

# Our London Letter.

## President Faure's Death Nearly Caused a Panic on the Stock Exchange.

## Fog and Influenza—A Lively Scene in the House of Commons.

London, February 28.—Something nearly allied to a panic overtook the London stock markets yesterday morning in consequence of the news of the sudden death of Felix Faure, President of the French Republic, and for the totally unexpected action of the Paris Bourse, which came over the wires at the very commodities which speculators anticipated it would be disposed to "bear," there would have been a very awkward quarrel of an hour in store for the "bulls" in Throgmorton street. Fortunately, however, the French did not take the sad occurrence too seriously to heart from a financial point of view, and the market rallied immediately and so the "plague was stayed." Mr. Loubet's election to the presidency is regarded favorably here, where the little that is known about him is all to the good. Public opinion places him among the moderates, and dubs him an advocate for peace, which is in accord with popular feeling just now, both in this country and on the continent, as is evidenced by the tenor of all the messages despatched to the bereaved family of the deceased statesman.

### The Government of France.

So severely has the Republic been shaken by contending factions, so undermined by plots and conspiracies, apparently of late bearing fruition that the government of the guiding hand could scarcely have been more inopportune for the true interests of the country. Obviously, from a patriotic standpoint, the one course to adopt was to proceed without the loss of a moment to elect a successor before any coup d'etat which might have been in contemplation could be consummated. Any lengthy interregnum would have been attended by serious consequences, and Mr. Dupuy's prompt action must commend itself to all true friends of France. The Bonapartists, the Orléanists, the chiefs of the military party, natural foes to the Republic, were totally unprepared for such an unexpected and tragic event as the death of the President. A lingering illness, so prevalent to the government would have given them time—as it is the snake of internal dissension—nay, more, revolution, if not killed, is scotched again. Dupuy has proved himself a statesman—himself merely proceeded to be a politician. He had a good chance of the presidency, but recognized, as he undoubtedly did, that grave danger would ensue were the choice of the President to be prolonged by sectional quarrel, and knowing that Mr. Loubet commanded sufficient support from the Republicans to ensure his election he intervened in his own name, and thereby winning the contest to a practical way over for the President of the Senate. There is hope for France yet.

### One Up for 'Awkins.

That august body, the Athenæum Club, has opened its portals to "Anthony Hope" as one of the favored "nine" whom its committee are empowered to elect amongst the distinguished in art, science or literature. Mr. Hawkins has won his spurs early in life, for he is still quite a young man.

### Their Proud Boast.

The proverbial luck of the Cunard Company has once more stood the broad of storm. Many years ago it was my painful privilege to complain on board a Cunarder of the condition of the mashed potatoes, and I shall never forget the air of offended dignity with which the steward to whom I addressed myself replied: "You forget, sir, that we have never lost a ship or passenger" though at the time I remember I thought it was somewhat irrelevant. The *Pavonia* has turned up safe and sound at the Azores. She had been at sea 25 days, and in many quarters the gravest fears were entertained for her safety. In Liverpool she arrived on the evening of the past week, and the good news was received with immense relief. The *Wolvston*, a Hartlepool vessel, which had been framed after collision with a valuable haulage. The captain of the *Toutonic*, White Star Line, says, according to a New York cablegram, that the voyage he had just made was the worst he had ever known.

### Nearly a Panic.

One of the causes which tended to bring about a semi-panic on the mining market the other day and sent prices down like a string of beads was the rumor alleged to be authentic that bubonic plague had broken out in Johannesburg, and that native labor had in consequence taken unto itself wings. This evening comes a wire from the "infectious" district to the effect that there was not a vestige of justification for the report, nor that a single case has occurred, nor has there been a single "snuff."

### Ask Us Anything Easy.

I wonder why it is that whenever I see a published statement for which there is not a "vestige of justification," my thoughts instantly fly 6,000 miles or so away across the continent of Canada and fix themselves upon a news-seller immediately opposite that of the *Victoria Times*. Is it old association, or what?

### London's Dear Old Pal!

As I write it gets harder and yet more hard to write the paper in front of me. A thick yellow London fog settles like a pall over the city, and one gives up wondering how the traffic of this stupendous mass of millions can be carried

on in semi-darkness, for London is notoriously the worst lighted metropolis in the world. But the city police are adepts in the art of traffic management. How they do it is a marvel. Where else is a line of vehicles may be a mile, may be ten miles long, stopped by the uplifted forefinger of a constable to let a blind beggar or an old woman cross the road?

Influenza, if not quite epidemic, is still rampant, and a particularly distressing ailment it is. I trust Victoria is free from its ravages.

### The Mahdi's Body.

The following episode occurred last night in the House of Commons: Mr. Scott—I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he is in a position to contradict the stories generally current to the effect that, after the capture of the city of Omdurman, the body of the Mahdi was taken from its grave, mutilated and thrown into the Nile.

Mr. Brodrick—I understand that the body of the Mahdi was taken from its grave and thrown into the Nile. (Groans from the Irish members.) It was held by the Sirdar that the superstitious reverence which attached to the Mahdi's memory might cause a recrudescence of troubles in the Sudan—(Irish cries of "Oh!")—which in view of the history of the past sixteen years it was necessary to take exceptional measures to avoid.

Mr. W. Redmond—Arising out of that answer may I ask what his been done with the remains?

Mr. Brodrick—Thrown into the Nile. (Groans from the Irish members.)

Mr. MacNeill—To feed the fishes.

Mr. W. Redmond—May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether in a war with any civilized power such a gross act would be permitted? (Irish cheers.)

The Speaker—Order, order.

Mr. W. Redmond rose at a later portion of the proceedings and said: May I ask the right hon. gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury at what date he proposes to take the bill for giving £30,000 to Lord Kitchener?

Mr. Balfour—I am afraid I cannot give an answer to that question at present. As the hon. gentleman knows, I had rather hoped to begin the ordinary legislative work of the session to-day. That hope has been disappointed, and it cannot now begin until Thursday. If the hon. gentleman will repeat the question on that day I will endeavor to answer it.

Mr. W. Redmond—I will ask the question again on Thursday. I beg to give notice that the Irish members will oppose the bill on the ground of the execution—the outrageous desecration of the Mahdi's tomb. (Irish cheers.)

Ye Gods! What a commentary upon the religious service over Gordon's grave and the memorial college at Khartoum in his honor.

We have not yet heard the last of this matter though the morning papers I notice, with the exception of the *Daily Telegraph*, which finds it quite justifiable, studiously avoid reference to it.

### ARTHUR SCAIFE.

### BRITAIN'S NAVAL POLICY.

Two Ironclads, Two Armored Cruisers and Three Small Cruisers to Be Built.

London, March 9.—The first lord of the admiralty, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, yesterday submitted the naval estimates in the House of Commons. He referred to the unique circumstances under which they were introduced. Ahead, he said, was the conference for international disarmament which behind were the incidents of last November, when a comparison of the naval strength of various countries was in everybody's mouth and the most striking comparison was shown in British preparedness to meet all emergencies. The continental powers, he further said, were disturbed by the allegation that Great Britain was preparing with a particular purpose for aggressive action, but the idea had never entered the mind of the government.

Referring to the details of the programme, Mr. Goschen said Her Majesty's government proposed to make *Wehaltwa* a secondary naval base, and adding that it was proposed to expend £1,300,000 on *Wehaltwa* during the present year and £1,500,000 next year. He said that the personnel of the navy for the coming year would be increased by 4,250 men totalling 110,640, at a cost of £7,474,000. Comparing the pay of the personnel, Mr. Goschen said that while Great Britain paid £7,000,000 and France £3,000,000, Russia only paid £445,000. Comparing the pay of the coming year would be increased by 4,250 men, totalling 110,640, at a cost of £445,000. He could not understand how that was, but that was all the estimates revealed.

The coming programme, he said, had been framed after consideration of the programme of the other powers, the United States, Russia, France, Japan, Italy and Germany had under construction 985,000 tons of warships, or 225,000 tons more than was contemplated in the present estimates, therefore this had forced the government to draw up a new programme. Excluding last year's supplemental programme, it provided for two ironclads, two armored cruisers and three smaller cruisers, of a specially high speed. The money required, therefore, for the ship-building vote, including the liabilities for last year's original and supplementary programmes, would be £12,817,000, an increase of over £2,000,000. For armament, Mr. Goschen asked an increase of £161,000, chiefly for the construction of guns, but also for more ammunition for practice, which he asserted, was a matter of enormous importance, as shown by the late war. Mr. Goschen then declared in behalf of Her Majesty's government that if other great naval powers were prepared to diminish their programmes, Great Britain was prepared to modify hers. But if the czar's hopes were not realized, the programme would have to stand, and Mr. Goschen expressed the hope that the world would be able to see the country's expenditure would not attempt to dissuade the people from bearing the taxation necessary to carry on the duties of the Empire. In conclusion he said the estimates were "simply the embodiment of the feelings of a peace-loving nation."

Local germ affections are to be treated by M. Pierre Apery, a Constantinople physician, by concentrating sunlight on the spot with a burning glass. He believes that microphy will effectively destroy the microbes of cancer, tuberculous ulcerations, and especially of bites, and he proposes also to try the rays of the spectrum.

# With Awful Slaughter

## Chinese Rebels Frightfully Butcher Thousands of Men, Women and Children.

## A Serious Insurrection in Anhui Involving All Central China.

A nugget of interesting Oriental news was brought by the R. M. S. *Empress of India*, which reached the quarantine station yesterday. According to the news received by her China is again torn by a most serious insurrection—a rebellion which bids fair to become as great as the notorious Taiping rebellion. This time it is the central provinces of the unrested land that are involved, the province of Anhui and part of Honan terrible depredations were committed by the rebels, who, led by Niu-Shih-Nain, an old-time and most savage disturber, are over 10,000 strong. The imperial troops under General Kuo met them in a pitched battle on January 23rd, and were defeated with awful slaughter. Hundreds were killed, and after being horribly mutilated, their bodies were thrown into the river, until, according to a correspondent of the *China Mail*, the river ran with mutilated corpses like a log jammed creek.

After they had defeated the imperial troops the victorious rebels swept on to the cities of Kuyang and Mengcheng, which they took after a short siege. Immediately they beat their way beyond the walls they massacred men, women and children, in a most barbarous manner, and performed all manner of revolting cruelties. Then after they had pillaged the yamens and the residences and stores, they burnt much of the captured towns.

After these successes the rebels pushed on to Shachon and Kauchon. The gates of the former city were opened by sympathizers within and the horrors witnessed at their first two captures were re-enacted. Kauchon held out for some time before Niu and his followers secured an entrance to the city, and slaughter. As a revenge for his having held the city against the rebels, the unfortunate commandant of the garrison was butchered with savage cruelty. It is said that some two thousand women and children fell in the struggle attending the capture of the city.

It is feared that a great famine will follow the insurrection, for the rebels are the ones that crops have all been left standing, and will not be harvested as the people were either killed or feared to return to gather the harvest. Whole villages and entire towns have been deserted, and in other towns whole streets were unoccupied, the late inhabitants having been exterminated. It appears that rebels and troops alike waged a war of extermination, neither man, woman nor child being spared.

A gentleman who reached Hongkong from the vicinity of the uprising shortly prior to the sailing of the *Empress*, said he saw numbers of mutilated corpses floating down the river, and that most of the corpses were headless and were made up equally of male and female and young and old. He said that the fact that he was most impressed and disgusted by one sight of the headless body of a woman with the headless body of her infant secured to her back.

The local troops are panic-stricken, having, it seems, always held Niu and his personal followers in great awe. Hence, when the battle was fought before the walls of Kuyang, the imperial soldiers and militia who had been compelled by their officials to turn out and face the advancing rebels outside the walls of the city barely waited for the approach of the foe, but simply threw down their arms and scampered into the city gates, in mortal fear lest they should be closed in their faces as well as those of the rebels. The only real fighting on that occasion was done by the Lungshan battalion—a force sent from another part of the province to quell the rebellion. The troops lost over 200 in killed or wounded, and the commanding officer and a captain were also killed. The gravity of the situation may be judged by the governor of Honan and Viceroys Liu of Kiangsu province also sending all the troops available to assist the Anhui governor in crushing this rebellion, the usual way in China being to allow each governor to do his own fighting in his province, while the neighboring governors simply locate troops to their own frontiers to prevent rebels from entering their own borders and creating trouble.

The unfortunate Chinese were lying everywhere before the advancing rebels. The Yang-chau-fu correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* says: "All round the city are camps of refugees. Your correspondent has been through several of them. Off to the northeast there is a huge encampment amongst the graves and there are said to be 20,000 people there. These wretched folk are living in little mat sheds as tightly packed as they can be crammed. Of course there are no sanitary arrangements at all, and the stench long before you get to them is fearful. Inside the city these miserable people are lying all over the streets without shelter of any kind. I have not seen a single person of any bedding, and it is stated none of them have any. They huddle together for warmth. These people are in rags and are fifty beyond any power to describe them. One cannot give any relief for one would be torn in pieces if one were to try."

The rebellion, according to the *Shanghai papers*, is already involving the provinces of Anhui, Honan, Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Hunan.

An imperial edict issued concerning the rebellion, says with the usual blindness to the serious state of affairs as all Chinese edicts are: "That of late years the districts joining the two provinces of Honan and Anhui have been the scene of crop failures and much consequent suffering amongst the inhabitants thereof, it may be that the risings above noted were due to a famine-stricken people seeking for food and thereby misled by the authorities call the delinquents to account they were led to raise the flag of rebellion in order to prevent capture and punishment. Although such practice

in theory is perfectly unpardonable there is yet an element in the present instance which calls for our pity and clemency. And, lest, in sending forth the imperial armies to crush these rebellions, no distinction be made between those who voluntarily rebel and such as were forced to do so through lack of food, whereby the innocent and the guilty will suffer together—proceeding as we hereby issue this edict calling upon people to avoid the serious crime of rebellion, care should also be taken to give every protection to the numerous missionary chapels, missionaries and converts scattered throughout the disturbed districts. Finally, strict discipline should be kept among the troops sent to crush the rebellion so that innocent people may not suffer from their outrages while no mercy should be shown to rebel leaders and those who willingly join them against the government."

## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

The Mediterranean shell fish, known as the *olima*, attaches itself to rocks by viscid fibers that are sometimes collected and cleaned for use as silk. A pound of the material yielding about three ounces of thread. This is sometimes spun and woven into a fabric that is still a great curiosity, a pair of golden brown gloves of mussel silk having lately attracted a great deal of attention at the Berlin Royal Museum. The fabric can never become common, as from 3,000 to 4,000 shells must be torn from the rocks to secure a pound of the fiber.

A Mexican cactus (*Anhalonium lewisii*) eaten by Indians during their religious ceremonies to induce visions. An English naturalist, Dr. Dixon, has been testing upon himself its extraordinary properties, and reports that the second day, when he had eaten a perfume, a halo of musical sounds surrounded him, and a marvelous display of ever-changing brilliant colors passed clearly before his vision.

Unexpected physiological effects have been noted by Prof. Angelo Mosso, of Turin, from living at an altitude in the Alps of 14,800 feet. He was able to do more work than at sea level, and found no increase in the rate of breathing even after severe muscular exertion. He has secured the conclusion that mountain sickness is due to an excess of carbonic acid in the blood rather than to insufficiency of oxygen.

The war waged by English officials in Cape Colony is resulting in the saving of tens of thousands of innocent creatures and millions of pounds sterling. Not less than 8 per cent of the cattle have been infected with the rinderpest, including those inoculated. The general mortality is 85 per cent, but in districts where the glycerinated bile process has been used, 393,777 head of cattle have been inoculated with the result of reducing the deaths to only 8 1/2 per cent.

A new law in world formation has been worked out by Dr. T. J. J. See, who finds that "the absolute temperature of a gaseous star or nebula containing under its own gravitation variously inversely as the radius of the contracting mass. At first, when the nebula is infinitely expanded, the temperature is absolutely zero of space, but it gradually rises until the mass has contracted to the maximum consistent with gaseous condition, when, solidification beginning, contraction is interfered with and finally stopped, and the temperature falls, the body becoming again diffused. This law is found to agree well with observation. When the nebula is much extended, gravity is small and the various constituents float freely, but on further condensation the heavier elements sink to the appearance of numerous elements in the spectra of cool stars and the preponderance of the light element hydrogen in the outer envelope of white stars being thus explained. The dark companions of variable stars are accounted for by the difference in mass of the two bodies of the same size, the smaller, present heat of the sun to be 4,000 degrees C. Dr. See calculates that the temperature of the central nebula at the time of the separation of the earth was 2,000 degrees C. from which the gaseous earth under contraction rose to 2,000 degrees C., which would be sufficient for observed geological phenomena. The sun is held by still glowing hot matter, Jupiter and Saturn are still glowing and condensing, with the prospect of becoming self-luminous. The theory confirms the evidence of photography, which reveals through ultra-violet light nebulae invisible in telescopes, and indicates that fewer nebulae than stars are known—contrary to what the nebular hypothesis would lead us to expect—simply because many are cool and invisible.

The glamour and mystery of an unreal world—a delicious oriental dream—are suggested by Dr. J. L. Corning's use of sound and color in therapeutics. The treatment is primarily intended to give vigor to those who complain of getting no benefit from sleep, and it consists in throwing rapidly-changing lantern images of many colors upon a screen at the foot of the couch, while harmonic vibrations are transmitted from a phonograph to a helmet worn by the sleeper.

The horseless carriage of Vancanese—exhibited to Louis XV. in 1740—was driven by a huge clock spring, only short trips without winding being possible. The gear resembled that of the modern automobile.

The urgent need of a better automatic feed apparatus for water-tube boilers is pointed out by trade journals as a golden opportunity for some ingenious engineer. The task of filling the need is made difficult by the extreme sensitiveness of such apparatus to variations of water-level. The water is evaporated quickly because its quantity is small, and one end of the boiler must receive a constant feed of water while the steam escapes at the other end. The boiler is fed for even two or three minutes being likely to prove disastrous. The automatic device should be more reliable than any now in use, which no delicate parts to become deranged.

A chemical effect of magnetism on other substances than iron has been reported by Herr Jahr, a German chemist, after experiments with photographic plates. The action resembles that of certain light rays.



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# News From Samoa

## Britain and America Stand by Malietoa Tanu—He Will Be King.

## Mataafa Being Deserted—Says Germans Told Him He Should Be King.

Alpia, Samoa, via San Francisco, Feb. 22.—Four weeks have elapsed since the last mail dispatches left here for San Francisco concerning the outbreak of civil war between the adherents of Tanu Malietoa and those of Mataafa. During this time Samoa has been free from active warfare. The provisional government under Mataafa has not been a success. It has estranged the feelings of many of its own supporters by the deposition of the Malietoa chief and the banishment from Alpia of all male Samoan adults who were on Malietoa's side.

### Are Deserting Mataafa.

All Malietoa's adherents who were not deported have been fined and ineffective natives, the servants of whites, who had been in no way connected with the fighting, have been arrested. A sharp remonstrance from British Consul Masse, who now has two men-of-war supporting him, has prevented a recurrence of this annoyance. The natives of Tutuila have declared in favor of Tanu, and the deported chiefs are having a pleasant picnic.

### Mataafa and the Chiefs Know All This, and are Most Anxious to Keep their Followers Conciliated and Prevent them from doing anything at present whereby Mataafa's chances of being king may be endangered.

The German consul has received a cable from Germany directing him to recognize the authority of Chief Justice Chambers, and to withdraw from the stand he and Dr. Raffel has taken in regard to the supreme court. This news has discouraged Mataafa, and in addition the United States consul has written him to the effect that notwithstanding rumors around Alpia, the United States has not recognized Mataafa as king, and that the consul has nothing on the matter from his government, and is awaiting dispatches.

### Trouble With a Warship.

In addition to these disquieting facts, Mataafa has had a little trouble with the British warship *Porpoise*. The *Porpoise*, after matters had settled down in Alpia, went for a cruise around the group. When she returned Capt. Sturdee found no natives came near his vessel, and that a taboo had been declared against the vessel. He at once sent a note to the provisional government demanding an apology and a withdrawal of the boycott. By this Dr. Raffel, as executive head, replied that the boycott was not against the man-of-war, but against the chief justice, who was a guest on board. A still sharper note was sent by Capt.

Sturdee to the effect that he would take decisive action at once and the boycott was removed. Her Majesty's ship *Royalist* is now here also.

The chief justice, although now recognized by the German consul under instructions from Germany, is still being thwarted in every possible way by the Germans. Dr. Raffel was dtd by the chief justice for contempt, but declined to come to court and placed himself under the protection of the German consul.

Dr. Raffel in Contempt. He was arrested by the marshal of the court, but on his refusal to go, no attempt was made to force him. The chief justice rested content with having brought the matter to this issue. Herr Von Bulow was also cited for contempt, and disputed the jurisdiction of the court on the same ground as Dr. Raffel. The German consul opposed his protest, but Bulow has nevertheless been summoned to appear in two weeks.

H. Moore, an American, apologized to the chief justice for writing a threatening letter and was purged of contempt. Herr Grossull still remains at the German consulate, and will not venture out for fear of arrest by chief justice. Everybody is anxiously awaiting a decision of the powers and in the meantime it is not thought there will be any further disturbance.

### Stevenson's Home Sold.

"Vasilima," world-famed through having been the island home of R. L. Stevenson, has just been purchased by Herr Kunst, of Hamburg, formerly of Kunst & Alberts, of Vladivostok. He intends to make his winter home in Samoa, spending the summer in Germany.

### Interview With Mataafa.

The Associated Press correspondent, shortly after the seizure of the Samoan government by Mataafa, had an interview with that noted chief. Mataafa, when asked why he had been proclaimed king, said the Malietoa Laupeta being dead, the Samoans had a right to elect a king, and he was chosen. According to the Samoan view, this was in violation of the Berlin treaty, and in the version of the treaty printed in Samoa there is no stipulation made by Count Bismarck that Mataafa should never be king.

Mataafa admitted having been warned that there was a stipulation against him being king, and said he approached the German consul just before he was elected, and the German consul said the German government had forgotten the past and now had no objection to his becoming king. The protocol, which contains the stipulation against Mataafa, was not attached to the treaty printed for the Samoans. Mataafa declared that he ought to be king so as to bring peace to Samoa.

### SKIRMISHES NEAR ILOILO.

Manila, March 9.—The steamer *Nutra*, which has arrived from Iloilo, reports all quiet there, although skirmishing is frequent in the outlying districts. The *St. Paul* landed a battalion of troops at Negros on March 4. The occasion was generally celebrated with enthusiasm. The steamer *Gloria*, which has arrived here from Curimas, in the northern part of the island of Luzon, reports that the steamer *San Joaquin* is stranded, that her cargo has been jettisoned and that her native crew mutinied on February 8 and murdered the Spanish officers of the vessel. Some of the mutineers are reported to have been arrested at Vigan.

### NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that we intend to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from a tract of land situated in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post on the westerly boundary of W. J. McKean's tract (20) and running from the same river, then (200) two hundred chains westerly, following the sinuosities of the river, and (20) twenty chains thereon, thence northerly (50) fifty chains, thence easterly (200) two hundred chains, following the sinuosities of the river a distance of (50) thirty chains thereon, thence southerly (50) fifty chains to the point of commencement, comprising (1,000) one thousand acres, more or less.

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