

Annual Meeting

The British and Foreign Bible Society Hold Their Regular Meeting.

Satisfactory Report From the President and Secretary.

Postmaster Noah Shakespeare presided last night at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was held in the Metropolitan Methodist church.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with feelings of great pleasure that I present to you the annual report of the Victoria branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, this being my first report, in consequence of the honor you bestowed upon me in electing me as secretary and treasurer at your last meeting.

During this time it is interesting to note that he has travelled 2,928 miles in conveyances ranging from "shank's pony" to an Indian dandi. In his travels he has visited 4,888 families and individuals and sold 517 Bibles and 129 Testaments.

Our stock of books at our depository with the firm of Messrs. T. N. Hibben & Co., which has been increased to 3,000, has now been carefully replenished. There are now 333 volumes in stock, valued at \$340, with a reduction of \$23 on sold books, leaving us with Bibles and Testaments of the net value of \$317.

We have, as far as possible, taken up our regular annual collection and have received returns from the following churches: St. Andrew's Presbyterian, \$12.85; Congregational, \$10.00; Victoria West Methodist, 1.00; Centennial Methodist, 18.75; St. Paul's Presbyterian, 7.50.

A report of the work done during the last eight months was submitted by Colporteur Martindale. Addresses were then given by President Shakespeare, Secretary Carter, Revs. Barber, Payne, Barclough, and McRae, Dr. L. Hall and S. M. Okell. A musical programme also was given.

Officers were elected as follows: President, N. Shakespeare; secretary and treasurer, George Carter; executive committee, D. Fraser, S. M. Okell, M. McLean, W. Morris, A. Lee, J. McKenzie, R. Randall, Dr. Lewis Hall, W. Lundy,

ANCIENT ASSYRIA.

Some Recent Finds Which Show the Greatness of the People of That Splendid Empire.

PASSENGERS ESCAPE.

After Three Weeks' Imprisonment in a Snow-Bound Train.

Vincennes, Wyo., March 16.—After being prisoners for three weeks on a snow-bound train from Mountain, the passengers and trainmen travelled ten miles on snowshoes yesterday to where the road was open and came here by a special train. Colonel Fritchard, of Chicago, one of the passengers, says of the trip: "I have been in war, shipwrecked, and in a railway collision, but I have had no experience to equal this of the past two weeks. We were stalled in a high, bleak desert, where blizzards raged every day for the best part of the winter part of the time, sick with dysentery from drinking snow water and eating poorly cooked food, frozen at night, unable to change or wash, and generally demoralized and miserable. This information we ate the last of our stock of provisions."

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION.

That true acclimatization of the white man in the tropics is impossible, with rare exceptions, is stated by Mr. R. De C. Ward, of Harvard University, to be a matter on which authorities are agreed. The chief factors of danger are the combination of heat with humidity, and the prevalent diseases. Much may be done to mitigate these evils by hygienic measures, care in drink, the use of cereals instead of meats, and well-regulated exercise. The healthy districts are high and dry. The three diseases especially prevalent are sun-stroke, malaria and yellow fever—the first chiefly induced by the rains, the second related also to soil conditions, and the last finding its check in elevation. The upper limit of yellow fever is about 800 feet in the United States, 2,300 feet in Mexico and 4,000 feet in Jamaica.

Modern methods of obtaining gold from low-grade ores make available a supply of the metal almost beyond calculation. An ore body of Utah, containing a mass of limestone eight miles by ten, and twenty to forty feet thick, according to Mr. A. E. Outerbridge, jr., has been estimated to contain \$50,000,000 of gold. In the same vein, a deposit was forty years ago calculated to hold more gold than had been obtained from California and Australia, although richly being now profitably worked in California.

In the little furnace by which Goldschmidt obtains a temperature of over 2,000 degrees Celsius, the metal is contained with iron, and this is ignited by a shellacked bead of the aluminum (which is pulverized, of course) and peroxide of barium, into which a piece of magnesium wire is inserted. There is scarcely a metal known that cannot be reduced in this furnace. The containing vessel may be of wood lined with sand, and the heat can be regulated by varying the quantity of the mixture.

A German method of restoring the luminosity of Weibschag gas mantles, which become dim after a time, consists in blowing a current of air through the mantle from the inside while the lamp is burning.

Instances of sudden and fatal changes in the condition of sick persons during a storm must have been noticed by many. The significance of this is pointed out by Dr. T. W. Burwood, who, on the death of an aged patient, died after only a few hours of unfavorable symptoms, had his attention called to the fact that a strong gale had been raging during the night, with a fall of barometric pressure of nearly two inches. Dr. Burwood reflects that the barometer's extreme range of fully two inches must mark a change of about 140 pounds per square foot in the weight of air resting on the earth's surface. In the case of his patient, the heart had beaten strenuously for some weeks against the high pressure, and the sudden removal of the pressure had caused the action of the heart to be greatly increased, with the result that a clot in its cavities was gradually formed. He has known many similar cases. He therefore asserts that a large part of the sudden deaths recorded in the morning papers may be found to have followed a rapid fall of barometric pressure, and that this will explain many unlooked-for fatalities that have puzzled even medical men.

Electro-chemistry, now in its infancy, offers possibilities for the future that are quite bewildering. In a suggestion by Mr. Thomas Ewan is that, by compressing sulphur dioxide and air into separate carbon tubes dipping in sulphuric acid, the two gases—the former the familiar gas of burning sulphur—may be made to unite, forming sulphuric acid and at the same time yielding an electric current. He believes the alluring prospect of obtaining electric energy as a by-product in a chemical factory will stimulate efforts to overcome the difficulties in the way of making such a process a success. A water pipe that will not burst at any degree of cold is made by enclosing within the usual iron pipe a much smaller pipe of thin tin or lead filled with an elastic material, like rubber. If the water freezes, its expansion compresses the elastic inner pipe without bursting the outer one.

Sterilized breath is shown by Hubener, a German bacteriologist, to be necessary to the surgeon and nurse during operations on open wounds. In his experiments he arranged four dishes containing sterilized culture plates on an operating table. Then, at a little distance, he spoke for ten minutes, having first rinsed his mouth with a bacillus culture, and in speaking at different times he varied the tone of his voice, and especially when he had spoken in a loud voice, cultures of the bacillus were obtained from the gelatine plates, being most abundant on the nearest plates. In other experiments, the mouth was covered with a layer of absorbent cotton, when the plates remained sterile.

In the ruins of Babylon. Most of these are of the empire; but some are not, and are of the Assyrian, the date of the conditions of the people could not have changed very greatly. The contrast tablets deal with law reports, decisions of judges, cases, and land sales, marriage and divorce, medical prescriptions, banking transactions, in fact almost every conceivable aspect of national and individual life. There is nothing else like this in the history of ancient nations. We make no doubt that were Dr. Budge in the fifth century B. C. he would soon be able to make a very exact list of the Babylonian bar, and the strength of the information contained in the contrast tablets.

These are our chief authorities; let us glance at our results. The first thing that strikes the eye is the worthlessness of the Greek historians of the time. Not a word that is in Herodotus about Babylon can be accepted as unreservedly true; while Diodorus is so bad, Queen Semiramis, the Assyrian, is said to have been never a woman about as like the fabled Semiramis as chalk is to cheese. Passing from fiction to fact, we first notice a fact never mentioned by Herodotus, and which is confirmed by the report of the Italian minister, that Italy had obtained the approval of Great Britain and Japan before demanding San Mon. Great Britain, however, had requested, and had promised in return to give her diplomatic support to Italy at the court at Pekin. Other friendly powers, the minister continued, were not notified, and indicated their acquiescence. Admiral Canevaro then covered events already known, explaining that Signor Martino's action should be disavowed, as his ultimatum contravened the agreement with Britain that only in the event of a war should Italy be allowed to employ her fleet in the East. He expressed confidence that Italy's duty was to refrain from force so far as possible, since she had gone to China without any previous provocative incident or violation of rights to justify a resort to violence, which might, if adopted, disturb the international equilibrium in the Far East and exercise a fatal reflex action in Europe, besides injuring Great Britain, who had proved herself Italy's cordial friend, and exposing to conflict other powers that had shown themselves the well-wishers of Italy.

London, March 14.—The China blue book issued this evening, deals at length with all the territorial, railway and mining concessions to all countries. Much space is devoted to the question of the foreign concession at Shanghai, including the protests of American property owners against coming under the jurisdiction of France or any other single power. The whole tenor of the British despatch shows a desire to meet the views of Germany and the United States in all matters in which they were concerned.

GAMBLING OF LONG AGO. A curious amount of ancient and modern information has been brought together by John Ashton in his "History of Gambling in England." It appears in the old days, when the ages were still what we call "dark," that the gambler was under the full protection of the law. It being required that his game should be fair, and his little more, as the Kansas City Journal. From 1376 until the last century men were arrested, convicted and punished for using "loaded" dice, marked cards or other devices of unfair play. In these days even a bet of the most ordinary kind receives no protection from the courts, and certain sorts of wagers, like those on elections, receive severe punishment. But betting was not in violation of the common law. Lord Kenyon having held in 1790 that such was the fact. It was a matter of everyday life for a gentleman, or any one who aspired to the title, to play. A story of Beau Nash, a noted gambler, says that he was the first to play of youth, the good sense of abstaining from play altogether. They sat down on an evening to a game in which Nash was immensely the better man, and the most astonishing things in history of that in this great eastern monarchy he attained to a position which they have rarely reached in the most enlightened nations of Europe within the last 500 years. They could own, buy and sell all property; they had estates separate from their husbands; they could bring and defend actions at law in their own names; they could sue for divorce; many branches of trade were open to them; and there was practically no monogamy, though concubinage seems to have been occasionally recognized, as it was in the latter days of Rome. It is extraordinary that this decad empire was so enlightened, when we consider the condition of women in the east to-day.

The Semites have always been great financiers; and in the contrast tablets we find the terms of all our banking system. Promissory notes, bills of exchange, drafts and some say even cheques seem to have existed in a fairly advanced form; while the Babylonians were not only practically nationally debt. The Messrs. Egibi seem to have been the Bank of England of those days, and the government of the Assyrian empire was used to pay for itself; but later, when a great organized army had been maintained, there seems to have been some difficulty in meeting expenses out of revenue, and there are occasional references to advances made by the Egibis to the government. The case in the Philippines of "what's yours is mine, and what's mine is my own," as far as the women folk are concerned.

One turns with regret from the fascinating study of this great nation—this nation which was dead for 25 centuries, and of which it could be said 70 years ago that "a glass case by 27, contains all that remains of the Assyrian empire."—M., by the Sydney Morning Herald.

ITALY'S DEMAND.

Rome, March 14.—Admiral Canevaro, minister of foreign affairs, made a statement in the chamber of deputies to-day regarding Italy's action in China. He confirmed the reported recall of Signor Martino, Italian minister at Pekin, and announced that Italy had obtained the approval of Great Britain and Japan before demanding San Mon. Great Britain, however, had requested, and had promised in return to give her diplomatic support to Italy at the court at Pekin. Other friendly powers, the minister continued, were not notified, and indicated their acquiescence. Admiral Canevaro then covered events already known, explaining that Signor Martino's action should be disavowed, as his ultimatum contravened the agreement with Britain that only in the event of a war should Italy be allowed to employ her fleet in the East. He expressed confidence that Italy's duty was to refrain from force so far as possible, since she had gone to China without any previous provocative incident or violation of rights to justify a resort to violence, which might, if adopted, disturb the international equilibrium in the Far East and exercise a fatal reflex action in Europe, besides injuring Great Britain, who had proved herself Italy's cordial friend, and exposing to conflict other powers that had shown themselves the well-wishers of Italy.

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WOUNDED NINETEEN TIMES. Result of Sergeant Kennedy's Blundering Into the Spanish Line.

Frank Kennedy, now in Kansas City, was wounded nineteen times in the battle of Santiago de Cuba. He walks with crutches, since his right leg, broken six times, is still a little tender, but he hopes soon to be able to discard them, when he will again enter Uncle Sam's service, this time as a regular. Said he: "I was sergeant in troop F of the First volunteer cavalry, commanded by Wood. On July 3, the second day of the battle, I was serving as mounted orderlies for Gen. Lawton. Early in the afternoon, while carrying a dispatch from him to Gen. Wheeler's headquarters, I ran into a Spanish skirmish line, and before I knew it there were Spaniards all around me yelling like Comanches. It was too late to turn back, but I put spurs to my horse and, drawing my revolver, proceeded to empty it into the dense ranks.

"Well, I felt the conventional stinging sensation seven or eight times before I got out of that mess, but I kept straight ahead, loading my revolver as I went, and incidentally taking an inventory of my wounds. I found I had been shot four times, and cut twice with machetes. "A quarter of eight I was ordered to run into another bunch, and again I ran to the gauntlet. The proceeding of three minutes before was repeated. I emptied my revolver and put my horse to his highest speed. As I went I was shot three times and received four cuts from the machetes, which brought the total number of wounds up to thirteen.

After the second adventure I had ridden about a mile, when a Spanish soldier burst near by, killing my horse and breaking my right leg below the knee in six places. I fell to the ground, where I lay until 4 o'clock on the next afternoon. It was 2 o'clock when I fell. "Shortly afterward I was placed on board a hospital ship and taken to New York. While I was still on the ship in New York harbor Major Armstrong, Kansas national guard, whom I had known as a member, came on board, and recognized me, and by his orders I was transferred to the hospital at Fort Thomas, Ky. Here I was given the very best of medical and surgical attention. I believe the surgeons took special pride in bringing me out whole, as I was so badly cut up."—Kansas City Times.

STATUES OF SNOW.

Combination of Thin Copper Pipes and Liquefied Carbonic Acid. A Paris sculptor with an appreciation for the power to satisfy the demand of the minute has hit upon a novel scheme of turning out "snow statues" for such of his patrons as lean to the unique in art. Andes and greatly to the westward of draught-rooms in the French capital, he has invented and purposes these statues are carved out of the compactly welded fleece. As a matter of fact they are only coated with snow, the under part being made up of copper pipes, thin and light.

This system, reasoned the sculptor, would be applied to statuary. And he applied it. A statue of thin copper was quickly constructed and a box of liquefied carbonic acid placed in the base. When this gas was released, the effect of freezing was produced and moisture in the air was attracted to the copper sides and quickly frozen into the semblance of snow. Many beautiful designs have been turned out in pursuance of this principle, and the sculptor is said to be reaping a golden reward for his snow discovery.—New York Herald.

WHERE NELSON WAS BURIED.

The well-known saying, "Westminster abbey or glorious victory," attributed to Nelson when he boarded the San Josef at the battle of Cape St. Vincent, seems to point to the hero's own wishes as to an abode grave, says a writer in the Pall Mall Magazine. But for some unknown reason, when the end came at the famous battle at Trafalgar (1805), Nelson was buried at St. Paul's, and the abbey authorities, finding credit going there to gain on his last resting place, had an effigy made of him, and set it up near Kempefeld's monument, in order to attract people back to Westminster, with the desired result. The figure now in the chapel of the Isip Chantry chapel with the other funeral effigies, and is a very lifelike and good representation of the great man. It is said to have been copied from a smaller figure for which Nelson sat, and in the clothes except the coat he actually wore. Maclean, who borrowed the hat for his picture of the "Death of Nelson," found the marks on the eye patch in the figure lying and the stamp of the period in the crown.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM

VOL. 18.

Two Hundred Natives Killed.

Another Severe Engagement between Filipinos and Americans in Panay.

It is Again Reported That the Spaniards and Japanese are Supplying Arms.

New York, March 21.—A dispatch from Manila, dated March 19, says: A battalion of the 18th platoon of the 6th artillery machine gun battery made a surprise attack on the night of March 18 at Santa Barbara and Thursday. While they were returning, the enemy's outposts on a night followed. General Wood entered the town from the north, and the fighting line. He had several captives. The line advanced by three thousand yards under a pouring rain, and the enemy's position, the artillery good practice.

By the time the forces were 300 yards of the enemy's position were within reach. The Preventing the Charge of the Tennessees manly of the 18th on the right ready prepared by fixing bayonet retirement upon Jaro was won in good order.

The enemy's persistent attacks outposts at Jaro bridge. Not that he gained by forcing the enemy there, as it was impossible with its number of troops to hold the position. The American troops, however, by the fighting and walk came deep through rice sugar cane. There were several deaths. The only man killed was priv Biehl, 18th infantry. The number 15. A bullet passed Private William Rovenberger's chest, entered his mouth between the cheek without injuring him. There were other narrow escapes men advanced amid.

A Perfect Hail of Bullets. The severity of the engagement judged by the fact that the regiment alone fired 62,800 rounds, estimated that the insurgents, more than two thousand, had more than double our total of troops. Private Biehl brought a wounded and gave warning up some ammunition, as most of were short. He then returned fighting line and was struck chest. He fell, saying, "I'm cut and died in ten minutes. It is impossible to tell actual insurgents' losses, as the troops converged at a given point and carried on the fighting until the day after the battle of boldy the enemy could be seen.

The Carrying Away the Dead. Their loss is estimated at 200 men wounded. The entire engagement was captured on a cap of ammunition were in German the cartridges came from very depot at Mayaguez. It is that ammunition and arms supplied to the insurgents from American and Japanese sources, and from colonies. The city is quiet and business thriving.

Agonized Goes to Paris. London, March 21.—Agonized agent of Aguinaldo and the former's staff at Washington to Paris in order to confer with the Philippine junta. Neither received news from a Philippine the past eight days. They fear the Americans have discovered their means of sending Manila. The Another General Depose. New York, March 21.—A dispatch published in the Journal Philippine commanding general, Luna, has been deposed for carrying out the plans for resistance to cease further inducing American forces. The cable told of the beheading of General Garcia for the same reason.

A RAILROAD SOLD.

St. Albans, Vt., March 21.—The Vermont Railroad and branches, leases of other roads partly owned by the company under foreclosure proceedings to E. H. Baker, of Boston, chairman of the board of directors of the company, has been sold for \$7,000,000. The purchase was made for the purpose of carrying out the plans for resistance to cease further inducing American forces. The cable told of the beheading of General Garcia for the same reason.

EXPRESS TRAIN WRECK.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 21.—An express on the leg of the railroad was wrecked at North Wilkesbarre this morning by crashing into the engine of the express. The engine of the express was derailed. The engine of the express was derailed. The engine of the express was derailed.

GERMAN BUDGET PASSED.

Berlin, March 21.—The Reichstag passed the budget and the April 19.