

✿ Mainly About People. ✿

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S "annexation" of the Orange Free State to the Transvaal is reminiscent of his former attempt to the same end. Then he tried to annex it by raiding it with force and arms, setting the example which Jameson followed in after years. But the stout Orange burghers turned out manfully with their elephant guns and brought him and his fellow-outlaws to a halt. It is doubtful if, after the wretched scrape the Transvaal has led the Orange State into, the latest attempt at annexation will be any more favorably received by the Orange burghers. And, however they may regard it, there is no reason to suppose the British Government will pay any serious attention to it.

M. FRANCOIS COPPEE, of Paris, who has several new books upon the market in this country, is a very industrious worker. Until his plays and books were successful he held a small Government position, but when his name and fame were made he gave his time entirely to literary effort. In commenting upon the varying political changes in France, he said to a friend: "You think the present upheavals odd, do you? Why, this nothing to what France has done. Take the span of my own life. My father took me, when I was five years old, to the Tuilleries to see Louis Philippe, and I remember as if it were but yesterday, how the people welcomed him with shouts. One year later I was taken to the same place to see him run from the mob who wanted his life. A year later yet I was one of a party of boys chosen to take part in the ceremonies of the planting of the Tree of Liberty near our house—so you see I don't marvel at the present phases of emotionalism. Our people can't live without change."

SIR HENRY IRVING has given \$100 to the fund to make the Dewey Arch in New York a permanent structure. Sir Henry met the Admiral and thinks highly of him.

SINCE his inaugural as the first mayor of the Greater New York, on January 1, 1898, Robert H. Van Wyck has not given an interview to a single newspaper reporter, has not answered an inquiry for publication, and has not attended a public function of a social character. It is true that he acted as Admiral Dewey's host when that officer was entertained by the city, but as the ceremonies did not include a dinner he was not forced to break his self-imposed rule. The mayor's life is as regular as clockwork. His bachelor home up town is as systematically arranged as his office in city hall, and he never allows anything to interfere with his method in either place. While a city judge, the mayor was prominent as a diner out and theatregoer, but neither amusement apparently has any attraction for him now. When he took office, the mayor received the reporters of the city newspapers in a body. "During the next four years," he said, "I shall never speak to any of you for publication. You will all have an even chance, for I shall refuse interviews to everyone impartially. There is no use in coming to me with questions propounded by your editors, for I shall not answer them."

POOOR young Roberts—"Bobs's" only son—who died so gallantly in that plucky endeavor to save the guns at the Tugela, is buried in a soldier's grave, near the spot where he fell. A correspondent who has just returned from the theatre of war writes:

"I visited the graves of the men belonging to the Dublin Fusiliers and Durban Light Infantry who fell in the armoured

train disaster . . . I visited the graves of the men who fell at Colenso, including Lieutenant Roberts, son of General Lord Roberts. It was a very humble grave, and the burial was equally as humble, he being buried in a blanket, the same as what is termed the 'common soldier.' You can only discern the grave by four small sticks placed around it."

THE wedding of Miss Mabel McKinley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abner McKinley, and niece of President McKinley, to Hermann Baer, of Pennsylvania, whose engagement was recently announced in Washington, will probably not be celebrated until after the summer vacation. It will in all likelihood take place at the White House. Miss McKinley, who is an exceedingly handsome young woman, is well known in New York and Washington society. She is at present the guest of her uncle and aunt, President and Mrs. McKinley, at the White House. Mr. Baer, whom she has known nearly all her life, is a student at the Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia.

IN the furnishing and ornamentation of Lord Stratheona's town house, at No. 53 Cadogan Square, London, there is not much to strike the eye. In the central hall there is a handsome grandmother's clock, flanked by a Sheraton table on which stand two bronzes. Indeed, bronzes and beautiful china are among the most striking features in Lord Stratheona's furniture, but generally the tone is severely plain, governed by good taste and a dislike of violent contrasts. The drawing-rooms on the first floor are upholstered, the one in red and gold, the other in gold and a more neutral tint of color. The walls, which are panelled with satin, are in harmony with the upholstery of the gilded chairs and lounges. About the rooms are some very fine old cabinets and Sheraton tables, and most conspicuous are some Japanese china and not a few curious clocks. But these things only serve to remind their owner of his Montreal home, where he has one of the finest existing collections of Satsumas, bronzes and other artistic achievements of the subjects of the Mikado. Lord Stratheona is not a man of hobbies, but where oriental china is concerned he gets on the brink of one. His collection of paintings in Montreal has been described as "the most catholic and abundant" in Canada and contains examples of Raphael, Titian, Turner, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Romney, Millais, Rosa Bonheur, Constable, Constant, Alma Tadema and other artists.

THE young Marquis of Graham, the future Duke of Montrose, has adopted the sea as a profession and has been assisting in the navigation of a trading ship from Australia to England. He is now second officer on Lord Brassey's yacht the Sunbeam. It was at Lord Brassey's suggestion that several of the ships trading between England and Australia were utilized as training schools for young men of good family with nautical tastes.

THE new yacht built for the Queen in the Government dockyards, at a cost of about \$2,500,000, will probably never be used by Her Majesty. The yacht's instability, so palpably demonstrated at the time of her undocking, has caused the Queen to take a strong dislike to the vessel, and the alterations necessary so materially reduced her comfort and convenience that it is believed they will render the vessel unsuitable for the purpose originally intended. The probability is that the yacht will ultimately be renamed the Enchantress and converted into a despatch vessel for the use of the Admiralty.

SIR WALTER BESANT, who is one of the originators of the New Atlantic Union, says that its chief purpose is to introduce visiting Americans, who would otherwise spend their time in their hotels, to the social and home life of England.