

A marble statue, somewhat above life size, has been discovered at Milo, where the glorious Venus of Milo was found. The marble just excavated is in almost perfect condition, and has been conveyed to Athens.

It is refreshing to read that an innovation in the printing world has been introduced in the offices of the London News and Post. The paper is printed with scented ink, which gives a delightful fragrance. Many of our finest papers have a disagreeable odor, and we know not a few that would be much improved by this innovation. Illustrated papers and magazines are the chief offenders in this way, but one cannot tell whether it is the paper or ink that offends our nostrils.

A splendid "mammoth cave" has been discovered in Oregon, U. S., as large and curious as the Kentucky cave. The cavern is situated in Josephine County, near the California border. The exploring party who made the discovery spent a week investigating the innumerable chambers and passages with their grotesque stalactites, pillars, pools, and streams, and a waterfall thirty feet high. No sign of animal life was seen except a few bones near the entrance, evidently carried there by bears.

The Montreal Gazette contradicts the statement, which we in common with a number of papers published, that by the text of the official announcement it is provided that after Baroness Macdonald's death the son of the late Sir John Macdonald becomes "Lord Macdonald of Earncliffe." The Gazette says nothing of the kind is provided, and we are not sorry to hear it. The bestowal of titles may be a suitable enough reward for public men who prize such things, but we believe that this is not the country for an hereditary titled nobility to flourish in.

Public interest in Nova Scotia follows the explorations of Captain Stairs in the Dark Continent, not so much because of the explorations as because of the explorer, our fellow-countryman. Captain Stairs reached Zanzibar about three months ago, and at once enlisted 200 porters for his journey to Central Africa. Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine says at last accounts he had reached the main land, and was well started on his way to the interior. He is bound for Lake Tanganyika and the great region west of it, which is as yet little known, particularly that region where Lake Landji is reported by Arab traders to exist. Captain Stairs will devote early attention to solving the problem of Lake Landji, and will ascertain whether it is true, as reported, that it receives not only the waters of Lake Tanganyika, but also those of the Luulaba and the Luapula, the head streams of the Congo, and that the Congo river proper issues from this lake. If Captain Stairs succeeds in settling this problem he will render an important service to geographical investigation.

Did it ever strike anyone how curious a fact it is that pigeons or doves, which are supposed to be typical of peace and love, and which the Russians would not injure, because of religious sentiment connected with the Holy Ghost having been made manifest in the form of a dove, have been used for purposes of war to some extent in the past, and are now being trained in great numbers for use in this way by many European nations. During the Franco-Prussian war many messages were carried from the outer world to the besieged Parisians by these birds, and one bird, which escaped the crack shots of the German army six times, became known as the "Angel of the Siege." The military pigeon lofts of France are now on a large scale, and official reports give about 250,000 as the number of birds available for the use of the French Government in case of war. The Germans, after the war, decided to foster and increase their lofts, and Russia and Italy also have seen the possibilities of making pigeons useful as messengers when hostilities may prevent other means of communication.

It is a curious thing that long-deferred blessings take a long time to become fully appreciated when at last they are given. Just as one who has worn fetters for years, and lost, to a large extent, the use of the limbs, cannot make full use of liberty at first, so are a people who experience an unexpected lifting of a load. In England the Free Education Act came into force a few weeks ago, but so long have the people been obliged to pay for the three R's, that many could not or did not understand that free schools had become an accomplished fact, and many children took their fees in their hands as usual. It appears that thousands of families were unaware of the momentous change the Government had made in this respect, and this is the more strange, considering the fact that the press had for days in advance been heralding the opening of the new era. Under the old regime fees were exacted and attendance was made compulsory—hard lines for poor people, but the Magistrates were not in the habit of enforcing the fines when they could by any possibility evade it. Now that free education is given there will be no excuse for non-attendance, and the compulsory clauses of the old bill will probably be enforced. In time the people will realize the change, and take full advantage of the opportunities afforded to obtain an education.

If a new book of Exodus were to be written now, it is probable that the present wanderings of God's chosen people would appear quite as troublesome as when Moses led them forth from the land of Egypt. The Czar of Russia may take rank with Pharaoh as an oppressor, but with this difference that he does not refuse to let the people go. Baron Hirsch, with his colossal scheme for Jewish colonization, appears to be the Moses of the present dispensation, and unless the magnitude of the plan causes its collapse, he will

lead the oppressed Israelites to a new Canaan. An outline of the scheme has been published and is briefly as follows:—The articles of the Jewish Colonization Association, as it is called, take the form of a limited liability company, with headquarters in London. The shares are \$500 each, and a 20,000 issue means a nominal capital of \$10,000,000. Baron Hirsch himself holds 19,999 shares, and seven of the other holders of one share each are members of the Jewish Faith, whose names are well known in the financial world. Three shares are to be allotted to holders in Germany and the United States. From this it will be seen that the Baron intends carrying the larger part of the burden of his great task of charity on his own shoulders. Chancellor Von Caprivi, whose influence in the Argentine Republic is considerable, will aid the scheme in every way possible, and it is not unlikely that before the close of the century we shall have an opportunity of judging of the capacity of the Hebrew for colonization and agricultural labor. Colonies are to be established in North and South America and elsewhere, for farming, commercial and other purposes. The maintenance of public works of all kinds, roads, railways, bridges, harbors, water courses, telegraphs, factories, and even forts, is provided for, as well as everything pertaining to the religious and social welfare of the colonists. The destitute and helpless condition of the Jews who are leaving Russia in such hordes at the present time, appeals to the humanity of all of us, and we can only hope that the good Baron's scheme may result in permanent benefit to his people.

A recent number of the Toronto Globe contained the following article on the fast Atlantic service, which will be read with especial interest by Nova Scotians:—"The 'sea express' is coming," says the New York Sun, at the outset of a two column article to show that some enthusiastic New York steamship men believe a four-day ship will be a creation of the immediate future. The two principal enthusiasts are Norman L. Munro, owner of the celebrated steam launch Norwood, and C. D. Mosher, inventor of the powerful tubular boiler which generates the steam that makes the Norwood the fastest craft of her kind in the world. Both these gentlemen believe that the Norwood is the precursor of the steamship that will cover the 2,800 miles between Sandy Hook and Queenstown within 96 hours. The success of the Norwood has convinced Mr. Munro of the practicability of making a yacht twice her length on the same model that will make 30 knots an hour, and he intends having one built. But Mr. Mosher goes further still and declares his belief that he can build a boat to make 35 knots or 40 statute miles an hour, a rate that it almost takes away one's breath to think of. Everything, he says, would of course have to be sacrificed to speed. No freight and only a limited quantity of mail would be taken. The passengers even would have to be limited in number, and would have to pay good rates for transportation. He thinks, moreover, that this express steamship need not be more than 500 feet long, a length which is surpassed by several existing monsters of the deep. The general expectation has been that any great reduction in speed would come from the other side of the Atlantic, from Belfast probably, where the latest record-breakers have been built. At any rate it was expected to be between Belfast and the Clyde. This declaration of Mr. Mosher's puts a new aspect on the question, which is of special interest to Canadians in view of the fact that Mr. Mosher is a Canadian, a native of Pictou County, Nova Scotia." It is gratifying to find our fellow-countrymen in the front rank of enterprise and inventiveness, as we do so often.

The re-opening of the school season recalls the importance of the consideration of the danger of mental overpressure in these days of keen competition. Scientific investigation has shown that continuous work is decidedly injurious to the brain. We cannot do better than quote some of the deductions from a paper entitled "The Working Curve of An Hour," recently read before the Congress of Hygiene in London, by Dr. Burgerstein, of Vienna, and urge upon our educationists the necessity of allowing liberal recesses to the pupils of our schools. The writer had for his object the study of the mental power of children, and he arranged his experiments with a view to demonstrating the fluctuations of brain power in children during one hour's occupation with a familiar subject. Simple addition and multiplication sums were given to two classes of girls, of an average of 11 years and 11 months and 10 months, and two classes of boys, of the average of 12 years and 2 months and 13 years and 1 month. After ten minutes' work the sums were taken away from the children; after a pause of ten minutes the work was resumed, the alternation continuing for an hour, so that there were three periods of work. The results were interesting. During the whole experiment the 162 children worked out 135,010 figures, making 6,504 mistakes. It was found that the number of mistakes increased in the different periods, and that during the third period the quality of work was at the lowest. The general result showed, according to the investigator, that "children of the ages stated become fatigued in three quarters of an hour; that the organic material is gradually exhausted; that the power of work gradually diminishes to a certain point during the third quarter of the hour, returning with renewed force at the fourth quarter." The recommendation was made that no school lesson should last longer than three-quarters of an hour, and should be followed by a quarter of an hour's rest. Too frequently children are deprived of their play-time between hours as a punishment for inattention, when oftentimes the cause of the trouble is fatigue; the punishment only adds fuel to the fire, and "mental overpressure" is the result. Teachers should not have this matter altogether at their discretion, and parents should look carefully after the welfare of their children, so that they will not be spurred on when they require rest.

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