

RUSSIA'S ROYAL BABY.

GETTING READY FOR A BIG TIME AT THE CHRISTENING.

The Whole Empire Will Be En Fete—Everybody Must Rejoice. Whether He Wants to or Not—Elaborate Ceremonies by the Priests—The Baby's Robes and Gifts.

If all goes well there will be a royal christening at St. Petersburg before long, and a tiny bit of humanity will be the cause of national jubilation from one end of the vast Russian Empire to the other. While some of this merry-making will not be altogether voluntary, none of the subjects of the Czar cares to attract the attention of the police by failing to make some sort of a show of festivity during the period of national joy.

For months past the young Czarina and the ladies of her court have been preparing for the elaborate ceremonies which always surround the birth of a royal baby in Russia. Of all these ceremonies the most magnificent and imposing is the christening according to the ritual of the Greek Church. The christening always takes place as soon after the birth of the royal youngster as its general health will permit.

The baby's christening robes are marvels of the needleworker's art. The first godfather, who is always a high and mighty person, gives the child a gold cross inlaid with jewels, and the godmother provides the little white shirt which is used before the ceremony is completed. The occasion brings gifts from all persons connected with the court. These gifts are often the toys most likely to amuse a tiny infant, although many are suitable for a grown child. Other gifts may be lands or jewels.

AT THE CHRISTENING

The child is carried in the arms of its godmother to the church or chapel. Royalty and nobility, glittering in brilliant uniforms and gala toilets, fill the body of the church and stand grouped around the font. The priests wear magnificent robes embroidered with gold crosses, and sacred banners are borne before them. Two deacons carry a portrait of Christ and the Virgin Mary.

The godfathers give the high priest nine wax candles, which are lighted and fastened across the font. The priest incenses the godfathers and godmothers and consecrates the water with many ceremonies. Then a procession is formed around the font by those taking part in the ceremony, each one bearing a lighted wax taper. The name of the child is given in writing to the priest, who puts the paper on an image which he holds on the child's breast, meanwhile saying a prayer.

When the priest asks if the child forsakes the devil and his works the godparents turn their backs to the font to show their horror and aversion to the question and answer "yes." They again face the font and priest takes the child, which is quite naked, and holding it by the head with his thumb and finger stop the ears dips it three times in the water, pronouncing the words: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

The chrism, or baptismal unction, which is called the seal of the gift of the Holy Ghost, immediately follows baptism. In performing this ceremony the priest anoints the child with holy oil; on the eyes, in order that it may see only good; on the ears, that these may admit only what is pure; on the mouth, that it may speak as becomes a Christian; on the feet, that it may do no wrong, and on the feet, that they may tread only in paths of virtue. At the end of this ceremony, the shirt, which the godmother has provided, is put on the child by the priest, who says: "Thou art as clean and as clear from original sin as this shirt, thou art baptized, thou art sanctified, thou art washed in the name of the Trinity."

THE CROSS.

which has been given by the godfather, the child is under obligations to wear all its life. If this cross be not found upon the child at death, the priest says to the godparents, the child may not have Christian burial, even though he be the son of a hundred kings. A particular saint is also assigned to the child whose image he is charged to cherish with special devotion.

Holy oil, or chrism, which is used at royal baptisms, coronations and consecration ceremonies, is prepared with elaborate ceremony. There is a copper vase, overlaid with pearls and called alabaster, in which is kept the original oil sent from Constantinople when Christianity was introduced into Russia. A few drops are taken to prepare the chrism and are replaced with other oil, so the quantity never decreases. Wine, roses, lavender, balsams and spices are mixed with the oil. Forty days after the birth of the child, its mother, the Empress, is "churched," and the infant is received visibly into Christ's Church by the giving of its first sacrament. When the royal gates are opened during mass, the deacon appears with the chalice. The baby is carried to the steps, and, the priest coming forward, puts a drop of wine into its mouth with a spoon, saying: "The servant of God communicates in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

There is no ceremony corresponding to confirmation in the Russian Church, but the child continues to receive the sacrament from its baptism, twice a year, at Easter and on its saint's day until it is seven years old when it is brought to the confession on Good Friday.

THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

attendant upon a birth in the royal family are very elaborate. They last several days. All the robes and magnificence of the court and nobility are displayed. At night the illuminations transform the capitals. Lamps are removed from the street posts, and in their places shine illuminated stars and circles. All house fronts, roofs and chimneys are outlined with lights. The trees are full of festoons of Chinese lanterns, and from every limb hang globes of glass in red, yellow, blue and green, each formed and hung so as to resemble fruit. The houses of the nobility look like fairy palaces. The gardens are ablaze with light, and everywhere

appear the burning monograms of the Emperor and Empress.

On the day the child dons its first shoes the Czarina gives 300 or 400 pairs to be distributed among the poor children of St. Petersburg. These are ordinary shoes, of course, not a bit like the royal baby's, which are of white leather, embroidered with gold.

The nurse in a royal Russian child is always gorgeous in her apparel. She wears a rich velvet skirt with two broad bands of gold round it, a blue velvet apron, also trimmed with gold, a bodice of black velvet, fastened with silver buttons, and round her neck a golden chain. This is the dress for ordinary days. For state occasions there are other costumes even more elaborate.

SURGERY WITHOUT PAIN.

Important operations Done While the Patient is Fully Conscious.

The meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society the other evening was rendered particularly interesting on account of the presentation of a paper by Dr. T. Parvin, on the new method of abolishing the pain of surgical operations without the necessity of employing ether or chloroform. This is the system suggested and practised by the well-known German surgeon, Schleich, who, by its use, has been able to perform practically all of the minor and many of the major operations of surgery without the slightest pain to the patient and without depriving him in any other way of his consciousness.

By the method of Schleich there are prepared three solutions of common salt, in which are dissolved different quantities of muriate of cocaine and morphia. The part to be operated upon is thoroughly cleansed with an antiseptic solution and the surface brought to a low temperature by a spray of chloride of ethyl. Into this area of the skin, which, by the action of the spray, has been deprived of all sensation, the salt solution containing the cocaine and morphia is injected by means of a special hypodermic syringe, numerous punctures being made in all directions. This renders the deeper structures insensible to the surgeon's knife, and for a period of from twenty minutes to half an hour the patient is not conscious, so far as a dull pain is concerned, of extensive cutting and sewing.

The new method differs in an important degree from the ordinary employment of hypodermic injections of cocaine, in that the length of the drug which has been used in the past is about one part in each twenty-five parts of the solution, while in the Schleich method there is often employed a strength of only 1 in 10,000. In the former, however, only a few drops of the solution are employed, while in the latter the tissues surrounding the part to be operated upon are thoroughly infiltrated with the solution. With the small quantity of the cocaine employed by Dr. Schleich, it is apparent that something more than cocaine is responsible for the local anaesthesia so perfectly obtained. In the opinion of Drs. Keen, Ashhurst, and Morton, who discussed the merits of the new system, the infiltration of the tissues with the solution and the distension and consequent pressure upon the small nerves were responsible in a large measure for the absence of pain when the incision by the knife is made.

To indicate the manner of employing the method of Schleich, and to show the entire absence of pain, one of the surgeons had the solution inserted beneath the skin of the arm and an incision an inch long made and sewed up before the society last evening. In the discussion it was generally conceded, both from the results achieved by the German surgeon and the experiments made in a number of cases in Philadelphia that a decided advance had been made in the field of anaesthetics, and that for a large number of operations the infiltration method would entirely supersede the general anaesthesia by ether and chloroform.

TOLD BY THE THUMBS.

An Alleged Indication of Nervous Derangement That is Observed Commonly.

"When I went to a nerve specialist first," said a man who was once an invalid, "he told me that one way to judge of the condition of a person's nerves was to watch his thumbs. Ever since that time I have found the greatest fascination in looking at people's thumbs. The doctor said that if they moved involuntarily outward it was a sign that the nerves of that man or woman were not in the best condition. I find myself now sweeping the line that sits opposite me in a car, and if that doctor's test is a good one there is a surprising number of people in this town whose nerves need looking after. There are few among the women who do not involuntarily move the thumbs outward at intervals of every few minutes, and when your attention has once been attracted to it the process of watching their gloved hands grows very interesting. I have found the habit much less frequent among men; but take the average number of women in a cable car and it will be a surprise to you to see how many of them indulge unconsciously in this little habit. I only hope it does not mean anything as serious as it might indicate if that nerve specialist's diagnosis was a good one."

Railway Between Russia and Persia

Persia is about to be provided with a new railroad. The line is being engineered by the Czar's officials, and constructed by means of Muscovite capital. It is to have its base at the Russian port of Baku, which is connected with the entire Russian railroad system, and is to extend across the plain of Mogora to the frontier station of Dulfra, whence it will proceed southward to the great Persian city of Tabreez. From there, by way of Kazvin, it continues to Teheran, whence branches are to be constructed to the great pilgrim resort of Meshed, on the north-east frontier, and to the ancient metropolis, Ispahan, in the South. Apart from the political consequences of this line, the practical opening up of a great country so rich and yet so undeveloped as Persia can not fail to prove of immense interest to trade and industry in every part of the civilized world.

THE LIME KILN CLUB.

"Dar am se'bral things dat doan' look 'sactly right to me," said Brother Gardner, as he rubbed his bald head with one hand and opened the meeting with the other.

"It doan' look 'sactly right to see one man wuth ten millyon dollars an' anoder man wuth ten cents (applause by Samuel Shin), but yit if I was de ten millyon dollar man I wouldn't keer wheder it looked right or not." (Sudden end to the applause.)

"It doan' look 'sactly right fur one man to own a great foundry, while anoder man an' obleged to work fur him fur \$2 a day ('Hear, hear,' from Judge Cadaver), but if I was de \$2-a-day man I wouldn't frow myself out of a job to spite de owner or to please a demagogue." (The judge subsides.)

"It doan' look 'sactly right to see one man hold offis all de time, while anoder man has to shove a jack-plane fur a lib-in' (great rustle in Pickle Smith's corner), but he who shoves de jack-plane has de respect of de community an' keeps outer jail." (Rustle dies away.)

"It doan' look 'sactly right to see fo'ry lawyers rush to defend a criminal who has stolen money in his pockets, while an offender who am moneyless am left to dig his way frow a 10-foot wall wid an ole knife-blade (grins on a dozen faces); but if I was a lawyer I should aim my money any oder way except fur sawin' wood. De public doan' look fur any partickler display of conscience on de part of lawyers, an' darfore suffer no disappointments." (Grins no longer observable.)

"It doan' look right fur one man to have a big brick house an' anoder man a rough bo'd shanty, but 'long' bout tax-time de man in de shanty kin sit on de fence an' chuckle over de fac dat he hain't rich."

"It doan' look 'sactly right to see one man go pushin' and swellin' an' 'owd-in' everybody else off de sidewalk to let de public know dat he am a king bee, but such men have to carry de anxiety of bein' in debt to de tailor an' de doggin' de grocer, an' de subscribin' \$25 to build a church widout a hope of bein' able to pay ten cents on de dollar."

"In fact, my friends, dar an' heas an' heaps o' things dat doan' look 'sactly right to me at first glance, but when yo' come to figger it up an' divide an' subtract we've all got a heap to be thankful fur an' to encourage us to git up airly in de mornin' an' man kin brace his legs and lay back like a mule, an' kick away at de dull world an' hate everybody an' be hated in return, or he kin pick up sartin crumbs of consolation, crowd inter a seat in de back end of de wagon, an' take a heap o' comfort, knowin' dat somebody is wus off dan hisself. Let us accumulate to bizness."

ELECTION.

Sir Isaac Walpole shifted the peachstone which he held in his mouth for erache over to the other side and went his rounds with the bean-box and the secretary found a clear horizon for the following candidates: Fractional Smith, Hesitation Baxter, Lord Thos. White, Buckingham Juneberry, Elder Wait-ham and Sixday Foster.

FOR CAUSE.

The following candidates were rejected for the causes named: Smart Old Smith, of Union Springs, Ala., for walking thirteen miles to see a dog fight. This club never goes over a mile and a half to enjoy such a spectacle, and then always rides in a hack. Comprehensive Baker, of Lynchburg, Va., for having charged forty per cent. interest on money loaned to a poor woman. This club does not object to fifteen per cent. on money borrowed to a circus, but the man who grasps beyond that must and shall be rebuked.

A MORAL LESSON.

Trustee Pullback here arose and moved that \$25 be appropriated for the purchase of a looking-glass for Parsonage Hall. No one supported the motion, and after a moment of deep silence the President remarked: "Brodder Pullback, dat moeshun am not only a mile and a half outer order, but it betrays a malicious sentiment dat mus' be set down on at all hazards! When dis Lime-Kiln Club becomes so de-bizness of de United States of America mus' be neglected to stan' before a lookin'-glass an' smile at ourselves it will be time to disband. I shall fine yo' sebetteen hundred dollars and costs!"

Trustee fell back with a suddenness that jarred the whole building, and during the rest of the session he was busy figuring how much cash he would have left to squander in on Christmas presents.

THEY ARE.

A communication from Louisville, inquired if Prof. Lyon & Co. of that city, who advertise to do calcimining in eight different shades, were members of the Lime-Kiln Club.

"I kin testify dat dey air," replied the president in answer. "Prof. Lyon am not only one of de best men to stretch a carpet seben inches dat I ever saw, but he has invented six different ways of mixin' white-wash to imitate de ile colors of de ole masters. I doan' believe dat Shakespeare, Nero or Captin Kidd could hold a candle to him hangin' paper or touchin' up a centerpiece."

PICKLES DENIES IT.

A communication from Holdfast Huggins, of Norfolk, inquired if he could secure an insurance policy on the life of his mother-in-law by joining the club, and added that Pickles Smith was well known to him, having once boarded in his house and being still in debt to him for six weeks of the highest kind of living.

Pickles denied the accusation in the most emphatic terms, and will probably bring suit for slander. As to the other matter, the secretary was instructed to reply that the club had nothing to do with the insurance business, and did not care to make a member of any man with such a name as Huggins.

RESOLVED.

The secretary announced an official communication from the commissioner of agriculture setting forth the fact that he had succeeded in making sorghum at a cost of only \$1.62 cents a

pound, and asking the club to assist him in circulating the glorious news among the laboring men of the country.

Nelson Slabs thereupon offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, Dat de thanks of dis club an' de 5,000,000 people it represents am extended to de commissioner fur his patient an' successful efforts to bring de price of shugar widin' de reach of ebry poor family in America."

HE WILL STAY THERE.

The secretary then announced a letter from Prof. Whereabouts Boggs, dated at St. Joseph, Mo. The professor lives in Mississippi when at home, and is known all over the state as the man who cures twenty-seven different diseases by the use of alligator oil. He started for Detroit three weeks ago to deliver a lecture before the club, but ran out of money at St. Joseph and could not come on unless a \$20 bill was sent him by mail.

"Den he won't cum on," replied the president as he glanced over the letter. "De highest figger dis club eber paid for a lecturer was forty cents in cash an' a place for de orator to sleep on de flo' an' I see no occasion to riz on de price at dis time. De secretary will write him to dis effect, an' we will now close our labors and percolate to our homes."

YOUNG FOLKS.

A Doll Party. Parents too often forget that they were once young and liked amusement. A mother of our acquaintance, with a house full of young people, is a shining instance of one who remembers.

She lately gave a unique party which was a most successful affair. The invitations were sent by little Chinese and Japanese dolls, of the kind sold on the street at two for five cents, which are already dressed in gay Oriental garments of paper. In the sash a tiny envelope was thrust, addressed to the person to whom the doll was sent and containing an invitation to a doll party, the receiver being requested to come in a costume personating a doll of some sort.

One of the most amusing features of the evening was a row of paper dolls, dressed in white and leaning against the wall, with hands joined. To do this well one must contrive to drive every bit of expression from the face, and by the use of powder to assume a ghastly complexion.

An ingenious costume of gray Jaeger underwear, drawn over the shoes and stockings and sleeves, with short skirt and waist of gray silesia, made a very good rubber doll, but the belle of the evening was a turbaned Dinah. Of course, in most cases, masks are worn, but these can be dispensed with early in the evening. A prize is given to the one who can guess the identity of the greatest number. There is a field here for any amount of ingenuity. As this was in a suburban town the invitation dolls were delivered by a messenger.

The Enchanted Pumpkin.

When your little brother or sister has a birthday party and you want a novelty as a centerpiece for the tea table try the "enchanted pumpkin" and see what fun it will make for the guests.

It ought to be a prize pumpkin and a big one. Scoop out all the inside. That will do well enough to make pies out of for grown up people on days that are not birthdays. Then stuff full of toys tied up in mysterious-looking bundles. To each loose end fall out over the sides of the pumpkin. Then carefully replace the cap or stem part, which you cut off so that it will look as if it were still whole, and place it on your tea table. Surrounded by ferns and colored drooping ends of the ribbons, it will make a very pretty centerpiece.

When the feast is over set the children to guessing how many seeds are in the pumpkin. When all have guessed, tell each to take hold of the ribbons, and when you say "Three!" they must pull on the ribbons, and in that way they will see how many seeds are in the pumpkin.

Talking Dogs.

There are but two recorded instances of dogs having been taught to articulate words in such a manner that they would resemble those uttered by a human being. The most famous of these cases was that of the celebrated "talking dog of Zeitz." The owner of this intelligent canine, a small boy living at Zeitz, Saxony, imagined that his dog's voice strongly resembled certain words and sounds made by men.

Acting on this point, he soon trained the animal, a big Saxon mastiff, to distinctly utter some twenty-odd German words and about a half-dozen from the French language. Although the young trainer devoted much time and patience to his queer task, he never succeeded in enlarging his pet's vocabulary above thirty words.

The rival of the famous "talking dog of Zeitz" was exhibited in Holland in 1718. Besides pronouncing several words, the Holland beast could articulate the names of all the letters of the alphabet except "i," "m" and "n."

The New Pronoun.

An effort is being made by some learned professor to introduce a new pronoun in the English language to supply the place of he, or she, him or her, himself or herself, etc., when we use the masculine and feminine gender together.

The new word is to be thon, and its oddity has anything to do with it its introduction ought to be successful. But will it not sound odd to say: "The boy or girl who is diligent in school is laying up riches for himself that cannot be stolen?"

SOME NOTABLE PEOPLE.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE GREAT FOLKS OF EUROPE.

The Queen as a Feet—Expenses of the Vatican—Alphonse Daudet's Early Days—Royalty's Fads—The Queen's Son-in-Law, etc., etc.

The Prince of Wales receives on a daily average between 500 and 600 letters, 200 of which are of a begging character.

Lord Lonsdale recently had occasion to telegraph to the Emperor of Germany and the message was directed to "His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, Potsdam." Half an hour later the message was returned, marked "insufficiently addressed."

Queen Victoria once wrote some verses which were sent to a publisher under a nom de plume and were promptly returned "with thanks." Her Majesty's next literary venture came out with a full regalia of royal and imperial titles.

The Duke of Marlborough's cigarettes must have a stopping of cotton wool to keep the nicotine from his mouth. In England this is said to be the keynote of the Duke's character, his health is not of the most robust, and he coddles himself most carefully.

The expenses of the Vatican are very heavy, one authority estimating them at \$5,000 a day; but when the immense number of cardinals, chamberlains, servants and the personnel of others considered it does not seem an excessive cost. The Pope is a keen man of business. No item of expenditure escapes his eye, and he pays all bills from a coffer, the key of which never leaves him.

The rivalry between England's new South African millionaires is certainly most profitable to the impoverished peers who have houses, land, stables or plate to dispose of, as Mr. Barney Barnato and Mr. J. B. Robinson never weary of being taken in as long as some titled personage does the taking. Fashionable charities, along with everything else, have profited by the Kaffir boom. "The National Pension Fund for Nurses" is the pet charity of the Princess of Wales. What should be more natural, therefore, than that Mr. Robinson and Mr. Beit, casting about to do good, should dole out a mite of \$25,000 apiece for the Princess's charity? The irrepressible Barney could not stand that, so, doubling the sum, he sent it to the Hospital Fund. Among other things Mr. Barnato is building a house in Park Lane. His ground landlord, anxious that the building should be worthy of the site, made a stipulation that a sum of no less than \$20,000 (\$100,000) should be spent upon it. He received the following letter in reply: "Sir—I am going to spend more than \$20,000 on the stables. Yours, etc."

"B. Barnato." The King and Queen of Italy are mightily puzzled to find a suitable wife for Master Naples. And though the Continental newspapers betroth him on an average of once a fortnight to some impossible princess from some impossible place, he still remains a solitaire. The matrimonial manager of a princess possessing the qualifications demanded by Master Naples's parents would undoubtedly have other ambitions for his fairly charge than a union with the hobbledey heir of Italy. The future Princess of Naples must be of the bluest blood and the most ancient lineage. She must be a Roman Catholic, yet she must conform to the political and not the religious side of the Roman controversy. She must have a considerable dowry, for the Italian coffers need replenishing. Under these circumstances Naples will probably smoke an unmoisted bachelor's pipe for some time.

Alphonse Daudet, the eminent French author, was for a long time an usher in a second-rate school, on a pittance which scarcely sufficed to keep body and soul together. After a while, he grew sick of this hard, unremunerative kind of work and made his way to Paris, where he arrived with a capital of fifty cents and a bundle of poems. According to a time-honored custom, M. Daudet should have slowly eaten up his fifty cents and then starved; for poets do in stories. But he didn't; for he found a publisher for his poems almost immediately, and then began to do journalistic work, which supported him till he adopted novel writing. Today he can command any price for his books and articles and is a very wealthy man.

During the reigns of the Georges, as every one knows, it was considered a disgrace for a gentleman to spell correctly. How times have changed: to-day it would be hard to find a sovereign, or a sprig of royalty for that matter, who has not an artistic or an intellectual fad, the cultivation of which occupies much of his time. Any spare time the German Emperor may have, after he has finished playing soldier, he devotes it to painting. "Carmen Sylvia" is such a devoted student of literature that one might say any time she can spare from her books she devotes to being Queen of Roumania. The Pope is a fine latin poet. King Oscar, of Sweden, as a landscape painter, strikes a happy medium in impressionism. Queen Victoria is an excellent linguist, and at State concerts it is not unusual for Her Majesty to speak alternately to several foreign artists, each in his native tongue. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha is a devoted violinist. Queen Amelie, of Portugal, is a most successful physician. The Princess of Wales and the Dowager-Princess of Russia are both brilliant pianists.

The Queen's son-in-law, the Marquis of Lorne, seems determined to taste the sweets of authorship in every department of literature. As Governor-General, politician, poet, novelist and guide writer he is well known to the public, and now this "Admirable Crichton of the House of Argyll" is about to electrify the world with a play—that is if he can persuade a London manager to produce it. So much for the Queen's Scotch son-in-law. Her Majesty's grand son-in-law, the Duke of Fife, who is also a Scotch laddie, has ambitions of quite another order. Since his marriage to a daughter of the Prince of Wales he has assumed all the reticence of royalty. He objects to being looked at particularly. A watcher is set to see that no one comes a-nigh his dwelling and his tenantry have been warned not to take lodgers.