

A reader of THE CRITIC who takes an interest in the microbe theory and is not yet weary of it, asks us to re-publish the following clipping, which we do, but do not vouch for the reliability of the statement. It appears there is very little that ancients did not know. "Ancient Microbe Theory."—The French traveller, Clane, narrated that in Sumatra a book is exhibited, made of bark paper many centuries old, on which the writing is still distinct, and which contains lucid diagrams illustrating the microbic origin of disease and tracing the growth of microbes. This, M. Clane claims, is clear evidence that the germ theory of disease was known in the far East many ages ago."

The Queen of the Hawaiian Islands, Lillinokalani, who succeeded to the throne upon the death of King Kalakana, is said to be at the point of death, and the news revives speculation as to the ultimate fate of the Islands over which she rules. The only heir to the throne is the young Princess Keiniani, now at School in England, and it is said there cannot be found in all the Islands a regent upon whom the people will agree to have rule during the minority of the Princess. The people are said to be in a state of excitement, but the Honolulu papers dare not print a word of what is going on. Whether Britain or the United States will become the possessor of this nice little kingdom in the Pacific is problematical, but under the circumstances there appears little doubt that Hawaiian Royalty is nearing its final end. We would naturally like to see these Islands come under British control, but the Americans in Honolulu will make a strong effort to prevent this consummation.

Not a little surprise has been occasioned by the announcement that Lord Tennyson has written a three-act comedy especially for Manager Augustin Daly, with a role particularly adapted for Miss Rehan. "The Rambler" in *The Week* says he supposes we dare not consider this announcement in the light of a joke, but he makes a pretty good joke of it by the synopsis he gives of a sort of amplified "Locksley Hall, bringing in many Tennysonian expressions, phrases, etc., in a ludicrous way. It is apparently no joke, however, that Lord Tennyson, at the age of 82, has undertaken the role of a dramatist to order, as it were, this being his first and only piece written especially for the stage. The play is to be first produced in New York by the Daly company, and afterwards in England—a somewhat remarkable arrangement, and one which would have been considered a wild prediction had any one foretold it. The greatest English poet of the century, submitting his first full comedy to the test in America! Truly, this fact, as well as the announcement that he has turned his attention to that sort of work, is calculated to create surprise in literary and dramatic circles on both sides of the water. There is no doubt of the great interest taken in the forthcoming production, which will probably be the leading dramatic event of the season.

Julien Gordon, whose books and articles are popular just now, has some sensible remarks on heroines in *Lippincott's Magazine* for October. She calls attention to the old-fashioned heroine, who was fashioned after a manner so ultra refined and delicate that her feet were usually too minute to carry even her attenuated body, and refers to the time when physical vigor in a woman was deemed unfeminine. She then points out that the women who ruled in history and in the hearts of men were not invalids, and cites the cases of Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Argive Helen, and Marguerite de Valois, the key note of whose success was vitality. By way of giving women an impulse to try and obtain the healthfulness of a pure body and a vivid mind, she concludes:—"Vitality is love as well as beauty. The warm hand, the melting lips, the sweet breath, the deep eyes of health—how alluring are these, how fortifying. And the intensified senses are but the expression of high mental capacity. Happiness can be lost or won only by those who can comprehend it. To many it is an unguessed term. What a delight comes with the presence of one person! What weariness with the advent of another! One is like a breath of flowers, a refrain found again after many years; another is like the parody of a beloved poem. We would say to the average woman who is not an angel, 'keep healthy.'"

The moon is an attractive body, we have always been told, and the poets of all ages have celebrated her charms. Hood asks—

"The moon—who does not love the silver moon,
In all her fantasies and all her phases?"

But Hood had not the opportunity of finding out what a great many fantasies and phases our satellite can indulge in, as we, through the medium of students of the moon, are blessed with. According to Prof. J. L. Ray, of Asbland, Va., who has been studying the moon through a telescope, there has recently been extraordinary volcanic action on the planet. He says that on the night of June 22nd, tremendous energy over the whole surface presented itself. He saw that what of late have been considered great gray plains are in reality seas, or else a molten mass, as he saw immense sheets, seemingly of water, thrown through the lunarian atmosphere and find a resting place at least a thousand miles from where they formerly were. He says he saw several great mountains sink—the whole moon swaying to and fro, and everything in the lunar heavens became in the wildest confusion. For hours he gazed upon the awful spectacle with intense awe, until the confusion finally subsided, and there seemed to be a dead calm as before. Prof. Ray feels convinced that the moon was thrown several degrees out of her course, but as no other astronomer appears to have noticed the phenomenon we may be allowed to doubt that the moon is "perceptibly nearer, perhaps, 20,000 miles." "Paddy's lantern" could not be said to be calm and clear while such a rumpus was in progress.

The New York *Press* cites the case of a woman in that city who has certainly achieved a wonderful degree of success in getting married, having had no less than fifteen husbands. Her present name is Henderson, and the reason of her remarkable matrimonial record becoming known, was the fact that she was arrested and sentenced to three months' imprisonment for abusing Helen Dennis, the child of her fourteenth spouse. Mrs. Henderson was born in Havana, of Spanish parents, was educated in Paris, and there first married.

When Principal Grant, of Queen's College, "speaks out in meeting" he has a large audience, and his words bear weight. Others besides Principal Grant were shocked that the scandals connected with the name of Mr. Haggart, Postmaster-General, and a young lady in the employ of the department were not investigated, and all right-thinking people in this Dominion will agree with what the Principal said on October 3rd in the course of a lecture, entitled "Some crumbs of comfort from the session of Parliament which has just been closed." Referring to the Haggart matter he spoke of the fact that the inquiry had been rigidly limited, and said that if the woman and the Minister were innocent anything more unjust to both could not be conceived. Mr. Haggart denied in the House that he was guilty of the crime with which he was charged, but as Principal Grant says, "such a denial amounts to nothing. Where a woman is concerned it does not amount even to the permissible 'not guilty,' which every criminal pleads." He does not wonder, when the Postmaster-General was satisfied, that the Cabinet and the House were reluctant to enter a new investigation in the last days of the session. The second charge made against him (in connection with an old contract) shrinks into insignificance beside the first. In connection with the more serious charge the Principal said:—"Such a man should no longer insult the moral sense of the community by remaining an adviser of the Queen. If he does not retire it will be ill for the Cabinet, for, though the women of Canada have no votes, they influence votes, and this is a sin they will neither forget nor forgive." This is a blow straight from the shoulder and will awaken the people of Canada to a realization of what has been transpiring at Ottawa more than the work of a dozen committees. Corruption in high places is not to be tolerated, and the man who serves his country should at least live a pure life. Had this matter been investigated and settled one way or the other, it would have been better for all concerned.

It is not fair for us in viewing the Dardanelles question to be biased or one-sided, but to look at it all round, which means from Russia's side as well as ours. We find in *Harper's Weekly* an article purporting to be by a British officer, Captain Dugmore, who handles the matter ably from his standpoint. The article is entitled "A Good Word for Russia," and will prove interesting to our readers. "It cannot be denied that Russia is now (as England once was in a lesser degree) the most distinctly and actively civilizing power in the world. Fortunately for the human race, British prejudice, which would fain have impeded her establishment of law and order in the Caucasus, has proved powerless to prevent the complete fulfilment of her beneficent mission in Central Asia, where she has rapidly converted into decent samples of humanity the savage and blood-thirsty tribes that English folly desired to maintain as a sort of bramble-wilderness barrier or 'Tom Tiddler's ground' between two civilized nations. Backed by railroads and ample lines of supply and of transport, Russia now stands armed on the threshold of India, which nothing but British imbecility in obstinately denying her an outlet in any other direction will ever tempt her to cross; and yet, while she already occupies and can never be ousted from this commanding point of vantage, it is actually still thought worth while to maintain a chronic situation of dangerous turmoil in the East of Europe, lest, forsooth, a few Russian ships emerging from the Dardanelles, and having to pass a dozen points in the Archipelago where the English and Italian navies could bar their further progress with the greatest ease, should threaten India (already at Russia's feet as much as it can ever be) by running the gauntlet of the canal through (British) Egypt, thence through the Red Sea and past its key, (British) Aden! Or is it, perchance, feared that, slipping past (British) Gibraltar, they should reach India (query: under sail? for no coal would be available) by way of the Cape of Good Hope, or may be Cape Horn. For a parallel to the situation we must imagine (with some difficulty) Canada an independent nation, having got through the Government corruption epoch with the loss only of Nova Scotia, and then picture to ourselves Newfoundland coerced by the United States, or perhaps by Chili, into blockading the St. Lawrence. How long would it be tolerated for Canadian Government ships returning from service in the West Indies or in Europe to be debarred from approaching Ottawa, or whatever city may eventually become their capital, any nearer than Vancouver, and having to round the Horn to do that? How long would Austria or Italy submit to be shut into the Mediterranean by a prohibitive agreement between England at Gibraltar and Spain at opposite and far more impregnable Ceuta? Keeping the Dardanelles closed is assuredly no protection to Constantinople against Russia, which can go there when she pleases without passing them, encountering no resistance except from the comparatively weak forts on the upper Bosphorus, easily turned by a landing on the Black Sea coast. It is curious to observe the difference in the armament and efficiency of these two positions of about equal natural strength; the weaker defence by far being opposed to Russia, and the stronger to western Europe. It should also be noted that it is only in time of peace, when no danger exists, that the closing of the Dardanelles in conformity with treaties is enforced. In time of war England has always been the first to disregard and violate the regulations on this point dictated by herself."

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