

There is a great gathering of iron-clads of all the great maritime powers in the roadstead of Barcelona, and every endeavor is made to obtain particulars about them.

A scheme has been discussed among prominent politicians in England to form a Parliamentary Committee, irrespective of political party, to support measures for the benefit of the masses.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales has ordered the release of Chinamen offering to pay a poll-tax, on the ground that the Government has no power to exclude foreigners from the country.

China would not suit Canadian office-seekers. They wanted to raise \$32,000,000 to repair damages on the Yellow River, and the money is secured by stopping all salaries of officials for two years.

The Princess of Wales, on two recent occasions, has given an example in good manners at concerts. She was late on these occasions, and insisted upon standing in the corridor until the overture was finished.

General Boulanger held a reception at Valenciennes, at which he went through the orthodox civilities of election times of old, to schoolboys and women with children in their arms, "The General had a kind word for all."

The moonlighters have posted notices in the Drum Quin district of county Tyrone ordering the boycotting of all communications with the police, and warning the people that all those who disregard the order will be shot.

There is a story to the effect that several Scotch conservative nobility boycotted the Prince and Princess of Wales, and refused to meet them because, at the opening of the Glasgow Exhibition, they stayed with Lord Hamilton, of Dalzell, a Gladstonian.

It is reported Russia and Montenegro have concluded a treaty according to the terms of which Montenegro, in the event of a Russian war, will send 30,000 troops to Herzegovina to harass Austria; and Russia, if victorious, will give Cattaro to Montenegro.

Eighteen families, numbering 108 persons, from Lewis, left Glasgow on the 17th inst. for Manitoba. The emigration from the Highlands, so far as it has gone, is looked upon by the British Government as experimental, and on its success will depend its future development.

The recent speeches of Lord Wolseley and Lord R. Churchill on the Army and Navy have created considerable stir, and a crowded meeting of citizens of London adopted resolutions urging the government to deal effectively with the national defences without delay.

There is a good deal of excitement in Ministerial circles over the precipitate passage of the drastic anti-Chinese Bill by the New South Wales Government. It is the evident fear here that China may retort by making British Commerce in the treaty ports suffer for Australia's act of hostility.

The Moscow Gazette declares that the agitation in England over the military defences of the Empire was started by an agreement made between the English and German Governments, with a view to the augmenting of British armaments and the co-operation of Great Britain with the Triple Alliance.

The report that the Duke of Edinburgh was to get Portsmouth turns out incorrect, probably the job would have been too flagrant. Sir Edmund Commerell, as we rather expected, gets it, and as a consequence, the Conservatives have lost Southampton in the election which ensued in Sir Edward's retiring from the representation of that borough.

An amusing instance of British—North British in this case—ignorance and prejudice occurred in Parliament in a discussion of the Crofter emigration scheme. The Scotch Radicals vigorously protested against it as banishment to the "British Siberia." This amounts to a "goak." Britons know a good deal more about Canada than they did a few years ago, but there is room for knowledge yet.

Russia continues to make things cheerful in the Slavic countries, while she is straining every nerve in her preparations. A nice little plot to dethrone King Milan of Serbia, and proclaim a prince favored by Montenegro (which means also Russia) is reported to have been revealed to the Austrian Court by Queen Natalie, when that lively lady, who had no particular objection to the deposition of her husband, found that her son also would be excluded by the success of the plot.

South Africa is again causing the Imperial Government trouble, arising out of the influx of gold prospectors to the Transvaal. Their numbers will probably swamp that exceedingly disagreeable republic, but there arises the want of railway transit to the coast. This lies through Portuguese territory. Portugal would part with it, but demands in exchange a strip right across Africa, which would, as she promotes the slave trade, be as great an evil by and by as her possession of Delagoa Bay.

The frontispiece of the *Woman's World* for May, is a portrait of the Queen of Roumania, who is best known to the world of letters as the graceful poet "Carmen Sylva." The face in this portrait is as strong as it is handsome. A paper devoted to the life and literary work of the poet-Queen is illustrated with sketches showing the royal lady at work in her studio and in her library. "Nursing as a Profession for Women," by the Princess Christian, opens the number and argues well in its favor.

The Vienna correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph* keeps hammering away at his story of an impending Russian descent upon Persia and a general central Asian advance. The English foreign office officials persist in assurances that they know nothing of such an intention and don't credit the reports. The German papers, however, not only seem to believe it, but connect it with England's latest flurry over her defences, pointing out, meanwhile, that this would be a good time for the English to accept the inevitable and adopt conscription.

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