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Spring is Coming

This day Dame Nature seemed in love :
The lusty sap began to move ;
Fresh juice did stir the embrasing vines,
And birds had drawn their valentines :
The jealous trout, that low did lie,
Rose at a well-dissembled fly ;
There stood my friend with patient skill,
Attending of his trembling quill.
Already were the eaves possessed
With the swift pilgrims' daubed nest :
The groves already did rejoice
In Philomel's triumphing voice :

The showers were short, the weather mild,
The morning fresh, the evening smiled ;
Joan takes her neat rubbed pail, and now
She trips to milk the sand-red cow ;
Where, for some sturdy football swain,
Joan strokes a syllabub or twain ;
The fields and gardens were beset
With tulip, crocus, violet,
And now, though late, the modest rose
Did more than half a blush disclose.
Thus, all looked gay and full of cheer,
To welcome the new-liveried year.

Sir H. Wotton

Happenings of a Month

THE greatest world-event of the month has been the advance made towards the establishment of a Republic in China. Yuan Shi Kai has managed so that the throne has abdicated in favor of the republic, not into the hands of the republic, but into his own, and has ordered the members of his cabinet, which did not exist, to continue their duties. Yuan could only find one person, probably his secretary, to act as cabinet minister with him in signing this decree of his own composition. He now proceeds to form a cabinet, apparently intending to govern China and call himself the republic. That was the way Napoleon Bonaparte managed things until he was strong enough to proclaim himself emperor. Yuan purported, however, to have been acting in agreement with the republican leaders; and he named Dr. Wu Ting Fang, a genuine republican, as a member of this cabinet. He acknowledged the republic, but practically said "the republic is me." His queerest claim was that he was so appointed by the throne, considering that the throne abdicated on the ground that its authority was not recognized by the people, and considering that he dictated the decree himself. From the first it has been the policy of Dr. Sun, the provisional president, to make Yuan president, so as to secure a bloodless solution of the revolution which Dr. Sun has so magnificently engineered. To this end he laid down his high office in favor of a man whose loyalty is far less disinterested than his own.

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The Republic has certainly no plain sailing before it. A former revolutionist is joining with the present viceroy to raise the standard of revolt in Mukden, the capital of the home land of the Manchus, and other harms threaten. One thing seems certain, that the old China has passed away, and that an era of

progress has dawned. It has been the longing desire, alike of Yuan's imperial decrees and of every one connected with the Republic, that the great empire, Manchus, Mongols, Mahomedans and Thibetans, should hold together. It will be almost a miracle if it does. If it does not there is Russia to take possession of Northern Mongolia and Northern Manchuria, Japan for Southern Manchuria, India for Thibet, and the French and Germans both angrily wanting something, but with nothing but China proper to prey upon. These are results to be avoided at all cost.

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The second session of the second parliament of King George's reign was opened on February 14th by the King in person, with all the time-honored picturesque ceremony which always marks such occasions. No Speech from the Throne has for many years been awaited with such absorbing public interest, and the King himself showed that he realized the momentousness of the occasion by the emphasis he laid on the more salient clauses of his address while he was speaking. Disappointment, however, was very easily read in the faces of his hearers over the meagre references to the historic legislation mapped out by the government. The Speech was a short one. In referring to the measures to be brought before parliament, the King said:

"A measure for the better government of Ireland will be submitted to you. A bill will be laid before you to terminate the establishment of the church in Wales and make provision for its temporalities. Proposals will be brought forward for the amendment of the law with respect to the franchise and the registration of electors." This was all the King had to say about the three measures, which, if they become law, will radically alter the constitution and history of the United Kingdom.