home industry and which Germany does not produce at all, such as cotton, or produce in sufficient quantity. It is announced that Bismarck and the Prussian Finance Minister have arrived at an agreement relative to reform in the system of taxation.

The German papers give the strength of parties in the Prussian House of Deputies as follows:—National Liberals, 165; Centre, 87; Progressists, 64; Free Conservatives, 33; New Conservatives, 30; Poles, 15; Conservatives, 10; and 21 Independent members.

Bismarck is hard at work on finance, and is said to be elaborating a scheme of tax reform and a protectionist policy which is to remedy the grave financial condition of Germany. His scheme for a Government monopoly of the tobacco trade has been rejected by the Reichstag.

It is announced that there will be an international exhibition of sea and river fishing material at Berlin in 1880. This exhibition will contain not less than nine departments. A programme will be sent abroad soon, giving all the necessary particulars to those who may desire to forward exhibits.

Capt. Roudaire has once more started for the Shotel Jerid, in Algeria, and will report to the Government on the practicability of filling that depression in the Algerian Sahara with water from the Mediterranean. He is accompanied by Dr. Andre, who will examine into the natural history of the country.

A proposition has been laid before the Senate of Peru that the railroads belonging to the State be sold at their cost price, payment being received in the bonds of the Government at their nominal value. This is intended as a means of extinguishing the foreign debt, but as few of the railroads make their expenses, it is not regarded as a very promising plan.

There are in Denmark 173 noble families, only twenty of which are of pure old Danish nobility, all the remaining families being originally of foreign extraction, or Danes ennobled within the last 200 years, The richest nobleman is Count Frus-Frusenberg, whose income reaches $200,000 a year. There are only two families descending from an illegitimate child of a king.

The Porte has nominated three Commissioners for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question, and they are said to have already started for the border. It is denied by a Vienna correspondent that the Roumelian Commission has returned to Constantinople; and it is said that as soon as good order is somewhat secured the Russians will retire from Eastern Roumelia.

The German papers announce that the Berlin police service is about to be very much increased. The number of adult males in that city per police officer will, after the addition, be 70. The object of the increase is the better supervision of railway stations, hotels, suspected places and persons, and secret meetings, and to prevent the spreading of revolutionary publications.

Large deposits of coal are known to exist at Puerto Llano, twenty-five miles from Ciudad Real, Spain. In order to turn them to commercial advantage careful inquiries have been instituted by those interested in the Madrid, Saragossa and Alicante Railroad. The beds are reported to be so valuable that it is contemplated to construct a branch road from the mines to the main line of the railroad.

Some statements from an English newspaper do not bear out the stories of the Jews flocking to Palestine. A new synagogue, said to be one of the finest of its kind in Europe, has just been opened at Warsaw. It cost $200,000, exclusive of the cost of the ground on which it is built. It is said that hundreds of Jews are leaving Palestine for Russia and other countries, and that the streets of Odessa are full of Jews.

Of the persons who are assessed for income-tax in Prussia for the current year, the two whose payment is largest dwell in the Wiesbaden district, and are therefore probably the brothers Rothschild. The third dwells in the Düsseldorf district, and is therefore probably Herr Krupp of Essen. There are, it appears, 179 persons in Prussia assessed on incomes of over £7,200 sterling, and 1,240 persons on incomes exceeding £2,400 sterling. Last year 187 were assessed in the former class and 1,239 in the latter.

An Italian gentleman reached Paris recently at night time, and took a carriage, instructing the driver to take him to the Grand Hotel. Instead of this, however, the coachman drove him to a field, tied him to a tree, and robbed him of all he had. A like adventure also befel a lady who had come up to the French capital from Tours. The authors of these acts of violence have since been arrested. They had stolen a cab, and whilst one disguised as a coachman went lounging about the station to find a customer, the accomplices awaited to aid him in robbing his fare.

A difficulty exists between the Russian Government and the students of St. Petersburgh, who are always more or less concerned in insurrectionary schemes. The students have petitioned the Czarewitch, reminding him that the agitation has been going on for some years and has been supported throughout the country. They complain of police supervision outside the college walls, and of deprivation of liberty within them. They say that where their rights are concerned their dispersion becomes law, but that where burdens are to be borne they are looked upon as having a corporate existence. They end by requesting his mediation on behalf of the Chardoff students, and his attention to the present condition of all.

RELIGIOUS.

The Bishop of Oxford having declined to inquire into certain alleged ritualistic practices of Rev. Mr. Carter, of Clewes, proceedings will shortly be taken to test the Bishop's right of refusal. This will test the question whether the Bishops have the power to prevent a layman putting the law in force.

The missionary party sent out by the London Society reached Lake Tanganyika, in Central Africa, on August 23rd, in excellent health and without loss of any of their goods. The letter announcing their arrival was seventy-eight days in going from Ujiji to London, the quickest communication thus far had with Central Africa.

Father Hyacinthe has finally settled down in a little house at Neuilly, just outside of Paris. It is said that some rich English admirers offered him funds to build a chapel there, and to start a newspaper, but that M. Loyson declined the offer, and will content himself with giving religious lectures, if he is allowed by the Government to do so.

St. Andrew's Day being appointed for the special services of intercession for foreign missions, there was a special service at Westminster Abbey. At the conclusion of the afternoon service, the usual lecture on missions was delivered in the nave by the Very Rev. Principal Tulloch, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The annual conference of the British Evangelical Alliance has been held in London, under the presidency of Sir M. Verney. It was stated that between 300 and 400 new members were enrolled during the year, the largest number received in any one year since the Alliance was founded. There were speakers from the United States, from Italy, and from Turkey.

A Catholic Congress which has been held at Lille has recomended Catholics to abstain from giving or attending hunting or fishing parties on Sunday, and to avoid Sunday travelling except in case of necessity. The Congress also considered the decline of religious art—a decline which struck every visitor to the ecclesiastical section of the late Exhibition.

Dr. Baring, Bishop of Durham, in his letter of resignation, expresses a hope that his successor may be a younger and more active man, and adds that the income of the see, which is £8,000 per annum, will not be charged with any retiring allowance to himself, as he is possessed of private means. He has resigned because of the incurable nature of an ailment from which he suffers.

Rev. Fred Bell, a religious lecturer, and an alleged American, lately brought suit against a Baptist minister at Nottingham, for libel in distributing handbills charging him with immorality. According to his own admission on cross-examination, Bell had formerly traveled as a comic singer, gambled, run races, and fought in the ring, and had the delirium tremens when he was converted.

At a meeting of the Nonconformist ministers in Birmingham a resolution was passed: "That this meeting solemnly condemns the invasion of Afghanistan as an act of aggression, which has been entered upon by the Government in a manner for which no adequate defence has been offered, and which is not justified on any grounds of policy or justice. That this meeting regards the Afghanistan war as opposed to the principles of the Christian religion, and hostile to the interests of civilisation;" and it was resolved to hold a general conference of Nonconformist ministers in the Midland counties on December 9th, to consider the moral and religious aspect of the war.

The secessions *en masse* from the Dutch Reformed Church are still increasing. Some communities in the smaller towns prefer incorporation with the more liberal Remonstrants, but the Free Kirk, unlike the latter fraternity, declines all subsidy from the State. It has established its own magazine, and opened a school for religious instruction. A committee of twenty-five persons, members and patrons of the Amsterdam Free Kirk, have subscribed to a loan of 80,000 florins for the erection of a chapel and school-house. The minister gives his first year's services gratis; and several liberal-minded Churchmen have preached from time to time before the Free Kirk.

The question of running tramway cars in Glasgow on Sunday has created a good deal of excitement recently, and the proposal has been warmly opposed by a large section of the public The Glasgow Presbytery of the Established Church, however, furnished a striking exception to this feeling. A report was brought by the Sabbath Observance Committee to the effect that after taking into consideration the exigencies of modern society the Committee were of opinion that tramway cars should be run before and after the hours of service on Sunday, in order to accommodate church-goers, and for the convenience of those who find it necessary to use a conveyance in cases of necessity. The report was vigorously opposed, but was ultimately agreed to by a considerable majority.

ART, SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

William R. Cooper, F.R.A.S., the originator of the English Society of Biblical Archæology, died recently at the early age of 35.

Beside previous gifts to Dartmouth College, William Winkley of Philadelphia has just added ten thousand dollars for a professorship in Anglo-Saxon and English literature.

The oldest known pieces of wrought iron now in existence are those found under the pedestal of the sphinx of Karnac, near Thebes; the blades found imbedded in the wall of the great pyramid, and a piece of saw dug up at Nimrod. These are all now in the British museum.

There are no fewer than forty-six varieties of the date tree, twenty-six of which are exhibited at the English conservatory of Kew Gardens. The date was once abundant in the Holy Land, but is now disappearing there. It flourishes in the Desert of Sahara wherever water exists.

In considering geological climate and geological time, Mr. William Davies suggests that the heat which the earth once received from the moon ought to be taken into account by physicists. He thinks that at one time the moon must have exacted an influence on the earth like that of a second or additional sun.

Grant Allan endeavours to maintain in a forthcoming work that the use of colour terms in the Homeric poems is strictly analogous to that of other races, existing or extinct, at the corresponding stage of culture, and that both depend, not on dichromic vision, but on a defect of language closely connected with the small number of dyes or pigments known to the various tribes.

La France Médicale states that M. Delbœuf has found that if a person afflicted with Daltonism looks through a layer of fuchsine in solution, his infirmity disappears. A practical application of this discovery has been made by M. Joval, by interposing between two glasses a thin layer of gelatin previously tinted with fuchsine. By regarding objects through such a medium all the difficulties of colour blindness are said to be corrected.

A beautiful specimen of Roman pavement, supposed to be that of a residence formerly in the occupation of a distinguished Roman citizen, has been discovered in the city of Winchester. There have also been found flints supposed to have formed the walls of the house. The pavement, with which were found a small piece of fine red pottery and a few bones of animals, appears to have been originally about twelve feet square. It was twelve feet below the roadway in Little Minster Street, and has been completely uncovered, under instructions received from the General Purposes Committee of the City Council.

LAW, MEDICINE, &c.,

A French commission has reported in favour of the private execution in the interior of prisons of persons condemned to death.

A will was recently proved in the Probate Court at Lewes, England, which consisted only of these words:—"Mrs.—is to have all when I die." It is probably the shortest and clearest document of the kind on record.

Lina Berger, a young Swiss lady, has just taken the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Berne University, after a brilliant examination; and two other ladies, American and Austrian, have passed as doctors of medicine.

A Colorado court in the case of Eldred against Malloy has decided that a promise to pay a sum of money upon the condition that a railroad should be built to a place named on or before a specified day, is void as a wager. The court says:—"The courts of this territory have enough to do without devoting their time to the solution of questions arising out of idle bets made on dog and cock fights, horse races, the speed of ox trains, the construction of railroads, the number on a die or the character of a card that may be turned up.

Professor Lankester, a fellow of Exeter College, asserts that there is not a medical student at Oxford, and he is sustained by the *British Medical Journal*. The university has professors of medicine and surgery, but they get along without giving any instruction. It is charged that one of the professors of medicine has not delivered a lecture in twenty years, and that the professor of clinical medicine has not done any more work, although there is a hospital with two hundred beds at his service; and there is a report that a solitary student who expressed an intention to attend a clinical lecture was flatly refused the privilege. What makes the matter appear worse is the fact that the medical professorships are well provided for pecuniarily.

HUMOUROUS.

An old hat that once belonged to Napoleon I. was recently sold for $35, which is a good price when we consider that both the Nap and crown are gone.

"I now offer you a Rubens," said an auctioneer, "a perfect gem of genius, perhaps the finest painting that came from that master-hand." There was no bid. The auctioneer passed the Rubens, and taking up another picture said, "Very well, gentlemen. I now offer you a Rembrandt by the same artist."

The *World's* itemizer drops into poetry thus:

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make a weighty sugar
'Neath the grocer's hand.

A Reduction on Taking a Quantity.—Mdme. Suzanne Lazier was a good actress, but extremely stout. She was one night enacting a part in a melodrama with Taillade, the original Pierre of *The Two Orphans*, and this actor had at one moment to carry her, fainting, off the stage. He tried, with all his might, to lift the fat heroine, but although she helped her little comrade, by standing on tip-toe in the usual manner, he was unable to move her an inch. At this juncture, a boy cried out from the gallery, "Take what you can, and come back for the rest!"

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