

Ships can now go to sea with frozen ammunition. By the use of liquid air, so low a temperature can be maintained that the explosion of a magazine would be almost impossible.

A story which has found its way into print, but still seems to need verification, is to the effect that documents discovered in Peking record the discovery of America by the Chinese in the year A. D. 449.

To suppress the bubonic plague within its limits cost the city of Glasgow \$5,300,000.

The German government has arranged with Booker T. Washington, the well known negro president of the Tuskegee Institute, to send educated negroes from the Southern States to German West Africa, there to introduce the cultivation of cotton.

A school without books has been established under the auspices of the University of Chicago. Its plan is to apply kindergarten principles to the whole school course, carrying on the education of children chiefly through the manual arts, deferring the use of books until the need of them is felt for the sake of the information they will give, their use then to be accompanied by a knowledge of how they are made, and some practical instruction in printing.

The claim of the United States against Turkey for damages to missionary property is said to have been tacitly arranged through an order for a Turkish warship to be built in the United States.

A new gold field has been discovered in Nova Scotia.

Of the four Chinese vessels captured by the British at Taku, one each was given to France, Germany and Russia. These, says the London Chronicle, have now been re-named. The French one is called Taku—"in honor of a glorious epoch in the French Marine." The Russian one is called Taku—"to commemorate a great Russian naval victory." The German one bears the name Taku—"in never-to-be-forgotten memory of this all-convincing proof that Germany's future is of the sea;" and finally Taku is the name of the one kept by the British navy, because—"it's as handy a name as any other, and there's a gap at 'Ta' in the signal-book."

The revolt in the United States of Columbia still continues, and the chief cities of the little republic are threatened by the insurgent forces. A warship from British Columbia will look after British interests at the isthmus on the Pacific coast, and the cruiser Intrepid is at Colon for the same purpose.

An American explorer now returning from a four years' sojourn in Central Africa has made important discoveries, including the discovery of three native tribes, heretofore unknown to our geography, and the discovery of a species of elephant much smaller than hitherto known.

Lieut. Perry, the Arctic explorer, has been heard from, under date of March 31st of the present year. He was then well, and hoped to reach the Pole at some time during the summer.

Captain Bernier, of Quebec, has gained the support of the president of the Royal Geographical Society for his proposed attempt to reach the North Pole; and hopes both the British government and the government of Canada will aid his expedition. His plan is to sail from Vancouver, enter the Polar Sea in August, and winter on the ice.

The Duke and Duchess of York will visit Canada, but the date of their coming has not yet been definitely fixed.

The discovery of a great tract of fertile country in the Province of Ontario, north of the height of land, adds one-sixth to the area in that province available for cultivation. This country, extending to the shores of Hudson Bay, was, until recently, an almost unknown wilderness, and was supposed to be too cold for cultivation. Now, however, it is stated that, owing partly to its lower elevation, the climate on the south shore of James Bay is more moderate than that of Manitoba. A railway is under construction from Sault Ste. Marie northward, and is expected to reach Moose Factory within three years, opening up rich forest and meadow land as it goes, and finally giving access to the valuable fisheries of Hudson Bay.

Volumes of history have been written, and must still be written, to tell the story of the last hundred years; but a glance at the following figures relating to the territorial expansion of the leading nations will serve to show how the increase in the size of the British Empire, and, by inference, its increase in commercial importance within the last century, compares with that of other countries. Germany, a number of separate states in 1800, now embraces an aggregate territory of over a million square miles. Russia, which at the beginning of the century claimed an immense territory extending from the Baltic Sea to the Rocky Mountains, has since parted with her American possessions, but still increased her territories from five million to six and a half million square miles. France, which in 1800 ruled about one million square miles, now governs more than three and a half times that area; and the territory of the United States of America, beginning the century with an area a little less than that of France, now includes rather more. Great Britain has expanded the area of her empire from a little over a million square miles in 1800 to something over twelve million in 1900; her territory being now nearly double that of Russia, which was five times as great as hers at the beginning of the century, and now nearly equalling the aggregate of that of all the other nations mentioned.

Affairs in China are so involved that it is difficult to say whether any event of importance has occurred there within the last month. Rumors current one day are denied the next. There can be no doubt, however, that very many missionaries met a martyr's fate in the remote provinces of the Chinese Empire, and that the provincial governors approved, and in some cases personally assisted in the slaughter. That these governors, who were actuated by what seemed to them patriotic motives, will be punished by the Chinese government, at the request of the powers, is by no means certain.