#### PERSONAL.

Miss Philippa Fawcett, daughter of the late Professor Fawcett, the blind English philosopher and statesman, has taken the highest educational honor yet won by a woman at Cambridge University. She is twenty-two years old, and her marks in mathematics far surpassed those received by any man at the recent examinations.

A beautiful album, bearing the signatures of many of the most distinguished personages in this country and England, and containing drawings by a few eminent artists, has been presented to M. Pasteur, the eminent chemist, as a testimonial. It was originated and successfully carried through by Mrs. Priestly, the wife of the distinguished English physician.

Ludwig Lewerstrom, "the black rider" Ludwig Lewerstrom, "the black rider" who for twenty four years carried all Prince Bismarck's official messages between the Wilhelm Strasse and the Palace Unter den Linden, and retired from duty at the same time with his master, has been taken into the service of Chancellor Von Caprivi. As formerly, he cares for the transmission of all documents that pass from the Chancellor's palace to the imperial library.

The German Emperor has summoned before him for investigation a young negro prince, known as Alfred Bell, from the Cameroon country, West Africa, who had been sent to Bremen to learn the trade of a carpenter, and wno is alleged to have joined a gang of Socialists and Anarchists. If Bell should turn out to be really a Socialist he will not be allowed to return to the Cameroons, for fear of corrupting the natives.

Kaiser William selected a dinner at Konigsberg for delivering his conception of kingship in the following speech: "It was here, in the palace church, that his Majesty the late Emperor William I, again proclaimed before the whole world his Kingship by the grace of God. This 'Kingship by the grace of God' expresses the fact that we Hohenzollerus accent our grown only from heaven collerus accept our crown only from heaven, and are responsible to heaven for the performance of its duties. I, too, am animated by this view, and am resolved to act and to govern on this principle."

It will not be surprising if the report proves true that Stanley is going back to Africa next year as Governor of the Congo State. King Leopold has been particularly happy in the Governors who have represented him on the Congo. De. Winton who succeeded Stanley, and Jannsens, the present incumbent, have both done much to replace savagery with order and good government. But after all there is no name so potent on the Congo as that of Stanley, and it will be a boon to the State if this man of wonderful energy is in command when the new era which the railroad will introduce is ushered in.

Mr. Isaac Pitman of Bath, England, the father of Phonography, has opened an office at 3 East 14th street, New York, for the sale of his shorthand books. The system of Pitman is, to-day, practically doing the shorthand-writing of the English-speaking world, the systems of Ben Pitman, Graham, Munson, and others in use in America being only alterations of the original Isaac Pitman system. There are, however, a great many students and writers of the "Isaac" style (which has now been brought to almost absolute perfection in England), and these will now have a rallying point, and be able to keep en rapport with the latest development of the original Phonography.

The greatest man of letters now living in Scotland is probably David Masson, Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in Edinburgh University. He is best known by his "Life of John Milton and the History of His Time," although he is the author of a number of other works that have brought him fame. Professor Masson was acquainted with Douglas, Jerrold, Dickens, Thackeray, and Carlyle, and is said to resemble the last-named in personal appearance. He is an effective lecturer and orator, and has made himself prominent as an advocate of woman's right to higher education and participation in the learned professions. Although sixty-eight years old, he is full of fire and vigor.

The news from Uganda that Mwanga is on top again in that distracted country will gratify all who are interested in African progress, for his success means the predominance of white influences, while his brother, inance of white influences, while his brother, Kalema, is nothing but the tool of the Arab slave dealers who have been doing their worst to drive white foreigners from Victoria Nyanza. Uganda is the natural centre from which civilizing influences should spread over Central Africa. Its people have large capacity for improvement, and were unusually advanced in some respects long before they ever saw a white man. The country will continue to attract attention, both because it is the fairest portion of tropical Africa, and also because it is one of the most inviting fields for white enterprise.

Lord Salisbury said in his London speech the other day that nearly all the attention of the Foreign Office was at present occupied with African matters, and he had been informed that the proper thing in after-dinner speeches nowadays was to talk of nothing but Africa. South America, with its vast unexplored regions, really has cause to feel jealous of the preponderating attention given to Africa. Two or three explorers have recently emerged from the almost unknown depths of northern Bolivia and western Peru with a fund of information about these countries and their people that could scarcely be equalled

in novelty now in any part of Africa. They found one tribe that believed the accounts they had heard of white men were myths, another remarkable people who do not know what drunkenness is, and another whose favorite weapon is the blow pipe. Senor Fry tells of Indians who wear pigtails and whose language seems to resemble the Chinese. Some peoples were found to be particularly primitive, living almost wholly on wild fruits and unable to count above three. "The Dark Continent," a phrase that Stanley invented, is beginning to apply more accurately to vast regions in South America than to Africa.

Africa.

The first expedition of the British South African Company left Cape Town in April for Mashonaland and the Matabele country, 1,500 miles north. The remarkable reports that white travellers have brought home of the mineral riches of Mashonaland, of the healthfulness of this elevated region, and its adaptability for white immigration, have aroused much curiosity to know more of the almost unexplored country, and the story of the expedition will be widely read. There is a newspaper correspondent with the party, and he will tell all about the long journey and discoveries in the land which was one of the bones of contention in the recent unpleasantness between England and Portugal. For many years Du Chaillu's stories of his travels in Africa were discredited, to a large extent, because he reported remarkable things about gorillas and dwarfs, which many learned men declined to believe. A few months ago dwarfs like those he described were discovered just north of the region he visited, and other recent explorations have completely relieved Du Chaillu from the undeserved stigma of drawing the long bow in his descriptions of life in the African forests. Probably no famous traveller of recent times has suffered more than he from the ill-founded incredulity of intelligent readers, and it must be particularly gratifying to him to see that important journals which had called him unreliable are now admitting that the progress of knowned the process of the progress of showned the progress of showned the progress of showned the descriptions. are now admitting that the progress of know-ledge has justified his descriptions.

### A Far-Off Star.

A FAP-UN Stap.

It is difficult to conceive that the beautiful dog star is a globe much larger than our sun, yet it is a fact that Sirius is a sun many times more mighty than our own. This splendid star, which, even in our most powerful telescopes, appears as a mere point of light, is in reality a globe emitting so enormous a quantity of light and heat, that were it to take the place of our sun, every creature on this earth would be consumed by its burning rays.

creature on this earth would be consumed by its burning rays.

Sirius shining with far greater lustre than any other star, it was natural that astronomers should have regarded this as being the nearest of all the "fixed" stars; but recent investigation on the distances of the stars has shown that the nearest to us is Alpha Centauri, a star belonging to the southern latitude, though it is probable that Sirius is about fourth on the list in order of distance. For though there are about 15 or 20 stars whose distances have been conjectured the astronomer knows that in reality all of them, save three or four, lie at distances too great to be measured by any instruments we great to be measured by any instruments we ave at present.

d, Astronomers agree in fixing the distance of the nearest star at 22,000,000,000,000 miles, and it is certain that the distance of miles, and it is certain that the distance of Sirius is more than three and less than six times that of Alpha Centauri, most likely about five times, so that we are probably not far from the truth if we set the distance of Sirius at about 100,000,000,000,000,000 of miles.

What a dista we is this that separates us from that bright star; words and figures themselves fail to convey to our minds any adequate idea of its true character.

To take a common example of illustrating such enormous distances: It is calculated that the ball from an Armstrong 100-pounder quits the gun with the speed of about 400 yards per second. Now, if this velocity could be kept up it would require no fewer than 100,000,000 years before the ball could reach Sirius.

# Photographing a Rifle Bullet.

resemble the last-named in personal appearance. He is an effective lecturer and orator, and has made himself prominent as an advocate of woman's right to higher education and participation in the learned professions. Although sixty-eight years old, he is full of fire and vigor.

The mistress of a sewing school, Miss Bromberg of Odessa was brought before the court because she used her class rooms for general instruction. The detectives had found in her school thirty little girls with books in their hands learning to spell and to read. Miss Bromberg pleaded that she knew not that it was wrong to teach the children letters, since her school was licensed and she employed a licensed teacher to instruct them. But the Judge informed her that she was guilty of a misdemeanor, for her establishment was licensed only as a sewing school, and she had no right to teach her pupils anything but needle work. On account of her poverty and ignorance of the law, however, he inflicted upon her the mild fine of ten roubles.

Photographing a Rifle Bullet.

Since they have bethought themselves to take photographs of lightning flashes we have learned far more about these phenomena than eye observation could have told us in years, and problems yet to be solved have been suggested, which, in our complacency, we did not suppose existed. Such are the curious "dark flashes" seen to accompany the bright ones on many a photograph, and which scientists do not yet know how to explain, some thinking they are reproduction the air, and others that they are production of something really taking place in the air, and others that they are production of something is too difficult for the experimenter to attempt—witness the photographs of rifle bullets in motion, obtained the air and others that they are reproduction of high standing considered the accompany of the pictures, or a supplied to the accompany of the pictures, and is a supplied to take photographs of right and the developing or printing of the pictures, or a supplied that the air, and other the conclusions drawn from them by the officers. Yet, on examining the original photographs (which were not as large as one's little finger-nail, and so had to be photographed on a larger scale when published) the editors had to confess that they were not only genuine, but the results of wonderful knowledge of photography and skill in manipulation. The condensed wave of air in front of the bullet could plainly be seen. manipulation. The condensed wave of air in front of the bullet could plainly be seen, and from its shape interesting deductions can be made as to the proper shape of rifle bullets.

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The pond lily closes its pure white leaves at night as it lies upon its watery bed, but it unfolds them again in the morning. A. P. 509

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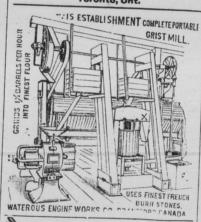
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