Gabled Comment

On Old Country Topics—Ocean Penny Postage-Fighting Ritualism.

Publication of Bismarck's Memoirs Likely to Cause an Immense Sensation—Nine Days' Won der in London Society-Zola Sticks to His

tion is directed to the heavy charges fiscating and imprisonment would be of the cable companies. Mr. Henniker ridiculously out of place. Multiplying Heaton has a scheme to supplant the present submarine lines by an overland system, the former being acquired by the postoffice on the completion of the project. At present, in consequence of the heavy rates, the constant use of the cable is practically confined to government messages, to the needs of business houses, and to newspapers. The percentage of social and domestic messages transmitted over the wires to distant parts of the emate scope of the public that he is mov-

ing in the matter. Said Mr. Heaton in a recent inter-"To thoroughly grasp the proposals, it is essential to regard London as the nerve center of cable communication between the various divisions of the empire. No imperial policy is worthy the name which does not place communication between our divided coasts within the reach of all. The present cable rate to Australia is 5s a word, to Hong Kong nearly 7s, to India 4s, and my contention is that to every part of the British empire Englishmen pay more than 80 per cent too much. We have now imperial postage, and there should be no hesitation in adopting imperial cable. There should tors of his time, as well as the most be three rates of payment, until it is energetic of social and religious orpossible to establish an imperial penny ganizers, it may well seem that the cable, which is what the empire should peculiar genius of Methodism has possess. The features of my proposal never found a more typical and poware a penny a word to Europe, 3d a erful exponent. Methodism, by the word to Canada and India, and 6d a way, is very much to the fore now in word to Australasia and Africa; and our public life. Mr. Doughty, the at these rates I maintain the lines would return large profits." RAP AT RITUALISM.

Mr. Kensit has given notice that he intends vigorously to pursue the war against ritualistic practices in churches of the establishment. In a letter addressed to the Bishop of London. Mr. Kensit enumerates a long list of illegalities which, he says, took place at four churches in the London diocese, viz., St. Cuthbert's, Philbeach-gardens, is a nine days' wonder Kensington; St. Alban's, Holborn; St. society, says a correspondent, Having pointed out the illegalities, Mr. Kensit calls upon the bishop to take the necessary steps to stop them, and intimates that unless steps are taken he will attend each one of the four churches, and make a public protest; and he adds that if he is driven to this course the blame will rest entirely upon the bishop.

FRENCH INTERESTS IN SPAIN. Discussing the interests of France in the peace negotiations between Spain and the United States, a correspondent Spain is being financed from says: Spain is being financed from Paris, which was already her principal creditor, and when the war is over she can repay her debt by lapsing into a state of vassalage to the French Republic. Heretofore both England and Germany have enjoyed diplomatic influence at Madrid, and commercial facilities in Spain quite balancing those of France. That will be the case no longer. France's greatest direct gain, of course, will be the release of the best part of three army corps stationway were quite clear to realize it, she might count as even more valuable her reversion to Ceuta. Unhappily, however, there is a large British fleet sauntering up and down along the Morocco coast, somehow never getting very far away from Ceuta, and this complicates

BISMARCK'S MEMOIRS. Speaking of the prospective publication of the Bismarck memoirs, a correspondent cables: Very soon, I am given to understand, from a publisher and friend in Leipsic, there will be precipitated upon Germany, springing as it were from the grave, to which Bismarek takes all his nurtured hate and the scandal over the Geffeken and Frederick diary is not worth mentioning. could not bring himself to preparing for the kaiser. Herbert is ambitious; Bill is a simpleton. The kaiser might conceivably, even probably, get round them both. The old prince's emoirs, therefore, are safe in publisher's hands at Stuttgart, and his intimate corale of biographical and journalistic parasites, like Moritz, Busch, Horst and Kohl, have been busy from the hour of his death in preparing the press for the tremendous upstatements that the publication will begin as soon as a month hence. William will do about this is naturally

> Rev. J. N. Vanatter, of Albion, Wis. WRITES A LETTER ON



at liberty to btain full particulars

that I tried it myself, as I have been troubled with an of my face.

unsightly skin affliction which covered the lower part For 25 years I suffered untold agony, and was treated by the best medical skill in the United States. I consider Dr. Chase's Ointment worth its weight in gold for piles and skin disease. Dr. Chase's large-size recipe book, cloth-bound, sent to any address on receipt of 50 cents, by address ing Dr. Chase's Company, Toronto or Buffalo, N.Y.

He says: My wife was most terribly afflicted with

protruding piles, and con-

templated a surgical opera-tion. A friend of ours recom-

mended the use of Dr

Chase's Ointment, and less

than one box effected a com-

plete cure. We were so pleased with the ointmen

London, Aug. 8-Ocean penny post- the question uppermost in everybody's age having now been secured, attenstamping out lese majeste by coneditions, printed outside of the pire, and circulated, if necessary, from hand to hand, would speedily leave the kaiser in the posture of an ostrich with its head buried in the sand. Still less possible would it be to seize the manuscript before printing, for there are still judges in Prussia, who, if it were England, France, or even German-Austria, would declare that the wisest, as well as the legal, course in such a case Conceivably it would be the wisest in Germany, too, but the risk is great. It is impossible to tell how far the Cor. is impossible to tell how far the Gerpire under he present tariff shows a mans will permit their emperor to be figure as low as one in 100, and it is insulted and villified by the dead mouth to bring the cable within the immediat Friedrichsruhe before there comes a insulted and villified by the dead mouth revulsion of feeling in his favor. That problem must be giving him more

in his ten years' reign.

PRESIDENT OF THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE. is not necessary to agree with all that Mr. Hughes says and writes in order to recognize the great force of character which lies behind his many-sided work. Mr. Hughes, at all events, knows his mind, and is not afraid to speak it. And when we remember that he is one of the most remarkable oramember for Grimsby, is a leading Methodist; Mr. Fletcher Moulton, the Liberal candidate for Launceston, comes of a famors Wesleyan stock; and Mr. Perks, who is practically the new leader of the Nonconformist party in the House of Commons, is the most notable of Wesleyan laymen.

A NINE DAYS' WONDER. The extrordinary sudden rush of the Princess of Wales to Copenhagen Michael's, Marsh street, Shoreditch; was officially given out here that and St. Peter's, Great Windmill street. she was summoned on account of the she was summoned on account of the grave illness of her mother, but Copenhagen dispatches say that the venerable queen is not ill at all, but driving out twice daily, quite in her usual form. As an obvious alternative the explanation was that it must concern the relations of the Princess Maud and her young Danish husband and Cousin Prince Carl. There have been all sorts of painful whisperings about Maud's unhappiness, and conceivably a crisis has arisen requiring her mother's presence. It is hard to see, however, the King of Greece and the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland should also have been summoned in such a case. It is a curious sort of mystery, as it stands, and perhaps those who suspect it has something to do with the imminence of the Anglo-Russian conflict are nearest to the right so-

Altogether ill founded have been the foolish fictions about the cause of the Princess of Wales' sudden departure for Copenhagen, writes another correspondent. The court circulars here and ed along the line of the Pyrenees. If her at Copenhagen were in conflict respecting the health of the Queen of Denmark, and the newsmongers began to supply a great variety of secret motives, among them the domestic in-felicity of the Princess Maud, and the diplomatic intrigues of the czar's mother. The truth was that the aged queen had a sinking spell, was frightened, sent for all her neardest relatives and then recovered promptly.

ZOLA STICKS TO HIS GUNS. Again Zola exposes himself to the hatred of the Parisian mob; again he sacrifices leisure, energy and the op-portunity for work in his determination to reverse what he believes to be an intolerable wrong, and to clear the malice, a sensation, compared to which honor of his country. For the new ministry he foretells disaster and speedy destruction if it continues to cloak the former shame with new intrust his sons to deal after his death ventions and falsehoods. "You have the terrible blow he has been so long killed the ideal," he writes, "the ideal of national truth and honor. Every crime upon earth works out its own vengeance, and the crime of the government is avenged upon them and upon the nation. It is admitted that trial was illegal, but a lie was thought necessary to save France. That was, as he says, 'an insolent in-It has made France coniquity. temptible, and the action of the new government in bringing forward imroar they will create. There are even statements that the publication will be-

of a very flagitious business." DECADENCE OF THE THAMES. The improvement of the Upper Thames is regarded as a matter of extreme urgency by those competent to express an opinion. In fact, it is predicted by Mr. Edgar Shand, of Southfields, who has had a long connection with the steamboat service of ment he made with the 2 overnment when he originally accepted office. the river, that unless something is promptly done to remove the difficulties to navigation between Wandsworth himself, Mr. Sifton had been compelled bridge and Richmond lock, it will to appoint at least one Jonest man. soon be possible to walk over the bed AN AWFUL DISCOVERY. of the river at various points at low water. Nor is this the sum total of the prospects of the future. It is darkly hinted that with a continuance of the existing state of affairs the removal of the university boat race from the Thames is by no cleans an unlooked for possibility, seeing that the crews find their practices materially interfered with by long expanses of mud banks. The construction of a lock and weir below Putney bridge is strongly advocated as the best solution

RUSSIA'S BIG GOLD PILE. Financiers want to know why Russia is accumulating such an immense store of gold, and certainly the quesnot without interest to the politician. A huge gold reserve implies that a great war will not lack the necessary sinews. Why should Russia, who already possesses a larger stock of gold than any other government, keep on adding to her store of the precious coin? It is two years since she began her accumulations, and apparently she has no intention

koned at \$600,000,000, the need for this purchase is not very apparent. A significant feature of the case is that whenever notice is called to these Russian gold purchases, they cease for a while, only to be resumed as soon as public attention is turned another way.

OPPOSED TO VACCINATION. A great victory has been won by the opponents of vaccination in England. For years the subject has in some districts caused a bitter controversy, and much indignation has been excited by prosecution of people, who, for san-itary reasons, objected to having their children submitted to the ordeal. At a recent meeting of the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour intimated that the government were willing to insert in a bill under debate a clause enacting that no parent should be hable to a penalty if he satisfied the court that he conscientiously believed that vac-cination would be prejudicial to the health of the child, and that failure to have the child vaccinated was solely due to conscientious belief, ceedings to be taken only once in respect of the child, and only after it attains the age of four years; the clause to remain in force till January, The effect of this clause will practically enable all Englishmen who do not believe in vaccination to escape law, as it is extremely easy to aver "conscientious belief" as an answer to prosecution.

trouble in the anxiety than any other By the Conservative Press Toward Explorer Ogilvie.

They Made the Sad Discovery That He Was Related to Mr. Sifton-The Legislature's Programme-Our Ottawa Letter.

Ottawa, Aug. 8 .- After three weeks of intense excitement and much searching of heart, the Opposition have an opportunity of meeting their "hated rivals" on the floor of the Local Legislature and saying officially, and with all the responsibility of their representative character upon them, a few of the things with which they have been filling the columns of the daily press since the house was called together. It does not at all follow that all the horrible threats will materialize, or that an attempt will be made to substantiate all the statements; past experience has demonstrated that Conservative statements out of session and in session are not always identical. WHAT WILL BE THE PRO-

GRAMME? It is scarcely likely that the session will be a protracted of ment programme is brief and definite; that of the Opposition has not so far been very definitely announced, but if they are foolish enough to take the illquestion the justice and common sense of the course proposed by Premier Hardy, for after as exhaustive a newspaper debate as has ever been accordfor perspicuity has any hesitation in forest-clad. pronouncing in its favor. Of course, the situation is a desperate one for the Opposition, and every excuse must be made for the reckless tactics which they threaten to use, but the friends of good government have little cause for alarm. The better sense of the province is undoubtedly with the Ministerialists, and there is no reason to fear the ultimate outcome of the ses-

ALAS! POOR OGILVIE. How are the mighty fallen! Until a few days ago the one man in the public eye, who was, according to Conservative estimate, absolutely incorruptible, and in whom there was no mountain palms tower aloft; at lower spot or blemish, was William Ogilvie. levels are the cedar and mahogany, been sent into the Yukon country some In pursuance of that work he brought out the first extended data of its im-When, however, the present minister of the interior assumed office, and became possed of the facts, he made imas the services of the explorer nimworthy of that opinion. Then there was a great outery that the minister had thousand tons. supplanted Exploror Ogilvie because he was too honest a man, utterly regardhe was never in authority, and that his original duties procluded his being sent back there at that time. Next came the reorganization of the Yukon administration under the act of last session, and the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie to succeed Major Walsh, the lat-

AN AWFUL DISCOVERY. So far so good, but now comes the horrible discovery that Administrator Ogilvie is a relation of the minister, and therefore of necessity must be corrupt, and in every way undesirable for the public service. The reckless disregard on the part of the Conserva-The reckless tive press, for the effect upon the publie mind which this sudden revelation will have, is reprehensible in the extreme, but some allowance must be made for the natural effect of the discovery upon the super-sensitive moral organism of the opposition purists When they have recovered from the first shock they will doubtless be in

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has made many strong and healthful. It will do the same for you.

of stopping them, for the latest ar- condition to suggest what course should at one time ran to the sea over beds rival of gold from the Cape has been be pursued under the circumstances. of golden sand, and from the streams wholly purchased for Russian account. We can hardly believe that anything today (as in the neighboring island of yet, with a stock on hand, already recommend at \$500,000,000, the need for this mediate recall of this latest Siftonian connection pitchforked into the public crib, and if this is not followed by the request for the immediate resignation of the nepotic minister the government will be false to its trust!

MISSED IT AGAIN. The Montreal Star last week remarked "that the prohibitionists appeared to have great donfidence in the promise of the government that the plebiscite would be taken in the near future, and that they certainly seemed to think that the government promise of a vote during the early fall is to be kept," adding that, "such faith is refreshing." The same paper a few days later had to announce that Sept. 29 is the date fixed by the government for the pleb-scite to be taken. Another instance of speaking just a little too soon.

PLEASE EXPLAIN. The Toronto Mail and Empire is out with a challenge to any one to pro-duce a single case in which either Sir Charles Tupper or his son ever did wrong. It declares that Sir Charles Tupper's opponents have been blackening his character for party purposes, and depicting him as a sort of stage villain, etc. We respectfully suggest to the opposition organ that, if their defense of the two leaders is honest, they will explain what they meant on the memorable occasion when they characterized the worthy baronet as "The Prince of Political Cracksmen." None of the nasty Grits have ever said anything half so un-

A TRUE PATRIOT.

So good of the leader of the opposition to consent not to make a noise while the Quebec conference is in session, and no wonder the Conservative papers herald forth his noble decision with flaring head lines—"Patriotism of Sir Charles Tupper," and so forth. The country will learn with approval that Sir Charles had experienced a change of heart-"under the circumstances I feel that the Conservative party must conin Mr. Price Hughes perhaps the most brilliant of its later day presidents. It as a rule party comes before country. But it's too bad of the Conservative papers to rub it in by calling such marked attention to the change, when they have aided and abetted their old leader in his unpatriotic course for so

PORTO RICO

Melting Loveliness of Its Tropical Landscape.

Thirteen Hundred Streams, a Wealth of Vegetation, Highly Cultivable Soil, and Vast Deposits of Minerals -Few Reptiles, but Many Insects.

Mr. Frederick A. Ober, late commissioner in Porto Rico of the Columbian Exposition, contributes to the August Century an illustrated article on "The Island of Porto Rico." Mr. Ober says: In the extreme northeast rises the highest peak of the central cordillera, in the Luquillo Sierra, known as "el Yunque," or "the Anvil," variously estimated at from thirty-six hundred to forty-five hundred feet in height. The considered advice of some of their hills are of lesser elevation toward the journalistic supporters, much public west and southwest, but the whole time and personal energy is likely to be north-central country is rugged and wasted by purposeless and generally uneven. Between the spurs from the ineffective obstruction. None but ex- main range lie innumerable secluded treme partisans even profess now to valleys, where the soil is of great fertility. The impressive features of the landscape are the rounded summits of the multitudinous hills, which leave the coast in constantly rising billows ed to any public question, the case for that finally break against the cordilthe government has been so conclus- lera vertebra; yet all are cultivable, ively made out that no legal man or and cultivated to their very crests, lay citizen who values his reputation though the higher mountain peaks are

More than thirteen hundred streams, it is said, of which number perhaps forty or fifty attain to the dignity of rivers, rise in the hills and seek coasts, most of them running northerly, though the best harbors are in the west and south. But notwithstanding the great river flow, portions of the island in the southwest are afflicted with drought at times, owing to the precipation of the northeast "trades" against the northern hills.

The higher hills are clothed in the exuberant and diversified vegetation of the tropical forest, where tree-ferns flourish, and great gum-trees and By the chance of circumstances he had walnut and laurel, with many others noted for their useful woods. Throughyears ago in charge of a survey party. out the island are found those trees mense resources, and pointed out the list of medicinal plants includes necessity of an organized administra- most of those, invaluable to our phartion, though in parentheses it may be macopoeias, which tropical America remarked that the late government has given to the world. These are the paid no attention to these reports. silvestres, nature's wild children; but of cultivated plants there is no species peculiar to the tropics that does not flourish here. In the littoral levels, mediate use of Mr. Ogilvie's work, and between the mountains and the sea, grows the sugar-cane, which may be self were not then available as ad- cultivated up to an altitude of three ministrator, appointed Major Walsh, a thousand feet. It was introduced here man whom everybody recognized as from Santo Domingo, having been most agie and reliable, and whose ex- brought to America either from Spain ecution of his commission has proved or the Canaries. The annual yield of sugar is estimated at about seventy

In these fertile lowlands, also, tobacco does exceedingly well, and the anless of the fact, above mentioned, that nual production is said to be quite seven million pounds. It may be cultivated on the hills, but the true mounttain-lover is the coffee, which does not do well below six hundred feet, and is at its best a thousand feet above the sea. It was first brought here from Martinique, in 1722, and now yields to the extent of seventeen thous and tons Maize, the true Indian annually. Maize, the true Indian corn, is indigenous, as is the yucca, the aboriginal "staff of life"; and both grow everywhere, as well as the pineapple, which is more reliable and more universal than the peach of our northtemperate zone. Cotton and rice are found at nearly all elevations, the latter, which is the chief food of many laborers, being what is known as the

mountain variety. Bananas and plantains are wonderfully prolific, bearing fruit in ten months from planting. The plants virtually last sixty years, being equally long-lived with the cocoa-palm, which produces nuts in six or seven years, and thereafter during the space of an ordinary life, its yield being reckoned at a hundred nuts a year. The annual product of bananas is given as two hundred millions, and of cocoanuts three millions. The entire range of tropical fruits is represented here, such as the guava, lime, orange, aguacate, sapodilla and avocado pear; while all sub-tropic vegetables may be raised, including those of the south-temperate zone, such, for instance, as are

grown in Florida. The mineral kingdom has not been so exhaustively exploited as the vegetable, but more than traces have been found of copper, coal and iron, as well as vast deposits of salt. The rivers

tives wash out nuggets, by the crude process of that distant day when Agueynaba went prospecting with his false friend Ponce de Leon.

There are no native quadrupeds here larger than the agouti and the armadillo, but birds are numerous, with a few of fine song, and some of brilliant plumage. All domestic fowl do well here, and the great pastures of the northeast and southeast support vast herds of cattle and horses, which suffice not only for the needs of the Island, but are exported to all parts of the West Indies, being held in high esteem.

There are no poisonous reptiles to be feared, but insects of questionable character are too numerous for comfort. This island, indeed, were a paradise without them; even with them the inhabitants seem to ex-perience little trouble. The worst of these are the scorpions, centipeds, tarantulas, wasps, mosquitos, some species of ants, ticks, cligoes, and fleas. heat of a tropical climate like that of Porto Rico, which, though rarely exceeding 90 degrees, is continuous, is conducive to the breeding of insect pests of all sorts.

WAS DEAD, BUT IS ALIVE. Saginaw, Mich., Aug. 8 .- Nine years ago Robert Morrison, employed at the machine shop of A. F. Bartlett & Co., disappeared. A few days later a body was fished out of the river near Lee's mill, which was identified as that of Morrison. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts, and the remains were interred as those of Morrison. Saturday he turned up in this city safe and sound. He has been in Pittsburg, had heard that he was dead, but never took pains to refute the story.

The London Times spends about \$2,-000,000 a year. Its receipts for advertising average \$5,000 a day.



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