### The Planet

S. STEPHENSON. Prop

GREAT BRITAIN'S ACQUISITIONS OF TERRITORY.

The New York Press points out hov trifles frequently change the course of history. Many of the outlying posses sions of the British Empire were ac quired by chance, almost, certainly by

taking advantage of trivial things. Three hundred years ago the Dutch held the monopoly of all trade to Asia and India. Suddenly, in 1599, they raised the price of pepper from 3 to 6 shillings a pound.

This was more than Englismen could stand. The worthy merchants of London met together to protest against the "unchristian price of pepper." They did more than protest, for they determined to get their own pepper from India rather than yield to the Dutchman's demands.

They formed a company called "The Governor and Company of the Merchants of London Trading to the East Indies," and subscribed a capital of \$350,000. On the last day of 1600 -nearly three centuries ago-Queen Elizabeth granted them a royal

They opened a trade with India, and got their pepper at a "Christian price " And they got more than pepper, for it was this company that gained a footing for the English in India, drove out the French, and established British rule over that vast peninsula and one-fifth of the human

It was only after the mutiny, in 1858, that the company ceased to rule India, and the Queen assumed the reins of government. Thus, for an extra twopence an ounce on their pepper, a handful of merchants laid the foun-

dation of the British Indian empire. More than one bit of the British empire has been secured to Britons by the closest of shaves.

The British flag was hoisted in Australia-then a barren continent, inhabited by the most degraded of mankind-only threee weeks before a French vessel arrived to make it possession of France.

By a narrow squeak New Zealand was secured to the Anglo-Saxon race. Seventy years ago English missionaries and a few settlers went to New Zealand. The French began to look enviously on the two fertile islands. The British government was begged to annex them. They took no steps whatever to forestall the French, and to protect the English already there.

Private enterprise stepped in. A New Zealand company was formed by the Earl of Durham and Edward Gibbon Wakefield: The company shipped off a cargo of settlers to New Zealand. The voyage took nine months then, and, seeing the people were in earnest, the government tardily decided to annex the land. In May, 1840, a party landed from a man-ofwar, and hoisted the Union Jack, proclaiming the islands British territory.

They were just in time'. Three days later a French ship dropped anchor in one of the matural harbors. Great was their rage on seeing the English flag flying, for they had come to hoist the tricolor. The French missionaries, int full canonnicals ,protested to the British officers, but they were forestalled.

In the middle of the narrowest part of the Red sea is the island of Perim. Aden, England's coaling station and dock yard for the east, is not far away, and Perim commands the entrance to the Red Sea.

Perim is British property. The story of its annexation shows the value of acting on initiative without

waiting for official lorders. In 1855 all France was agog with excitement about De Lessep's plan for cutting a canal across the isthmus of Suez, and so shortening the voyage to Asia. In England everybody.laugh-

at the idea. While De Lesseps' plans were being discussed a French admiral received orders to:go and annext Perim. He sailed around Africa, and called in at !Aden to coal.

The British governor there smelt a rat. He asked the French admiral to dinner." The champagne was excellent: the Frenchman began to talk, the Englishman to listen, with an adroit question or two.

The admiral let drop the word "Perim," The governor heard it as he would have heard Timbuctoo mentioned. But he scribbled two notes in pencil on his menu card, and sent them out by the butler.

The first note was to the harbor master, telling him to delay the coaling of the French ships as long as possible. The second note was to the commander of the British gunboat, ordering him to embark as many guns as possible in two hours, and to sail to Perim and annex it.

When the French arrived there next morning, to their unutterable chagrin they found the Union Jack flying with at great show of guns and men. The French admiral sailed away again. It

was "perfidious Albion" again! Thus was Perim annexed and the key to the Suez canal secured by Britain. It will be of infinite importance

in the next naval war. The Press might also have pointed

## Thin Babies

often develop into weak, delicate, backward children; undersized, nervous, feeble, adults. Lack of nourishment is the cause.

Scotts Emulsion.

is the remedy. A little of it three or four times a day will do wonders. The pinched, sad faces become round and rosy; the wasted limbs plump and firm. If your baby is not doing well, try this great food-medicine. soc. and \$1.00, all druggists.

out how much territory Great Britain. has lost by not taking advantage of her opportunities. She took Havana from the Spaniards and gave it back. She took Manila from the same people and returned it. She took the Cape from the Dutch and yielded it up again. She took it a second time and kept it. The present States of Washington and Oregon, on the Pacific oast, were unclaimed. All Britain and to do was to send a detachment from Victoria, B.C.; and raise her flag over the country and it was her's. She did not think it worth while to do o. It was not until late in the fifties that the United States government occupied the territory and then only with great reluctance. The British government has always been averse to erritorial extension ,and wherever it has raised the Union Jack the act has been compulsory-that is, British interests compelled the annexation of the territory.

THE AMERICAN GIRL'S MARRIAGE.

When the American girl defers her choice of a husband until she has had reasonable opportunity to see something of mankind, and had a chance to compare the good with the bad, she is pretty apt to strike a good average for herself, writes Edward Bok in the Ladies' Home Journal. As a rule, she a pretty good judge of men, when she gives her judgment time to assist her to a wise conclusion. The point is to get her to wait. It must be said to her credit that she is waiting longter than she did formerly. It is not so many years ago that a girl was considered of a marriageable age when she became sixteen or seventeen years old. Twenty-five years ago girls generally married at nineteen, while today the average is closer to twentythree, the marriage of a girl in her teens causes actual surprise in these Out of a list of one thousand marriages recently compiled, three hundred were under twenty years of ge. And nearly all these young girls married men under twenty-two. And this is the fatal part of a girl's marriage at too early an age. Instead of choosing a man for her husband she is very apt to choose a boy.

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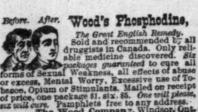
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THE SEPARATE SCHOOL INSPEC-

Both the Separate school inspector ships go to Eastern men. The west is altogether ignored. An Ottawa despatch says:

Great surprise, and only moderate satisfaction, are expressed here at the manner in which the Ontario Government has solved the problem of inspecting the Separate schools. Instead of appointing one inspector, as was expected, the Government have selected two. One of these, T. Rochon, who has been, or is about to be, appointed, will have entire charge of the French schools in this eastern part of the province. This is what the French element have been long desiring. Their wish is to be left to themselves in districts where their own language prevails, and in this respect Hon. G. W. Ross has evidently decided that it is

wise to gratify them. In respect to the other new inspec tor, M. O'Brien, of Peterborough, the position was nominally in the gift of Mr. Latchford, but in this instance he is said to have been guided by Mr. Stratton. The appointment will not improve Mr. Latchford's chance of being elected from the city of Ottawa, which is one of his chief ambitions.

SIR HENRI JOLY GOT RID OF.

The change in the government which has taken place will probably not create a profound sensation. Sir Henri Joly has long been doomed to disappear and all who know him will be glad his retirement is an honorable one, and may even be regarded as promotion. The dismissal of Lieut.-Gov. McInnes, of British Columbia, was announced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Friday. He is the second provincial governor dismissed by a dominion government, in the history of Canada, and his is the only case in which the authorities at Ottawa removed a governor of their own appointment.

It is a novel proceeding to sen! Quebec man to preside over British Columbia, but it may be that Sir Henri Joly will do better in the present circumstances than any Liberal who could be selected on the spot.

It was Sir Henri Joly's ill fortune that he did not enjoy the favor fof the Tarte school of politics. Years ago the Seignoir of Lotbiniere gave up his seat in the Quebec Legislature as a protest against the Rielite agitation led by Mr. Mercier and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who at that time acted under Mr. Mercier's directions, as he now acts on the suggestion of Mr. Tarte. Sir Henri has a son with the force in South Africa. He did not join Mr. Tarte's protest against the offer of a contingent last October, and did not join Mr. Tarte in declaring that the act could not be accepted as a precedent. The Minister of Public Works has somewhat ostentatiously ignored Sir Henri Joly. At several eetings in Quebec province Mr. Tarte has spoken of himself and the Premier as the sole French Canadian member of the government. He did the same in the Paris interview. The fact is that Sir Henri is an old school Liberal, who is not given to race and religion campaigns, and who does not find it necessary to talk about the tri-color every time he opens his mouth, or to denounce at every turn the Conservatives of other provinces as Orangeists and fanatics. The new minister, Mr. Bernier, is a man of the modern Liberal School of Quebec. He will probably reach the Tarte stand-ard.

When the High Jointers did the grand at Quebec, New York and Washington, at the country's expense, they did not equip themselves with emergency rations.

The statement of a North Chatham man that he saw a boy with 27 dead robins on a string shows how ruthlessly the native birds of the country are being slaughtered without the least attempt being made to protect them. The province has game wardens whose duty it is we suppose to protect inectivorous birds but we have yet to hear of them attempting to do so. No wonder the birds are being exterminated. Either we want a better law for their protection of else better wardens to enforce the presen

A SAMPLE OF WHAT SATISFAC-TION A GAS RANGE GIVES. P. S. Coate, Esq., Mgr. Chatham Gas Co.

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ball games and the evening performance.

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