

THE CZAR'S CORONATION.

Translated from the French.

How grand must be the coronation of an emperor! What joy—what throngs of people—what enthusiasm! A superb, dazzling, magnificent spectacle, above all, in the capital where the ceremony takes place! But no! This is all a dream. The city is sombre and dismal. The inhabitants have enclosed themselves within their dwellings, where terror holds them captive, for they dare not venture beyond their thresholds. The old are silent, and with drooping heads look sadly on the children, who have ceased their play under a presentiment of woe. The father is gloomy, and the mother clasps her infant in her arms, as if a bloodthirsty tiger coveted this prey. All is quiet; not a murmur escapes, and even the breath is held. The Czar is in the Kremlin!

The Kremlin! A collection of towers of all forms; of bell-towers and donjons and turrets; of minarets and bells; of loop-holes, crenelated walls, ramparts, and fortifications of all descriptions. All in this vast monument—the ancient residence of the tyrants of Russia—all announces disorder and violence; all betrays the continual surveillance required for the safety of a despot! The Kremlin—the work of a malignant mortal whose power knew no bounds and represented armed terror and desolation. Heritage of the dark reign of Ivan III., it stands a prison, a palace, a sanctuary, a bastion against the nation, a refuge for tyrants, a cell for the people!

The Czar is in the Kremlin! He conceals himself for the ceremony of coronation. He desires that none shall know the moment of his arrival. Communication by telegraph is forbidden, as well as public travel on the line to Moscow. Thirty thousand men guard the roads; posts of soldiers are stationed on the embankments, and patrols are running night and day on both sides of the rails. Like his father, the Czar travels in a carriage cased with iron—fearing, perhaps, that his people, in an explosion of enthusiasm, in the wildness of their joy, might overpower him with their adulations, and smother him in their frenzied pleasure!

Why all these precautions? Why all this terror, even at the moment the Czar is entering the cathedral to be definitely crowned and to receive the Holy Sacrament? Why endeavor to shuffle through the ceremony with closed doors, and thus make the coronation a secret affair, in which the nation must have no participation?

It is because the son of Alexander II. well knows the dark and terrible history of his predecessors; because he well knows what rivers of blood have crimsoned their palaces, and what profound misery they have spread throughout the empire. The spectacle of Peter appears before him in all its hideous surroundings; he beholds him furious, intoxicated, in a bloody orgie, showing with what address he can cut off innocent heads. He beholds the debaucheries of Catherine and the infamous licentiousness of Anne, and remembers the cruelties of Elizabeth and Catherine II., so famous for her odious crimes, her extreme depravity, the history of which produces the effect of a horrible nightmare, and which even disgusted her most fanatical adherents. And time has rolled on unmercifully without alleviating sorrow, effacing the widespread gloom, and without power to wipe away the eternal tears shed by the Russian people. Groans and sobs and lamentations reach him from the deserts of Siberia, and before his eyes gibbets are ranged by thousands, all ready to receive their victims.

GOLD IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Special information which reaches us from the Transvaal confirms—indeed more than confirms—the intelligence which we published recently concerning the extraordinary richness of the gold-fields in the Transvaal. The actual number of diggers still working at the Kaap fields is not very large, but their steady perseverance is a good sign of their success. The Boer Government imposes a duty of 5 per cent. on all the gold discovered in the country, and this acts an incentive to secrecy on the part of the miners, who will not willingly declare the full amount of their finds; while they think it is to their interest also to discourage a "rush." But there are at the present time at least 500 diggers steadily at work at De Kaap, and plying duty on considerable quantities of gold. The wealth of the auriferous deposit there, however, is entirely eclipsed by that of the Berlin reef, in the Leydenburg gold-fields. The report of a competent English geologist, acting on behalf of a company which is about to purchase the property, testifies that the minimum average yield of gold in the reef is 16 ounces for every ton of quartz, while as much as 1,000 ounces have been procured from a ton of quartz.—*London Miner.*

WHY ROGUES THRIVE IN OUR BANKS.

The New York Herald has been investigating the cause of so many bank defalcations, and he comes to the following conclusions:—There is hardly a defalcation on record, in connection with banks or other financial institutions, the details of which do not show that the long-continued dishonesty had been plainly written upon the books of the concern for months before it was accidentally discovered. Were those charged with the examination of the accounts to make proper scrutiny of the books (in which are forced balances), and not rest satisfied with simply counting the cash on hand (which, of course, is sure to tally with the forced balances), most of the rogues discovered only when they have brought the bank to ruin would be detected in their rascality before they had succeeded in effecting much damage. It is only the burglar from outside the bank who boldly robs the safe and makes the deficit at once apparent; the thief within the bank doctors the books first, so that the cash missing from the strong box is not noticed by the easy-going examiners from the Board of Direction. There is but one way to prevent this skillful

robbery from within—the passage of a law making the examining directors individually responsible for every dollar lost through false entries upon the books which they are supposed to examine, but which they seldom, if ever, scrutinize.

FOUR NOTED DEFAULTERS.

St. Louis, March 16.—According to the deposition of Oby E. Owen, the defaulting teller of the Third National Bank, it appears that he abstracted from that institution about \$209,000 between 1875, when he began his thieving operations, and the time of his arrest. This money was all sunk in butter and cheese, and in speculations in cotton and grain. He will be sentenced to-morrow. It is expected that he will get between five and ten years in the penitentiary.

Rochester, March 16.—Lewis S. Hoyt, Jr., assignee of C. E. Upton, the defaulting President of the City Bank, to-day filed a schedule of Upton's individual assets and liabilities. The assets are composed almost entirely of fully mortgaged real estate and hypothecated securities, including United Pipe Line certificates. The 216,000 barrels of crude petroleum, also held as collateral, will make only a drop in the bucket toward paying the personal liabilities, which are extensive and cannot at present be determined by the assignee.

Nashville, March 16.—It was reported last night and generally believed that the attorneys of Mr. Polk, the ex-State Treasurer, have made a proposition for the full settlement of his deficit to the State. The friends of Polk do not think he will be convicted. "It might be well, perhaps, to change the charge to receiving stolen money knowing it had been stolen," suggests the Chicago Times.

San Francisco, March 16.—An examination of the books of the Harbor Commissioners to-day showed that John S. Gray, Secretary of the Board, was a defaulter to the amount of \$40,000. Gray said he could make it good, and was given until 1 P.M. to do so. He left the office, and has not been seen since.

SOTHERN'S DOUBLE "SELL."—Sothern gave a dinner-party one evening to about a dozen men. One of the guests, whom we will call Thompson, was late. They had just sat down to their soup, when a loud ring announced the arrival of the late Mr. Thompson. Sothern hastily exclaimed, "Let us all get under the table; fancy Thompson's surprise when he beholds a long table devoid of guests." Sothern's love of practical joking was well known, so that the company were not astonished at the proposition, and in a couple of seconds every man was concealed from view beneath the table. Sothern made a half dive, then resumed his place at the head of the table. Thompson entered, stared, and exclaimed, "Hallo! where are all the fellows?" Sothern shook his head in a lugubrious fashion, and in melancholy tones replied, "I can't explain it, my dear fellow, but the moment they heard your name, they all got under the table." The expression on the faces of the hoaxed guests as they slowly emerged, one by one, from their concealment, can be better imagined than described.—*London Society.*

DOG SMUGGLERS.—A rich native of Switzerland has just died, leaving 100,000 francs for the establishment of an hospital for dogs—not for all dogs in general, but for smugglers' dogs only. No doubt the author of this bequest was himself a smuggler in his youth. It may not be generally known that smuggling upon the Italian-Swiss frontier is largely carried on by dogs specially trained for the purpose. When such a dog has been well trained, a little pack is tied upon his back or attached to him in some other way. It usually contains ten or fifteen pounds weight of smuggled goods. Then the dog runs for the frontier, and as he is always selected with a view to speed and endurance he is sure to make good time. Nevertheless, the custom-house officers are always on the watch, and the dog is often wounded or killed. When he is wounded he makes for home and is at once taken to the hospital and carefully nursed. While training the dogs, a man dressed as a custom-house officer beats and abuses them until the sight of a uniform fills them with unspeakable terror.

STOP GAMBLING IN GRAIN, &c.

There is a bill in the House of Representatives at Springfield Illinois, to prohibit gambling in stocks, grain, provisions, and other commodities. The first section declares it unlawful to sell or buy, or contract to sell or buy, stocks, grains, or commodities of any kind, for future delivery, "without such venter being, at the time of making such sale, contract, or agreement, the owner, assignee, or trustee of the property sold, or agreed or consented to be sold, or the authorized agent of such owner." To this the Judiciary Committee of the House propose to add: "Or unless such venter shall in good faith intend to deliver the article or commodity sold, and the venter to receive the same." The second section declares it unlawful to deal in option contracts, "puts, calls, spreads, straddles," or any such thing. The third section declares it unlawful to keep, or knowingly rent or lease, a place for the purpose of carrying on any such gambling business. The fourth and last section prescribes severe penalties for violating any of the provisions of the bill. For the first offence the penalty proposed is a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000; for the second offence, a fine of \$1,000 to \$2,000, and imprisonment in the county jail from six months to a year; for any subsequent offence, fine \$5,000 to \$10,000, and imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to five years. If the offender is a corporation, its directors and officers to be liable to the penalties. The bill is, of course, aimed at the bucket-shops; for on the regular exchanges the sorts of dealing described are prohibited by the rules, and have long been under the ban.

WHAT IS "A FAVORABLE BALANCE"?

In the discussion of the policy of this country, regarding the tariff, frequent allusion is made to the policy of England and to its commercial relations to other countries. Such allusions often contain incorrect assumptions of fact, which, of course, vitiate the inferences that are drawn. For this reason, if for no other, it may be interesting to glance at some statistics of the British foreign trade during the year 1882. The total value of the imports to the United Kingdom during the year was \$2,060,008,400, being about \$76,000,000, or nearly 4 per cent., greater than the amount in the previous year. The exports of home products amounted to \$1,207,385,700, being about \$37,000,000, or more than 3 per cent., greater than during 1881. The re-exports, or exports of foreign imported goods, were valued at \$329,135,000; so that there was a balance of imports to the amount of \$523,487,700. The total of the imports and exports was nearly 3,600 million dollars, against which, for the sake of comparison, may be placed the amount for the United States for the same time, something over 1,500,000 dollars, showing that, in spite of the large increase in our foreign trade since the war, the mother country still leads by over 2,000 million dollars a year. But the more suggestive comparison is furnished by the difference in the foreign trade balance of the two countries. The excess of imports over exports of the United Kingdom of over 500 million dollars is not considered unnatural or dangerous there, but, on the contrary, many newspapers speak of it as a "favorable balance." In this country, as is well known, a "favorable balance" means only an excess of merchandise exports. The opinion is very commonly held that an excess of imports must be followed by an export of specie, but Great Britain actually gained over \$13,000,000 in gold and silver, on balance last year.—*Rhode's Journal.*

The following is an unreported examination that took place before one of the commissioners appointed to inquire into a certain election petition—"What is your name?" "George Jones." "Well, what do you know of this?" "On the day of the election I went to the 'Spotted Dog.'" "What did you do there?" "I seed a man." "Well, what did he do?" "He give me five shillings, and said as how I was to vote for Mr. X." "Well, did you vote for Mr. X?" "No, sir." "What did you do then?" "I went on to the 'Fig and Whistle.'" "Well, there?" "There I seed another man." "What did he do?" "He give me five shillings, and said I was to vote for Mr. X." "And did you vote?" "No, sir." "What did you do then?" "I went on to the 'Red Lion.'" "And there?" "There I seed a man too." "And did he give you five shillings and tell you to vote for Mr. X?" "He did." "And did you?" "No, sir." "Why, on your own admission, you obtained fifteen shillings to vote for one of the candidates! Did you vote at all?" "No, sir." "Why not?" "Because I ain't got no vote; it's my father, George Jones, who's an elector!" Collapse of Commissioner.

THE U.S. MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—A postal Bill was passed by the late Congress modifying the postal money order system so as to authorize Postmasters of money order offices, under authority of the Postmaster-General, to issue postal notes in denominations of \$5 and under. This is an important Bill, and will greatly facilitate the transmission of small sums through the mails. It authorizes the issue of money orders without corresponding advices of \$5 and less, to be on engraved paper, and known as postal notes, payable to bearer, such notes to be invalid after three months, but the holder can after that time get the par value of the note by applying to the Post Office Department at Washington. For issuing a postal note a fee of three cents shall be charged. This Bill authorizes the issue of money orders in denominations of \$100 or less, but none for more than \$100 can be issued. The following fees are fixed to be charged for money orders:—For orders not exceeding \$10, 8 cents; from \$10 to \$15, 10 cents; \$15 to \$30, 15 cents; \$30 to \$40, 20 cents; \$40 to \$50, 25 cents; \$50 to \$60, 30 cents; \$60 to \$70, 35 cents; \$70 to \$80, 40 cents; \$80 to \$100, 45 cents.

THE POLICE AND TELEPHONES.—An experiment in a small way with a police telephone booth in Brooklyn has shown to what uses the telephone may be put. In Chicago the system of telephone booths, with wires to police stations, coupled with the use of the police wagons, is said to equal the addition of several hundred men to the force. A small booth, containing automatic calls for police assistance, for an ambulance, and for the Fire Department, with a telephone for conversation with Police Headquarters—as is the case in the Brooklyn experiment—is practically equal to a sub-police station. If stationed where the posts of several policemen meet, citizens are sure, if these policemen are compelled to signal the headquarters at intervals, to know where to find the police—a kind of knowledge difficult to acquire at points remote from the police stations. Keys to the booths may safely be trusted to responsible persons as fire keys now are. The police trials every week show how the city's defenders shirk the patrol of the streets, and telephone booths which tell an unerring tale of neglect unless visited by the policemen in the vicinity are worth more than peripatetic roundsmen.

INSANITY v. INSURANCE.—The Supreme Court of Wisconsin, in the case of Karrow et al. vs. The Continental Insurance Company of New York, decided on February 20, held among other things that where there was nothing in the policy to the contrary, a fire insurance company was not relieved from liability because property covered by the policy was burned by the assured while in a state of insanity, nor unless the burning was caused by the voluntary act, assent, procurement or design of the assured.