

WAR SHIPS ASSEMBLED.

Vessels of the Various Powers Now at the Levant.

A STRONG FLEET OF SHIPS.

Nearly all the powers have sent or are sending vessels to Turkish waters, and the following is the list of those men-of-war which are on the spot or have received orders to sail for the Levant.

- AUSTRIA. The following Austrian warships are now in the Levant: The Tegetthoff, ironclad, 7,390 tons. The Kaiserin Elizabeth, second-class cruiser, 4,064 tons. The Donau, third-class cruiser, 2,243 tons. The Sebenico, torpedo gunboat, 900 tons. The Meteor, torpedo gunboat, 350 tons. The Taurus, paddle-wheel vessel. FRANCE. The following French ships have just been specially ordered to the east: The Devastation, battle ship, 9,639 tons. The Linois, third-class cruiser, 2,270 tons. The Faucon, torpedo cruiser, 1,240 tons. The Admiral Charner, first-class cruiser. The Flecha, gunboat, 395 tons. GERMANY. The following is now in the east: The Moltke, training ship. ITALY. The following Italian warships are now in the Levant or on their way thither: The Re Umberto, battle ship, 13,298 tons. The Andrea Doria, battle ship, 11,000 tons. The Francesco Morosini, battle ship, 11,000 tons. The Ruggiero di Lauria, battle ship, 11,000 tons. The Stromboli, second-class cruiser, 3,475 tons. The Etruria, third-class cruiser, 2,390 tons. The Partenope, torpedo gunboat, 840 tons. The Archimede, despatch boat, 784 tons. The Chioggia, despatch boat. The Galileo, despatch boat, 770 tons. UNITED STATES. The American vessels in the Levant are: The San Francisco, cruiser, 4,083 tons. The Marblehead, cruiser, 2,000 tons. The Minneapolis, cruiser, 7,500 tons. GREAT BRITAIN. The British Mediterranean fleet consists of the following vessels: The Kamillies, battle ship, 14,150 tons. The Hood, battle ship, 14,150 tons. The Trafalgar, battle ship, 11,940 tons. The Nile, battle ship, 11,940 tons. The Anson, battle ship, 10,600 tons. The Barfleur, battle ship, 10,500 tons. The Howe, battle ship, 10,300 tons. The Rodney, battle ship, 10,300 tons. The Collingwood, battle ship, 9,500 tons. The Hawke, first-class cruiser, 7,350 tons. The Cambrian, second-class cruiser, 4,350 tons. The Arethusa, second-class cruiser, 4,300 tons. The Vulcan, torpedo depot ship, 6,620 tons. The Sybille, second-class cruiser, 3,400 tons. The Barham, third-class cruiser, 1,850 tons. The Surprise, despatch vessel, 1,650 tons. The Dryad, gunboat, 1,070 tons. The Skipjack, gunboat, 735 tons. The Ardent, torpedo boat destroyer. RUSSIA. The Russian vessels in the Mediterranean are: The Burik, battle ship, 10,933 tons. The Dimitri Dopskoi, cruiser, 3,833 tons. The Grozyashyey, cruiser, 1,492 tons. In addition to these vessels Russia has three other vessels on route. She possesses, as is well known, a powerful fleet in the Black Sea, and it is unlikely that if demonstrating took the form of action this force would remain idle. A despatch from St. Petersburg, published in the N. Y. Herald, conveyed the report that seven warships and nine torpedo boats, forming the armed reserve of the Black Sea fleet, were anchored at Sebastopol.

HOW TO TREAT THE FURNACE. The furnace fire should be shaken down and raked perfectly clear every morning. A few shovelfuls of coal should be put on and all the draughts opened. As soon as the coal begins to burn well and the fire looks clear at the bottom, put in enough coal to come almost to the top of the firepot. Keep the draughts open until all the gas has burned off; then close them, and later, if the fire be too hot, open the checks. Except in extremely cold weather this is all the attention that ought to be necessary throughout the day. The fire must be raked down and fresh coal or cinders put on in the evening, but a small amount of coal will answer for the night, unless the draughts have been open the greater part of the day. On an extremely cold day it may be necessary to have the draughts open a part of the time and some coal put on at noon.

FOR DYEING GRASSES. Dyes for grasses are prepared as follows: For red, boil together in warm water some logwood and alum. For pink use logwood and ammonia. After drying the grass dip it into weak rum-water, so as to keep it together nicely. The pampas grass is quite easy to treat as above.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON—NO. XII. DEC. 22, 1895.

The Birth of Christ—Luke ii, 8-20. Time—B. C. 4. Place—Bethlehem. Persons—The Shepherds; the Angels; Mary; Joseph; Jesus.

Commentary.—8. There were in the same country—Judea, round about Jerusalem. Shepherds tending in the field—Staying there, probably in huts, or tents.—J. F. & B. Keeping watch by night—That is, each one keeping a watch, which consisted of three hours, in his turn. The reason why they watched them in the field appears to have been to preserve the sheep from beasts of prey, such as wolves, foxes, etc., and from plunder or robbery, with which all the land of Judea at that time was much infested.

9. The angel of the Lord came upon them—As Abraham and David, to whom the promise of the Messiah was first made, were shepherds, so was the completion of this promise first revealed to shepherds.—Whitby. They were sore afraid—They were astonished, filled with wonder or surprise and excessive terror: "Men have never felt easy with the invisible world laid suddenly open to their gaze."

10. Fear not—This is not the time, nor is there cause for fear. I bring you good tidings of great joy—The angel message was full of comfort, not judgments, but merciful goodness, which would afford more than ordinary joy. This unexpected visit causing such fear should be the revelation of greatest joy. To all the people—Namely, to Israel, to whom they belonged. The announcement of this truth to the shepherds indirectly intimates that other pious Israelites were soon to hear from them of the birth of their King—Lange.

11. Unto you is born this day—You shepherds, Israel, mankind. (Bengal.) It is a birth—"The Word was made flesh." In the city of David—in the right line, and in the right spot; where prophecy bade us look for him, and faith accordingly expected him. Christ—This name points out the Saviour of the world. In His prophetic, regal and sacerdotal offices. The Lord—The Supreme Eternal Being, the Ruler of the heavens and the earth.

12. This shall be a sign—The sign, the token, Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger—This was the sign. His humility should distinguish Him. This Glorious Person who had come to reign, came in contrast with pride. "Humility is the mark of the Son of God and all His followers, while pride is the character of the children of Adam."

13. Suddenly there was with the angel—This multitude of heavenly hosts had just now descended from high to honor the new-born Prince of Peace, to give His parents the fullest conviction of His glory and excellence. 14. Glory to God—Which the new-born "Saviour" was to bring. In the highest—in the highest and most exalted degrees. On earth, peace—of which Jesus was the Prince, peace—of which God is the grand benefactor of a fallen world. To bring in this, and all other peace in its train, was the prime errand of the Saviour to this earth, and along with it Heaven's whole good will toward man.—J. F. & B. Good will—The Word expresses not only that God shows unmerited favor to men, but that they are objects of His mercy to Him. Read Matt. iii, 17, xii, xvii, 5.

15. Let us now go—No misgivings are expressed, but simple faith, and a desire to see this new glorious reconciler of God and man. They manifested a proper appreciation of the angel's visit, by acting their faith in that they had said; yet they did not take up the angels, and their beautiful strains of music or the glory that surrounded them. They accepted this message as from the Lord. 16. They came with haste—Without delay. And found Mary and Joseph and the Babe—Just as the angels had reported. We have reason to think that the shepherds told Joseph and Mary of the vision of the angels they had seen, and the song of the angels they had heard, which was a great encouragement to them.

17. They made known abroad—All that they had seen and heard from the angels, and besides this all that they learned from Mary and Joseph concerning the Child. Their testimony agreed, and they told everyone the new story. These shepherds at once became preachers of the gospel, having the key-note for their text. 18. They that heard it wondered—Wondered that the Messiah should be born in a manger, wondered that angels would be sent with such a glorious message to humble shepherds, and not to the chief priests. Yet they raised no dispute.

19. Mary kept all these things—She laid the evidences together, and kept them in reserve, to be compared with the discoveries that should afterwards be made her.—Com. Com. 20. The shepherds returned—To their duties as shepherds of their flocks. This wonderful evidence did not cause them to neglect duty. Glorifying and praising God—For what He had shown them, and for what they felt. They gave expression to their faith in a more public way.

Teachings—God often visits His true children, when they are employed in honest toil. The truths of Christ are worth keeping, and the way to keep them safe is to ponder them. Thoughts—Though Jesus came in such humility His birth was attended with some discoveries of His glory. An angel announced the birth of Jesus. "The majesty, wisdom, love and holiness of God were seen in angelic appearance at the birth of Jesus." This wonderful glory shone round about the lowly shepherds in the quiet land not forgotten of God.

PRACTICAL SURVEY. The lowly of earth are favored in heaven. There shepherds dwell in the quiet land near the place where the Saviour was born. They were expected and God did not forget them. "The glory of the Lord, of which the proud see nothing, shines round about the lowly." Heavenly messengers are sent to those who appear to live in the most seclusion or obscurity.

LURED BY A BICYCLE GIRL.

Chief Elder Offord, of the Lebanon Shakers, Snatches the Community by Kidding. Albany, Dec. 13.—The Lebanon Shakers who for forty years have held the position of the largest settlement in the county, are mourning the loss of their chief elder, a man named Daniel O'ford, who was made Chief Elder but three years ago, and a young woman named Mabel Franklin, who has been in the community but six months as a sister, but who had lived near the settlement about three years. Miss Franklin is about 25 years old and the Elder about 55, and the latter has been a Shaker for the past thirty years. The woman had been a bookkeeper at a mill in the vicinity prior to joining the settlement and was an expert bicycle rider.

The elopement occurred last Friday and there is no trace of the pair. Elder Daniel was supposed to be above reproach. The least word of suspicion against him would have been met with an indignant rebuke. Elder Daniel was the shining light of the community. Elopements have occurred before, but only the younger and lesser important folk have heretofore been guilty of the sin.

The Elder had money enough to purchase railroad tickets to Chatham and from there further on. It is rumored that the two had been seen on the streets of New York, Miss Franklin's old home, but the report has not been confirmed. The Elder has several times visited other Shaker communities in the various parts of the country. During Miss Franklin's stay in the community the Shakers defrayed the expenses for a skillful surgical operation on her. After considerable contention last summer she gave up her bicycle.

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HERBERT SPENCER'S CAREER.

The Philosopher Knows What It is to Wrestle With Poverty. Herbert Spencer's first important work, "Social Statics," was published in 1850, says the reviewer of Reviews, when he was just thirty. The great work of his life—"System of Synthetic Philosophy"—was taken up in earnest ten years later.

The sacrifices involved in the preparation and production of the great work thus heralded to the world were short of heroic. Those who know Mr. Spencer by his books alone may have thought of him merely as devoting himself to philosophy out of the abundance of his material wealth and comfort. His truth is far otherwise. No man ever lived a more ascetic life or denied himself more for the sake of the task he had undertaken for humanity. In his evidence given before the Commission on Copyright he tells us in plain words, though in the most severely impersonal and abstract manner, the story of his hard and noble fight during the unrecognized days of his early manhood. Not a fight for bread, not a fight for fame, remember, but a fight for truth. For his first book, "Social Statics," in 1850, he could not find a publisher willing to take any risk; so he was obliged to print it at his own cost and sell it on commission. The edition consisted of only seven hundred and fifty copies; and it took no less than fourteen years to sell. Such are the rewards of serious thought in our generation. Five years later he printed the original form of the "Principles of Psychology." Again no publisher would undertake the risk, and he published on commission. Once more 750 copies were printed and the sale was very slow. "I gave away a considerable number," says Mr. Spencer pathetically, "and the remainder sold in twelve and a half years." During all that time, we may conclude from the sequel, he was not making nothing out of those two important and valuable books, but was actually kept out of pocket for his capital sunk in them.

Before the initial volume, "First Principles," was finished," he observes, "I found myself still losing. During the issue of the second volume, the 'Principles of Biology,' I was still losing. In the middle of the third volume I was losing so much that I found I was frittering away all I possessed. I went back upon my accounts, and discovered that in the nearly fifteen years I had lost nearly £1,200. As I was evidently going on ruining myself, I issued to the subscribers a notice of cessation."

He had been living, meanwhile, in "the most economical way possible"; in spite of which he found he had his very small capital, Spartan fare had not sufficed. His experiment succeeded. Nevertheless, he continued to publish, as he himself bravely phrases it, "I may say, by accident." Twice before in the course of those fifteen weary years he had been obliged to persevere, in spite of losses, by requests of money. On this third occasion, just as he was on the very point of discontinuing the publication of his great work, property which he inherited came to him in the nick of time to prevent such a catastrophe. Any other man in the world would have invested his money and fought shy in future of the siren of philosophy. Not so Mr. Spencer. To him life is thought. He went courageously on with his forlorn hope in publishing, and it is some consolation to know that he was repaid in the end, minded devotion. In twenty-four years after he began to publish he had retrieved his position, and was abreast of his losses. Think of that, you men of business! Think of that, years of hard mental work for no pay at all, and at the end of it to find yourself just where you started! Since that time, it is true, Mr. Spencer's works have brought him in, by degrees, a satisfactory revenue; but consider the pluck and determination of the man who could fight so long in spite of poverty, against such terrible experiences.

HARRY HAYWARD'S CONFESSION.

His Great Regret Was That He Did Not Kill Blixt.

SAID TO BE A DEGENERATE. St. Paul despatch, says: A special to the Despatch from Minneapolis gives the following details of Harry Hayward's confession to Dr. Barton: "That man Blixt was an awful fool," said Hayward, musingly. "He didn't have brains enough to stock a wienerwurst. It took me weeks to train him for the event. I rehearsed him time and again until I thought the thing could not miss fire. I did not see how it could miss. If Blixt had had any sense at all, neither one of us would be a trouble to-day. Oh, what an unfortunate thing it was I did not kill that wretch. It was the mistake of my life. It was the only one point in which my plot fell short. It was the only part of the programme that was not carried out, and as fate would have it, that was the very part that brings me to the gallows to-night."

"You see, Dec., I had arranged a great scheme to kill that fellow Blixt; but dang me if the fellow didn't have more cunning than I gave him credit for. My idea was to get him in the basement of the Ozark flats that day. I had no gun with me, but I knew the elevator man had one. So that day I said to Blixt, 'Now, Blixt, you go down and borrow the elevator boy's revolver.' That was the gun I meant to kill him with. Blixt looked at me with a cunning leer, and said: 'Oh, no, Harry; no you don't.' Curse his fool soul. I hate myself for letting him escape," and Hayward kicked the wire netting viciously. "My idea was to get him in the basement and shoot through the left temple. I knew his wife would rush in at the sound of the gun, and so my scheme was to back out of the room at the far door. I was going to back without turning, and I would rush in and meet her and ask what was the matter. She certainly would have thought he had committed suicide, and let it go at that. It would have released me, and I had a — of a time working that fool, and preparing him for the part he was to play. After the murder of Kate Ging, I knew they'd get him in a sweat-box, and try to make him give up, so I released him in what he was to say, and told him what the officers would say to him in order to make him split on me. I was sure I had him nerved up to the proper pitch, and then he had to go and give the whole snap away. I hate such weak fools as Blixt."

THE AUTOPTOSY. Minneapolis report: Before his execution, Harry, at the request of his brother Dr. Thaddeus Hayward, consented that an autopsy should be performed, and his brain examined. This was done at the morgue to-day by a committee of the physicians, headed by Dr. W. A. Jones, the brain specialist, and Dr. H. A. Tomlinson, formerly superintendent of the insane asylum at St. Peter. Careful measurements of the head showed that it was about normal in size and shape. The line through the ears was long, the forehead narrow and retreating, and the temporal bones were thick. The brain itself seemed small. It was taken to be treated, and was examined more carefully. Meanwhile the doctors would say nothing more than that the skull and brain seemed to be congenitally defective. Beyond question, Harry Hayward was a degenerate. Such is the belief of one of the specialists who conducted the autopsy. Of the four stigmata named by Cesare Lombroso as invariably characterizing degenerates, three have been found, viz.: Marked symmetry of the skull, brain and face, protruberant front teeth, and a narrow and sharply arched palate. The fourth one lies in the facial and nasal angles, and will probably be found to exist when the proper calculations have been made from the skull measurements. The brain has been found to weigh 55 ounces, about normal, and the defects in it, if any, are too subtle for either knife or microscope to detect.

The aged parents spent the last night of their son's existence in their own apartments attended by their eldest son, the doctor, and a number of kindhearted ladies who did their utmost to console and help them. They had expected to make Harry a last visit during yesterday afternoon, but strength and courage failed them. The old father, whose whole frame shakes with palsy, is a pitiable object, but his mental condition is not so bad as might be expected. The mother has borne up remarkably well, but those who know her best fear for her reason. This afternoon they followed Harry's remains to Lakewood cemetery where they were laid away after a few simple words by Rev. Dr. Marion D. Schuster.

STARVED TO DEATH.

The Awful Fate of a Poor Old Lady in Toronto. A year ago last April Tom Roarke, a resident of Toronto Junction, was sent to Kingston for ten years for criminally assaulting a little girl named McHenry. Since his incarceration his wife, Johanna Roarke, an old woman of 60 years, has lived at Jane and Louisa streets at the Junction in the house owned by her husband. At the last meeting of the Council she applied for relief, and was granted \$5, which, it is understood, was applied in taxes. She was advised to go to the poor house, but refused, stating that she was going home to die.

Mrs. Mines, Mrs. Baby and others of her neighbors supplied the old lady with the necessities of life for the past two months, but last week she locked up her house. Nothing was seen of her for three days, when Mrs. Mines' children gained admittance and found her lying in the bed in a semi-conscious condition. Dr. Cotton and advised that Mrs. Roarke be taken to one of the charitable institutions, but the lady obdurately refused such a proposition. The doctor notified County Detective George Bailey, who acted promptly, and, under instructions from Reeve Hill, removed the old woman, who was simply dying from starvation and cold, she died on Tuesday morning, the cause of death being pneumonia.

From the condition of the old woman's house it would appear that she had lost all interest in life and had made up her mind to starve to death.

THE ORIGINAL T. I. P.

It is related that in an old-time English tavern a receptacle for small coin was placed in a conspicuous spot on which appeared the words, "To insure promptness." Whatever was the servant's. Other taverns followed the example, and soon the three words were abbreviated to "T. I. P."—everybody knowing what they meant. Then the punctuation marks were dropped, and the word "tip" was born.—The Insurance Press.

OPENING AN UMBRELLA.

"Not infrequently," said a stroller, "you see people with their arms full of bundles, making hard work of opening an umbrella. There is a very simple and easy way of opening an umbrella with one hand, known to many, but perhaps not to all. You grasp the little cylinder around the handle, to which the lower ends of the ribs are attached, plant the point of the umbrella against a lamp post, and push until the little cylinder catches on the upper catch, and there you are, without the least trouble in the world."—New York Sun.

HER WAY OF PUTTING IT.

Edith had been undressed and sent to bed and mamma had gone out for a moment. When she returned the little girl was standing in the middle of the room crying earnestly. "Why, what's the matter, dearest?" "Doo-hoo-hoo! I-I-I bumped my scarer 'gainst th' d-d-dark."

THE WELLAND CANAL IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.

The Welland Canal is closed for the season.