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Note and Comment.

Melbourne has been selected as the capital city of the new Australian federation.

Henry Norman, in the November Scribner's, says that the Siberian railroad will cost \$500,000,000, and is the greatest undertaking of modern times.

Olive Schreiner predicts the early downfall of England, and declares that time will show that it would have been cheaper to have paid a million to each Boer than to have killed them.

The public school teachers of Galveston have agreed to give their services for a month without pay. This, with the funds on hand, will insure a school term of at least five months.

He was a good Socialist that New York bank teller, whose absconding is told of in recent despatches. He says that he never touched the principal; he only divided the profits between himself and the bank.

A press dispatch states that Mr. Kruger was seen to be greatly affected as he passed from the quay to the boat, which was lying alongside the Customs jetty. He groaned audibly and appeared utterly grief-stricken.

Although prophecy is the most gratuitous form of error, it is safe to assert (says the "Outlook") that if Home Rule for Ireland were ever again to come to the front, Major would send to Parliament a large majority of members to oppose it.

Dr. F. E. Clark thinks that in the virtue of free, outspoken confession of our faith we Anglo-Saxon Protestants are singularly lacking. "I know," he says, "of no race that is so shamefaced about its faith, so unwilling to declare its allegiance."

The marriage of the queen of the Netherlands is not to take place until May. The marriage is said to be a triumph of the Emperor William's personal diplomacy, as he was known to be anxious that the queen should marry one of the dukes of the Scherwin family.

When one objects to an immoral play, he is often met by the question, "Have you seen it?" as if we had no right to express ourselves unless we could speak from personal knowledge. Do we need to have personal knowledge of the plague, before we have the right to speak words of warning?

A London "Express" telegram from Melbourne states that in view of the imminent close of the war, the Premiers of the Australasian colonies are conferring with Mr. Chamberlain with the object of persuading the Imperial Government to grant a universal Peace Holiday throughout the British Empire.

Sir Robert Hart, who has long held an important position under the Chinese Government, and is well qualified to form an opinion, thinks that very dangerous times are coming in China. Hitherto he has had full confidence in the Chinese authorities, and his change of tone is all the more ominous.

Rev. Dr. Parker, of London, is not mealy-mouthed concerning popular vices. "There are iniquities to be denounced," he cries, "false practices to be unmasked, and treacheries that are to be hunted down to their proper hell. We want that young man to arise who is by years fitted for this kind of work, but if he does not come, and come soon, some of the old ones may take fire and be made young again by God's renewing grace."

The Bank of Montreal's deposits are the largest in the history of the institution, and its business generally never has been equalled. It has \$55,578,597 deposits in Canada, and besides has \$10,181,006 in its American or English branches. Its total loans amount to \$73,265,916, which with its investments in bonds gives a total of more than \$75,000,000 of employed fund.

The death on Sunday is announced of the Right Hon. Frederick Max Muller, Corpus Professor of Comparative Philology at Oxford University. He was a son of William Muller, the German poet, and was born in Dessau in 1823. He was a voluminous author. In 1888 Glasgow University appointed him Gifford lecturer on Natural Religion, and the series of lectures he then delivered evoked considerable discussion in both the Press and Pulpit.

The death from enteric fever in South Africa is announced of Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, eldest son of Princess Helena, and a grandson of Queen Victoria. He was born in 1866, and was a major in the King's Royal Rifles, and had seen considerable service in both India and Africa. The Queen deeply mourns his loss, but at her special desire the news of his death was withheld to avoid casting a gloom over the City of London Imperial Volunteer festivities.

The professor in the University of Chicago who was reproved by the members of his class for using slang words in his lectures, retorts by saying that many students of the University are a stupid lot and need his slang and manner to wake them up. This is a very poor excuse, and not any more commendable than the use of coarse humor in the pulpit to attract hearers to the church. The English language is so rich in good words to express one's meaning that slang should find no place in the vocabulary of an educated man.

The New York Observer says: They are congratulating themselves in England over the moderation shown by Lord Roberts in his administration of martial law in Cape Colony. It is claimed that he has shown great discrimination, has been ready to take advice, and that only five persons have been tried by court-martial for high treason. An ex-Prime Minister of Cape Colony declares that never in the history of the world has martial law been less harshly administered than in that colony. If these are facts not England alone, but the whole civilized world may congratulate itself upon them.

Dr. Morrison, the "Times" correspondent in Peking, whose remarkable letters on the siege of the Legations have created so much attention, has a most pleasing personality, a delightful voice in speaking, and is an excellent raconteur. He has always urged that it is necessary for the European to assert himself in China, otherwise the Chinese do not pay proper respect. Until recent experiences led him to change his mind, Dr. Morrison expressed a preference for the Chinese over the Japanese. His letters from Peking contained no reference to his heroic work in the defence of the Legations and the fact that he was wounded—an instance of his modesty.

A curious effect of a bullet wound has just been exemplified in the Boer war. An English soldier in the storming of a position at the beginning of February last was struck in the face by a Mauser bullet. The projectile lodged in the head somewhere, but all attempts to locate its precise position by the X-rays were futile. The soldier was discharged from his hospital as cured, and participated in several other battles. The only ill effect he experienced from the wound was a slight impediment in his speech. On July 11th he was seized with a violent attack of sneezing, and during his exertions disgorged what proved to be the missing bullet. It had been firmly embedded point downward in the lower part of his jaw.

It has been considered until recently that it was almost impossible to produce cheese from pasteurized milk, but a short time ago a chemist of Stockholm succeeded in effecting a preparation that solved the difficulties. Owing to this discovery the product of which has been named "caseol," palatable and nourishing cheese, free tubercular bacilli, can now be made from pasteurized skimmed milk. This preparation has, moreover, the excellent quality of rendering cheese more digestible. Several dairies in London have made experiments with "caseol" with the same favorable result.

A surprising number of women are employed by the British government in the various branches of the postal system alone. In London, Dublin, and Edinburgh there are 4,330 women, including two medical officers employed. The duties of these women are varied. There are among them superintendents, clerks, telegraphers, and returners of letters. In addition to these, the small army of women in the country post offices and those employed in the smaller towns will bring the number up to about 30,000 in all. Salaries in this work are comparatively good, the work is not too exciting and there are chances to rise, hence its popularity.

According to the Press Association's record of the newspaper demands for election speeches, the General Election has been for Mr. Chamberlain's election. Almost all through the campaign his speeches were reported verbatim. In the next division came the three other leaders—Mr. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and Sir Wm. Harcourt. Their speeches were frequently reported verbatim, and always very fully. Next come the following eight politicians whose speeches were usually condensed into a column: Mr. Asquith, Sir Henry Fowler, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. George Wyndham, Mr. St. John Brodrick and Mr. Herbert Gladstone.

Marconi has made many new improvements in wireless telegraphy, and has now done away with the masts in certain of his experiments. He began as long ago as last January to work on the cylinder plan, and he has already telegraphed 60 miles with a cylinder 4 feet high, instead of a mast and wire 125 feet high. The essential arrangement in working the cylinder plan is not greatly different from that of the aerial wire. The transmitting instruments are practically the same, a battery, induction coil, earth wire, etc., being used. The only change in this part of the apparatus is the introduction of resistance coils where needed, and an arrangement for sending "tuned" messages. The cylinder rests upon a table. Marconi has devised methods by which a number of installations may be worked together in the same room or building.

The new National Museum at Munich is one of the most interesting in Europe. The problem of arrangement was a complicated one, and the difficulties have been solved in an admirable manner. The building cost about a million dollars and contains a hundred rooms. The objects are shown, as they should be, in comparatively small galleries. The leading principle is that the ground floor should show, in strict chronological order, Bavarian life of different epochs, from the little circular room which in its architecture and its contents recalls the tenth and earlier centuries down to the blue and gold magnificence of the late King Louis. In the earlier rooms the sense of architectural evolution is greatly helped by the fact that the various castles of the Bavarian crown have contributed ceilings, windows, wainscots, etc., and in some cases the rooms have been planned specially to receive these. The museum contains an almost endless number of specimens, large and small, of domestic art of the country in all ages; of wardrobes, caskets, iron utensils, beds, tables and chairs, the supply seems inexhaustible, and nearly all of them are in their original state. The Bavarian museum neglects nothing which is of any historical interest, and is, in consequence, one of the most complete of its kind to be found in Europe.