

The rights of Tommy Atkins are not to be trifled with. It seems that the uniform of Thomas has sometimes prevented his being served with refreshments at public houses, but now that the Commander-in-Chief of the Horse Guards has issued a circular letter requesting that any case of negligence in attendance be reported to him, it is not probable that Thomas will again have occasion to make complaints.

An effort will be made at the Chicago Exposition to introduce the cocoa leaf as a rival to tobacco. It has long been used in South America, where the natives are as much attached to it as our northern men are to the better known leaf. The cocoa, properly prepared, has no bad effect on its smoker, but instead will slightly stimulate and sustain him. There will have to be a hard fight, however, before the fragrant tobacco is discarded from the meerschau pipe.

The Tobacco Corporation of Persia have made a wise move in declining the proffered loan of Russia, and obtaining the much-needed money from English sources. The present arrangement, for which credit must be given to the diplomacy of Lord Salisbury and Sir Francis Lascelle, is pleasing to His Majesty the Shah, who has learned that it is not best to be under obligations to the Czar, and as the Imperial Bank of Persia undertakes the payment of the debt, the British capitalists are satisfied.

The Golden Wedding of the King and Queen of Denmark is attracting many illustrious visitors to Copenhagen. Not many a wedded pair can point to such an illustrious half-dozen of children as this worthy couple. The eldest son, Frederick, is heir to the Danish throne, Prince George is King of Greece, and Prince Waldemar has had the opportunity of declining to reign as the Prince of strong-minded little Bulgaria. Their daughters are even more prominent, and are admired and extolled by all. Thyra is the beautiful Duchess of Cumberland, Dagmar is the Empress of Russia, while dear alike to British and Canadian hearts is Alexandra, the gracious Princess of Wales.

The Kanaka Labor question is still stirring up the Opposition members of the British House of Commons. An Act, recently passed, allows the inhabitants of Queensland to import labor, and in the name of this permission there is no doubt that some vile things have been done. It is true that the Legislature and Governor of Queensland desired the Act, but they can scarcely be considered dispassionate by-standers, as most of them are interested in procuring the cheapest labor for their sugar plantations. Of course the land-owners have their side to the story, but at best it is but a sorry one, and the sympathy of all "lovers of liberty" is with the men who are trying to erase the blot of legalized slavery from this troublesome British possession.

American cities are watching with great interest the new underground transit system shortly to be established in London. The line is to run from the centre of the city fifty feet under ground. The stations along the route will be numerous. The road beds will be laid in two tunnels. Two tracks will be laid in each. One tunnel will be used exclusively for Eastern, the other for Western bound trains. Noiseless electro-motor force will be used. Nearly four miles of the new line are already laid down, and it is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the year. The service will be cheap, and the ventilation, lighting and heating of the cars will embrace several new inventions. New York, with her useful but hideous overhead rails, awaits the trial trip anxiously.

Many European writers are considering methods by which dynamiters may be thwarted in their plans. Several publishers have called for competitive articles on the subject, and many ideas, both original and impracticable, have been evolved. M. Jules Lemon, of Breslau, has, however, both common-sense and ingenuity on his side, in his suggestion that there should be a gigantic inter-national federation against Anarchists—that each nation shall provide supervisors of factories where fire-arms or explosives are made, until such time as the nation shall be able to assume the monopoly of these dangerous instruments of war. The proposal is broadly practicable, and the scheme for uniting the civilized nations of the world in a federation, where they could ably combat the enemies of humanity, is worthy of its projector.

Queen Victoria may well be proud of the work of her daughter, the ex-Empress of Germany, whose heart and hand have been so prompt in working for others since she went so many years ago as the English bride to the German court. An interesting letter from Berlin tells of the many institutions which she has founded or endowed, and in whose affairs she takes a live interest. For instance, the Frederickshain Hospital of Berlin was remodelled by her on the most modern sanitary principles. The Lette Verein, an Industrial School for training domestic servants, is chiefly the outcome of her loving thought for girls of the poorer ranks. There are also classes in dress-making, book-keeping, and an art school where the ex-Empress herself presides. The Victoria Lyceum for promoting the higher education of women is a favorite with her, as is also the *Creche* or day home for the children of working-women. The Children's Hospital, the Soldiers' Homes, and the Nursing School all receive due attention from their projectors. Her English pluck seems to have broken down German prejudice, and on all sides she is praised as a self-sacrificing, clear-handed friend of her adopted people.

The private affairs of the brilliant and erratic Mrs. Annie Besant are exciting theosophical society throughout Great Britain. It is now affirmed that the little lady (wife of an English clergyman) who has publicly embraced Malthusianism, Atheism and Theosophy, is now by way of returning to the Established Church and her husband. As the lady's fascinating personality has had much to do with the popularity of the theosophical fad, her pseudo-disciples are a bit anxious for their future.

The American hen has met with discouragement and the Canadian fowl cackles dolefully across the line to her sister in trouble. Somebody has made artificial eggs, and is selling them at Washington, D. C. The counterfeit eggs are a perfect imitation of old Goody Kerdacut's work and cannot be distinguished from the genuine article. They are made of corn-meal and albumen—the film-like lining of the shell, even the chicken gum is perfectly imitated, the shells show no join, and are colored *au naturel*. These eggs retail for ten cents a dozen, or the unshelled contents, yolks and whites separated—may be obtained in hermetically sealed jars.

Our "wheel-friends" of Nova Scotia will be interested in the recent achievement of some Chicago bicyclists, who rode from Chicago to New York in five days. At that rate, some of our expert riders may easily arrive at the World's Fair—a little worn and tired, perhaps, but certainly with a unique experience behind them—for it is not improbable that they would prefer to take advantage of the many rail excursions and convey the faithful steeds home by train. General Miles, of the U. S. A. wishes to see the useful wheel utilized for Military purposes. He claims that private despatches might be sent safely and swiftly in that way. But the wheel, we consider, can hardly be expected to adapt itself to the exigencies of warfare, and for travelling "cross-country" or over obstructed roads it can scarcely be deemed a success.

The Greek elections are now over, and M. Tricoupes is installed as Premier. The contest between Tricoupis and Delyannis has been a most exciting one, and the re-election of the old Minister is delighting the people. Eighteen months ago he was forced to yield his place to Delyannis, and now, so fickle is Greek nature, he returns to it with as large a majority as that which before cost him his position. The chief aim of Tricoupis' Government is to secure solvency for the nation, even if that result could be secured only by taxing every import of the country. The rivals, perhaps, are well typified by their emblems—the laurel for Delyannis, who is a brilliant and unscrupulous man, and the olive of peace for Tricoupis. A well-administered Government will do much towards speedily making Greece felt as one of the most powerful of the minor European nations.

Sometime ago the sum of 100,000 francs was bequeathed to the Paris Academy of Science by a Frenchwoman, to be paid to any person who should be able to contrive some method of communication between the Earth and Mars or any other planet. Mr. Wm. Hodge, of London, now appears as a competitor. He proposes to display such immense, luminous, geometrical designs on the Earth's surface that they may be discerned from the sister planet. He chooses figures of the geometrical type, because they represent mathematical truths which are common property in almost all earthly countries, and may not be unknown to the Marsites. Still, having the possibility of ignorance in view, he will begin with the simplest geometrical forms and proceed gradually according to Euclid. Mr. Hodge's project is a grand one, but we are sorely tempted to dub him the Mathematical Missionary to Mars.

The thrifty Government of Holland has long had a useless patch of water known as the Zuyder Zee on its hands. A commission, recently appointed to consider the matter, have proposed a novel method of extending the Dutch territory without making any aggressive demands on the neighboring nations. It is proposed that a dam be placed across the mouth of the Zee, and that the water be then pumped out into the German Ocean. The now submerged land would be valuable for agricultural purposes, and would add an area of 700 square miles to the present area of Holland. The Zuyder Zee has already undergone one transformation. Until the 12th century, when it was united with the North Sea, it was known as a lake. The cost of the proposed draining and pumping would be some £17,000,000, and it is estimated that the work would supply occupation for a full generation of Hollanders.

Mr. Richard J. Wicksteed's scheme for compulsory voting, which has already been noted in our columns, is being criticised favorably and unfavorably from many sources. Mr. Sydney Fiske, ex-M. P. for Brome, Quebec, points out the weak point of the proposed plan. If the elector must vote for a regularly nominated candidate, it may easily be that of the three or four men selected by the great political parties, there will not be one that his conscience will allow him to support. Why, under such circumstances, should his vote be required. A simple way of evading the proposed law would be for the voter to appear at the polling booth and to deposit an improperly marked or empty ballot. Mr. Fiske believes in the fullest extension of manhood suffrage, but would exact of the elector that he personally register his name on the electoral lists before voting. He claims that by this measure the ignorant and indifferent would exclude themselves from the polls. We trust that the consideration of the problem will involve a more matured plan.

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