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company ever formed, and the taste for inter-Continental convenience seems to run in the family.

Eleven years ago the city of Liverpool, foreseeing the trouble which would sometime arise from the lack of a proper water supply, began a gigantic work. During the glacial period a large lake existed in Mid Wales, but so far back as human records reach, a marshy valley containing a tributary of the Severn has occupied its site. In order to obtain a requisite water supply the lake has actually been rebuilt. The new lake is five miles long, it drains some 23,000 acres, and its height above the sea is 900 feet. An immense dam has been built, the foundation stones of which are cemented to the bed rock. The length of the dam is 1,172 feet, its thickness at its base is 120 feet and its height 161 feet. It is estimated that the lake will hold 13,000,000,000 gallons of water, and two reservoirs provide against any temporary obstruction. The water is carried through pipes and storage tanks across the Mersey to Liverpool, a distance of about 70 miles. In order to build the lake it was necessary to remove a church, a burial ground and a village, and the cost of the whole vast undertaking is estimated to have reached \$20,000,000.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The wife of the "millionaire Chicago Congressman," Mrs. Abner Taylor, has had a thoroughly original idea. As a result that very interesting feminine under-garment, the petticoat, is sometimes to be seen attending sessions of Congress. Mrs. Taylor wishes to have a Congressional petticoat, and therefore the furbelowed garment is being handed around to have inscribed upon it the autograph of every Congressman and Senator. The garment will doubtless become historic, but Mr. Taylor, though now overshadowed by his wealth and by the petticoat frills, may yet awake to the mirth-producing aspect of his wife's foible, and by moral suasion may lure her back to the comparatively harmless yet similar task of patching together album quilts.

An interesting experiment in irrigation is being tried in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico. The Pecos River flows for some distance through a natural gorge in a limestone foundation, and, while the flow of water is great, the river has hitherto been of little benefit to the agriculturists of the adjacent valley. A dam has now been built across the river, forming a lake seven miles long and two miles wide. From this lake the water is carried by a main canal to the heart of the farming country, and ditches are dug from this in every direction, each ditch being protected by a water-gate, so that the farmer may regulate the amount of water let in. Many hundreds of acres of formerly arid land are now profiting by the experiment, and it is estimated that 700,000 acres will shortly be made productive.

There is a prospect that another wonder will shortly be added to those already on the planet. Mr. Bernstein, a noted banker of New York, is confident that in less than three years he will succeed in laying a pneumatic tube across the Atlantic by means of which three daily mails may be received in both England and America. There is at this time a pneumatic tube in operation between London and Liverpool. During the World's Fair another will be in operation between Chicago and St. Louis, which it is expected will capture the attention of business men. The cost of the sub-Atlantic tube is estimated at \$25,000,000, half of which amount has already been subscribed. When the tube is completed it is expected that branch tubes will connect all towns and cities with the tube termini. The scheme, although a vast one, is not improbable, and its originator is a shrewd capitalist. Mr. Bernstein's father, by the way, was a member of the first cable

King Oscar of Norway and Sweden has recently been treading upon very unsteady ground. The United Kingdom have before this had many differences of opinion, and now Norway has a genuine grievance for which she cannot obtain redress. Since 1814 there has been but one diplomatic and consular service for both countries, while the Norwegians have been called upon for its chief support. Norway, therefore, has demanded separate diplomatic and consular representatives, and when Premier Stang opposed the demand, his cabinet was at once overthrown. The next Premier, Mr. Steen, backed by the Storting at Christiania, made the request to King Oscar, and on receiving a refusal he at once threw up his office. Notwithstanding the excited state of the people at these untoward occurrences, King Oscar, whose sympathies are entirely with the Swedes, has, contrary to all precedent, requested the rejected Stang to again form a cabinet. The relations between the countries are excessively strained, and some concession must be made to Norway, else the angry talk of secession and Republicanism will result in the division of the Scandinavian Kingdom.

The attack of the British Mission at Fez, Morocco, by the soldiers of the local Pasha, and Sir Euan-Smith's prompt action in demanding and obtaining recompense for the same, has been much commented upon. The trouble arose over the hoisting of the British flag on the Consulate, and the insult offered to the flag has touched a tender spot in every British heart, yet the Moors should not be too severely blamed. The hatred of foreign flags is an essential part of the Moorish constitution. Almost every foreign power has abused the right of protection which its flag has afforded. In the event of trouble in Morocco, hundreds of Moors have sought and obtained protection under the various flags, proclaiming themselves as the case might be, French, Italian or American citizens. The local Pasha can have no hold over a people who can at any hour of the day change their nationality. It is estimated that one-fourth of the population have for their private ends sought the protection of the Consulates. Great Britain's record in Morocco has been a good one, but her consuls, being for the most part upright men, have never been popular in a country where intrigue is the ground-work of the government. That she has failed to please the Pasha, and has made few friends among his subjects, is by no means a bad testimonial to the integrity of her officers.

A very unpleasant feature of the series of Carnegie disturbances has been the shooting of Mr. Frick of the Carnegie Co., and the brutal punishment of a private in the militia who cheered the would-be-murderer. There is no doubt that the private's offence was a grave one, savoring of disloyalty, perhaps, but the punishment for it seems to have been borrowed from the Spanish Inquisition. "String him up by the thumbs until he can stand it no longer." The order was a disgrace to the Republic of boasted freedom. A horrible form of torture was perpetrated upon the body of a citizen of the United States, who for a few days had donned the uniform of a soldier. It is a serious question if the punishment was a just one—there is no doubt that it was a fiendish one. In addition to hanging the soldier by his thumbs, the Colonel of the Pennsylvania Militia thoughtfully ordered that one side of the offender's head should be shaved, and then that he should be drummed out of the camp. Had the last penalties only been inflicted the public would have been satisfied, but for the first barbarity there is entirely another feeling. Happily a British soldier is exempt from such a punishment. A British colonel who ordered such a punishment would probably be disgraced by a court-martial. If the U. S. Army Regulations authorize so revolting a cruelty, some alteration should at once be made in the code.