

## OLD WORLD HAPPENINGS

Discussed by Correspondents of American Papers.

### Marked Improvements in Foreign Relations—His Majesty's Health—Situation in Africa—Nicaraguan Canal and China.

London, Dec. 23.—Isaac Ford, in his cable letter this morning, says: There has been a marked improvement in foreign relations during the last year. German friendship has proved to be real and earnest, and French jealousy has been less mischievous than was feared. If it be impossible to find out what is going on in China, the Anglo-German alliance is an evidence that British interests have not been neglected, and that no European coalition can be formed against them.

#### THE BIG DITCH.

If the Anglo-American relations are really clouded by the senate amendments to the canal treaty the English press is slow in discovering it, and the general public is incredulous and optimistic.

The Saturday Review, true to its moss-grown tradition, finds in what it describes as "The Nicaraguan scandal" proofs that the United States Senate is playing havoc with the rights of nations and international agreements, that the president is a weak politician, and that England, by her policy of perpetual concession to the United States, has herself to thank for the whole bother.

The Economist, in a graver and more convincing argument, lays stress upon the duty of respecting treaties until their obligations are dissolved by mutual consent, and expresses the hope that Mr. McKimley will rise to the occasion and become the champion of unassailable national honor and public faith.

Even the mellow Spectator, which would accept fortification of the canal as a guarantee of neutralization, charges the senate with treating the Hay-Pauncefote conventions as if it were the work of the merest ignoramus, and with sanctioning treaty obligations with levity and recklessness. These weekly moralists take a more serious view of the whole affair than the daily press.

#### POSSIBILITIES OF COMPROMISE.

The general impression is that the transcontinental railways are making use of the senate to kill the treaty and prevent the construction of the canal, and that the McKimley Administration rather than England is under attack. If Secretary Hay has contrived in the agreement with the Nicaragua Government to outwit the senators and to include in it a guarantee of his own convention with Lord Pauncefote, or if President McKimley can offer the foreign office some leeway for making concessions based on equivalents, it may not be impossible to patch up some fresh compromise, although the probabilities are against it. The result will depend upon the president's own attitude and defensive resources. Neither the foreign office nor the English people have any desire to prevent the construction of the canal in the interests of the freight business of the railways.

#### THE QUEEN'S HEALTH.

Referring to current rumors regarding her majesty's health, Mr. Ford says: Court circles show that the Queen is driving daily at Osborne, and this is accepted as a sign that the apprehensions current in the west end respecting the falling of her health are groundless. It is noticeable that the royal family party for Christmas is smaller than usual, and that the Czar's plans are in a state of uncertainty. Without doubt there has been considerable nervousness in the inner circles at court, the Queen's loss of appetite being considered an unfavorable symptom, and her anxiety over the recent bereavements and the Russian Christmas household being noticeable. The Queen is described by those who have seen her recently as unusually haggard and shrunken.

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

In regard to South Africa, Mr. Ford says: The situation on the Dutch territories is clearing slowly. The raiding bands which have invaded Cape Colony have not made any important captures or obtained any considerable number of recruits, and will probably be headed off speedily and forced to retire. They are operating against picked and petty garrisons, and are picking up horses, clothing and miscellaneous supplies.

#### CHILLY RECEPTION GIVEN THE RAIDERS.

The welcome extended them by Dutch residents who have property to lose is chilly. De Wet is reported in the Ladybrand district with a thousand men, and Botha is hovering about Standerton with a force of equal strength. The operations of French and Boer commandos against Delarey are not described in detail, but the Boers have apparently been scattered. A small Boer commando is reported in the Pietersburg district and a larger one in the neighborhood of Komatipoort.

#### EXAGGERATED REPORTS.

Small bands of guerrillas are in other sections of the veldt, but they are without artillery, and are incapable of making a serious attack upon the line of communications. The Boer campaign, when exaggerated estimates of the strength of the forces remaining in the field are corrected, is less formidable than is ordinarily represented. The mobility of the raiding commandos prevents successful pursuit, but no permanent advantages are derived even from such brilliant episodes as those of De Wet's raid and Nootgedacht, harassing and troublesome as are the tactics employed. An enormous British army still remains in South Africa, and requires reinforcements, but the victory is won and cannot be undone, and there is nothing to embitter the Christmas cheer.

#### BOUNDARY QUESTIONS.

The announcement that the Netherlands do not consider itself bound by the Paris-Venezuela commission decision regarding the Anglo-Venezuelan frontier is not regarded by the foreign office as being of any importance or as likely to form the basis for international friction.

#### DOESN'T WORRY JOHN BULL.

Another correspondent cables: The Nicaraguan Canal still fails to arouse any real deep interest here, as it is thoroughly understood that Great Britain will take no action in the near future.

The Chinese negotiations are regarded more in the light of a notorious farce than a serious problem, thanks to the absurd misunderstandings which have arisen between

the powers themselves. The only quarter in London where the performance is thoroughly enjoyed is in the Chinese legation, in which Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Lu, the minister of China, mourning secludedly for his brother, is reported to be in a state of perpetual chuckle over the attitude of Christendom.

#### EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

The decision of the queen's bench court, declaring it to be illegal for the London school board to spend the ratepayers' money for teaching science and art at evening classes for adults has created perturbation. Some 50,000 pupils are affected, and the whole of London's educational system must be revised. If the House of Lords upholds the verdict, the Speaker declares it is the most serious disaster which has befallen education for some time. Columns of comment appear on the subject in the dailies. Other large cities are seriously concerned as they all have classes similar to those of London. The headmasters of expensive schools appear to approve of the decision.

### BROKERS ACTED LIKE SCHOOL BOYS

Dignity Thrown to the Winds in a Christmas Celebration on 'Change.

New York, Dec. 24.—Holiday celebrations were held at the stock exchange and the consolidated exchange Saturday. Elaborate preparations had been made and both exchanges were packed with members and their friends. At the stock exchange the fun began soon after the close of the market. An enormous evergreen tree hung with electric lights and decorations of many kinds, stood on a platform near the street entrance. From the stained-glass skylight were suspended garlands and wreaths of green, while the rafters of the balcony were brilliant with the national flag.

The programme opened with a patriotic air by the 7th Regiment band, which was stationed on a raised platform near the rostrum. Charles Knobloch was master of ceremonies. At a signal the windows which overlooked the trading floor were opened, and a perfect storm of colored paper, confetti, wriggling snakes, rubber balls and favors of various kinds descended upon the heads of the brokers. Then came inflated paper sheep, bears, bulls and similar objects, which were caught by the crowd on the floor.

Dignity was thrown to the winds, old members as well as younger ones indulged in horseplay, while the on-lookers laughed in delight. Impromptu parades around the trading floor generally ended in good-natured teasing of some broker who was forced to make a speech of thanks for the distinguished courtesy shown him.

The programme at the Consolidated Exchange was more formal in character and included a vaudeville performance.

### LOVE LETTERS AND FLORAL CODE.

Figure in a Boston Minister's Divorce Suit—A Widow in the Case.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 24.—Mrs. Anne Dixon has secured a decree of absolute divorce from Rev. Joseph K. Dixon, who was charged with misconduct with the widow of her brother-in-law, Amersmann, of Scituate, Pa. Mrs. Dixon testified that she had seen her husband and the widow in a room together, having bored holes in the doors and ceilings. Dr. Dixon's charges of coquetry were dismissed. The court made no disposition of the children, two of whom are now practically under the control of their father, and the other of her mother.

Mrs. Dixon's counsel asked for alimony, because Mrs. Amersmann had left to Mr. Dixon about \$50,000. As the will of Mrs. Amersmann is being fought by her relatives, it is likely to be a year before this question is settled. The most interesting incident of the divorce trial was the introduction of love letters with a floral code, which Mrs. Dixon's lawyers contend had been written by Dr. Dixon to Mrs. Amersmann.

Mrs. Amersmann became well acquainted with Dr. Dixon while she was building a memorial cottage for her husband. Mr. Amersmann had been the clergyman of the district. The widow left an estate of about \$250,000. In the will Dr. Dixon was given \$50,000 and Mrs. Amersmann's horses for life, and \$10,000 to keep them.

### BIBLE AS A TEXT BOOK.

Church People Ask for Its Use in Schools—Want a Half-Hour on Two Days a Week—Premier Ross Views.

An influential deputation waited on Premier Ross on Thursday afternoon and asked for a provision for religious instruction in the public schools of the province. Among those present were: Principal Caven, Bishop Sweatman, Principal Sheraton, Rev. Dr. Potts, Mr. W. E. H. Massey, Mr. N. W. Howell, Senator Allan, Mr. N. W. Hoyle, Rev. Dr. Courtenay, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, Bishop Baldwin of London, Rev. Dr. Dewar, Mr. Lawrence Baldwin.

The deputation requested that half an hour be set apart two days in the week for the purpose of giving practical religious instruction from the Bible—that is, that the Bible should be used the same as any other text book, to be read by the pupils, and to be explained by the teacher. They also asked that the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments should be printed in large type and posted in the various school houses.

The premier replied that it was a somewhat serious question. The danger of the proposition was that the teachers might use denominational tinge to the instruction, and in that way create discontent in the school districts in which they were engaged. Another danger was that such a change might lead to a demand for denominational schools, for if the Bible was to be expounded at all the various denominations might want it expounded according to their own views. However, the premier expressed his strong sympathy with the full extent of religious instruction compatible with the non-denominational character of our public schools and the maintenance of the integrity of the school system on the basis on which it was established by Dr. Ryerson, and on which it has grown so successfully so far.

#### BROWNED IN THE ST. CLAIR.

Sarnia, Ont., Dec. 24.—John McKay, aged about 55 years, was found drowned in the river Friday. The body was discovered in the rear of Hill's mill on the bay shore. Deceased was a bachelor, and lived in Sarnia for many years, being a laborer. John McKay, weigh master at the G. T. R. elevator here, is a brother of deceased.

## PARKER'S EDITORIAL METHODS

How the Reverend Gentleman Fills the Racing Column.

Doctors Cultivate New Drums for the Ears of Miss Alta Rockefeller.

London, Dec. 24.—In the Sun Saturday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Parker prints next to a two-column prospectus of the mines owned by Mr. Bottomley, the proprietor of the paper, and in place of the usual racing column, what he calls a corrected race record as follows:

The Eternity Stakes—The start, born in sin, etc., Psalm, li. 5. The race—All gone out of the way, etc., Romans.

The finish—After death the judgment, etc., Hebrews, ix. 27. The weighing-room—Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting, Daniel, v. 27. Settling day, for what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul—Mark viii. 36.

The betting items include 10 to 1 on bookmaker, 20 to 1 against novice, 40 to 1 against yokel and 100 to 1 against flats.

THE CANAL TREATY. The Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty, with the United States Senate's amendments will be on their way to London by the steamer which leaves New York next Tuesday.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 24.—The Novosti, discussing the Nicaragua canal, says: "England is evidently incapable of opposing the United States, the fact being that America is rising proportionately as England is slow."

DEAF NO LONGER. The first details of the treatment of Miss Alta Rockefeller, daughter of John D. Rockefeller, the American multi-millionaire, for deafness, by Dr. Isadore Muller, of Vienna, have been made public. Dr. Muller said:

"When Miss Rockefeller's case was brought to my attention, it was a grave that all known methods had been tried unavailingly. I was forced to invent new methods, which have fortunately succeeded."

"The first was to introduce a small gold plate into the ear, fashioned into the required shape. This was placed between the ear drum and the chain of small bones which transmit the vibrations to the internal ear. This improved the patient's hearing so much that she could hear the ticking of a watch, something she had not heard for years."

"The second was to replace the destroyed portions of the tympanum or ear drum by myringoplastic means. Here again I inserted small gold plates. This was tried only after every known method had been used in vain."

"Two months ago the patient came to Vienna for the continuation of her treatment, which I have now carried to an unexpected point of success."

The doctor doesn't say anything about the size of his fee.

GRIP IN ST. PETERSBURG. The influenza epidemic in St. Petersburg is so severe that the mortality for the last week have been the highest for a decade. A meeting of physicians was summoned to discuss remedies, but scarcely half a dozen responded to the call, the rest being overworked or themselves victims of the malady. The weather is conducive to the spread of the disorder, being changeable, with snow and slush alternating.

ROBERTSON—ELLIOTT. Mr. Forbes Robertson, the actor-manager, and Miss Gertrude Elliott, sister of Maxine Elliott (Mrs. Nat Goodwin), were married Saturday afternoon at All Souls' Church, South Hampstead, by the Rev. Canon H. J. R. Norman. There were no bridesmaids, but the bride was supported by Mrs. Madeline Reilly, the playwright. Mr. Norman Forbes was the best man.

LOOT FROM CHINA. The French steamer Colombo, from China, has been seized by the Chinese, bringing another installment of loot forwarded by Gen. Fyfe. The loot was held by order of the government. Most of the objects will be returned.

CONSERVATIVE ELECTED. Mr. Worsley Taylor, a Conservative, has been elected to represent the Blackpool division of Lancashire in the House of Commons in succession to Sir Matthew White Ridley, who, according to parliamentary usage, relinquished his seat in the Lower House on being elevated to the peerage, with the title of Viscount Ridley. In this election the Conservative majority carried in half the county.

THE LATE DEAN LAUDER. The Very Rev. J. S. Lauder, dean of Ottawa, and chaplain of the Canadian Senate, whose death at New Brighton, N. S., was announced Saturday, was prominent in the Anglican Church of Canada for a great many years. Dean Lauder received his early education in Ireland, but was a graduate of Trinity University, Toronto. After his ordination he was located at St. Catharines, Carleton Place, Merrickville and Ottawa. He was a strong advocate of the better observance of the Lord's Day.

HURT THIRTY STRIKERS. Antwerp, Dec. 24.—A fresh attack was made by the striking dock laborers on non-unionists, Saturday. Policemen charged the strikers, firing revolvers. Thirty men were wounded, ten of them severely. Their attitude

is menacing, the police are being reinforced, and more fighting is imminent.

CABLE NOTES. The Aurora (Paris) publishes a long letter from Emil Zola to President Loubet, protesting against the passage of the amnesty bill, which he stigmatized "as a grave fault of the government."

A dispatch has been received from Hong Kong saying that American hospital ship Maine will arrive at Southampton Jan. 10 with 108 sick men on board. After consultation with the Chinese and military authorities in China, the government has decided that the Maine will not be further needed.

Frederick Richard Pickersgill, the painter, who was keeper of the Royal Academy from 1878 to 1887, died Friday. He was born in London in 1830. The steamer New York, which sailed from Southampton, via Cherbourg, Saturday, took the passengers of the steamer Westernland from Antwerp for New York, which was towed into Southampton with the loss of her propeller.

THERE IS DANGER IN NEGLECTING A COLD. Mary who had died of consumption dated their troubles from exposure, followed by a cold which settled in their lungs, and in a short time they were beyond the skill of the best physician. Had they used Bickie's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, before it was too late, their lives would have been spared. This medicine has no equal for curing coughs, colds and all affections of the throat and lungs.

The grave of the famous owner, Grimaldi, in the churchyard of St. James', Piccadilly, London, is greatly in need of restoration.

A Woman's Awful Peril. "There is only one chance to save your life, and that is through an operation," were the startling words heard by Mrs. L. B. Hunt, of Lime Ridge, Wis., from her doctor after he had vainly tried to cure her of a frightful case of stomach trouble and yellow jaundice. Gall stones had formed, and they constantly grew worse. Then she began to use Electric Bitters, which wholly cured her. It's a wonderful Stomach, Liver and Kidney remedy. Cures Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Try it. Only 50c. Guaranteed. For sale by W. T. Strong & Co.

Prisoners in Morocco are compelled to pay the officers for their trouble in arresting and escorting them to jail. This plan makes the police watchful and alert for business.

TERRED BY TIME.—His justly celebrated Pills Dr. Parmelee has given to the world one of the most unique medicines offered to the public in late years. Prepared to meet the want for a pill which could be taken without nausea, and that would purge without pain, it has met all requirements in that direction, and it is in general use not only because of these two qualities, but because it is known to possess alterative and curative powers which place it in the front rank of medicines.

Example is more efficacious than precept.—Johnson.

THE COUGHING and wheezing of persons troubled with bronchitis or asthma is excessively harassing to themselves and annoying to others. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil obviates all this entirely, safely and speedily, and is a sure remedy for lameness, sores, injuries, colds, kidney and spinal troubles.

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The New Idea Patterns, 10c.

## Kid Glove Bargains For Xmas.

STORE OPEN THIS EVENING UNTIL 10:00 O'CLOCK.

KID GLOVE BARGAINS FOR XMAS.

LINED GLOVES AND MITTS FOR XMAS.

Our regular 75c Kid Glove, in shades of tan, brown, mode, beaver and white, with 2 clasps and heavy stitching. Special, per pair

59c

Pewney's Fine French Kid Gloves, in all new shades, 2 clasps, and white and black points. Regular \$1 quality. Special, per pair

79c

Perrin's and Fowne's best gloves, in modes, beavers, blue, purple, green and tan. Regular \$1.50 and \$1.25. Saturday night only

\$1 10

Perrin's \$1 and \$1.25 French Kid Gloves in shades of beaver, mode, tan, brown, green and blue. Special Saturday night at

\$1 00

Ladies' Fleece-Lined Mitts, in black, brown and tan; all sizes; very special at per pair

65c

Lined Mitts, with Fur tops—fleece-lined. Special at

75c and \$1

Ladies' Mocha Mitts, in brown and black; all sizes. Special at

\$1 50

Ladies' Fur-Lined Mitts and Gloves, in tan and brown; extra quality. Special at

\$1 75 and \$2

Children's Mocha Mitts, with fur tops, in brown shades, at

\$1 25

**JAMES BUCHANAN & CO.,**  
Scotch Whiskey Distillers and Blenders  
GLASGOW, LEITH, LONDON, GLENLIVET  
By appointment purveyors to Her Majesty the Queen and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.  
Suppliers to the British Houses of Parliament.  
Matured by age, with unsurpassable flavor and absolutely pure  
**L. A. WILSON & CO.,** Canadian Agents, Montreal.

### CATFISH AS SALMON

Mississippi River Product Palmed Off as the Choice Fish of British Columbia.

Clinton, Ia., Dec. 24.—Some of the Mississippi River fishermen have discovered a gigantic scheme to defraud the public by feeding the people of Mississippi River catfish, under the name of choice Columbia River salmon. One of the fishermen has given the scheme away, and this is what he said:

"The story that Mississippi River fish are being canned and sold for salmon is true. At present the industry is in the experimental stage, but I have private information that it has proved a complete success, and the people behind it are going into the business on a large scale."

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### COWAN'S

Royal Navy Chocolate,

Hygienic Cocoa and

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Because they are absolutely pure and best quality.

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