

three distinct classes of schools, with courses of instruction of a perfectly distinct type in each of them. For children who are not likely to remain at school beyond the statutory age of fourteen there is the elementary school; for children who can remain at school till they attain the age of sixteen, and are likely to be employed in some commercial or manufacturing position of responsibility, there is the "Real-schule," or, as we should call it, the "Commercial" school, where Latin and a modern language are learnt, in addition to other ordinary subjects; and, lastly, for those who are destined to enter one or other of the numerous universities of Germany, there is the "Gymnasium," or, as we should call it, the "Grammar-school," where Greek is taught. In each of these three classes there is a regular systematic curriculum of work to be done, so that the scholars in the lower schools are never allowed to attempt subjects which they will not have time to master during their stay at school. Hence, in German elementary schools no place is found for our "Specific Subjects" and a "Fourth Schedule."

Having seen how methodical the Germans are in defining the work in the three classes of schools above named, we shall be fully prepared to expect that there is an equally systematic course of instruction prescribed for Normal Colleges. There are no pupil-teachers in Germany; and, consequently, the Normal Colleges of Dresden, for example, admit candidates at fourteen years of age, direct from the elementary schools, and retain them for six years, till the age of twenty, when they are appointed to situations by the School Inspectors. A time-table lying near us at this moment shows what are the subjects and hours of instruction during these six years of residence in the Normal College. An examination is held at the end of every year; and if a student fails to satisfy his examiners, he has got to go over the same subjects again for another year; and, as his parents have to pay about £10 a year for his education, it is no slight punishment for a student to be put back for a year. This time-table shows that the students are not confused by a multitude of subjects of study—the principle being here, as elsewhere, to do thoroughly what you undertake to do at all. They devote much time to the theory and practice of music, vocal and instrumental. They learn Latin very thoroughly, but not French, English or Greek. Their native language, of course, is closely studied, and so is the Art of Teaching. They do not attempt half-a-dozen distinct "sciences," but only one—called "Knowledge of Nature"—comprising such an amount of natural philosophy as will enable them to teach children the leading facts and principles of science applied to the wants of everyday life in town and country. It is impossible to avoid the inference that a system of regular class instruction day by day for six years, with only occasional interruptions during attendance in the Practising Schools, must necessarily produce far riper and sounder knowledge than can reasonably be expected from our system of four years' apprenticeship and irregular instruction, followed by two years' spasmodic exertion in a training college. It is a common mistake amongst us to attempt to master too many subjects of study in an inadequately short space of time. Knowledge so acquired is seldom full and accurate, and usually is extremely evanescent.—*The Schoolmaster.*

#### PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF GENOA.

The arrival of the Princess Isabella of Bavaria, the bride of the Prince of Genoa was the occasion of a brilliant series of festivities in Rome. A committee of eighty Roman ladies was appointed to receive her. The princess is described by a correspondent of the American Register as tall and slender—taller than the prince, who is a short, broad-shouldered sailor, with an open, genial face. She was extremely pale when she arrived, and looked very nervous and shy. She bowed timidly, like a schoolgirl, on her first appearance in society. To most persons this timidity gave her an additional charm. You almost pitied her, felt though she was, so beseechingly did she look from side to side as she bowed to the cheers that greeted each forward step she took. She is very fair, with auburn hair. She could reply only in monosyllables to the ladies who received her at the station, a fact that caused much comment. But considering the circumstances, and the novelty of hearing a language to which she was not accustomed, I do not think there was much to wonder at if she spoke in monosyllables. She had had a long journey, merely resting at Civitavecchia long enough to change her dress. She was tired, overcome with emotion, and the centre of an ovation in a strange land among strange people, whose language was as yet, unfamiliar to her ear. Who else, I wonder, suddenly put in her place, would have acted differently, or, if differently, better? None. She was dressed in white and blue—her own national colors.—Queen Marguerite and her mother, the Dowager Duchess of Genoa, stood at the palace windows, watching for the approach of the procession. The carriages were full of ladies, as also were the liveries, which were magnificent. As soon as the princess alighted the king offered her his arm and led her to the queen, who was waiting for her at the top of the stairs with the Dowager Duchess of Genoa, and the little prince, and all the ladies of honor, etc. The queen, who is all impulse, set aside etiquette, and kissed her new sister-in-law over and over again. All present were then presented to the young bride, till the

clamor of the people without called for the appearance of the royal party on the balcony. At first, the bride came out, then her husband, then the queen and her mother, and finally the king. They had to appear thus three times, coming each time in the same order. As for the queen, every man and woman who saw her was in love with her. She was more than beautiful, she was radiant, and looked like a brilliant meteor by the side of the pale girl, who bowed so timidly that the motion of her head was scarcely seen. As if to give her courage, however, the queen bent over the balcony and waved her hands and her handkerchief to the people, who became wild with delight at this. The excitement was beyond description; people who had never seen each other before shook hands, and seemed to congratulate each other at the happiness of others. The king also waved his hat repeatedly to the people. At last, however, the awning was taken from the Royal balcony, which was a sign that for the moment all was over, and every one could go home.

#### THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

We give to-day an engraving of the great suspension bridge opened for public traffic on Thursday last between the cities of New York and Brooklyn. This undertaking was conceived and matured in the mind of William C. Kingsley, of Brooklyn, as long ago as 1865. A charter was obtained from the Legislature and a company organized, the capital being fixed at \$5,000,000. Mr. John A. Roebling was engaged as engineer, the same who built the first suspension bridge over the Niagara River. This gentleman after the preliminary surveys, estimated the cost at \$10,500,000. He also thought the undertaking would need five years to complete. As a matter of fact it has cost upward of \$15,000,000 and taken nearly sixteen years to finish the structure. At the commencement of the work Roebling was crushed at one of the ferry slips, his injuries resulting in lockjaw, of which he died. His son, Washington A. Roebling, went on with the design, only to become in his turn an invalid, contracting the so-called "caisson fever" from breathing the compressed air in the caissons. The work on the bridge was continued, however, under his direction, and he used to watch its construction from an upper window of his home, propped in an invalid chair. Mrs. Roebling, like a true wife, gave him every assistance; night and day, for many years, the devoted couple's constant thought was the completion of this marvellous piece of engineering skill. The Brooklyn caisson was finally adjusted in March, in 1871, after several accidents, the New York caisson being placed in position the following October. The towers are each 276 2/3 feet high, the roadway being 118 feet above high water mark. At this elevation the towers are divided by two archways 31 1/2 feet wide and 120 feet high, through which will pass the streams of humanity and the current of traffic destined to find the bridge a useful thoroughfare in the coming years. At the top of the towers are large movable iron plates. On these "saddle plates," as they are called, rest the huge cables, nearly sixteen inches thick, which sustain the weight of the central span. These extend back on each side to the enormous anchorages, great masses of masonry in which are imbedded the huge anchor plates and the iron links to which the cables are attached. By this system the tremendous "pull" of the cables does not come upon the towers themselves, but these merely stand as supports or fulcrums, and the cables, adjusting themselves to the tension by the movable saddles, become the means of holding the towers in place, instead of exerting a strain upon them. The anchorages are 930 feet inland, and the distance from anchorage to anchorage is 3,460 feet. Other figures which serve to give an idea of the structure, are as follows: Distance between termini, 5,989 feet; between the towers, 1,595 1/2 feet; height of roadway in the centre, 135 feet; at the towers, 118 feet. The following is a tabulated statement showing the weight of the suspended structure and the transitory load it is estimated as capable of bearing:

Weight of bridge between anchorages 14,680 tons; weight of main span, 6,740 tons; main span by cables, 5,760 tons; by trusses, 980; total, 28,140 tons. The transitory load of which the whole structure is capable is estimated at 5,800 tons. The cables weighing in all 6,640 tons, are made simply of bunches of wire, laid parallel; the wire are a little over 1/4 of an inch thick. They number over 5,000 in each cable, and are bound separately in skeins or strands, and afterwards united. Each skein is a continuous wire nearly 200 miles in length, passing from anchorage to anchorage back and forth, 278 times.

The approach to the bridge begins at Chatham street in New York and at the corner of Sands and Washington streets in Brooklyn. The bridge is divided into two driveways, one for vehicles going and the other for those coming, these driveways taking up the outer sides. Between these roadways are placed tracks for cars, similarly arranged, and between these again is an elevated pathway for pedestrians, enabling passengers to have a full and unobstructed view of the wonderful view beneath and around them.

GEN. VON MOLTKE has gone to Switzerland on an extended furlough. He is nearly eighty-three years old. The popular portraits of the great strategist have made him appear too thin and somewhat feeble and flabby. He is really a hearty man.

#### MR. MEADE'S STATUE.

A colossal statue of unveined Carrara marble, intended to personify the Mississippi River, is being chiselled in the studio of Mr. Larkin G. Meade, Jun., at Florence, on an order from Mr. Elliott E. Shepard, of this city, who has projected the work in honor of his father, the late Mr. Fitz Shepard, for forty years a resident of New York. In treatment, says the *Roman News*, the statue is not unlike the Nile group in Rome; and it is reported that the artist has endeavored to work it to the features a close resemblance to the elder Shepard without sacrificing any of the artistic effect. The river-god, his head adorned with a wreath of tobacco and cotton, appears in a sitting posture, leaning against some rocks, while beneath him are bas-relief representations of Mississippi River steamboats, of the crocodile, the sugar cane, and the negro. The figure is seventeen feet in length, the pedestal twelve feet long, and the weight of the marble about forty tons. Mr. Shepard proposes to present the work to the city of New York, where it will be "a symbol of a greater stream than that on the banks of which we live, and a reminder of the tribute which the mightiest valley of the New World has paid to the commerce of the metropolis."

#### DESTRUCTIVE TORNADOES SOUTH AND WEST.

A series of remarkable tornadoes, after sweeping over the Iowa on the afternoon of Saturday, April 21st, did immense damage the following day in Mississippi and Georgia, and a little later devastated several points in North and South Carolina. Iowa escaped more easily than a year ago, when terrible loss of life and destruction of property was caused by a similar disaster. The storm was most severe in Danbury and vicinity, in the southeast corner of Woodbury County, but although a number of dwellings were destroyed, the inhabitants had generally fled to the cellars for protection, and escaped without severe injury. The tornado was most destructive in Copiah County, Miss., the adjoining villages of Beauregard and Wesson, about forty miles southwest of Jackson, experiencing its utmost fury. Beauregard, which was an enterprising little place, of about 500 inhabitants, was almost wiped out of existence, every building in the village being swept away. Wesson was a larger place, having about 2,000 inhabitants, and some portions escaped without serious damage; but two streets lay right in its path, and twenty-four dwelling-houses were blown into fragments. The loss of life was terrible, twenty-six persons having been killed at Wesson and thirty-eight at Beauregard, while scores were wounded in each place. Other localities in Mississippi suffered scarcely less. Near Hohenlieden, in Clay County, thirty persons are reported to have been killed, and near Pine Bluff seventeen fatalities are reported. A suburb of Aberdeen, in Monroe County, containing twenty-five or thirty negro families, was absolutely wiped from the face of the earth, three persons being killed outright, while many were fatally injured. Similar reports come from various other places in Mississippi. Governor Lowrey estimates that the death-roll will reach two hundred in Mississippi alone, and that between three and four hundred are wounded. Middle and Southwest Georgia was visited by a storm no less terrible, and from many places come reports of destruction of property and loss of life, the estimates of the killed in this State reaching as high as one hundred. The full fury of the storm did not fall upon the Carolinas, though great damage was done in both those States. Altogether, this must be set down as one of the most terrible tornadoes ever known in the country.

#### ECHOES FROM PARIS.

Paris, May 5.

THE marriage of the Pope's nephew, Count Camille Pecci, to Mdlle. Bueno, will take place in Paris in July.

THE proposal to construct a new Suez Canal, to be under British control, is already telling on the value of the present Canal shares, a drop of 100 francs having taken place in Paris on Friday.

GRADUALLY the Germans have crept back to Paris, and are trying to live down the asstance looks of dislike they still see. But there is money in it (in Paris), and that has a great attraction for the German colony, which now numbers 110,000.

THE soirée given by Mme. Bernhardt at the Trocadero produced close upon nineteen hundred pounds; her *piercet* was an experiment she is hardly likely to repeat. The affair was for the benefit of the blind.

THE mischievous injury to the specimens at the Jardin des Plantes, which we have previously called attention to, still continues, and scarcely a week passes but some piece of cruelty is exercised upon some of the animals. A bear last week had a paw broken, a hyena and a lion had each one eye so seriously injured that the sight of it is lost, and several other valuable animals have had wounds, more or less serious, inflicted upon them.

M. ISARD, a fencing master, was nearly killed the other day in an assault, by the breaking of the foil of his adversary, M. Giobergia. The blade pierced the throat of M. Isard, who had to be removed to the residence of a doctor; his condition is still very serious. It is remarkable that with all the padding, and it seems like putting a man into a tub, the throat is always left unprotected. Almost all the accidents are by piercing the throat.

NOTHING can be said in extenuation of "surprise parties" except that custom sanctions them to some extent in the United States. We say to some extent, because we read that the sudden inbusting of a body of persons determined to have a ball on the premises of a particular individual who has no desire to be festive, has been, not unfrequently, welcomed by sundry discharges of balls from a revolver. As long as this strong joke was confined to the United States, well and good, but it will not do to attempt surprise parties in Paris, even on the part of Americans to Americans, and a case of that kind having happened the other evening, Paris society speaks of the innovation as an impertinence.

A FRENCH company, with a very large capital, has been formed for the purpose of purchasing landed property at Cannes, with a view to letting it off on lease for villa building. It is quite clear that this winter the Riviera has been in greater favor with the *élite* of France and England than ever before known, and it is rightly taken as evidence of a growing future of prosperity which must send up the price of land. The Americans are settling on Nice as their fancy spot, and leave the other places to the English and French; but new localities are being prospected, and to the old and favorite names many more will soon be added, which are as lovely and as desirable in every respect, but, most important of all—cheaper.

THE *Gaulois* asserts, very improbably, that Leo XIII. has refused the customary apostolic blessing to Duke Thomas of Genoa on the occasion of his marriage with Princess Isabella of Bavaria, although his Holiness expressly grants it to the bride. The reason assigned is the part played by the House of Savoy in the present situation of the Catholic Church. Apart from this being quite out of harmony with the conciliatory attitude of the present Pope, it is manifestly incorrect. The Pope continues official communications with King Humbert, not as the King of Italy but as the King of Piedmont and Sardinia; and it has happened that the late Archbishop Gastaldi, of Turin, has several times had occasion to be intermediary in affairs of this kind.

THE Parisian papers have left nothing to say respecting the success of Mlle. Marie Van Zandt in *Lakmé*, so universal has been the enthusiasm of the critics respecting this first creation on European boards of a lyric rôle by an American *prima donna*. The young singer not only has carried all hearts captive, but has forced even the recalcitrant Parisian critics to pardon her one great defeat in their eyes, namely, her American origin. Anything more exquisite than her singing of the Hindoo legend in the second act of *Lakmé* can hardly be imagined, the crystal pure notes dying away into "a sound so fine there's nothing lives twixt it and silence." No such successful creation has been known on the lyric boards of Paris since Christine Nilsson's first appearance as Ophelia. Unfortunately for the Opera-Comique, Mlle. Van Zandt's expires on the first of next July. During the following season she purposes making a starring tour through Holland and Belgium, and she will also sing in St. Petersburg should Italian opera be given in that capital next winter. She intends to visit the United States during the season of 1884-5.

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