

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS PERTAINING TO PROMINENT PEOPLE.

MARSHAL YAMAGATA, the Prime Minister of Japan, upon whose diplomacy so much depends during the present crisis in China, was Commander of the Japanese armies in the recent war between Japan and China. He first came into prominence as a revolutionary, when, as a young man, he joined the revolution which substituted for the autocracy of the Tycoons the supreme rule of the Mikado. In 1869 the Mikado sent him to study the military organization of France and England, and he was in France during the great struggle of 1870. On his return to Japan in 1871, he was made Minister for War, and it is clear enough that the great advance made by Japan in military science has been due almost entirely to Marshal Yamagata. He is descended from a long line of nobles, and his father was a poet of some eminence.

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PRINCE EDWARD of York and his brother, Prince Albert, it is said, have battles royal occasionally in their nursery over their toys. One day the Duchess of York was going to have them punished, when the Duke interposed. "Oh, let them fight 't out," he said; "they will make the better men for it."

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A STORY illustrating the simple *bonhomie* of the King of Sweden and Norway, is told by M. Gaston Bonnier, the botanist. M. Bonnier was botanizing near Stockholm, when he met a stranger similarly occupied. The two botanists fraternized, and M. Bonnier suggested that they should lunch together at an inn.

"No, come home and lunch with me instead," said the stranger, and led the way to the palace and opened the gate.

M. Bonnier was naturally astonished, but his new acquaintance was most apologetic.

"I'm sorry," he said; "but I happen to be the King of this country, and this is the only place I've got to entertain anybody in." So they went in and lunched, and talked botany together all the afternoon.

DR. FRANCIS EDWARD CLARK, the founder of the Christian Endeavor Society, is a Canadian, he having first seen the light of day at Aylmer, Quebec Province, on September 12th, 1851. His real name is Symmes, but he, early in life, became an orphan, and was adopted by his uncle, whose name he assumed. He took up the study of theology, and obtained his D.D. degree in 1873. In February, 1881, he founded the C.E.S., but it was not until 1889 that the movement caught on in England. In 1890 there were eighty-nine societies, to-day there are 6,301 branches in this country, while in the wide world there are over 54,000 branches and 3,000,000 members.

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THAT superb pianist, Ignace Jan Paderewski, who has had the honor of playing before the Queen, owns one of the most beautiful homes in the world at Riond Bosson, on the borders of the Lake of Geneva. As he says, it is too beautiful for work, but, none the less, it was here he composed and orchestrated the greater portion of his opera which is to be produced at Dresden. By birth he is a Russian-Pole, having first seen the light of day at Podolia on 6th November, 1860. After studying at Warsaw and Berlin he became a music-teacher, and in 1884 he decided on his life career as a virtuoso. He first went to England in May, 1890.

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A CURIOUS story is told of President Kruger, for which a Natal newspaper is responsible. Many years ago the President bought from an old half-bred woman pedlar a meerschaum pipe, to which she ascribed the power of foretelling the future. The old woman predicted that three important changes in his life would be foretold by accidents befalling the pipe. Early in the year 1881, before the independence of the Transvaal was modified, the stem came to pieces, a little before the Jameson Raid he chipped a piece off the bowl, and just before his departure for the Bloemfontein Conference last year the pipe fell to the ground and was smashed to fragments.

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