

PERSONALS.

The little town of Kniazoff, in Russia, has elected a woman, Madame Alexandra Elyne, to the post of Starost, or Mayor, on the logical and sufficient plea that she was the one person in the community best fitted to defend the rights and maintain the interests of the citizens.

Baron Alphonse Rothschild has lately bought a clock made by that royal and most lockless clock-maker, Louis XVI., with his own hands. It is not particularly beautiful, but being unique and the object of much competition among collectors, it brought the remarkable price of \$168,000.

Miss Isabella Hood, a distant relative of Thomas Hood, the poet, has recently died at Dundee, Scotland. She well remembered Mr. Hood both as a boy and a man, having seen him on several occasions when he visited Dundee, the last time in 1843; and she possessed a number of interesting mementos of the poet.

A number of Iowa men living near Des Moines have become so far imbued with the Edward Bellamy idea of co-operation that they have formed a colony, and hope to found a community near Lake Charles, Louisiana. Here they propose to live the ideal life, testing the advantages and possibly the follies of Mr. Bellamy's dream.

Dr. Gatling, of Hartford, Connecticut the inventor of the famous gun, is a comparatively old man, but still keeps busily at work with his plans and conceptions. Back of his handsome house on Charter Oak Hill is a long workshop filled with tools, models, and diagrams, and among these the doctor spends a portion of nearly every week-day.

Miss Elizabeth Cotesworth is about organizing a co-operative company of working gentlemen for the raising of choice fruits and vegetables, to be delivered directly to such consumers as will take a small amount of stock in the enterprise. It is believed that in England, where these products are luxuries, unemployed women may find in this undertaking a wide field and a good profit.

Mrs. M. V. Taylor, of Washington, Pennsylvania, is one of the best known and ablest oil speculators of western Pennsylvania. Left a widow with a child to support, she began her business life as book-keeper for an oil firm, saw that money could be made in oil casings, seized her opportunity when the supply was small and the demand large, and found herself a rich woman. In oil speculation she has shown great "nerve" and judgment, and has proved her versatility by the invention of an iron tubing, which will probably supersede that now in use.

Mrs. Constance Amelia Hartshorne, of Brabourne Hall, Wiltshire, England, aspires to emulate the fame of Miss Macnaughtin, who is credited with having introduced croquet into good society in England at a lava party given by Lord Londesdale in 1852. Mrs. Hartshorne has invented a new field game for ladies, called "the colors," which received a fashionable trial, with great applause, in Inner Temple Gardens, London.

All the royal family of England have some artistic pursuit. The Queen is musical, paints, models, and is learned in lace. The ex-Empress Frederick pursues both sculpture and painting. The Prince of Wales understands ceramics, bronzes, and wares of the Duke of Edinburgh is a violinist, and a collector of postage-stamps and other curios. The Duke of Connaught studies the art of war with enthusiasm, and gathers coins, autographs, and Oriental treasures. The Duke of Albany was a Shakespeare scholar and collector. The late Princess Alice, Princess Christian, and Princess Louise followed painting and modelling from their girlhood, while Princess Beatrice, though an indifferent artist, would have made her fortune on the stage.

It is said that the extraordinary deference and regard shown by the German Emperor William to King Christian, who is old, poor, dull, and of no political consequence, is due to the fact that ten years ago, at the Castle of Rumpenheim, in Hesse, on occasion of some meeting of potatoes, young William, who had accompanied his grandfather as presumptive, and showed himself heir by the assembled royalties, with the single exception of "the beauteous Majesty of Denmark," who declared that she had had the making of a great man in him, and treated him with an affectionate politeness and assumption of equality which won the heart of the youngster, who has ever since called his defender "uncle."

The Sultan of Zanzibar has decreed that there shall be no more slavery throughout his dominions. The decree, which has been placarded under the Sultan's seal in Arabic and English, provides in detail that the exchange, sale, or purchase of slaves, domestic or otherwise, is absolutely prohibited. Houses hitherto kept for this purpose are forever closed. All slave brokers exercising their occupation are liable to severe punishment and deportation. Any Arab found trafficking in domestic slaves will be liable to similar punishment. Any houses used in future for such traffic will be forfeited. On the death of their present owners slaves shall, ipso facto, be free, unless the deceased leave lawful children, who may inherit them. Slaves cannot be willed away or sold after the death of their present owner. Any Zanzibar subject marrying or married to a person under British jurisdiction is henceforth disabled from holding slaves. All slaves of such persons are now declared free. No freed slaves are in any circumstances to possess a slave. Every slave is to have the absolute right henceforth to purchase his freedom at a reasonable price. The Sultan binds himself to accord special protection to such slaves and to all slaves freed under the decree or otherwise. Every slave is to have the same rights as the Arabs to prosecute complaints and claims in courts of justice.

The Yankees Don't Like It.

In the rejoicing consequent upon the completion of the Halifax-Bermuda cable, which unites into one system the long line of British defenses on this continent, all Americans do not cordially join. On the contrary, many regard this latest achievement with feelings of annoyance, if not of apprehension. To this class belongs William Drysdale, a writer in the New York Times, who characterizes England's policy in strengthening her fortifications in the Atlantic as an insult to the United States, and declares that "there is no parallel in history to the manner in which this friendly nation is multiplying and strengthening fortifications in front of our face in such a manner that she may best hem us in, bombard us, and interfere with our commerce if occasion should arise." He is led to ask why England maintains these defenses at such fabulous expense. Her motive, Mr. Drysdale thinks, can hardly be the protection of the West Indies. Financially, he says, these colonies are a heavy and useless load hung around Great Britain's neck. They do not even pay their own running expenses, much less reimburse the mother country for the incalculable sums expended in fortifying their ports and equipping them with all the requisites of war.

"Canada, the greatest of them all, has annual expenses of about \$500,000 more than her receipts and her public debt is \$240,000,000. She imports annually \$115,000,000 worth of goods, of which only \$40,000,000 worth come from Great Britain, the remainder principally from the United States. She exports annually \$90,000,000 worth of goods, of which \$40,000,000 worth go to Great Britain and the remainder principally to the United States. Newfoundland's expenses are more than \$100,000 in excess of her annual receipts, and her public debt is \$3,500,000. About one-third of her imports come from Great Britain and about one-twelfth of her exports go to Great Britain. Her governor gets \$12,500 a year from the British Government, Bermuda, with her 16,000 inhabitants, has an annual deficit of \$5,000, and her public debt is about \$50,000. Her trade is practically all with the United States, and The Bahamas have a public debt of \$400,000, and their trade is with the United States. Jamaica, which just about pays her annual expenses, and her public debt is \$7,500,000. About two-thirds of her trade is with Great Britain and the remainder with the United States. The Leeward Islands spend \$50,000 a year more than they earn, and their debt is \$200,000. The Windward Islands Barbadoes is perhaps the most flourishing of all the British colonies, and she has a net annual revenue of about \$50,000, with a public debt of \$150,000. Her Governor gets \$18,000 a year. Trinidad also has a net revenue of about \$50,000, and a public debt of nearly \$3,000,000. Her Governor manages to exist on \$25,000 a year, and her imports and exports just about balance. Of those two unhealthy British settlements in Central America, British Guiana and British Honduras, the former spends \$150,000 a year more than her income, and has a public debt of \$3,500,000. About one-half of her business is done with Great Britain, and her Governor's salary is \$30,000 a year. The revenue of Honduras is just about pays her expenses, and she has a public debt of \$250,000. Of her very meagre trade Great Britain gets about one-half and her Governor gets \$12,000 a year.

Assuming the general correctness of Mr. Drysdale's figures (though as a matter of fact they stand in need of considerable revision) it is not necessary to infer, as that writer does, that Britain's principal motive in establishing her line of forts, must be something other than the protection of these so-called profitless possessions. This conclusion overlooks the fact that the colonies are comparatively young, and their resources almost entirely undeveloped. Though no great financial advantage is derived at present, it will not always be so. England perceives that the time will come when instead of receiving more than they give, these dependencies, by opening up markets for British products necessary for the support, comfort, and happiness of the home population, will become indirectly sources of gain to the land which nurtured them into strength. Besides, it takes no notice of the fact that nations are capable of being influenced by other considerations, than the cold dry calculations of arithmetic, that sentiment is not an absolutely unknown and prohibited factor. Many thousands of the colonists are natives of the sea-girt isle and their sympathies and affections are entwined about the institutions and customs of their native land. Many thousands are, though born within the Colonies, are as thoroughly British as any who call Britain their home. To break up the present rule of another power, to force them to submit to another form of government, would be a great hardship, a real grievance. Englishmen are aware of this attachment, and though for the present they may be obliged to pay out more than they receive, they are not unwilling to burden themselves to some extent in order to keep the existing bonds in tact. There is, therefore, really no necessity for Mr. Drysdale's conclusion that this vast expenditure on the part of England in strengthening her position on the American Continent is for the purpose of using United States refrains from meddling with the British dependencies, the "offensive line across their front door and front window" will never be used to their disadvantage. England is not envious of the prosperity of her big and blustering boy, nor does she bear him the grudge which many suppose for throwing off parental control.

A somewhat amusing illustration of the old saw, "familiarity breeds contempt," comes from London, England. Lester Francis Duncan, publisher of the *Matrimonial News*, notwithstanding his three score years experience of men and things, and his supposed perfect knowledge of how matters matrimonial are managed, has just been condemned to pay \$50,000 damages for violating a young lady's twenty-one years of age. Of supposed that Mr. Duncan would have been the last to be caught in such a trap. It seems a pity, too, for such an experienced coming at sixty-four years of age is almost sure to discourage any further undertakings looking towards hymen's blissful state.

San Salvador's Victory.

The information that San Salvador has gained a complete victory over Guatemala will come as a surprise to persons whose more than the facts that the latter country is about six times as large as the former, that it contains more than twice as many inhabitants, and has an army, including the militia more than five times that of the smaller state. Numbers, however, are not everything in time of war; nor has victory always sat upon the brow of the larger contending host. Discipline, endurance, courage, patriotism are factors that have much to do in determining results. In respect to these qualities the armies of Guatemala and San Salvador form a striking contrast. The private soldier of Guatemala is the very lowest caste native. For all his life he may have been a coffee picker or a cargo "mozo,"—that is, a man who carries loads on his back from the coast to all points in the interior. Brought up under brutal masters, his natural spirit leaves him before the age of twenty. Their squad drill and military instruction amount to nothing, and the private soldier of Guatemala, instead of being an erect, cleanly, well-disciplined, and alert individual, is precisely the reverse, and compares unfavorably with the civilian. The officers below the grade of Colonel are little better than the average soldier; above that grade they devote their time to drinking and dissipating, and seldom see or think of their subordinates. Love of country they have not, and would be just as happy in China with plenty to eat. On the other hand, the troops of San Salvador are tolerably well disciplined and much better officered than those of any other Central American State. They are well paid and fed, and have that strong feeling of patriotism due to the national persecution they have felt from Honduras and Guatemala. Considering the state of their armies, therefore, there is nothing wonderful in the fact that 10,000 Salvadorians should have put to rout 25,000 Guatemaltecos.

The trouble between the warring republics is not one of Salvador's seeking. For twenty years the President and Government of Guatemala have been striving to bring about a Central American Union, on such terms as would aggrandize the Guatemalan rulers. This union was proposed by her ambitious neighbor was never desired by the Salvadorians who have received much ill treatment and abuse from Guatemala. A few months ago the Salvadorians observed a suspicious intimacy springing up between their President, Menendez, and Barillas, the President of Guatemala. Shortly after it was discovered that Menendez had promised to throw the Government into the union against the will of the people. The result was a revolt, the death of Menendez, and the accession of power of Ezeza, the provisional President. On the ground of avenging Menendez's murder, and regulating the affairs of a sister republic which had not asked or desired aid, Guatemala declared war against Salvador. The result to Guatemala is that her army has been entirely defeated, a reign of anarchy has been introduced, while Barillas is said to have fled the country. Few will commiserate the intermeddling state. While pity cannot be withheld from the poor dopes that were led to death by their ambitious and selfish rulers, the result of the contest will give satisfaction to those who respect the rights of communities and States to manage their own affairs without the interference of meddling parties from without.

Mormonism in Canada.

Moved by the many press references to their colony in Southern Alberta, Charles O. Card, son-in-law of the late Brigham Young and leader of the Mormon colony in Canada, has written a letter to an Ottawa paper in defense of himself and his fellow colonists. The letter is remarkable not so much for what it says as for what it omits to state. No reference whatever is made to the subject of polygamy, about which Canadians are so much concerned, all the press comments. Instead of this Mr. Card pleads that his people are peaceable and industrious (which nobody denies) and that no obstacle should be thrown in the way of their efforts to develop the resources of the Canadian North West. The refusal of Mr. Card (for it is demanding too much of charity to suppose that the omission was accidental) to discuss the question of state the attitude of the colony towards our marital laws, and his attempt to draw a herring across the trail, will only strengthen the suspicion that all is not right within the colony. What the people of Canada want to know is not whether Mormons are industrious and energetic citizens, but whether they observe the Canadian law which prohibits persons of polygamous tendencies from following their inclinations. Will Mr. Card please take note of this and govern himself accordingly?

Hindoo Canning.

A Calcutta correspondent of the New York *Tribune* gives an interesting account of the manner in which a company of Hindoos undertook to defraud the government under cover of the provision which grants a bounty for the destruction of venomous serpents. The occupation of hunting and killing the cobras and other reptiles in a free state was attended with great danger. So the cunning Hindoos caught a number of the snakes alive and imprisoning them in a carefully constructed pen from which it was impossible for them to get out, started up cobra farming. The snakes multiplied at an amazing rate, and by killing off a part of the colony from time to time, a handsome revenue was realized. The suspicions of the Government were aroused, however, by the business-like way in which the heads were brought in, and their investigation soon exposed the whole scheme and broke up the enterprise. Just as it generally happens where men undertake to make their living by their wit, some part of the plan is left in a state so crude as to lead to the exposure of the whole. It is only one to ten thousand who has ingenuity sufficient to perfect a scheme of dishonesty and fraud. Honesty is indeed the best policy.

Fifteen years ago, when a gentleman began the culture of bees, he suffered severely from stings, but they have now lost their force. For several years past they have caused only a slight and rather pleasurable sensation, and that lasts only for a few minutes. But this thorough inoculation against bee poison leaves him as susceptible as ever to the sting of a wasp.

Aphorisms.

We may mend our faults as easily as wear them.—[Delwyn.]

An industrious and virtuous education of children is a better inheritance for them than a great estate.—[Addison.]

Cunning leads to knavery; it is but a step from one to the other, and that very slippery; lying only makes the difference; add that to cunning and it is knavery.—[Bruyere.]

True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written; in writing what deserves to be read; and in so living as to make the world happier and better for our living in it.—[Pliny.]

True courage never exerts itself so much as when it is most pressed; and it is then when we stand in the greatest need of its support.—[Hibernicus's Letter.]

Nothing so cements and holds together in union all the parts of a society, as faith or credit; which can never be kept up, unless often are under some force or necessity of honestly paying what they owe to one another.—[Cicero.]

The detractor may, and often does, pull down others, but he never, as he seems to suppose, elevates himself to that position. The most he can do is maliciously to tear from them the blessings which he cannot enjoy himself.—[Johnson.]

Mutines in the Army.

The recent mutinies of the Guards at London, the Artillery at Exeter, and the Army Staff Corps at Chatham prompts the *Montreal Star* to enquire into the causes which must be so strong a reason when troops so highly favored, receiving higher pay, better clothing, and condemned to less fatiguing duties than the Cavalry and Infantry of the line, manifest such insubordination. The *Star* finds the explanation in the indifference of the commissioned officers to the welfare and comfort of the men; in the arrogant and haughty bearing of the non-commissioned officers, who, finding their way open through the indifference and laziness of their superior officers, to exercise their little private rank and file; in the worse than blundering of those "army reformers," who, with all too successful in doing away with many peculiarities in name and uniform in which thousands of soldiers took an honest pride; and last, in the charged condition of things which sends the recruiting officer to the cities instead of the rural districts for his recruits, many of whom now enter the ranks with the spirit of the Racial Club and the ideas of the Socialistic labor reformer, and with no love for the exercise and observance of the severe military virtues which characterized the soldier of the former age. This view of the case, especially in reference to the personnel of the present British army, is confirmed by the report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the insubordination which has been the cause of recent troubles. Their report states that the insubordination was due to the influence of Socialists, who in considerable numbers have obtained an entrance into the ranks of the home regiments and made many converts among the men with whom they became associated. In the light of these facts it is not the army of a generation ago, and that the qualities which distinguished battles are not as conspicuous as once they were. Let us hope that the deteriorating process shall not proceed so far as to require the inscription upon our banners, "The glory has departed."

The Royal Templars.

The Royal Templars of Temperance, a semi-military temperance organization with the insurance feature added, have just held camp in Montreal. Though the order is only ten years old, it is now about 50,000 strong. Of this number 20,000 are Canadians, divided among the Provinces as follows: Ontario, 4,000; Quebec, 2,000; Manitoba, 2,000; Maritime Provinces, 1,000; British Columbia and Northwest Territories, 800. The gain during the past year was 3,000. In the beneficiary department certificates of insurance are held to the amount of \$5,273,400. The average age of the members of the insurance department is 33.92. During the year \$40,000 was paid out to widows and orphans of deceased members, but the surplus in that department was increased from \$19,500 last year to \$26,139, of which \$25,000 is bearing 4 per cent. interest. The Templars claim that owing to the circumstance that all the insured are total abstainers, the cost of insurance in this order is considerably less than in those societies which do not discriminate against the moderate drinker. To establish this claim beyond question a comparison of books would be necessary. It is presumed as to its validity is found in the fact that insurance companies which have classified their policy holders on this basis, are unanimous in pronouncing the total abstainer a better risk.

Life Among the Lepers.

Sister Rose Gertrude, writing from the leper station in the Sandwich Islands, gives particulars of the arrangements for a *fete*, and makes it plain that all is not gloom and desolation among her patients, but that in the main they enjoy life. Towards the due celebration of this holiday a doctor gave two pigs and sweet potatoes, and prizes were to be given for athletic exercises, such as jumping over and chased until caught by the lepers; and after good feasting there were to be fireworks and a concert by moonlight. It is a happy thing that any entertainment can be found for humans being so unfortunately afflicted.

The seizure by Portuguese troops of the steamer James Stevenson, of the African Lakes Company, bids fair to reopen the trouble between England and Portugal concerning the Shire River and Nyassaland. This steamer plies on the Zambesi and Shire rivers to the Murchison cataracts, around which there is an excellent road, sixty miles long. Above the cataracts goods are reloaded on a second steamer, which runs over 250 miles north to the north end of Lake Nyassa. By this seizure the communication of the African Lakes Company between the sea and central Africa has been interrupted. It is not surprising that the British Foreign Office has felt called upon to send another vigorous protest to Lisbon.

NATURAL GAS IN CANADA.

The Enormous Output of the Ten Wells on the Niagara Peninsula.

The big company which has secured many of the most promising parts of the Welland gas region is taking steps to develop this new product on a scale which would be impossible for private enterprise. This organization, which bears the name of the Provincial Natural Gas Light and Fuel Company (limited), has exclusive drilling rights over 48,000 acres, or seventy-five square miles of land in the southern and eastern parts of the county of Welland. Although operations were commenced hardly more than a year ago there are now ten wells completed, with a combined capacity of 22,000,000 feet per day. There are also two wells approaching completion, and another about to be commenced. The immense extent of territory over which the company has secured a monopoly shows that they have laid their plans for a big thing. The system which has been followed enables them to hold their privileges over this vast area for two years practically for nothing, but after that a fee of 25 cents an acre is to be paid for the land retained. For every well drilled on this land annual rental of \$100. He is entitled to use, without cost, all the gas he may require for light or fuel. For land occupied while drilling or for crops damaged, the company binds themselves to pay from \$20 to \$30 per acre. The owner of the land is to be entitled to one-fifth of all the petroleum discovered on his farm and utilized by the company.

Of the ten wells which have been drilled on these lands, eight are good producers. The operations have been carried on in the centre of this territory. The wells are on the a mile apart. The centre of the group is 11 miles from Buffalo, 13 miles from Niagara Falls, 19 miles from St. Catharines, 45 miles from Hamilton, and about 60 miles in a straight line from Toronto. The cost of piping is about \$7,000 a mile. An important factor in conducting gas great distances is the pressure it has at the well. So far the gauge has shown a rock pressure of over 500 pounds to the inch.

The company commenced drilling in July, 1889, in the township of Bertie, on the farm of Philip Zavitz. The well was continued to a depth of 846 feet, when a flow equal to 1,700,000 cubic feet per day was obtained, with a rock pressure of 525 pounds. The second well, which is about half a mile north, on Elmer Zavitz's farm, was not so successful. Drilling was stopped at 851 feet below the surface. This well produces 400,000 feet a day, and has a rock pressure of 540 pounds. About a mile to the west, the well was sunk on Jonas Zavitz's farm. The capacity of this well is 700,000 feet per day. It has a rock pressure of 510 pounds, and is chosen as the site for the fourth well. The continued to a depth of 876 feet, and has 550 pounds pressure. The fifth well is a "gusher." It is in the township of Bertie, on the farm of Daniel T. Zavitz. The output of this well reaches the enormous figure of 7,000,000 feet per day, more than three times the total number daily consumed in Toronto. It is a remarkable fact that the rock pressure of this well is lighter than some of the less productive, being 510 pounds to the inch. The depth is 842 feet. The next well was a total failure and has been abandoned. The seventh, which is on the farm of Adam Smith, produces 2,600,000 feet and has a depth of 840 feet. A second failure occurred on the farm of J. A. Barnhardt, Bertie, and the well was abandoned. The ninth well, on Daniel Near's farm, Hamberstone, yielded 2,400,000 feet at a depth of 861 feet. Well No. 10, the last that has been completed, is another "gusher." It flows 6,000,000 feet a day from a depth of 872 feet. Drilling is now in operation on the farms of C. Bitner, Bertie, and Trout Brothers in Hamberstone. These wells are nearly completed. The thirteenth well has been located on the farm of Abram Michael and drilling will soon be commenced.

The figures given above have been arrived at by careful measurement by the mining engineer and geologist of the company, with the water, mercury, and spring gauges. They have also been attested by two experts of the Standard Oil Company, both of whom have been in the natural gas business for several years and have had an extended experience in measuring wells. These figures are apt to give an exaggerated idea of the capacity of the wells. They do not take into account the abatement which might be expected to follow when all the wells are flowing simultaneously. Nor do they allow for the losses by friction in pipes when gas is conducted long distances. The rock pressure, which reaches the amazing strength represented by the fact that No. 5 has an output of 7,000,000 feet at a pressure of 510 pounds, while No. 2 yields only 400,000 feet at a pressure of 540 pounds. It has been observed that wells which have "petered out" have shown no diminution of pressure as long as the gas flowed. This is accounted for by the theory that natural gas is forced up by hydrostatic pressure. The earth is honeycombed with veins of salt water. As soon as a gas well ceases to flow it fills up with this fluid. Sometimes gas and water flow together. This indicates that the end of the flow of gas is near. In other words, "drowning out" seems to be the appointed end of gas wells, and it is believed that the power which compresses the gas. Rock pressure is simply the force which gas gathers when the well is closed down for a considerable time.

Ugliness as a Disqualification.

Extreme ugliness is one of the list of disqualification laid down by the head of the medical department in a manual just issued on "Conscription in France." Latterly the French authorities seem to be much more liberal in admitting the claims of men who do not wish to serve. The rejections are 5 per cent more numerous than at the previous conscription. The French are looking more to the quality of their army than to the number of the recruits. Excessive ugliness, says this military doctor, makes a man ridiculous, prevents him from having authority over his comrades, and leaves him morbid and sensitive. If the ugliness be adequate, the claim must be allowed. "Maled hysteria" is another valid plea. The army doctors say it exists among French conscripts, and it is the more objectionable as it is contagious.