

We are in receipt of the February number of *Our Dumb Animals*, (Godard Building, 19 Milk St., Boston, 50 cents per annum) We note with pleasure a sarcastic illustration of the abominable check, or bearing rein. It is an excellent publication. We wish there was one like it published in Canada.

A bill is said to be introduced in the U.S. Congress proposing to increase the duty on lumber three dollars per thousand in addition to the present duty, and also to impose duties on several other Canadian products, in retaliation for the action of the Canadian government imposing an increased export duty upon pine logs.

The United States Commissioner to the Melbourne Exposition has returned much pleased with his trip. He paid special attention to the trees of the big island, and has brought home the seeds of many useful varieties. One of these is the black wattle, a tree which yields the heaviest percentage of tannin of any known. Its bark is worth \$60 per ton at the tannery.

Four Chinamen recently built a wash-house over a boiling spring in Canyon City, and were doing a flourishing business. A few days ago a box of soap dropped accidentally into the spring, with the result that the washing apparatus and the Chinamen were badly mixed up. The geyser sent up a boiling stream to the height of over a hundred feet for over three hours, and when it subsided the bodies of the celestials were found some distance from the scene. It is a question whether they were in the soup or the soap, at any rate they were dead.

A shock of earthquake was felt in Bolton and Manchester, England, on Monday.

The primate of Greece, Mons. Prokopios, died of heart disease on Tuesday last.

A shock of earthquake was felt at Naples on the 12th inst., and Vesuvius is reported to be again active.

London, G. B., is to have an ice carnival in Albert Hall in March. Princess Christian and Mary are aiding the project.

Envoys from the Madhi report that another attack will soon be made upon Suakim by the Soudanese.

The recent number of the *Contemporary Review* containing an unsigned article entitled "The Bismarck Dynasty," is not allowed to circulate in Germany.

The Presidents of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal have decided to hold a conference to discuss the advisability of forming a federal union of the two States.

The Australian Colonies have invited Canada to send delegates to Australia to consider the question of closer cable communication, instead of Australia sending delegates to Canada.

Sunday is now observed as a day of rest in Japan. The custom began with the closing of the Government establishments on Sunday, and the citizens of Tokio soon followed the example.

The Chinese riots at Chin-Keang-Foo are over. Chinese soldiers occupy the place, and quiet prevails. The cause of the disturbance was the antipathy of the populace to an obnoxious police inspector.

A Rome despatch says there is talk of a betrothal of Prince Emanuel, eldest son of the Duke of Aosta and nephew of King Humbert, to Archduchess Margarete, daughter of Archduke Charles Louis of Austria.

The insurgents at Zanzibar have reduced their demand for the ransom of the German missionaries to 7,000 rupees and the exchange of three slave-dealers whom the Germans captured. The heat is unbearable.

The trial of William O'Brien is to take place at Killarney on Monday. A force of military escorted him from Tralee to Killarney on Tuesday, and proclamations were posted along the route forbidding the gathering of crowds.

The proposed visit of the Shah to England causes embarrassment to the court officials, his Persian Majesty's habits and tone of thought not being such as to render him agreeable to English, or any other civilized society.

Heavy snow storms are reported from Germany, Austria, and France this week, and the English and Irish coasts have been visited by gales of unusual violence. At Pembroke a ferry boat capsized drowning nine persons.

It is said that, on the night of Boulanger's election, Premier Floquet proposed to the cabinet that Gen. Boulanger be arrested as a conspirator against the republic. A majority agreed, but DeFreycinet protested, fearing bloodshed. The matter was then dropped.

The Prince of Wales, in his military capacity of Colonel-in-Chief of the Blucher Hussars, will pay a formal visit to the Emperor of Germany in the spring, and so soon as the year of mourning for his father is over, the Kaizer will be the guest of Queen Victoria at Windsor for about ten days.

The London edition of the New York *Herald* appeared on the 4th inst. for the first time. Much indignation is expressed at the publication of the paper on Sunday. James Gordon Bennet now owns papers in New York, Paris and London, and all are successful apparently. His next venture will probably be in Australia.

Henry Labouchere, in a telegram to the New York *World*, says that: "In a list which has been published of the sovereigns, ex-sovereigns and princes who have died mysteriously, the name of Napoleon Third has been included. The latter, though I believe the fact has never been publicly stated, died while under chloroform, which had been administered to him when he was about to undergo a painful operation."

The new constitution of Japan was promulgated from the throne by the Mikado on Wednesday. It establishes a house of peers, partly hereditary, partly elective, and partly nominated by the Mikado, and a house of commons of 300 members. All men over the age of 25 years and who pay taxes amounting to \$25 yearly have the right of suffrage.

There was a monster demonstration of working men in Hyde Park, London, on Tuesday, to denounce the Government coercive measures in Ireland, and express sympathy with William O'Brien. There was a snow-storm at the time but it did not interfere with the demonstration in the least. Thousands of men marched to the Park with bands and banners. Speeches were delivered from twelve platforms.

The Eiffel Tower in Paris has now reached the height of over seven hundred feet, and is said to be literally lost in the clouds. Its intended height is 1000 feet, and when completed it may certainly be classed with the wonders of the world. The illustrations of it show the lower part spread out in the shape of four feet, and the whole structure looks like a gigantic pagoda. The central platform is to be used as a cafe, and five francs will entitle a visitor to go the top of the tower either in a captive balloon or by a series of lifts.

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