

tion of the British Empire by commercial union, strategetic defenses, and exclusive all-round-the-world telegraphic cables. No wonder the trade of the Empire progresses by leaps and bounds, while that of France declines; last month the revenue was short by nearly six millions of francs. The silence of Russia in the far east is explained by the fact of Germany and Italy, associated with Britain, being resolved to have slice for slice, of the Celestial Empire for that accorded to Russia, and to the known inability of the Muscovite to hoodwink Japan in the Corea—for Japan has English friendship as well as community of interests to rely upon.

The shares, 20 francs each, for the 1900 Exhibition Loan, will be issued from the 29th current. The total loan will be 67,000,000 francs, of which six millions will be allocated for prizes in the 25 lotteries to come off before the close of the Big Fair; there will be five *gros lots* of half a million francs each, and several ranging from 100,000 to 100 francs prizes. The first drawing will take place on the 25th August next, with one-half million franc prize. The shares will be redeemable by drawings and will carry coupons to serve as entrance tickets. Gambling is king; make your game.

The Egyptian question still—only on the present occasion it deals with the period of the Israelitish bondage and the time of Moses. The British and French were not then occupied with any evacuation dispute. The great Egyptian scholar, M. Maspero, testifies to the accuracy of Mr. Petrie's find of a portion of a triumphal hymn, dedicated to an Egyptian King, Menephthah, 1400 years B.C., wherein for the first time, in all the stone records, the mention of "Israel" occurs, thus corroborating the sacred text in the Exodus. M. Maspero concludes that the wonder is, not that the name occurs, or is only alluded to in a passing panegyric, as that it occurs at all. At that time, when Egypt, Chaldaea, and Assyria were in their bloom of power and glory, the tribe of Israel counted for very little. The term Hebrew often occurs on the stone annals, but never that of "Israel" till revealed by Mr. Petrie. But the question is still unsettled from what side came the Jews. Some conclude from the South of Judea; others from the mountains to where they escaped from Egypt, and represented one of the two branches of the Israelites that had occupied a side of the Nile after the Lybian wars, and the other branch in Syria. These are for Maspero only conjectures; the great fact is, that "five words," and suggesting a defeat, now allude for the first time to the Exodus Israelites.

The leading book publishers are holding here an important international congress to regulate some important trade questions, and to have a metric system applied to the form of books. The right of reproduction of articles and illustrations from papers and periodicals will also be exhaustively examined, as also that frequently occurring, proposition the reproduction, in a book form, of a public lecture or of a series of contributions. The most eminent publishing firms have sent delegates.

How does it arise that Versailles, which is called the Necropolis of France, though badly supplied with water, and that supply of the worst, from the worst part of the Seine, remains still the healthiest city in France. It has no system of modern sewage. In time of plague there is a rush to Versailles as if to a city of refuge. Its streets are very wide and bordered with trees, the houses are spacious and the windows large—because the residences of the courtiers of Louis XIV. and his two successors. At Marly, the historic machine pumps up water from the Seine, which is carried by pipe and aqueduct to Versailles, to feed the fountains, and artificial lakes and meet the greater wants of the population. It is the water from the Versailles Palace fountains that works those at St. Cloud. The authorities of Versailles announce the supply of water has run so short that no new subscribers, that is to say householders, can henceforth be accepted. Further, gardeners cannot be allowed an extra quantity—which, in their eyes, resembles the end of the world. Unoccupied houses cannot be supplied, and this being the letting season, the Necropolis is still further dead—like the Oriental King, who slew his slain thrice.

The Grand Prix, 200,000fr., was favoured by lovely weather, and the crowd was naturally huge, for the betting was heavy. The French remarked that the English ignored the race altogether—save to supply the jockeys as usual. M. Blanc won his fifth success, the blue ribbon, with "Arreau," a horse ignored by all. The favourites were all beaten, so

the losses were heavy, and the multitude, sad at losing, mournfully quitted the field when the victory was declared. President Faure arrived in a gala turnout; he did not visit the paddock, so ran no risk of being received with disrespect, as at Auteuil. The day was brilliant, the sport gloomy.
Paris, June 17th, 1896.

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I.

Honey bees in apple-bloom
Bobolinks in clover,
Rippling water laughing by
White clouds floating over;
Sweet are these and very sweet
Till I hear her tinkling feet
Then, ah, then! they only seem
But the shadows of a dream.

II.

Stinging sleet from leaden skies,
Darkness quickly falling
Tortur'd winds among the hills
Out of caverns calling
Drear are these, and very drear,
Till her gentle voice I hear,
Then their wildest terrors seem
But the echoes of a dream.

ROBERT ELLIOTT.

"Tamlaghmore."

* * *

On My Yarrow Lawn.

WHEN walking up Queen's Park, on the eastern embankment, the attention of an observer is arrested by patches of yarrow here and there,—fresh, green, and aromatic; contrasting favorably with the dry and shrivelled appearance of the surrounding grass.

Common yarrow, or milfoil, is a perennial plant found along road sides, and in dry pastures. Both the flowers and leaves have an aromatic, rather agreeable smell, and a bitter, rough, and somewhat pungent taste.

Internally, it has been used in Germany as a tonic, anti-spasmodic, and sedative. That it possesses some narcotic qualities, would appear from the fact, in Sweden, that it is used in making beer, to which it imparts an additional intoxicating quality. In modern practice, it is never used as a medicine.

Tradition claims that it was used by Achilles to cure the wounds of his soldiers, and the genus is named after that mighty hero. It still forms one of the ingredients of an ointment valued by the Scotch Highlanders. Gerard writes that "most men say that the leaves chewed, and especially greene, are a remedie for the toothache."

Several of the old names of this plant are very significant of its former uses. Souldiers Woundwort, Knyghten Milfoil, and Nose-bleed, all show how much our fathers prized this herb as a vulnerary; while its common name of Old Man's Pepper indicates its use as a condiment to the salad, though it scarcely merits this distinction, for but a slight pungency exists in its young leaves. It is, however, bitter, and has a good deal of astringency, though, as Professor Burnett remarks, "it is little esteemed, except by the good women of the Orkneys, who hold milfoil tea in good repute for its power in dispelling melancholy." There is no doubt that any part of the plant is a safe and useful application to wounds. It is still in common use to cure headache, and people in villages yet put this herb up the nostrils to stanch bleeding.

The dark green and beautifully cut leaves of the yarrow add much to its beauty. Anne Pratt says it may often be found looking fresh and verdant when the chilling winds of winter have swept from the mead all flowers save itself and the daisy; and sometimes a stray plant of yarrow will smile to the sunshine of a Christmas day.

Agnes Strickland has some lines to this flower:—

"Green yarrow, Nature's simplest child,
Thy leaves of emerald dye,
And silvery blossoms undefiled,
On rugged path, or barren wild,
The traveller passes by
With reckless glance and careless tread,