

DAMNING THE NILE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MAY PREVENT COMPLETION.

One of the Greatest Engineering Efforts of the World—Stoppage of Work by the Withdrawal of the British from Egypt Would Be a Calamity.

One possible result of the Boer war that has generally been overlooked is that it may put an end to the greatest engineering effort which has ever been begun in the world—the damming of the Nile, says a writer in the Washington Star.

The Nile improvements would cease at once, and an end, perhaps only a temporary end, to be sure, would be put to the Nile enterprise. Nothing more serious or more pitiful could happen. The stoppage of the work on the Nile dams would be a calamity involving the progress of the entire Egyptian people, of whom there are over nine million. It would affect directly over two million peasants, who will be put back just as many years as the work is interrupted.

While the English started their plan for storing the Nile waters that now escape into the Mediterranean sea, it was not until last year that the work was actually started. Now it is being pushed with all possible vigor, an army of 15,000 workmen being engaged on the task. Most of these are peasant laborers who are paid not over 15 cents a day. All sorts of plans for recovering the desert wastes were submitted to the government by American, English and French engineers.

Instead the Assuan dam plan was undertaken. The foundation stone was laid on February 12, 1890. It is to be completed under the contract on July 1, 1902. The dam will be built of concrete and masonry. It will be 1,000 feet long, with the approaches 76 feet high and 35 feet wide at the top, where there will be a fine drive and carriage-way. A thousand million gallons of water will be stored behind the monster structure.

practical Mehemet, terew, and the pyramids were saved to the world by the Frenchman's ingenious lie. From the first year that the English found themselves in control of Egypt under the "occupation" they determined on an extension of the irrigation system. Land in Egypt constitutes the great source of taxation and wealth. Every acre under cultivation in the country is worth \$105 and pays on an average \$4 per acre in direct taxes.

That young girl is still living at a great age. She is the venerable Lady Louise Tighe, and her great estate, Woodstock, which lies on the banks of the River Nore, near Kilkenny, Ireland, is one of the largest and most magnificent in the United Kingdom. She owns several square miles of land, varied between forest and meadow, and including game preserves.

Between 700 and 1,000 people are regularly employed on the estate. Among them are 100 women, who wear a pretty uniform of white and blue.

FALSEHOODS TOLD BY THE X-RAY

It appears that, like its prototype the ordinary photograph, the x-ray may be used to tell anything but the truth. "A Chicago electrical specialist," says the Minneapolis Times, "has been making some interesting experiments in the use of the x-rays in the Chicago City Railway Company and others, and the results are somewhat startling. They show that the x-rays are capable of making a great deal of corroboration when introduced as evidence in a damage suit."

ARTIFICIAL SPONGES.

The process patented by Dr. Gustav Pann of Graz, Germany, consists principally in the use of a solution of sodium chloride and hydrochloric acid, which are mixed in a certain proportion. The result is a porous mass which swells up when it comes in contact with water. It is used for retaining the product of the property of an absorbent water after drying, alkaline salts are employed in treating the cellulose with zinc chloride, and finally the product is subjected to a mechanical-elastic treatment. Thus, for example, 500 grammes of concentrated zinc chloride solution and 2,000 grammes of sodium chloride are used in the 100 grammes of cellulose, whereby a plastic mass is obtained which is mixed with about one kilo of coarse-grained rock salt.

IN MEMORIAM OF DR. ANN PRESTON.

The secretary of the executive board of the Alumnae Association of the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia, has decided to attempt to raise a sufficient sum of money to pay for a portrait of Dr. Ann Preston, the first woman to hold the position of dean and the moving spirit in the founding of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia. It is intended that this portrait be presented to the Woman's Medical College during the next annual commencement exercises.

BISHOP CREIGHTON'S DISCOVERY.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his youth, had some experience as a farmer. Evidently the Bishop of London's education in that respect was neglected. In the account of one of his speeches at the church congress he is reported as saying: "There is a certain class of people who are like hens when they have laid an egg. They form their opinion with such dignity, apparently, and so solemn, that when they have formed one they go and crow to all the world to show that they have done it."

FOUND IN SLEEPING CARS. The Lost Property of the Railroad Offices—Curious Articles Found There. When the occupant of a berth in a sleeping car overleaps, and is hastily roused to make a way station, he usually leaves his pocketbook, or watch, or some piece of personal property in the berth behind him. Only rarely does the net when, half awake on the station platform, he goes through his pockets while the train speeds away miles beyond.

BELLE OF A FAMOUS BALL.

Perhaps the most celebrated ball ever given in the world was that at Brussels on the night before the battle of Waterloo. "There was a sound of revelry by night," the belle of that famous ball, which occurred 84 years ago, was a beautiful young daughter of the Earl of Richmond. She buckled on the sword of the Duke of Wellington before he went to fight the battle which was to make him immortal.

Mr. S. R. Crockett, the novelist, tells in a rather remarkable story of an incident that befell him in his early writing days, before fame and fortune came upon him. At that time he was obliged to write for very small sums indeed, and the editor of the paper to which he contributed columns and half columns was the St. James Gazette, a London penny evening newspaper.

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HIS DREAM MATERIALIZED.

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LOTICHER.

A notable old woman has passed away at Hamburg in the person of Heinrich Heine's beloved sister, "Lottchen," who died at the age of ninety-nine. Thousands of the poet's admirers were in the habit of visiting the old house on the Hamburg square, where she lived, and where she had lived for many years, surrounded by a number of her children and grandchildren.

THE NEW YORK HORSE SHOW.

A distinguished crowd gathered at the ringside early. Among them were several easy-clad Kentucky gentlemen and a sprinkling of Chicago swells, the former wearing slouch hats and the latter flaunting red neckties. The out-of-town contingent contains the most enthusiastic patrons of the show. Whatever was said about his dress, it is a good judge of horsemanship, and it talks a racy lingo.

CONVICTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The convicts confined in the jails of European countries have a much easier time of it than those enduring penal servitude in America, remarked the man-who-travels to a Call reporter. "When I was in Kollback, Switzerland, last summer, I had a good demonstration of this fact. A prisoner had escaped from the jail there and the warden turned loose about 50 of his prisoners to find the fugitive. The people of the town set out to drink for the convicts and they got so gloriously full that they had to be escorted back to jail."

Hambletonian," warbles some well-informed boarding school girl to her chum at the ringside. It is surprising how interesting is the genealogy of the tree of the equine when a determined girl sets out to climb it.

No chronicle of a day at the Horse Show is true to life that does not take at least a glance at the grooms. They are the elected companions of the horse, and the latter has grown almost his man under their care, they have grown distinctly horse themselves. All of them mediately chew the straw. Most keep up their trousers and fragments of surcingle. Somehow their legs seem to have adapted themselves to the uses of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below stairs at the Grooming.

The large office doctor found that the boy had consumption, and he was sent back to his father in Podkowiska. As the passengers from the steamer were filling through the baggage office Markus was recognized among them. Banker Sheldon soon appeared with a letter of advice from Banker Reuden.

EXPENSIVE HORSE FARE.

A delivery wagon of one of the big bread-making factories of Yorkville stopped in front of one of an uptown livery and boarding stable yesterday morning, says a recent New York Globe, and two men at once unloaded barrels of bread and carried them into the stable. The bread looked good, and was good. There were all sorts and sizes of loaves in the barrels—"home made," "rye," "Vienna," "potato," "graham" and "cot-tage."

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"DROP THIS BOY OUT WEST." So Wrote Markus Rendelstern's Father Shipping him to New York. "Take this boy out west and drop him. I don't want him. I'm tired of him. This was a message received by A. G. Sheldon, of the firm of Sheldon & Co., bankers from the father of Markus Rendelstern, whose home is in Podkowiska, Austrian Galicia, says the New York World.

Markus, who is 14 years old, arrived on the steamer Pennsylvania on Jan. 2 and was sent to live with his uncle, Abram Gelber, on the east side. In a few days the boy was found wandering through the east side streets. The large office doctor found that the boy had consumption, and he was sent back to his father in Podkowiska. As the passengers from the steamer were filling through the baggage office Markus was recognized among them.

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