newcastle, which, on the Premier's intervention, was instituted last November for the settlement of the coal trade dispute, has stopped its sittings. The Judge of the Court declared that the tribunal's patience was exhausted owing to the inability of the Miners' Federation to enforce discipline among the colliery employés."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO A PASSENGER TRAIN.

On Wednesday, 20th ult., a serious accident occurred to a train which leaves Parral for Cauquenes at 5 p.m. The train was a mixed one composed of passenger carriages and goods wagons; and one of the latter, loaded with 500 lbs of gunpowder, 87 cases of paraffine and a quantity of other inflammable materials suddenly exploded whilst the train was travelling between the stations Quella and Cauquenes. Owing to the speed at which the train was travelling, the flames reached the windows of a first class carriage which was only separated from the burning car by a goods wagon loaded with empty barrels. The passengers were naturally seized with panic, and although attempts were made to attract the driver's attention, it was only after having travelled another kilometer that the train was brought to a stand still. The engine was then dispatched to Cauquenes to carry the news of the disaster and bring assistance to the belated passengers; and, after an hour's absence, returned to the scene of the disaster but without bringing the desired assistance. The brakeman of the wagon which caught fire was so severely burned that he died on the following day.

TRAMCAR ACCIDENT.

Shortly after six o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, an electric car whilst on its way from Viña to Valparaiso came into collision with a cart at the Recreo and got badly damaged in consequence. Owing to the accident, the passengers only reached the Plaza Sotomayor at 8 p.m.

Cottage Viña.

TO LET a beautiful 3-storey COTTAGE, Población Vergara Avenida Libertad, 5th Block, New. Earthquake proof.

12 Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Electric Light and Gas, Stables, Coach-house, Garden, Fruit Trees, etc. Moderate Rent. Address:

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A comfortable and well situated HOUSE in Camino Cintura, No. 161, Cerro Cárcel. Has all comforts, Bathrooms, etc., and views on all sides. For references apply to:

Dr. G. Middleton, 282a, Calle Victoria.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company.**STRAITS' LINE**

The s/s "ORITA" 10,000 tons, Capt. H. W. Hayes, with mails for Europe, will sail on **Tuesday, May 12th**, at mid-day, calling at

Lota, Punta Arenas, Falklands, Montevideo, (for Buenos Aires), Rio Janeiro, St. Vincent (Cabo Verde), Lisbon, Corunna, La Rochelle-Pallice (France), and Liverpool.

J. W. PEARSON,
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The Best TONIC.

For the restoration of energy and vitality, the relief of mental and physical exhaustion, impaired digestion or appetite, there is no remedy so beneficial as

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE

(NON-ALCOHOLIC)

It is a scientific and carefully prepared preparation of the phosphates that provides the tonic and nerve food needed to improve the general health.

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JOHN STRANGE WINTER,

The famous Author, cured of

RHEUMATISM.

14, WEST KENSINGTON MANSIONS,
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February 3, 1908.

I have been a martyr to Rheumatism in my right arm and shoulder for nearly two years. When I heard of Genoform, I was literally worn out for want of continuous sleep. After taking nine tablets the pain was relieved; and now, after three weeks' treatment, I am free from pain, sleep like a top, and feel a new creature.

I want every sufferer from Rheumatism and kindred complaints to know what Genoform has done for me.

JOHN STRANGE WINTER.

GENOFORM TABLETS in Tubes for the Pocket, from the Sole Agents:
E. J. REID & CO., 17, Basinghall Street,
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ENGLISH GOVERNESS.

Wanted one to go to Bolivia. Apply to
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VALPARAISO  SANTIAGO

ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company was held on Friday, March 27, 1908, at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. Richard Henry Glyn presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. W. Holde,) read the notice convening the meeting, and the resolutions to be proposed were taken as read.

The Chairman: Gentlemen.—Before putting to the meeting the resolutions which we have met to-day to discuss, copies of which have been sent to all the shareholders, I should like to make a few remarks and give some explanation of the reasons why we are asking you to give us powers to issue fresh capital. I may point out that the £900,000 cumulative preference stock, the £350,000 preferred ordinary, and £350,000 deferred ordinary, referred to in resolutions Nos. 1 and 2, form part of the capital authorised by our Private Act of Parliament of 1906, and represent the balances of each stock unissued in the conversion of that year.

We are asking powers to deal with all these stocks, but we only intend to make use of some of them at present, and to a limited extent, say for about £600,000 on such stocks as at the discretion of the directors it may be best to realise. We do not wish to raise any more money than is absolutely necessary, and we estimate that this sum will be sufficient to defray all capital expenditure for work in hand and present commitments. As you are already aware we have been very largely developing our property to meet the continued and extensive growth of our traffic. We have during a recent period completed the Collahuasi extension of some 97 kilometers, on a point of the main line distant 435 kilometers, from Antofagasta, thereby opening up a very important copper mining district; it may interest you to know that on this branch we have the highest point of railway construction in the world, nearly 16,000 feet. Another extension we have finished is that to the Boquete nitrate district of about 110 kilometers in length.

In connection with the waterworks branch of our undertaking, we have laid down a new pipe line just over 200 kilometers, of more than double the capacity of the old line, and it is now serving the nitrate fields that are being so actively exploited along our railway. The port of Mejillones is being rapidly developed, and the branch from our main line of nearly 80 kilometers has been completed. We are building there entirely new workshops, with all modern equipments; and, naturally, the works we are carrying out have involved considerable outlays of money, and in the nature of things do not become remunerative until practically all the money involved in their cost has been spent.

We have outrun the capital you have provided us with, and we require about the amount of money I have mentioned to meet our commitments. I addition to the money which we have had to disburse, and of which I have given you the general particulars, I may mention that over a period of about 18 months we shall have shipped out 60 locomotives, 18 carriages, 1,222 wagons, and 33 lighters. This has been necessary, in order to deal with the greatly increased traffic up to date; but traffic continues to show expansion in the future, as we hope will be the case, we shall have to provide still further stock. Then, all through the nitrate district, for some 60 miles, we have taken up the old light rail of 36lbs. per yard and substitute for it a 65lb. rail; the stockholders will realise how much this adds to the potential value of the property, as it enables us to equip the line with locomotives of much greater hauling power, which in itself is of greater economy.

The past year—1907—is not likely to show such good net results as the previous one. The very high price of coal (almost double), a large increase in our wages bill, consequent on the demand for labour entailed by the great development of the nitrate industry, and a very low rate of exchange (which fell during 1907 from 14d. to 8d.), have combined to raise our working expenses beyond the ratio of last year and although we have been constantly sending out fresh rolling stock, it takes a long time to get it out and placed on the line, and we have had great difficulty in meeting the large growth of our traffic, and this has naturally entailed uneconomical working. Under these circumstances, although we cannot say definitely until the detailed accounts are in our possession, we shall not be in a position to pay the same rate of dividend on the deferred stock for 1907 as for the previous year. There seems every reason to expect that the present year will be an improvement on its predecessor. The traffics for the first two months of the year were of a very satisfactory nature, viz., £45,376 increase, especially as they are calculated at a low rate of exchange, the minimum of 14d., which has been authorised for the paper dollar not coming into effect till the 10th of this month. The fixing

of this rate will undoubtedly increase our sterling receipts in the future, and with construction work nearly completed and the additional rolling stock at work on the line, we shall be in a position to work more economically. You may rely upon the fact that this has the most careful attention of the board, and that every item of expenditure is being most carefully examined. Telegrams from Antofagasta recently show that the prospects for the current year are excellent, and our manager looks for a general expansion in the sources by which the traffics are affected, so that unless something unforeseen happens we are hopeful that when 1908 is finished we may have a more satisfactory story to tell you than we have at present. We propose in future, now that the exchange has been fixed for the currency portion of our Chilean traffics, to issue, after the end of this month, weekly instead of monthly traffic returns, and in sterling.

One of our colleagues Mr. Bernard Grenwell, is now paying a visit to the West Coast, and is going thoroughly into the business of the company with the general manager. He has been as far as La Paz, where he has had the advantage of an interview with the President of Bolivia, and before he leaves for home he will have thoroughly inspected the company's properties, and we are satisfied that the personal knowledge he will have obtained will prove to be of the utmost value to the company; we hope he may be back in time for the general meeting. There have been considerable changes in the board since we last met. Mr. Underdown has resigned the chairmanship, but remains a member of the board. Mr. Frewin resigned in July last, and in his place we elected Mr. C. N. Lawrence—(hear, hear)—who, as a leading director of one of our largest English railways, has had great experience in railway management. Recently, to our very deep regret, death removed from us our old and valued colleague, Sir Lepel Griffin, one of the original directors. In his place we have elected Sir Robert Harvey, whose intimate knowledge of the West Coast will be of great value to us.

The Chairman concluded by moving the resolution to increase the capital of the company by the amount referred to in his address.

The Hon. Chas. N. Lawrence seconded the motion.

Mr. Charles Lock said he gathered from the chairman's speech that, although they had expended a considerable sum in making extensions and sending out rolling stock, the company had hardly had time to allow of that expenditure bearing fruit in the shape of increased revenue. Accordingly, it seemed to him that was a strong justification for the views expressed by the chairman, namely, that the large expenditure would materially and to the revenue of the current year. That was a very satisfactory feature, and he was sure none of the shareholders would view with alarm this increase of capital. While they were doing an increased business, it stood to reason they required additional facilities. He was bound to say these new branch lines, to open up new districts could only be products of great future benefit to the company. He concluded by congratulating the board on having secured as directors Sir Robert Harvey and the Hon. Charles Lawrence.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously agreed to.

The directors were further authorised to convert the shares, when paid up, into the relative stock, and the articles of association were altered by adding to Clause 3 the words, "and to guarantee the debentures, debenture stock, bonds, or other obligations or securities of any such company, or a fixed rate of dividend on its stock or shares."

The proceedings then terminated.

WINTER CHILLS AND ILLS.

By DR. ANDREW WILSON.

To-day I propose to discuss a few points of practical interest concerning the preservation of health in the winter season. I am led to select this topic because it so happens that very much can be done by timely care to avert many of the troubles incidental to the cold and inclement period of the year. We are exposed to not a few dangers in winter, these, of course, arising chiefly from exposure to cold. For one thing, I might say that if we understood and appreciated the manner in which our bodily heat is produced and maintained, we might then be better prepared and fortified by such knowledge to take precautions against the inroads of illness. It is the sudden lowering of our temperature due to exposure to chill which lies at the root of most of our winter ailments. Carelessness in respect of seeing that we do not experience sudden variations of temperature, accounts for coughs and colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, and other lung troubles, and for attacks of rheumatism as well, not to mention many other diseases either directly brought upon us or favoured in their attack by exposure to cold.

In itself a cold temperature is not a cause of disease. Consumptive people, as I write, are living high up in the Alps, where snow and ice persist for months, sleeping with open windows, and healing their lungs. If the body itself is protected, and if its heat is conserved, and, above all, if sudden chill is prevented from acting on the skin, we may brave the coldest day with confidence. This is why a consumptive patient, lying in bed at night with warm coverings, can breathe the cold, pure air into his lungs, his body being duly protected and his heat maintained. The heat of our bodies is all "made on the premises." We often speak as if our clothing gave us heat. This is an entire mistake. Our heat is the result of the chemical burning in our bodies of the food we eat, and I might add, of certain foods, of which fat is the chief, starches and sugars (such as we get in bread, potatoes, rice, and the like) coming next in order as heat-producers. Being heat-makers, these foods are also energy or force producers, for we do our physical work on such articles of diet. The wearing of clothes only serves to prevent the heat radiating or passing away from our bodies. They are bad conductors of heat, especially dark and thick clothes; in summer we wear lighter clothes, which are better conductors of heat, and which, therefore, keep us cool by allowing heat more readily to pass away from the system.

Now, it is the living furnace which each of us has to maintain by stoking it with food, which forms our chief concern in winter. We must take care that the bodily fire is not unduly damped, so to speak, by exposure to chill. The chill affects the skin mostly, and it is the skin which is the great regulator of our heat or temperature. A very large quantity of blood is always circulating through the skin, and it therefore offers a large surface on which cold can make a decided impression. When a chill is experienced, the effect is to produce contraction of the fine blood-vessels, and to set up as a consequence actions to describe which we generally use the term "inflammation." A skin-chill may and does propagate its effects all over the body. For example, in one person it may give rise to a cold in the head. That is a simple matter, but in another case its influence is seen in the onset of bronchitis; in a third case we get pleurisy; and in a fourth it may be inflammation of the lungs, or of the bowels, or it might light up the little tendency to rheumatism which the body may exhibit.

Above all things else in winter, then, if we would prevent disease-attack, let us be careful of chill. Another equally important piece of advice is to see to the efficient stoking of the bodily furnace. Few people realise what this means to their health, or the difference to their welfare, which, say, the taking of additional fatty foods in winter would make to them. It seems a simple piece of advice this but it is one of nature's own teaching. We cannot and do not consume much meat or fat in summer, but in winter we demand more coal for the maintenance of the body's fire. Therefore, a little more fat should be taken now in the shape of butter, bacon, cream, and the like, and it may be well for those who are delicate to bethink themselves of the value of a little cod oil and malt or virol—the last especially adapted for young children—as an addition to the diet, taking these fatty foods after meals. Many a person complaining of chills easily taken, of defective circulation, of chills, and of a general tendency to feel ailing in winter, would be much happier because much healthier by reason of these little additions to diet.

When chill attacks one, disease may still be warded off if we take instant measures to restore the draught-power, as it were, of the bodily furnace. Take a cup of very hot tea and sip it, or even a cup of very hot water. These things are better than hot grog because there is no after-effect in the way of depression such as alcohol is apt to produce, though I by no means undervalue the grog on occasion. Then try a hot bath, and get into a warm bed between the blankets. If of rheumatic tendency, a ten grain Dover's powder will make you perspire freely, and you must, of course, avoid chill thereafter and provide a change of night raiment. By these means you may counteract the effect of a chill and ward off serious disease.

To attend to the warmth and dryness of the feet is yet another means of preventing winter ills. Many persons are singularly careless over this latter point—women especially, who suffer much because they will persist in wearing what they call "neat" shoes and boots (another name usually for thin-soled boots), that do not remain water-tight and damp-tight, and that serve to lower the circulation just at the extremities, where the force of the heart is least felt, and where chill accordingly is most likely to arise. If its warmth we want in winter to avoid disease, and I have shown how we may secure it.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

THE WORLD-FAMOUS REMEDY

It is a purely vegetable compound having a specific action on the stomach, liver and kidneys. It promotes healthy action of the stomach and intestines, expels impurities from the system, enriches the blood, and thus imparts health and tone to every part of the body. Thousands of men and women every year are made well and strong, and cured of indigestion and stomach and liver disorders by Mother Seigel's syrup.

THE TESTIMONY THAT TELLS

"I know of no remedy for indigestion that equals Mother Seigel's Syrup. When I was quite broken down with pain in the chest after eating, headache, nausea, and the weakness which comes from constipation, I was quite restored to health by Mother Seigel's Syrup, in a way which I regard as wonderful. I have recommended Mother Seigel's Syrup to everybody I know."—From Mrs. M. Gilbrick, 28, Oakfield Road, Anfield, Liverpool, August 29, 1907.

PREVENTS AND CURES INDIGESTION.

LAZENBY'S SOUPS

IN BOTTLES, TINS AND SQUARES.

DELICIOUS SOUPS PREPARED IN A MOMENT.

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OVERCROWDED NEW YORK:

A REMARKABLE EXHIBITION.

The New York Correspondent of The Times, writing on March 15, gives the following graphic description of a realistic exhibition of the congested spots of New York:

The exhibition of the terrible congestion in the flats of this city, opened by Governor Hughes in the Natural History Museum, is enough to make Socialists of those who have a spark of sympathy left for common humanity. I visited this exhibition yesterday with Mr. North, director of the census, and we could hardly believe possible the conditions there illustrated by wax models of families who sleep by night and work by day. In many cases the actual contents of the rooms had been transplanted from the tenements. There was a windowless room, which looked more like a Chinaman's opium den, labelled "300,000 rooms like this still left and occupied in various parts of New York." There were models of tenement blocks containing 2,781 persons and only 264 water-closets, and not one bath. Of 1,588 rooms 441 were dark and had no ventilation to the outer air, and 635 getting their sole light and air from a dark and narrow airshaft. "And this," exclaimed one gentleman present, is one feature of the life in that America to which the poor and oppressed and persecuted of all nations have been looking as a haven of liberty and rest and unlimited possibilities.

The reverse side of this realistic picture of the evils of massing people in New York in a limited area may be noted in the invaluable and heroic work being done, not by one, but by 50 different organizations dealing with the problems involved. It would take columns to describe the misery depicted at this exhibition and to give an adequate idea of what has been accomplished and is in progress, by legislative and other means, for the eradication of these evils. The thought has often occurred to me. Can the good work ever keep pace with the demoralization of such congestion, which is spreading? About 200,000 new immigrants settled in New York last year. Mr. North told me that at the present rate of growth there might be a population of 7,000,000 in 1920. Many blocks in Manhattan have a density of over 1,000 persons to the acre. Over 50 blocks each have a population of 3,000 to 4,000. Yet there are more than 100,000 acres in New York which average less than four inhabitants to the acre. Tenement house building laws, playgrounds for children, aided distribution—one Jewish society having since 1901 removed 35,000 persons to farming colonies and small cities—and improved transit facilities have given a measure of relief. Perplexing problems these; but in the general awakening to the conditions which are facing people here, they are being earnestly and, I hope, effectively grappled with.

A COUNTESS AND HER DAUGHTER.

Whoever, in the opinion of French courts of law, lives beyond his or her means, can at any time be legally restrained and reduced to the status of an infant. The mother of the Countess de Cholet now petitions for an order placing her daughter under the guardianship of a "family council," on the ground of her alleged thriftlessness. The Countess, when she married, had a fortune of £88,000, and her husband, from whom she has since separated, had a post in Constantinople worth £3,200 a year. The Countess insisted on keeping up two flats in Paris, at rentals of £30 and £60 a year respectively, while living in Constantinople. Moreover, when she and the Count came to Paris on visits, they did not live in either flat, because she preferred to stop in an hotel in the Place Vendome, taking pension in a neighbouring restaurant at £4 a head per day. Two children were born in Constantinople and the Countess attached a doctor to her person at a salary of £480 for two or three weeks at a time. Eventually she returned to Paris and separated from the Count, when her "spending fury," according to her mother's counsel, increased. She keeps all sorts of animals, poultry, dogs, and cattle, and has a kennel in England; she builds houses constantly, and constantly alters them at great expense. She is accordingly in debt, has mortgaged her property heavily and pawned her jewels. This is the case for the mother, representing the "family council." The Court must now paternally decide whether the Countess is or is not a spendthrift, and whether she may be allowed to go on managing her own affairs, or must be reduced to the position of a legal infant with a guardian, who will dole out her money to her quarterly.

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SUN AND MOON AT VALPARAISO.

MAY, 1908.		
The Sun.		
	Rises.	Sets.
10 SUNDAY	6.41	5.12
11 MONDAY	6.42	5.11
12 TUESDAY	6.43	5.10
13 WEDNESDAY	6.43	5.10
14 THURSDAY	6.44	5.9
15 FRIDAY	6.45	5.8
16 SATURDAY	6.46	5.7

The Moon.

15 FRIDAY.	Full, 11.49 p.m.
CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.	
19	Uranus in conjunction with the Moon.
25	Saturn in conjunction with the Moon.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

MAY 10 TO 16.
SUNDAY, 10.

The Indian Mutiny commenced at Meerut, 1857.

In 1858 the Divorce court first sat with three judges—Lord Campbell, Chief Baron Pollock, and Sir Creswell Creswell. Previously a divorce could only be obtained by proceedings in the Ecclesiastical court, and after a verdict there was secured the facts were gone over at great cost before the House of Lords. From the time of the Reformation down to the passing of this Act there had only been 317 divorces by Act of Parliament, but in the ten years from 1858 to 1868 more than 1,300 marriages were dissolved.

Thomas Jonathan, better known as "Stonewall" Jackson, a general of the Confederate army in the American Civil war, killed 1863. His death was due to his own men firing at him after the battle of Chancellorsville. In the dim light of nightfall he rode to the front to observe the position of the enemy, and was shot in mistake as he returned.

MONDAY, 11.

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, fell down in a fit while speaking in the House of Lords on American Independence. The Great Commoner never recovered, and breathed his last, 1778.

Mr. Perceval, Premier, shot in the lobby of the House of Commons, 1812. His assassin, Bellingham, was executed at the Old Bailey a week later.

Father Damien died at the leper settlement in the Sandwich Islands, 1889.

TUESDAY, 12.

Passage of the Douro, 1809.

Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament, died, 1860.

Pacific Railway, North America, opened 1869.

WEDNESDAY, 13.

Mary Queen of Scots finally defeated at the Battle of Langside, 1568. She fled into England, and was soon imprisoned by Elizabeth. After nearly 20 years' captivity the unfortunate Queen was beheaded at Fotheringay Castle on Feb. 8, 1587.

Hudson Bay Company founded, 1670. The original charter was granted by Charles II to his cousin Rupert and 17 other gentlemen, incorporating them as the "Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay," and securing to them "the sole trade and commerce of all seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks, and sounds that lie within the Hudson straits." After the cession of Canada to Great Britain in 1763 numbers of fur traders spread over that country and fierce competition ensued until the companies amalgamated in 1821. Half a century later the original possessions of the company were transferred to the Canadian Government for 300,000l.

THURSDAY, 14.

First vaccination by Dr. Jenner, 1796.

In 1832 a curious panic occurred at the Bank of England. On the resignation of Earl Grey's Ministry the Duke of Wellington, then most unpopular, accepted the charge of forming a new Government. To prevent him, some political opponents printed alarming bills, and in a short time London was placarded with the words "To stop the duke go for gold." The public acted on this with such suddenness that within three days upwards of a million was taken out of the Bank of England. Thereupon the great soldier informed the King that he had no hope of being able to form such an Administration as could lead the House of Commons, or be able to conciliate public confidence.

H. J. Stephan's suicide from the Duke of York's Column, 1850. This led to a railing being placed round the top of the column.

Adelina Patti's first appearance at Covent Garden, 1861.

FRIDAY, 15.

Miss Florence Nightingale, pioneer of Army nursing in the Crimea, born, 1820.

Daniel O'Connell died at Genoa, 1847.

Revised translation of the Old Testament published after fifteen years' constant study, 1885.

SATURDAY, 16.

Battle of Albuera, 1811.

Mrs. Felicia Hemans, while engaged in preparing a collected edition of her poems passed away at the age of 41, 1835.

Lady Byron died, 1860. The only daughter and heiress of Sir Ralph Milbanke, a wealthy baronet, she married the poet Jan. 2, 1815. The following year she separated from him after the birth of their only daughter, Augusta Ada, afterwards Countess of Lovelace.

SUNDAY READING.

GOOD CHEER.

By the Rev. R. FOTHERINGHAM, M. A.
"Be of good cheer."—Acts xxiii, 11.
"Be of good cheer." The words do not mean "be cheerful," "be glad," but rather "take courage," "be of a brave heart."
"Be of good cheer." Four times did these words fall from the lips of Jesus—thrice during His earthly life and once in His risen and glorified form.

Our subject, then, is the good cheer of Jesus Christ, and I would like to know what better theme could occupy our attention as we begin a new year.

1. The first instance is that of the man sick of the palsy, whom they brought to Jesus lying on a bed—a man with a past; a man who was suffering from wrongdoing; a victim of a sinful and vicious career. And to him Jesus said, "Son, be of good cheer, take courage, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Now, I had often noted the latter part of this sentence, but I had not noticed how significant was the former part, and how deeply it cuts into human experience. Does it not need courage, a brave heart indeed, to bury the past, to believe it done with, and to blot out the sin, past and forgiven, from our life, even as God blots it out with a thick cloud? You do not suppose that this man who had been healed and forgiven ever forgot to his dying day from what he had been delivered. But if he accepted Christ's pardon with a brave heart it meant that he made a perfectly new start, that he began to write his life's story on a perfectly clean page, with all the experience, and wisdom, and sorrow of that past which God has agreed to bury and forget.

This is where the need of courage is so imperative. If you only half believe God's pardon, in addition to all the struggle and difficulty of living a new life you have the continual haunting fear and dread of the unhappy past. It will always seem to be dragging you back as by invisible hands into its black pit. Men and women often stumble and slip back into their old life through sheer want of courage to go on. If I am addressing anyone to whom past sin is a tyrant and a haunting enemy let me bring to you Christ's "good cheer. He not only wants you to be humble and penitent and sorrowful, but He calls upon you to be brave. "Take courage"—your sins are forgiven you. Believe it absolutely. Let the dead past bury its dead.

2. The second time these words fell from Christ's lips was on a dark, tempestuous night. How the wind shrieked around the summit of the hills! How the waves boomed and the spray hissed upon the gray crags at their feet! And the folks who lay warm in bed breathed a prayer for any who were out on so wild a night. There was one little boat that had been caught in the gale. It broke upon her before she could run for shelter. She was tossing like a plaything on the great waves. The men on board had given themselves up for lost. But presently they forgot even the fear of drowning in the greater terror of a ghostly figure that came walking over the waters, until a well-known voice answered: "Be of good cheer. It is I, Be not afraid."

MESSAGE FOR ALL.

Now I am as sure as I can be that there is some one of my readers for whom there is here a message. Never a week but there is some one of God's children out in the whirl and tempest of trouble. Let the one for whom the dark and cloudy day has come take the message as his or her very own. Troubles seem greatest to those who are passing through them. The storm seems fiercest to those who are out in it. Say you are in the midst of it; say that you can see no way out of it; say that even the means of deliverance that God is sending to you seem to your trouble-clouded eyes darker sources of evil. Then hear what Christ would say to you. "Be of good cheer." "Take courage." Jesus can go out on any wave, into the wildest sea, to save those who are driven and tossed. Let Him help you.

3. The third of Christ's "good cheer" is a very striking one. It was uttered on the eve of His crucifixion, with the shadows of death drawing close about Him. In His last words to His disciples Jesus said:—"In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." And then He knelt in prayer and besought the Father, not that God would take them out of the world, but that He would keep them from the evil.

Need of a brave heart just to keep them living, that seems to be the meaning of the good cheer, and our own hearts tell us how true that is. This is a terribly hard world for those who would do right to live in Jesus Himself had found in it much tribulation. Tribulation! Listen! Jesus says: "But I have overcome the world." There is something that almost makes us brave in the strong, calm way these words are uttered. The world had done its worst against Him. It had tempted Him with appeals to every human sense He possess. It had grudged Him every solace and comfort that others enjoyed.

Yet He stood there in the moonlight and said, "I have overcome the world. Let us all thank God for His brave voice and never be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

4. The last and greatest of His good cheer was uttered by the risen Christ to Paul. The full passover moon was shining on the flat roofs and temple-pinnacles of Jerusalem. The light also falls softly through the grated window of a prison cell upon the sleeping face of one who there lay in chains for the sake of Him he had helped to crucify. He had spent many days and night in such places. In the flood of moonlight to-night stands a figure. One not of this world, radiant and fair. It was the Lord Himself. "Paul," He said, and the voice was sweet as the whisperings of a harp, "Paul, be of good cheer, for as

thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." And bravely did he so. Then entered he upon the glory that awaited him. His work on earth was done. His good fight was fought. He had kept the faith. The door of Heaven opened, and he was taken home. This may be our last year. Let us make it our best. As to others, so to us Jesus speaks, and says, "Be of good cheer." This last task, this last pain, this last trial, to-morrow the presence of the King. Only one more day of darkness and then the light of the City of God. Only the toil of a few more years at most and then the endless rest of the Father's House.

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ABOUT TOBACCO.

BY SIR RAY LANKESTER, K.C.B., F.R.S.

Incredible as it seems, the investigations of the Swiss botanist, De Candolle (see his delightful History of Cultivated Plants—a wonderful volume, published for 5s. in the International Scientific Series) and of Colonel Prain, formerly in India, now Director of Kew, have rendered it quite certain that the Orientals owe tobacco and the habit of smoking entirely to the Europeans, who brought it from America, as early as 1558. In the year 1560 Jean Nicot, the French Ambassador, saw the plant in Portugal, and sent seeds to France to Catherine de' Medici. It was named Nicotiana in his honour. But the introduction into Europe of the practice of smoking is chiefly due to the English. In 1586 Ralph Lane, the first Governor of Virginia, and Sir Francis Drake brought over the pipes of the North American Indians and the tobacco prepared by them. The English enthusiasm for tobacco smoking, "drinking a pipe of tobacco," as it was at first called, was extraordinary both for its sudden development, its somewhat excessive character, and the violent antagonism which it aroused, and, as we learn from Mr. Frederick Harrison, still arouses. It was at once called "divine tobacco" by the poet Spenser, and "our holy herb nicotian" by William Lilly, and not long afterwards denounced as a devilish poison by King James. The reason why the English had most to do with the introduction of smoking is that the inhabitants of South America did not smoke pipes, but chewed the tobacco, or took it as snuff, and less frequently smoked it as a cigar. From the Isthmus of Panama as far as Canada and California, on the other hand, the custom of smoking pipes was universal, and very ancient (pre-historic) wonderful carved pipes of great variety were found in use by the natives of these regions, and also dug up in very ancient burial grounds. Hence the English colonists of Virginia were the first to introduce pipe smoking to Europe.

The Portuguese had discovered the coasts of Brazil as early as 1500, and it is they who carried tobacco to their possessions and trading ports in the Far East—to India, Java, China, and Japan, so that in less than a hundred years it was well established in those countries. Probably it went about the same time from Spain and England to Turkey, and from there to Persia, and rapidly developed not only special new forms of pipe (the hookah) for its consumption, but also within a few years special varieties of the plant itself. These were raised by cultivation, and have formerly been erroneously regarded as native Asiatic species of tobacco plant.

The definite proof of the fact that tobacco was in this way introduced from Western Europe to the Oriental nations is, first, that Asiatics have no word for it excepting a corruption of the original American name tabaco, tobacco, or tambuco. It is certain that it is not mentioned in Chinese writings nor represented in their pottery before the year 1680. In the next place, it appears that careful examination of old herbariums and of the records of early travellers who knew plants well and recorded all they saw, proves that no species of tobacco is a native of Asia. There are fifty species of tobacco, but all are American excepting the Nicotians suaveolens, which is a native of the Australian continent, and the Nicotiana fragrans, which is a native of the Isle of Pines, near New Caledonia.

Forty-eight different species of tobacco (that is to say, of the genus Nicotiana) are found in America. Of these Nicotiana tabacum is the only one which has been extensively cultivated. It has been found wild in the State of Ecuador, but was cultivated by the natives both of North and South America before the advent of Europeans. It seems probable that all the tobaccos grown in the Old World for smoking or snuffing are only cultivated varieties—often with very special qualities—of the N. tabacum, with the exception of the Shiraz tobacco plant, which, though called N. persica, is of Brazilian origin, and the N. rustica, of Linnaeus, a native of Mexico, which has a yellow flower, and yields a coarse kind of tobacco. This has been cultivated in South America and also in Asia Minor. But tobaccos so different as the Havannah, the Maryland and Virginian, the incomparable Latakia, the Manilla, and the Roumelian or Turkish—all come from culture-varieties of the one great species, Nicotiana tabacum.

SANTIAGO.

A Musical and Dramatic Entertainment was given in Mr. Baird's Rooms on the 30th ult., when the following lines were recited by Mr. W. Connon Thomson:—

IS KISSING PROHIBITED?

In THE ANGLO-CHILIAN TIMES of this week I was scanning the telegraph columns, to seek for items of interest and was greatly surprised, to find a new scare by the doctors devised.

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H.M. THE KING OF GREECE.
H.M. THE DOWAGER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
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On their learned advice the Home Municipalities, have issued new orders to prevent all fatalities, that may likely arise from indulging in play which kissing involves. This must now end its day.

The curious feature about this new rule is it only applies to the children at school, and does not abolish, as far as we know, the "long lingering kiss" when the light's dim and low.

It would interest to know what the medicos fear. Will the children contract some disease new and queer, or others well known, such as measles, or mumps, or say "growing pains" to stiffen their stumps.

What is "sauce for the goose" to the gander applies. For if children can't kiss the question will rise, if grown ups may indulge. Thus can fair Angelina kiss her dear darling Algy and escape Scarlatina?

And what of the bride on her fair wedding morn, is she to reject with hauteur and scorn, good wishes of all, the best man included, and tell all around, they're from kissing precluded?

And what of the baby the fond mother's joy—must nobody kiss him, her first darling boy? if he happens to make in the night for his cry cry he'll have to be kissed or he'll not go to "bye bye."

And what about Mr. and Mrs. "New Wed" if kissing's tabooed, what will happen instead? when he leaves in the morning no more can he linger, so he'll blow her a kiss from the tip of his finger.

And what about old friends and fathers and mothers, and uncles and cousins and sisters and brothers? and the gushing young things that kiss in the street, will be now at a loss what to do when they meet.

And what about all the old games that we played, "Postman's knock" "kiss the ring" are they destined to fade? and the miseltoe-bough, which provided the means, to earn 6 button gloves for sweet things in their teens.

The ladies will say that the doctors raise "bogies" and the microbes and things are invented by fogies or crusty old bachelors whom no one would kiss, be she "merry widow" or a dainty sweet miss.

We shall have to return to the times mediæval, when people rubbed noses, if we must avoid evil, so when Bertie meets Rosie their noses they'll press, and dispense with the kiss and the usual caress.

To adopt rubbing noses and not kiss will seem silly, when a much better custom pertains here in Chili, the "abrazo" and pat on the back should prevail, and the rubbing of noses this would not entail.

FIRE IN THE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION IN SANTIAGO.

About half past two on Thursday morning a fire broke out in the engine-house of the Central Railway station. The alarm was immediately given and the fire engines were soon on their way to the scene of the disaster, but, on arriving at the spot, the exertions of the firemen were at first greatly hampered owing to the scarcity of water. They continued in their efforts, however, and at half past three, had succeeded in confining the fire to the department in which it broke out. According to report, the flames first made their appearance in a small store-room situated alongside the engine-house, the store-room being burnt to the ground. A considerable amount of damage was done.

HEROIC ACT.

On Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock, whilst señor Tomás Cabrera, accompanied by a little boy, was awaiting the arrival of a passenger train at San Bernardo station, the child, at an unguarded moment, jumped on to the line just as the expected train was entering the station at a fair rate of speed. On observing the dangerous position of the boy in front of the advancing train, Señor Cabrera sprang on to the line to save him from a terrible death, but unfortunately, although the child was saved, he did not succeed in saving himself. Señor Cabrera was caught by the engine and was thrown to one side of the line in a horribly mutilated condition, having lost an arm and a leg. The spectators of the terrible scene, deeply affected, rendered aid, the assistance in their power and were aided in their task by Dr. Graff, who happened to be travelling in the train. Unfortunately, the injuries received by Señor Cabrera are of such a serious nature that little hope is entertained of his recovery.

RECONSTRUCTION OF VALPARAISO.

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