

Women have from time to time been elected members of the London County Council, but have been unseated and fined because the law does not permit them to act as councillors. It is gratifying to those who are on the side of progress to know that at a recent influentially-attended meeting held in the Westminster Town Hall, under the presidency of the Earl of Meath, a resolution was unanimously passed pledging support to the bill for admitting women to the membership of county councils.

The recent suicide of the Duke of Bedford has brought the fact to mind that there have been no fewer than twelve cases of suicide in the Peerage during the present century. These are Lord French, Lord Londonderry, Lord Greaves, Lord James Beresford, Lord Munster, Lord Congleton, Lord Forth, Lord Clonlarry, Lord Walsingham, Lord Delaware, Lord Lytton, and Lord Shaftesbury. Beside these, Dr. Samuel Butler, Bishop of Meath, took his own life in 1876, and the Dowager Lady Howe met a similar tragic end in the following year.

It is a pity that the visit of the Empress Frederick to Paris should have been made the occasion for journalistic outbreaks against Germany. It is true the Empress was travelling *incognito*, and that she sacrificed her *incognito* to visit the Palace of Versailles, but that such a slight pretext was seized as an excuse for re-opening old wounds, only shows that it is best to let sleeping dogs lie. The Empress got away from Paris without any personal disrespect being shown to her, but it is evident that she left none too soon. The French Cabinet solved the question of calling upon Empress Frederick by a compromise, sending the Chief of President, Carnot's Military Household, General Brugere, and M. Ribot, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to leave cards at the German Embassy, the Empress's *incognito* being used as an excuse for President Carnot not showing her that mark of respect. Unless Emperor William is possessed of even more temerity than he is credited with, he will not tempt providence by visiting France after the result of the feeler recently thrown out.

The British South Africa Company, which obtained its charter in October, 1889, has made in sixteen months such progress in the territory under its influence that the Directors have found it necessary to obtain authority to have a special set of postage and revenue stamps engraved for use in their own sphere. The *London Times* says these stamps have been issued, and that on the whole they are in design, execution and colouring, tasteful and appropriate. There are eleven different values—1d., 6d., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., £1, £2, £5, £10. In the centre are two springboks, supporting a shield, across the middle of which are three ships, in the lower compartment is an elephant, and in the upper are two animals apparently intended for oxen. Over the shield is a lion, which may be either British or South African. The general field of the shield is covered with grain. Over all is the name of the Company, and underneath its motto, "Justice, Freedom, Commerce." The four stamps of highest value are surrounded by a scroll. Besides requiring special stamps the Company has built some hundreds of miles of railways and telegraph lines, and opened up a country believed to be rich in gold. A South African confederation will doubtless probably be effected before a great while, and these rich districts opened by the South Africa Company ought to make such a confederation very desirable.

The vice of hypocrisy is generally considered one of the meanest that afflicts humanity. Milton calls it

"The only evil that walks invisible,
Except to God alone,
By His permissive will, through Heaven and earth,"

but it appears that there is something to be said in its favor. In the *Popular Science Monthly* for March, Mr. John McElroy discourses on "Hypocrisy as a Social Elevator" as follows:—"When atrabilarious Hamlet, in his choleric interview with his mother in the cabinet, impudently advised her to

"Assume a virtue if you have it not,"

he unwittingly laid down a general conduct rule of high value to individuals and the community. Simulation of virtue, though far inferior to the real article, is still the next best thing to it, just as whitewash, though much inferior to marble, is greatly superior to dirty nakedness. It is very desirable that all men and all women should stand together on the very highest plane of goodness; but the largest proportion of them do not—probably never will. It is unreasonable to expect that the mass of humanity will be steadily aligned on the most advanced standards of morality, especially when those standards are pushed forward as rapidly as they have been in the more recent centuries. Ethics is a constantly developing science. What was a high grade of morality in the eighteenth century would be a very ordinary one to-day; just as the man who, in our colonial times, would have been regarded as neat and cleanly in his person, would seem a good deal of a sloven to-day. Then, as now, men and women assumed to be much cleaner, morally and physically, than they really were, and by sheer force of persistence and habit became really cleaner than they at first pretended to be. Persons with the bump of approbateness highly developed constantly forge to the front on lines which they think will win them the esteem of their fellows, and the latter follow with unequal steps, first showing outward respect and conformity to better ideas and practices, and then making them more or less of realities in their lives." If this be so, we ought to be models of virtue in almost every respect. There is plenty of hypocrisy going, and its effects as a social elevator ought to be more pronounced than they are.

The excitement created by Dr. Koch's lymph has somewhat subsided, but the tide of investigation having been turned towards discovering a cure for tuberculous diseases, other doctors are now bringing forth the results of their studies. Professor Liebrich, of Berlin, has experimented, it is said, with successful results, in injecting under the skin of patients afflicted with tuberculosis and other diseases, a solution of cantharidate of potash. The Professor was obliged to describe and make public these facts prematurely by Minister Von Gossler, who is giving the matter much attention. Another alleged cure for diseases of a tuberculosis nature is the transfusion of goat's blood into the patient. The goat and a few other animals are entirely free from tuberculosis, and this is the basis of the supposition that it will relieve human beings from susceptibility to such disease. Sheep also are exempt, and it is suggested that if the "cure" should prove of any value, that these animals, being used for food, would supply the necessary blood cheaply, and without sacrificing the goats. It would be strange if a new sort of passport should be instituted in these latter days, by which the blood of sheep or lambs should prove effective against the angel of death in the form of consumption and kindred diseases. Doctors Bertin, Picq and Roustan, are the exponents of this system, and are still making experiments at Cannes.

The revolution in Chili did not at first appear to be a very serious matter, and it was looked upon pretty generally as likely to be of short duration, as South American revolutions often are. Such has not been the case. Since the bombardment of Iquique with heavy loss of life and great damage to property, and the shooting in cold blood of captured officers, the revolution may well be called bloody. Two hundred women and children perished in the ruins of the sacked buildings, and had it not been for the brave action of Captain Lambton, of H. M. S. *Warspile* in landing under fire to arrange an armistice and take on board the remaining women and children of the town, the loss of life would have been much greater. The town is now in possession of the revolting fleet. It is gratifying to our national pride that a Britisher should be on the spot to look after the interests of the helpless women and children. A few weeks ago we gave an outline of the causes leading to this outbreak, so our readers ought to be posted on the subject. President Balmaceda has issued a decree calling for a Presidential election in March. It declares the members of both chambers of Congress rebels, and sentences them to deportation. The faculties for nominating and securing the election of the new President by the one in power will not in all likelihood be as great as formerly. It is to be hoped that the election will turn so as to bring the rebellion to an end.

The reports of hostilities breaking out again in the Sudan between Egyptians and the Madhists under Osman Digma have rather surprised the civilized world. Few people have taken an interest in or observed the course of events in Egypt since the rebellion of 1883, which, although quiescent for some time, has never been fully quenched. In 1882 Egypt owned the whole of Eastern Sudan, with Nubia, part of the Somali country and the coast land between Abyssinia and the Gulf of Aden, extending as far south as the Albert Nyanza, forming altogether an immense tract of about 1,000,000 square miles, with a population of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000. Now the Khedive's possessions are limited to the valley of the Nile, as high up as Akashe, above Wadi Halfa, in latitude 22 degrees N., to the Oases, the Sinai peninsula, the Land of Midian in Arabia and to Suakin, having a total area of 494,000 square miles, of which 10,328 square miles consist of arable land, and 13,363 square miles are covered with water, towns, roads, etc., the rest being a desert affording at most pasturage in a few favored localities. The last hold upon the Sudan was virtually given up when Emin Pasha, Governor of the Equatorial Province, was relieved by Henry M. Stanley in March, 1889. Suakin, on the Red Sea, and Zeila and Berbera on the Gulf of Aden, are occupied by British troops, while the Italians have been permitted to establish themselves at Massowah. The battle which took place at Tokar on February 19th should be discouraging to Osman Digma's armies, since they were defeated with great loss. However, the efforts of the dervishes to keep Egyptians out of the Provinces have never shown any signs of being abandoned, and when defeated they simply withdraw and repair their losses, and wait until the next favorable opportunity to deal a blow at the Egyptians. The interior, the home of these rebels, is by far the finest part of the country, and little wonder that Egypt would like to re-establish her authority there. The example of the training and discipline of the English and other soldiers in occupation has, no doubt, much to do with the late successful encounter of the Egyptian soldiers with the rebels, for although the latter are generally supposed to fight more like devils than men, their losses were extraordinary, almost every man of importance being killed. The leader himself, Osman Digma, however, is wise in his generation, and dispatches state that he viewed the battle from a neighboring hill and then escaped. Doubtless the adage—"He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day," or at least the truth contained in it, occurred to him, and was acted upon. Despite the victory being upon the side of law and order, it is not probable that the advantage will be pushed at present towards the eventual re-acquisition of the Sudan. The fact is the rebels have been harassing and interrupting the trade of Suakin, making the occupation of Tokar by Egypt a necessity. Tokar is the centre of a rich oasis which supplies all the grain for the Provinces, and is also the most important point of supply for the grain trade between Suakin and Handoub and the interior. It was made a penal settlement by former Egyptian Governments, and the most abandoned criminals were sent there and employed to collect tribute from the Sudanese tribes. This, it is said, was one of the main causes of the rebellion. With an intelligent Government at Tokar, such as the present expedition is probably intended to establish, order and industry would flourish, and this unpleasant slaughtering business come to an end.