

THINGS IN GENERAL.

NEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Russian newspapers are strictly forbidden to publish any particulars of the route by which the Czar is to return from Livadia, and letters and telegrams are frequently suppressed. According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette*, the Third Section opens all letters, both from and to Russia, which bear the address of a suspected person, and a book containing a great number of such addresses is kept in the office. Of other letters, too, one in every ten is opened. The booksellers complain that so many passages in books coming from abroad are obliterated by the censors that the books become unsaleable; this is especially the case with Heine's works.

THE EXCHEQUER CHECKMATED.

When Baron Rothschild's death was announced, a Hallelujah, in an undertone, arose from the Treasury at the prospect of the succession duty, not much less than £100,000, which it was thought would be derived from his personal estate of six millions or more, and Sir Stafford Northcote's only regret was that, as the Baron was to be removed to a better world so quickly, Providence had not expedited the catastrophe in order that the windfall might have helped to improve the look of the public accounts during the past financial year. Now, however, it appears likely that the windfall will not come to the Exchequer after all. As the wealth of the Rothschilds is held and used on the Continent as well as in England, it will not be very difficult so to manipulate the executor's statements as to show that the late Baron's personal property was foreign and not English, and therefore not liable to probate duty.

THE PROTESTANT BURIAL GROUND IN ROME.

This burial ground is one of the loveliest places around Rome, and it is full of tender and suggestive associations. It is the graveyard of those who die here out of the Roman communion. Russians, Danes, Germans, French, English, Americans, Italians, and men of I know not what other tongues, lie here together awaiting the resurrection. Under its dark cypresses, and among its clustering roses, are some 1,200 graves,—a silent congregation from all the world. The title to the ground is vested in the German Government, through whose courtesy and Christian charity the people of all the world find consecrated rest. Among the latest graves in its limits is one of world-wide interest—that of William Howitt. A plain slab of marble about eighteen inches square, simply inscribed with his name, and not a word or letter else, mark the spot. The graves of Keats and Shelley, with their familiar inscriptions, are found in the older portion of the ground. Shelley's heart lies right under the massive ruins of a tower on the old Aurelian wall—for the walls of the city form the outside wall of the enclosure.

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE.

A remarkable case of conflicting evidence is reported in the *Liverpool Daily Post*. A charge was recently heard at the police-court of over-crowding on Whitsun Monday the *Knight Commander*, a New Brighton ferry-boat, and three borough policemen were called for the prosecution and four Cheshire policemen for the defence. The boat was licensed to carry 740 passengers. The borough constables declared that 856 disembarked at Liverpool, which would be 116 more than the proper number. The Cheshire officers, speaking of the same voyage, swore that only 728 embarked at New Brighton, which would be 12 under the authorised number. As the boat did not stop in crossing, and as people are not in the habit of swimming out to it from the shore, it seems a safe assumption that the same number entered it at New Brighton as left it at Liverpool. The singular point about this discrepancy is that it goes by counties and not by individuals. Thus each of the three Lancashire men counted 856 passengers; while all the four Cheshire officers counted only 728. There is, therefore, at the same time a remarkable unanimity and an equally remarkable discrepancy, which (the *Liverpool Post* observes) would seem to show that the two forces have not a common basis of arithmetic. In the presence of such conflicting testimony the charge was, of course, dismissed.

INHERITING MEMORY.

Are there not scientific men (and is not Dr. Carpenter one of them?) who consider that when we say an event had made "such an impression on us that we shall never forget it," we are not merely using a metaphor, but stating a fact? Now, if something analagous to "making an impression" on the brain really takes place whenever we commit anything to memory, is it not possible that if the impression be deeply fixed, the impressed brain may be transmitted by the parent to the offspring, who thus "inherits" its ancestor's memory? When we remember that birds take the same journey year after year, generation after generation, century after century, nay, even for ages after ages, I think we shall feel that there are more marvellous things in nature than what I am asking you to consider, namely, the possibility that the young bird at least inherits a knowledge of the way, and is capable of performing the journey alone. If "inherited memory" be accepted as a fact, what a flood of light is thrown on

many puzzles which have hitherto been classed as "instinct," such as the building of birds' nests, the pointing of pointer puppies, the knowledge possessed by young animals of right and wrong food, and of friends and enemies; I am not sure that it will not even throw light on some mysteries in human nature. When I was a child I had a dread of wolves, (a very common thing with children,) and I find the dread reproduced in one of my own children. Yet wolves have been so long extinct in England that we should probably have to go back many generations before we met with the nurses who quieted crying children by threatening to give them to the wolves. May not this be a case of "inherited memory."—*Nature*.

THE TEACHING OF HISTORY IN SCHOOLS.

One of the strongest proofs of the need of a reform in the teaching of history in schools may be seen in the little interest felt by those who have left school, in this great subject. We see young women entering life with a keen desire to understand the existing state of things, and the events of our own time, but with scarcely a sense of what light is thrown by the past on the present, or of how we must find in the past the great movements which issue in the "long results of time." The question is then suggested,—How is it that we find ideas so unintelligent, and often even childish, in regard to a subject of such deep importance and noble proportions as our past national life? Some thought and observations on plans of teaching history give rise to the following hints as probable causes of the want of interest and esteem felt for this subject in after-life:—1. Children are taught history too soon. 2. The want of good books for beginners. 3. Inferior teachers. 4. The cramming for examinations. 5. The employment of the lecture system in teaching history too exclusively and for too long a time.—*Jour. of Women's Ed. Union*.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES.

The following countries, it is said, were originally named by the Phœnicians, the greatest commercial people in the world. The names, in the Phœnician language, signified something characteristic of the places which they designate:

Europe signifies a country of white complexion; so named because the inhabitants were of lighter complexion than those of Asia and Africa.

Asia signifies between, or in the middle, from the fact that the geographers placed it between Europe and Africa.

Africa signifies the land of corn and all sorts of grain.

Siberia signifies thirsty or dry—very characteristic.

Spain, a country of rabbits or conies. It was once so infested with these animals that it sued Augustus for an army to destroy them.

Italy, a country of pitch, from its yielding great quantities of black pitch.

Calabria, also, for the same reason.

Gaul, modern France, signifies yellow-haired as yellow hair characterized its inhabitants.

The English of Caledonia is a high hill. This was a rugged, mountainous province in Scotland.

Hibernia is utmost, or last habitation, for beyond this the westward Phœnicians never extended their voyages.

Britain, the country of tin, great quantities being found on it and adjacent islands. The Greeks called it Albion, which signifies in the Phœnician tongue either white or high mountains, from the whiteness of its shores or the high rocks on the western coast.

Corsica signifies a woody place.

Sardinia signifies the footsteps of men, which it resembles.

Syracuse, bad favour, so called from the unwholesome marsh on which it stood.

Sicily, the country of graves.

HOW MOORE WROTE THE CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

In his passage down the St. Lawrence he jotted down in pencilling upon the fly leaf of a volume he was then reading, both the notes and a few of the words of the original song by which his own boat glee had been suggested. He missed the book on his return, and only recovered it in 1839, when he for the last time visited Ireland. At one of the festive scenes which in Dublin always accompanied his visits, a beautiful girl was introduced to the poet by Mr. Weld, a gentleman of fortune residing in the suburbs; but amid such a crowd of beauty it is doubtful if he would not have let her pass with only casual observation, had not Mr. Weld whispered in his ear, "She possesses the original copy of your 'Canadian Boat Song.'" The book in which the notes were was "Priestly Lectures," and belonged to Mr. Harness, with whom Moore was travelling. On his death the book came into the possession of Machonochie, of Edenmon, near Dublin, who gave it to his daughter. Moore asked to see it, and it was brought to him next day, at Milliken's bookstore, in Grafton street, where he had a private room for writing. When his eyes fell on the well-remembered lines he gazed on them so long and so earnestly, that the lady at last said, "Oh, Mr. Moore, I hope you do not want to take them; they are so dear to me." "No, Miss Machonochie, indeed I do not; but if you knew