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THE TROUBLES OF FRANCE.

In the defeat at Tamsui on the 15th of September, the French admit they lost 106 men killed, and a flag. The admiral offered two new flags if the victors would return the one they captured,—but they refused. It is announced that the French are going to blockade the island of Formosa, and keep the coal mines at Kelung; but British military men say that Admiral Courbet has not nearly enough ships for the task. Fifteen thousand more men, and quantities of stores and ammunition, are being sent out for the French army and navy in China. The Chinese government is also active just now, buying great quantities of heavy guns, small arms and other war material, in England and Germany.

The result of the high-handed proceedings of the French has been, in some parts of China, not only the destruction of the Roman Catholic Churches and the banishment of priests but the wrecking of Protestant mission buildings as well.

Reports from Madagascar received in Paris says that Admiral Miot, commander of the French forces, is negotiating with some Malagasy chiefs who are disposed to lend assistance to the French. Three hundred Hovas, who recently attacked the French post at Passandava, were repulsed with heavy loss. Four hundred volunteers from Reunion, about 360 miles away, are now ready to co-operate with the regular French forces. It is now too late in the season for the French to march upon the capital. This will involve a delay of eight months. Sickness among the French troops is increasing.

Meanwhile, the French at home are very much troubled about money matters. So far, the Government has had a majority in the Chamber of Deputies whenever their foreign policy has been attacked, but there is no saying what may happen to their schemes of taxation. The municipal budget shows an increase of \$700,000 for the relief of destitute poor,—for there is a great deal of distress on the continent of Europe as well as in Britain and America. The French Government, however, is going to try to knock off no less than \$11,200,000 of expenditure this year; and there is also a proposal before the budget committee to levy a three-per-cent tax on the incomes of religious corporations!

WAS IT A DREAM?

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Oct. 20, 1884.—This morning when Rice Orbin came down to breakfast at his parents' home in Bradford he exclaimed in frightened tones, "I had a terrible dream last night. I dreamed that I shot a man while out hunting last Thursday." His relatives laughed at the matter, but young Orbin insisted upon going to the scene of the shooting, and finally persuaded his brother-in-law, named Jones, to accompany him. Arriving at a spot five miles from home, in a dense thicket of

laurel, they found the body of Jacob Klink, with a bullet hole through the brain. Orbin and his companion were horrified, and hastily returned to town and notified Justice Campbell, who will hold an inquest to-morrow. Orbin's story is received with some degree of incredulity, the general opinion being that he shot Klink accidentally and was afraid to confess. Both men bore good reputations. The air of mystery surrounding the killing is the source of a great deal of comment, and makes the tragedy the sole topic of conversation on the streets.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Grand Trunk Railway Company has just been held in London. The chairman, Sir Henry Tyler, said that the great reduction of revenue arose from the bad harvest of last year, and the consequent diminution of business, and from other causes wholly beyond human control. The position of the Company, he said, would have been much worse had not the policy of retrenchment vigorously pursued by the board, been adopted. He looked forward hopefully to the future. The harvest this year had been exceptionally good, especially in the districts served by the Company's roads, and the amount of business to be done would be much greater during the coming winter than it was during the past. Lord Claud Hamilton gave a brief account of his recent tour over the Grand Trunk lines, and testified to the excellent condition and able management of the road. The shareholders gave no opposition to the directors' report.

DURING SIX YEARS,—1875 to 1880,—the commitments for all crimes in Ontario numbered 69,340, with an average of 11,557 a year; in Maine, the total was 13,738, giving an average of 2,289. Commitments for "drunk and disorderly" numbered 22,724 in Ontario and 4579 in Maine. That is, with the fullest allowance for difference of population, Ontario has double the crime and drunkenness of Maine. And one very important thing to be remembered is that under prohibition the police arrest a far larger proportion of drunken persons than under license. Crime in Ontario has been startlingly on the increase for three years back. The total commitments in 1881 were 9229; in 1883 they were 9880. "Drunk and disorderly" rose from 3328 to 3895. Is there any need to give the cause? The official reports of Ontario Prison Commissioners show the cause to be the increase in sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors.

A REPORTER of the Toronto *Globe* dressed himself as a workman, and went to a number of the most fashionable churches in Toronto. He describes the treatment he got in the Metropolitan (Methodist) Church, St. James' Cathedral, and new St. Andrew's (Presbyterian), as very chilling, and suggestive of any religion but that described in the words "To the poor the gospel is preached." In Jarvis street (Baptist) Church, however, and in Bond street (Congregational) Church, he was welcomed and made quite at home, just as he was.

FIRES.—Two hundred and two buildings have been burned at Carthage, N.Y.; loss \$500,000. A lumber yard, planing mills and other buildings were burned at Pawtucket, R. I.; loss, \$100,000. Nearly a whole business block in Frankford, Ont., has been consumed by fire. Chapman's great dry goods store at Milwaukee has suffered the same fate, causing \$650,000 loss. The Grand Trunk Railway freight sheds at Lindsay, Ontario, with cars and merchandise, have been burned: loss, probably \$50,000. A fire in a Toronto dry goods store is supposed to have been caused by sparks from the electric light.

AN OTTAWA CONTRACTOR named O'Leary has been condemned to pay \$305 and costs, damages, to a man injured by a rock thrown by a blast in a drain contracted for by O'Leary.

A MOB ATTACKED the town hall of Portadown, Ireland, where a meeting in favor of the Reform Bill was being held. Mr. Dickson M.P. and other Liberals were wounded. Perhaps this is in return for the disgraceful way in which a Conservative meeting at Birmingham was recently broken up by roughs.

IT WAS SAID that President Arthur was going to marry a sister of Secretary Frelinghuysen; but the report has been denied.

MICHAEL DAVITT and Henry George are starting a socialist newspaper in London.

A FINE STEEL PLATED warship, the "Rodney" has just been added to the British Navy. She is one of six, four of which are still building.

FATHER RIORDAN, who visited Ireland to prevent reckless emigration to America by informing the people of the true condition of affairs in this country, returned to New York on Monday. He says that in no part of Ireland did he find such utter wretchedness as exists among some of the same nationality in New York city.

FRANK BURTON, the Republican leader who was shot and killed at Lacrosse, Wisconsin, was employed in the Canadian Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, in 1867.

FIFTEEN MEMBERS of the Diet of Croatia have been prevented from taking their seats by police. The Croats having elected a Diet in favor of independence, it looks as if the Imperial Austrian government is not going to respect even their parliamentary liberty.

A UNITED STATES STEAMER is going along the coast of British Columbia to visit the Indians who have saved the crews of wrecked American ships.

TWENTY STUDENTS and a number of girls of good family have been arrested in Warsaw, charged with Nihilism.

A SALOON KEEPER having carried on his death-dealing trade at Palmyra, Indiana, thirty women took the law into their own hands and wrecked the saloon. If the fellow goes on with his poison-mongering they threaten to lynch him.

A RUSH to the gold mines at Lorne Creek, British Columbia, is expected next spring.

A MORMON named Clawson has at last been convicted of polygamy, under the new law of the United States. Sentence will be pronounced on Monday.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL attempt has been made to blow up the dock gates at Coleraine, Ireland.

CANADA'S exports of forest produce during September amounted to \$2,523,338, more than a million dollars less than the same item in September of last year: 73,326 persons have entered and settled in Canada this year; in the same period of last year the number was 89,463.

LORD NORTHBROOK has returned to England. The results of his mission to Egypt are still doubtful. He urged the reduction of taxation, and the Egyptian premier agreed that the country would be made much more prosperous thereby, but said it would have to be put off for two years. There is no authentic news from the Sudan this week, though a painful rumor comes that Khartoum has been captured by rebels and the garrison massacred. A letter from the special correspondent of the *Witness* says that the Canadians have safely arrived in Egypt, all except one Indian from Manitoba, named Richard Henderson, who died from an abscess in the head. On one evening "a short address was given by Sergeant-Major Neilson, in which he highly recommended temperance habits on the Nile as being essential to health. His advice seems to have been effectual, and will likely be acted upon."

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT has begun its extra session, to consider the Reform Bill. The Irish Nationalist members of the House of Commons have decided not to vote on the question, but the Bill will yet have a very large majority. Lord Salisbury, if he can, will persuade the Lords to defeat the Bill again; this is just what the hottest Radicals want, as the people would then be led to abolish the House of Lords altogether.

THE KING OF BELGIUM has "requested" the resignation of two members of the Cabinet, and a new government has been formed. The obnoxious education bill will now be somewhat changed. Another dissolution of parliament is expected.

AN ATTEMPT has been made, by a Radical student, to shoot the King of Belgium.

GERMANY is said to have taken Zanzibar under her protecting wing.

AN EXPEDITION sent against the Pathans, a lawless tribe in the north-west of India has defeated 500 of them, killing 56.

AFTER NINETY DAYS of drought in Alabama, rain has now fallen, and extends north to Tennessee.

A NUMBER of Pittsburg oil dealers have failed.

NEW YORK business reports are not very hopeful for the near future.

THREE MEN have been fined \$34 for walking in the fields at Hamden, Connecticut, last Sunday, with guns on their shoulder.