

FOREIGN NEWS.

AFRICAN Journalism is being more looked to than ever before in the history of the country, thanks to the widespread interests in the "Golden Transvaal" and its neighboring countries. The wealth of the forty mile Main Reef at Johannesburg has fired the imagination of the speculative world so greatly that they now take an interest even in the wilds of Mashonaland. The editor of the Cape Times, whose leading articles in reference to the troubles in Mashonaland have attracted so much attention in this country, says The London and Colonial Printer, is Mr. Frederick York St. Leger, an Irishman and a scion of the noble house of Doneraile. Mr. St. Leger, before he adopted journalism as a profession, was a clergyman of the Church of England. He is a slightly-built, medium sized man in the fifties, with iron-grey hair, penetrating eyes, and pallid complexion. The Cape Times is not friendly to the general policy of Mr. Rhodes. Mr. St. Leger is a constant occupant of the Press gallery in the Cape Legislative Assembly.

Line Engraving is dying a natural death in England according to the London and Colonial Printer. As an art and craft it has been famous, and the reproduction pure and simple from artists' pictures and famous galleries of paintings not so long ago was looked upon as a permanent industry. But other processes and methods have elbowed line work out of the art world, and before long the line engraving may be expected to be confined to bank note, work, office stationery, and plates of a similar character. Messrs. Virtue & Co. are now issuing proofs of a reproduction in line of Mr. Holman Hunt's "The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple," with a mournful intimation that this is probably about the last line engraving likely to be published in this country. The art critic of the St. James's Gazette remarks that the old race of line engravers, such as Lamb Stocks, R.A., E. Brandard, C. and J. Cousen, A. and J. T. Willmore, etc., has now nearly passed away, and the only one or two remaining, such as Mr. J. C. Armytage, are unable to accept more commissions.

Commenting upon Mr. Stead as a company promoter, the London, Eng., Star refers to that gentleman as the "Apostle of the Spook." This journal describes his proposed journal as a "Utopian paper," concluding with the following remarks: "If the scheme fails well, an editor who has had the uncontrolled handling of £130,000 can hardly be said to have lived in vain. It is a fine scheme for Mr. Stead and so much less vulgar than the manoeuvrings of the common promoter, who, having a few thousands at his command, buys up the Slushington-Slasher, turns it into a company, dividing the ordinary capital amongst his friends, and then borrows £50,000 on debenture to carry on the business. When things go wrong the debenture holders are not left quite in the cold, for they can swoop down on the machinery and other property which the promoter paid for in hard cash. But Mr. Stead takes no risks, and has carefully provided against the unpleasantness of foreclosure. And there will be no guinea pigs to share his gain. Yes, it is a fine scheme."

In 1892-93 there were in the German Empire 46 playing card-factories, one less than in the previous year. Prussia has 11, Bavaria 10, Saxony 13, the others are divided among the smaller States. During the year 5,235,054 packs were made of 36 cards and less, and 957,545 packs of more than 36 cards. The factory in Wurtemberg did not send out any cards this year. The largest production belongs to the works in Pommier-

ania, sending out 1,682,421 packs of less than 36 and 222,977 packs of over 36 cards. Exportation took place of 1,153,733 packs under, and 1,595,485 packs over 36 cards. Importation from abroad amounted to 294,474 packs under and 788,656 packs over 36 cards. Duty was paid on 4,263,206 packs under 36 cards at 30 pf., M1,268,961.80, and 173,886 packs over 36 cards at 50 pf., M86,943, making a total of M1,365,904.80.

Speaking of British printing ink makers, The British and Colonial Printer says: "No more striking example can be furnished of the Britisher's ability to overtake and surpass his competitors in any branch of business, when once he makes up his mind to do so, than that afforded by the printing ink trade. We never had much difficulty in supplying ourselves with blacks or the primary colors, although owing to special local advantages Americans and others were, and still are, able to give us specialties in inks that are of undeniable and distinctive merit. But when it came to brilliant flights of fancy in tints and shades, until very recent years we had to depend perforce upon outside supplies. The advanced color printer looked to our artistic friends upon the Continent for his supplies almost entirely, and almost fabulous prices were sometimes paid to certain German houses for their delicate art colors. Nons arons change tout cela, and at the present day we export more colored inks than we bought and used twenty years ago. Of course in the interval there has been a wonderful advance in printing itself, both letterpress and lithographic, not to mention other processes. Immense factories are now engaged in the industry, with capital in some instances running into six figures. The chemist has joined hands with the colorist and the practical printer, with the result that the British pigments have gained a world's pre-eminence. We have, it is true, self-styled printing ink makers among us whose manufacturing resources consist of one small mill, only called into requisition for some "matching" order, and who in reality retail foreign-made inks. But no better evidence of the strong favor in which the home production is held can be adduced than the fact that these imported supplies are paraded as British manufactures. Buyers at a distance should use discrimination in placing their orders if they would really obtain genuine British-made inks. It would be invidious on our part to quote the names of particular makers, but there is sufficient choice of large and well-established manufacturing houses to avoid falling into the hands of the mere importer who trades under a misdescription. We entertain no objection to the competition of those firms from abroad who elect to trade among us openly, in their own names. They, for their own credit's sake, will not misrepresent the quality and value of their goods. But the small fry who import from Germany by the hundredweight, to retail by the pound, and who circularise the world to the misguidance of distant buyers, we have no sort of sympathy with."

The printing trade in all its branches is in a very depressed condition, says The London Stationery Trades Journal. There was a ray of hope for improvement at the commencement of the month, but that quickly vanished. It has not for some years been so dull at a corresponding period as during the past month. This is confirmed by the statistics of St. Bride Street, which show an unusually large number of men out of employment, the daily percentage for the past month amounting to nearly 7½ per cent of the membership. These figures show a great depression, and must seriously affect the coming quarter's balance sheet of this Society, by reason of the heavy expenditure for unemployed "provident" relief.