Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1885.

## MR. PARNELL'S CONTRACT.

Some time ago a story was circulated about Mr. Parnell that he himself was a harsh rack-renting, evicting landlord. Some explanations were attempted. It was shown that Mr. Parnell's tenants had had great indulgence shown them, and that an eviction was necessary if Mr. Parnell was to obtain anything for his land at all. The excuse was quite enough to justify Mr. Parnell's action, but people could not help observing that probably as good a one could have been furnished in the majority of cases of other evicting landlords against whom Mr. Parnell was urging on a popular outcry. Mr. Parnell has now become involved in another scandal, which if fully proved against him, ought to greatly lessen, if not wholly ruin, his influence as a political leader. The facts of the case, as they affect Mr. Parnell, are very plainly set out in the Boston Herald:

"A short time ago the city government of Dublin raised a loan for paving the streets of that city. Advertisements were published requesting tenders for 1,300 tons of what are termed paving sets—that is, stones cut in a manner suitable to be used for paving purposes. The dimensions specified in the advertisements were stones of four to nine inches. Tenders were received from five Irish and four Welsh quarry owners. Mr. Parnell, as owner of the Rathdrum quarry, appearing among the five Irish bidders. The bids varied all the way from 20 shillings to 24 shillings per ton, the lowest bid being that of Mr. Gordon, of Newry, and the highest that of Mr. Parnell. Some of the bids were rejected in consequence of the unsuitable character of the stone for paving in streets where heavy traffic was carried on; but this objection did not apply to the bids of the Welshmen at 23 shillings per ton, or to the bid of the owner of the Ballintoy quarry, in the county of Antrim. Yet, in spite of this, and in spite of the fact that, in order to obtain stone from the Rathrum quarry, it was necessary to change the dimensions to six by seven inches, of the stone to be furnished, the award was made to Mr. Parnell. More than this, it is said that the wages paid at the Rathdrum quarry are so low that skilled and experienced dressers of stone cannot be employed, and hence, the paving sets cut out there are defective in dressing, and that it is impossible to make close joints and an even course of pavement where they are used. The difference of two shillings per ton in the amount which the city of Dublin is to spend for paving sets represents about $30,000, and it is held that this is a bonus paid to Mr. Parnell, in consequence of his political influence."

Of course it is perfectly possible that Mr. Parnell may have tendered in perfect good faith and that the improper awarding of the contract may have been the work of some over-zealous friends in the corporation. Or it is equally possible that the affair may have been worked for Mr. Parnell by an unscrupulous agent and that he himself may be wholly innocent of it. It is a matter that should be probed to the bottom. If Mr. Parnell is guiltless in connection with it then that should be made manifest. If he has really made use of his political position to put $30,000 of public money into his own pockets that ought not to have gone there, he should be promptly driven from public life. The Irish people, are to a considerable extent on trial at present as to their fitness for a greater measure of self-government than they enjoy, and it will greatly disappoint the friends and delight their enemies if they show such a degree of moral obtuseness as to continue as leader a corruptionist for his own private gain.

## THE EASTERN TROUBLE—RUSSIA'S ACTION.

The most important piece of intelligence that has lately come across the ocean is the public humiliation of Prince Alexander by the czar. This, bad enough in itself, is made much worse by the wording of the Russian official order. Instead of the usual word meaning that he had dispensed with his services, the czar employed one having a disgraceful meaning, "struck off." Such action is highly significant. It shows, first, that Russia has given up hope of Alexander ever being anything but hostile to her, as the ruler of an independent principality. Second, it foreshadows the probability of the conference breaking up in dissension. Third, Alexander also holds similar commands in the German and Austrian armies. But these countries have taken no steps against them, which means much. The proposal that England shall shall withdraw from the conference, which is made in certain quarters, especially by the Daily News, is most mischievous. It would be repeating the blunder of the Earl of Beaconsfield in 1876. In the meantime Servia and Bulgaria, impatient at the delay of the conference, have flown at each other's throats and are now attempting to solve the Balkan problem at the point of the sword. It scarcely seems possible that the struggle will end without involving at least three of the great powers. If the Servians should be thrashed and driven back across the frontier an attempt on the part of the Bulgarians to follow their foes would end with the active interference of Russia. It is believed, and not without cause, that Servia is secretly prompted and aided by Russia, who thinks she sees in this difficulty an opportunity to draw a little nearer to Constantinople.

## Mr. McNamee's Evidence.

TO THE EDITOR:—I see that you have referred editorially and in moderate and delicate language to Mr. Justice Walkem in connection with Mr. McNamee's evidence. The charge is serious undoubtedly; but do you not think that a simple denial from Mr. Walkem would be sufficient to refute the accusation, although it was made under oath? LEX.

[Yes; a simple denial would be ample. —ED.]

## A BLOODLESS DUEL.

### Two Rounds with Pistols Loaded with Lard.

San Francisco Chronicle: Jacob Jacobs and Martin Salomon are salesmen in a shoe store in Oakland, on Broadway, between Ninth and Tenth streets. They quarreled and used much bad language, and nothing but gore would satisfy them. Salomon challenged Jacobs to fight a duel to the death with pistols. Jacobs was willing and seconds were chosen, with Jack Carpenter as referee and Dr. Laidlaw were engaged to patch up the wounded. Last evening the party drove out in a livery team to the shores of Lake Merritt, where on a grassy mound the seconds planted their men, put the pistols in their hands and gave the word. The men turned and fired, nobody hurt; turned and fired again at the word, and again no harm was done.

The pistols had been loaded with lard by the seconds. The demands of honor had been satisfied and the men mutually apologized. Jacobs knew of the joke, but Salomon was in earnest to the last and avowed himself ready "to fight to the death." After the cruel war was over he called over the doctor and asked him to examine his ear, saying the first bullet had grazed that member. The doctor carefully examined the ear, saying, "It was a very narrow escape, Mr. Salomon, a very narrow escape, but you have as much ear as you ever had."

PROFESSOR MARIA Mitchell of Vassar College celebrated her 67th birthday a few days ago. The undergraduates presented her with a jelly cake of sixty-seven layers—one for each year—which was raised to the lady's room by means of a derrick.

## Theodore Parker's Advice to a Young Man.

The following letter was written by Theodore Parker to a young man who was starting out upon his first sea voyage. It was placed in our hands, says the Christian Register, a few days since; and as it has never been in print we have asked permission to publish it. It reveals one side of Theodore Parker's character, which is not familiar to those who think of him only as an ardent controversialist. It is a letter filled with golden advice for a young man entering a vocation exposed to great temptations. The letter had a lasting influence upon the life of this young man, who rose to be a captain, and who always felt greatful to Mr. Parker for the advice he had given him. There are few young men starting out in life, whatever their vocation, who might not profit by his counsel:

BOSTON, July 7th, 1851.

My Dear Friend:—Your mother told me that you are soon to leave her and all the tender ties of home and go out to seek your fortune in the world. She wished me to say a word of counsel to you at this time. I am glad to so, as I remember well the time when I first left my father's house to find a home elsewhere. I was younger than you are and went to teach a little village school. Let me say a few words to you, which my own experience suggests.

I suppose you wish to be rich. Most young men have a longing for riches; and most old men, too. I don't think riches desirable. I should be sorry to have inherited wealth. But a competence is very desirable, is indispensable. Well, the way to get it is by force thought to plan, industry to execute, and prudence to keep the earnings of your work. I should always wish to get what I earned, but never to take more than I had honestly, fairly, really earned. I am sure that, with fore thought, industry and prudence, you cannot fail to get a competence. All that you get more than sufficient for tune is commonly a misfortune. A competence is not hard to get.

But the best thing which you can get in life is not money nor what money brings along with it. A great estate is not worth so much as a good man. You are here in this world to become a good man—a wise man, a just man, an affectionate man, a religious man. This is the one thing you will carry out of this world into the next. Money will make you acceptable to man; manhood—I mean wisdom, justice, affectionateness, and religion—will make you welcome to God and blessed by Him forever. Your business is one help to obtain that manhood, but business alone will not give it to you. You must work for your manhood as much as for your money, and take as much pains to get it, and keep it too. The first thing then, is to keep clear of certain vices. As yet, you hardly know the temptations which will come upon you. But there are three things which you must set your face against at once and forever—intemperance, gambling and licentiousness. These three vices ruin thousands of young men every year. To some persons, perhaps to most young men, the temptation to some of these is very powerful. Resist these three, and you will do pretty well in this period of life.

Now, I would not recommend you to be gloomy, and sour, and stiff. I hope you will be cheerful, lively, even gay and mirthful; all that belongs to your period of life. But you can be all this without sin; you need not put a sting in your heart to torment you forever. Trust me, there is little real pleasure in anything which your conscience forbids.

Then you want to cultivate your mind. This you can do in part by reading valuable books, as you have leisure and opportunity. I have always found a good deal of time for it at sea. Forethought, industry and prudence, will help your here as much as in getting money. I used to find it a profitable thing to keep a journal, in which I wrote down what I saw that was remarkable, what I read, what I thought. I believe you will find this pleasant and profitable, too. Especially if you visit foreign countries—where every thing is remarkable to a stranger—you will find advantage in this. In regard to reading, I would wish to be familiar with the history of America, with the lives of its great men; then, with the history of England, and the lives of its great men; and next, with the writings of the best authors in English and American literature. All this you can accomplish in the course of a few years—before you are thirty, and not encroach on your proper business or your proper pleasure, and not injure your health.

One thing more I must say—I think there is no real and satisfactory happiness in life without religion. I am not a sour, malignant man, wishing to cloud over the morning of life. But I wish to prolong its sunshine forever. I am not at all superstitious. For this very reason I think more of the value of religion. It is a restraint from doing wrong, an encouragement to do right, and a great comfort at all times of life. I do not mean by religion a certain form of belief, nor a certain ritual, joining a church or anything of that sort. But I do mean a respect for your own nature, and obedience to its laws. I mean a love of truth, a love of justice, a love of man as yourself, and of God with all your mind and conscience, and heart, and soul.

You can easily cultivate your religious nature—as easily as your mind. One of the best helps that I know is this—to set apart a few minutes of every day to commune with yourself and with your God. Suppose it is at night before you sleep, or in the morning before you go to work. Then it is well to review all the actions of the day—the deeds, the words, even the thoughts and feelings, and ask if they are such as God can approve. If not, then resolve to do such things no more, and in your prayer to ask the help of God for the future. Trust me, this will be of great avail. No man can faithfully pursue this course without great growth in manly excellence. You will never repent the pains you take to be a great, a good, and a religious man.

The prayers of your father and mother will go with you in your new enterprise. Absent from their sight, you will still live in their heart of hearts; and their highest earthly wish will be that you may prove yourself a noble man.

With a desire for your prosperity and success in life, believe me truly your friend.

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## GIRL CAR CONDUCTORS.

### The Novelty which Travellers Find in Valparaiso.

In Chili young women figure as car conductors. The experiment was first tried during the recent war with Peru, when all the able bodied men were sent to the army, and proved so successful that the practice of their employment has become permanent, to the advantage, it is said, of the companies, the women and the public. It is very odd to see a woman with a hell punch taking up fares, and the first impression is not favorable; but a stranger becomes accustomed to this, as to all other novelties, and concludes that it is not such a bad idea after all. The conductors or conductresses, are usually young and sometimes very pretty, being commonly of the mixed race—of Indian and Spanish blood. They wear a neat uniform of blue flannel, with a jaunty Panama hat, and a many pocketed white pinafore reaching from the breast to the ankles, and trimmed with dainty frills. In these pockets they carry small change and tickets, while hanging to a strap over their shoulders is a little portmanteau or shopping bag in which is a lunch, a pocket handkerchief and surplus money and tickets. On paying his fare each passenger receives a yellow paper ticket, numbered, which he is expected to destroy. The girls are charged with so many tickets, and when they return to headquarters are expected to return money for all that are missing, any deficit being deducted from their wages, which are $25 a month. As an additional check upon dishonesty, spotters are stationed along the line, who hop on the car as it passes, count the passengers, write down the number in a memorandum book and jump off. A few blocks further on another spotter repeats the job, and these books are compared by the chief inspectors to see that the returns of the conductress correspond. The greatest annoyance to the girls is from the young men, who follow the cars carrying the pretty ones and chat with them on the platform. The fellows are called mosquitoes here, because they buzz and hop and pester people so. Not long ago a comic paper in Valparaiso published a cartoon showing a street car surrounded by insects, which bore the faces of young men about town. Some of the fashionable dudes who obtained this notoriety were so chaffed at the clubs and by their companions that they retired into seclusion for a time until their mortification subsided.—Chilian Letter.

## THE RIEL DEMONSTRATION.

### The Excitement Dying Away.

MONTREAL, Nov. 18.—The former comrades of Riel in the school he attended here have resolved to wear mourning for a month in respect of his memory.

Le Monde this evening issued a bulletin which stated that Madame Riel in a dispatch has expressed her willingness to have her son interred by the side of the graves of her children of 1837. It is proposed to invite Madam Riel and her family to take up their residence in this city and to establish a fund for her support.

A deputation of the members of the Club Cartier has waited on Benoist Lamate and requested him to accept the leadership of the conservative wing of the French national party which is to be built on the Riel question. Mr. Lacoste asked a few days' time to consider. He also intimated that he would first require to hear the explanations of the French-Canadians.

Students together with some quarrymen and others, numbering 800, paraded the streets to-night. The quarrymen carried axe handles, clubs and thick bones. They shoved the people from the sidewalks, frightened horses and committed other aggressive acts. It was thought at one time that they would attack the Salvation army hall. They have threatened to attack La Minerve office to-morrow night.

Two hundred and fifty men of the Sixth Fusiliers had assembled at Dominion square to be in readiness to meet the French-Canadians should they attempt to carry out the purpose of burning Colonel Stevenson in effigy on the square. It is stated to-night that the demonstration was the result of information which the students of Victoria university had received during the day that the students of McGill (English) university intended to burn Riel in effigy on the Champ de Mars to night.

### Eastern States.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 18.—A terrible tragedy was enacted in Edgefield county to-day. A white man named Robert Jones occupied some land rented from his relatives, Charles and Edward Pressly. They notified him that as he could no longer pay the rent he must vacate. To-day Jones went to a field where Edward Pressly, aged 80, and his sons, Charles and Edward, jr., were ploughing, and shot Charles dead. Edward started in pursuit of him, and Jones stabbed him mortally with a knife. Jones then reloaded his gun and killed the father, old Mr. Pressly, who is the grandfather of Jones' wife. Jones then came to the courthouse, entered the jail and surrendered, remarking that he had killed three of the best men in the county. This account is from a News and Courier correspondent who visited the scene. Another account is that the Presslys went to the field where Jones was working, and that Jones killed them in self-defense.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 18.—At a session of the National Rabbinical convention of the Reformed Hebrew church to-day the subject of Sabbath observance was discussed at some length, and a resolution was unanimously adopted declaring that there is nothing in the spirit or law of Judaism to prevent the introduction of Sunday services in localities where a necessity for such services appears or is felt. In the preamble to the resolution the importance of maintaining the historical Sabbath as a bond with the past, and a symbol of the unity of Judaism the world over, is recognized. After recommending the formation of societies for propagation of the Reformed Jewish doctrine among the poorer classes, the convention adjourned to meet at Cincinnati on the first Monday in May, 1886.

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## BETWEEN OURSELVES.

[Anonymous.]

Because her vein to me and you
The brightest and the bluest,
Shall storm arise between us two,
The oldest friends and truest!
She smiles on me, my heart is lost,
And yours is steeped in sorrow!
And yet the flowers I gave to-night
She'll throw to you to-morrow.
Coquette she is; so say with me,
"Let him who wins her wear her;
And fair—however fair she be,
There's many a lassie fairer."

But if it hap, as well it may,
That each in vain has pleaded,
If all my songs are thrown away,
And all your sighs unheeded;
We'll vow ourselves to hermit vows,
We'll crow no foaming billow,
We'll bind about our dismal brows
No wreaths of mournful willow;
But show, in spite of her disdain,
We yet can live without her,
And joining hands we'll laugh again,
And think no more about her.

### Public Eating-Places.

[New York Mail and Express.]

The board of health might order a scrutiny of the larders and kitchens of restaurants with advantage to the health of the public. The great defect of many, indeed, of most restaurants, is want of free circulation of air. The cooking range against the dead wall at the back reflects odors and heat into the dining hall till it is unsupportable, but this is the least objectionable point. Food is kept in places whose very walls are so rank with absorption in the close air that whatever is in them taints rapidly, and is unfit to eat before the general taste discerns the fault.

Nice senses tell the flavor at once of food from the receptacles where the jar of sour butter keeps company with stale fish; buttermilk, yesterday's stew, ancient cheese, and doubtful drippings. Grease and crumbs together in the hot air evoke a rank odor, and impart the cheesy taste common to ill-kept tables. Food in such quarters begins to spoil twice as soon as it would in wholesome places, with or without ice. Clams and oysters turn color, the chowder sours, the soup has that awful taste by which cooks say it has "changed" hash "turns," ice cream—Enough!

The quality of milk, butter and sauces from one of these larders will not bear inquiry. It is unmitigated extract of dirt cake. No wonder that men who feed at such tables and live in close offices all day turn yellow with bile or pale with anæmica, are taken with abscesses, by which the system seeks to pour out the accumulated fester of the blood. They have eaten and drank decay till their bodies are all but fibroid with it. Strict cleanliness and ventilation should be enforced as rigidly on public eating places as quarantine laws, and not a few private kitchens would come under reprobation under the eye of a health officer.

### Posing as Mrs. Vanderbilt.

[New York Cor. Chicago Journal.]

I came across a Vanderbilt privilege of wealth unexpectedly in the establishment of a tailor for women. A girl stood in the center of a workroom while a male expert fitted a garment to her upper figure. "That is Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt," said one.

"Nonsense," I exclaimed. "Willie Vanderbilt's wife hasn't red hair, nor a face at all like that."

"What I mean," was the explanation, "is that the girl is posing as Mrs. Vanderbilt. The two are exactly the same size and shape. This one is hired to serve in the place of the millionairess in the laborious matter of having costumes fitted. The garment now being taken in, let out and generally adapted is for Mrs. Vanderbilt, who is at her ease in Newport, while the double endures the hour or two of tiresome standing. Mechanical forms are common for that purpose, and most of the rich customers keep them with us, but they are not so good as a living model, which can change her position, walk about, sit down, and in other ways demonstrate perfectly the effect of the raiment under process of making.

Mrs. Vanderbilt will not endure the fatigue of the thing herself, even when in town, and it was her own suggestion that a duplicate of herself be employed. On her order, we sought and found a perfect counterpart—a girl who was working in a cloak-shop connected with our business—and she served in lieu of Mrs. Vanderbilt for nearly a year. Not only in dimensions is she suited to the requirements, but in movements and carriage she is Vanderbilt's face and employer, and so it is possible for the latter to see herself as others see her—in the matter of dress."

### Mr. McMullin's Scheme.

[Pittsburg Dispatch.]

A travel-stained rounder floated into the city on Saturday on the flag end of a cattle train from the wilds of Chicago. Like other western men he was a drinking man, and the long, dusty ride and occasional foot races with brakemen en route, rendered Giles McMullin very thirsty when Pittsburg loomed on him with all its dazzling brightness and beauty. Giles walked into a Liberty street "barrel house," and, pulling out a black glass quart bottle, handed it to the dispenser of alcohol, and lotlily told him to fill it with "nuthin" real good and strong.

"All right, sir," said the seller of annihilation, with a rather dubious smile, and, turning on the spigot of one of the barrels, filled the bottle to the neck.

Mr. Giles McMullin watched the gurgling current of happiness with a complacent countenance.

"Fifty cents, please," said the liquor man, as he corked the bottle.

"Say, boss," chirped Giles, I've only got 15 cents."

"Oh, ——," said the man of liquor, and he wrathfully poured the nourishment back into the barrel. "Here, take your bottle and don't come monkeying around here again," he added, as he tossed the bottle to Giles.

Then Mr. McMullin carefully put the bottle in his pocket. Walking to a metal yard he sat down, and drawing out the bottle he pushed a stick down through the neck. Then he took a real good swallow and lay down to sleep on a pile of pig iron. There was a sponge inside that bottle.

### Wolf-Catching in Scandinavia.

[Chicago Journal.]

Capt. Lloyd has been traveling in Scandinavia, where wolves are abundant. The animals are very fond of pork, and his plan of enticing them in order to shoot them was to keep a live pig in his sledge, and to pinch him in the night time. In order further to deceive the wolves, he fastened a bundle of straw, covered with a black sheepskin, to a rope fifty feet long and dangled it when the sledge was in motion. The wolves heard the pig squeak, and, thinking the bundle was a pig, came near enough to be picked off with a rifle.

Chicago Ledger: Everything in Chicago has to hump itself or get left. Government observations have demonstrated that even the wind moves with double the velocity in the city that it does over the lake.

### Where Some "Blue" Blood Came From.

[London Echo.]

During the troubles in the reign of Charles I a country girl came to London in search of a place as a servant maid, but not succeeding, she hired herself to carry out beer from a warehouse, and was one of those called tub women. The brewer, observing a good-looking girl in this low occupation, took her into his family as a servant, and, after a short time, married her. He died while she was yet a young woman, and left her the bulk of his fortune. The business of brewing was dropped, and Hyde was recommended to her as a skillful lawyer to arrange her husband's affairs. Hyde, who was afterward earl of Clarendon, finding the widow's fortune considerable, married her. By this marriage there was no other issue than a daughter, who afterward became the wife of James II, and mother of Mary and Anne, queens of England.

### Past Finding Out.

[New York Sun.]

Census taker (to husband)—What is your wife's age?

Husband—I don't know.

Census-taker—Can't you approximate it?

Husband—No, I can't even approximate it. She was a widow when I married her.

Whitehall Times: Every man may have a price, but every other man can not pay it.

### Life in Large Cities.

[Chicago Current.]

First Scientist—We have escaped the casualties that used to follow the digging of wells. No deaths nowadays from "damps."

Second Scientist—Yes, but one of my inspectors died a fearful death yesterday.

First Scientist—How's that?

Second Scientist—He was killed in an alley by a deodorizer.

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## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### THE SCHEME PROVING TO BE A BONANZA FOR THE CONTRACTORS.

#### Observations of a Returned Cincinnatian—The Army of Leeches Who Find an Asylum on the Isthmus—Bad Business.

[Cincinnati Enquirer Interview.]

A former Cincinnatian, Mr. W. J. Crosby, has just returned from Panama, where he has been since last September fulfilling a contract for lightening cargoes on incoming ships to the shore. The yellow fever has been and now is committing dreadful ravages there, and when his turn came his physician and a friend hurried him out of the country.

Mr. Crosby has been a number of years on the isthmus; at one time as an agent of the Pacific Steamship company, and his position gave him opportunities for observation, which he seems to have improved to the fullest extent. "The history of the Panama canal," said he, "will be a record of fraud almost unparalleled in the annals of any nation. Already it has cost the sum of $120,000,000. The projectors have in addition a debt of $20,000,000, and now they estimate that to compass its completion $500,000,000 additional will be needed. What have they accomplished? Nothing more than the transportation to the objective point of an unlimited amount of machinery, which is useless and can not even be converted into old iron, as the freight away from the isthmus are so high as to render profitless any such venture.

"The Nicaragua route is undoubtedly the best for canal purposes, but it is said at the same time the longest. The route selected by the French and German syndicate is the shortest, but it is fraught with difficulties which, I think, have all been too lightly considered, even if they have been considered at all.

"For instance, the land lies very high in places, and the deepest portion will be a cut six hundred feet in depth. Now, the water surface of the canal will have to be 150 feet in width. This will necessitate a cut of nearly eighteen hundred feet in width at the top; so you can easily imagine the amount of dirt to be removed. The canal line follows closely the line of the Panama railroad. The contract for removing the dirt has been let to a Dutch and French syndicate for $19,000,000, and as yet the contractors have done nothing. Then they seem to have taken no account of the varying aspects of the spring tides. Of course they will have to employ an elaborate system of locks. In the spring the tides on the Pacific side rise from twenty five to thirty feet, while on the gulf coast they are from twelve to fifteen inches. These conditions I deem of importance, and lastly they are using the channel of the Chagres river as a starting point of the canal on the gulf side. The Chagres is a mountain stream, and in times of flood is a terror to the inhabitants. You have heard about a torrent rushing and jumping. Well, the bursts of a torrent in the Chagres just jumps along. It comes down like a solid wall, bearing all before it. They will have to divert the entire channel of this stream. The canal has now been under way four years, and the channel, when completed, will be forty-seven miles in length.

"The company has erected a great number of houses along the line, and just to give you an idea of the manner in which they conduct their business I will tell you that in their office, which is an immense place, they had at one time over 700 clerks employed. It seemed at once a hospital and an asylum for broken-down relics of French nobility. Each window of the office had a small balcony, and each balcony its lolling Frenchman. When one got tired, and went within to either pore over the pages of a French novel of questionable moral purity or the Paris papers, another Frenchman took his place. If any one appeared with a bill or series of accounts he, as like as not, would be told to call again, as all hands were too busy to pay any attention to him. To any man attempting to conscientiously discharge his duty this was discouraging. All these fellows did was to draw their salaries. I understand, however, that the force has recently been materially decreased.

"In addition I can assure you of one thing, and that is, if the Panama canal is ever completed it will be by American brain and pluck. The way the present syndicate are engaged it will take 100 years to finish the work.

## EX-MINISTER S. G. W. BENJAMIN

### Gives a Reporter an Account of His Experience While in Persia.

[New York Sun Interview.]

"How do the Persians treat Christians and Europeans?"

"Not badly, if their fanaticism is not aroused. Then they become dangerous. A few years ago if a European consorted with a Persian woman he was killed at once, or obliged to turn Mohammedan and marry her. Even now it would create the greatest trouble, so that Europeans confine their attentions to the Armenian women of the native Christian population. When the shah's wives drive through the streets men go ahead to clear the streets and warn all persons to conceal themselves. If a man has no chance of getting away he turns his face around and does not look on pain of being roughly handled or perhaps killed on the spot. Europeans are compelled to do the same thing.

"In June of last year, owing to the intense heat, I was compelled to move my family out of the city. On my way to the country I met a large force of soldiers escorting the shah's wives. If a Persian had chanced to glance at the royal ladies in such circumstances he would have fared hard, but the foreign legations have rights and privileges of their own, so I stood my ground. Some twenty of the mounted guards violently attacked us and beat my servants and their horses in the effort to drive them back. I directed them to stand their ground, and things were looking serious, when one of the queens who recognized the servants of my legation by their badges, sent her chief eunuch to call the soldiers away. We were then allowed to pass through without further molestation.

"This attack was an insult to the dignity of the legation too great to be overlooked, and I wrote a note to the minister of foreign affairs demanding satisfaction immediately. The reply to my note being tardy and evasive, I felt it my duty to inform the minister of foreign affairs that unless my terms were granted in thirty-six hours I should haul down the flag and demand my passport. The result justified my action. Without going into details, I may say that not only was the most ample satisfaction rendered us within thirty-six hours, but my course received the approval of the entire diplomatic corps and added to the high prestige awarded to foreign legations at the court of Persia.

"On another occasion a servant of one of my attaches neatly killed a Persian. This immediately created the greatest excitement, and a mob formed with the intention of attacking the legation. The minister of foreign affairs notified us to be prepared. I ordered our military guard to load their arms, and stationed them at the weak points where the mob might enter, making preparations also to send my family to a place of safety. Happily the earnest efforts of the authorities were successful in quelling the riot.

"Last spring the official paper, Sheresef, published an article that was disrespectful to President Cleveland. I immediately demanded that a full correction should be made and a new article printed, in which he should be treated with the greatest honor. After much persistency this was done. Visits were very ceremonious, and it was necessary to send notice beforehand, and servants would come out to meet us as a mark of honor."

### A Battery at a Ball.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

At a masked ball given in Turin recently a ducal guest appeared in the costume of "Rigoletto," having in the hump upon his back an electric apparatus by which he was enabled to give any one whose hand he grasped an electric shock. All went smoothly until the hump chanced to get moved, when the full force of the battery was discharged into the body of the wearer, causing him to writhe with pain and shriek for relief. He was finally insensible before the battery could be disconnected.

### A Laudable Practice.

[Chicago News.]

The Chinese of New York city are developing a taste for roast pug-dog, and there is said to be an increasing scarcity of that kind of the canine breed in the metropolis. This practice of the Chinamen is most laudable, and should hereafter influence in their favor any harsh anti-immigration legislative measures.

## SLIVNITZA.

### Disastrous Defeat of the Servians After Desperate Fighting.

SOFIA, Nov. 18.—There was desperate fighting at Slivnitza to-day. The Bulgarians forced the Servian right wing of the army back at the point of the bayonet for several kilometers with great loss. It is reported that the Servians fired on the Red Cross ambulances.

A militia force from Widdin has made a successful inroad into Servia, capturing 150 prisoners. The Servians have retreated in disorder from Bulchino, Smoltcha and Tuden.

### A SERVIAN ACCOUNT.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The following Servian account is from Tsaribod: The Servians found the Bulgarians in unexpected strength at Slivnitza. The Servians, after continuous fighting for eight hours, are slowly pushing Prince Alexander toward Sofia, the Bulgarians disputing every inch. Thirty thousand Servians were engaged in yesterday's fighting at Slivnitza.

### THE REPORT CONFIRMED.

LONDON, Nov. 19.—The Daily News has a dispatch from Sofia confirming the report of a Bulgarian victory. The Servians lost 10 guns and 350 horses, and it is estimated that 300 Servians were killed or wounded. The Bulgarians on Tuesday captured 200 Servian cavalry. The Bulgarians have again repulsed the attacks on Dragoman pass.

### GREECE BELLIGERENT.

LONDON, Nov. 19.—The Daily Telegraph says it is almost certain that Greece will go to war. A captain of the Greek navy has started for London to purchase men-of-war.

### WAR NOTES.

LONDON, Nov. 19.—A dispatch from Sofia says that troops are arriving there from Roumelia.

Twenty-five thousand Servians were engaged yesterday near Slivnitza, while there were only 15,000 Bulgarians in the engagement.

A dispatch from Belgrade says that Queen Natalie has received a telegram from Faitschar announcing the fall of Widdin. The same dispatch says that a portion of the Morava division after a severe fight captured Radomir.

Four hundred prisoners have arrived at Belgrade from the front.

Thirty thousand Servians were engaged in to-day's fighting at Slivnitza.

### SOFIA SAFE.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—A Sofia telegram states that the Bulgarian troops recaptured Breznik and dispersed the Servians. No fear is entertained at present for the safety of Sofia.

### REPORTED WOUNDING OF ALEXANDER.

VIENNA, Nov. 18.—The Neu Freie Presse has a report that Prince Alexander has been wounded.

### Australia Steamers from the C. P. R. Terminus.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—A Washington special to the Post says: The postoffice department has been advised that upon the completion of the Canadian Pacific road all trans-Atlantic mails from England will be forwarded over that road and that a new British line of steamers will be established from the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway for Australia.

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### Invention of the Honey Extractor.

[Philadelphia Press.]

In Italy there chanced to dwell one Maj. Von Hruschka, a German and one of nature's bee-keepers. One day Maj. Von Hruschka was in his apiary, and his son chanced to be there, too. The boy carried a tin pail, which had a string tied to it. The major gave the boy a piece of honey, putting it into the tin pail. Then the youth, boy-like, began to swing the pail with the honey in it round and round in a circle, holding it by the string. A moment after he had ceased this amusement the major happened to look again at the piece of honey. What was his surprise to find that the honey was all drained out neatly and perfectly from that side of the comb which had been on the outside of the circle as the boy swung the pail around by the string.

The major thoughtfully turned the comb over, and bade the boy swing again. This time the other side of the comb was all drained out, and that night Maj. Von Hruschka went to bed thinking. He thought and thought and experimented until he gave bee-keepers the honey extractor, which whirls the honey out of the comb by centrifugal force leaving the comb to be filled again by the bees, and the liquid honey clean, pure and beautiful, to be eaten by people.

### Acquiring Knowledge.

[Norristown Herald.]

A Persian philosopher, being asked by what method he had acquired so much knowledge, answered. "By not being prevented by shame from asking questions when I was ignorant." According to this notion, a 5-year-old boy traveling in the cars with his mother could acquire enough knowledge in a journey of fifteen miles to split his head wide open.

### Ammonia from the Crematories.

[Chicago Herald.]

In Japan successful experiments have been made in collecting human ammonia from the crematories. The crockinvolve is suspended inside the chimneys, where it combines with the ammonia of the evaporating substances. The product is then was to keep a live pig in his sledge, and to pinch him in the night time. In order further to deceive the wolves, he fastened a bundle of straw, covered with a black sheepskin, to a rope fifty feet long and dangled it when the sledge was in motion. The wolves heard the pig squeak, and, thinking the bundle was a pig, came near enough to be picked off with a rifle.

### The Modern Myth-Maker.

[Atlanta Constitution.]

The newspaper reporters have done exceedingly good work since they were placed in charge of the myth factory. The story of the George Washington hatchet is a very fine myth, but the most ordinary newspaper reporter can get up a better one in twenty minutes by the watch. As a matter of fact he has invented better ones about Lincoln and Grant, and is preparing to invent others whenever he deems it necessary. Long live the modern myth-maker.

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