

RITCHELL'S machine, however, the difficulty has been in a great measure overcome. On the occasion of the trial trip, which took place on Wednesday, June 12, at Hartford, Connecticut, the new air ship rose to a height of 200 feet, and sailed off until over the Connecticut River, the operator meanwhile exhibiting his power to change its altitude and direction at will. When he ascended there was but little wind blowing, and the machine appeared to be under perfect control; but gradually a breeze sprang up, and it was deemed safest to make a speedy return, as there were indications in the sky of a gathering storm. The machine turned and made its way back in the teeth of the wind until directly over the ball ground whence it had ascended, and then alighted within a few feet of the point from which it had started. It yet remains to be seen whether the new machine can be perfected so as to make it available for any useful purpose. At present, however, it is a great success to the inventor, vindicating so thoroughly as it does the correctness of the principles upon which its construction was based.

THE BERLIN CONGRESS.—There will be no difficulty in recognising at once the majority of well-known personages composing the Berlin Congress; Prince Bismarck, with Count Andrassy at his right hand, both standing at the centre of the upper side of the table; Lord Beaconsfield, in official uniform, standing at the right hand corner, in front of the window; Lord Salisbury, sitting next to our Prime Minister at the side wing of the table, with Lord Odo Russell at his right hand; the spectacled face of Prince Gortschakoff, having Count Schouvaloff and M. D'Oubril with him, cannot be mistaken for a moment. The French Plenipotentiaries, M. Waddington, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. St. Vallier, sit to the left of Prince Bismarck; those of Italy, Count Corti, and another, are standing at the corner of the table; and seated along that side, which is shown to the right hand in our engraving, are the Plenipotentiaries of the Sultan—namely, Caratheodori Pasha, Sedoulla Bey and Mahomet Ali Pasha. The gentlemen whose backs only are seen in this view are Prince Hohenlohe, Baron Bulow, and Count Rantzau, directly opposite the President of the Congress; and the principal Secretaries, Bucher (with Herbert Bismarck standing by him), Mouy, and another at the seats which appear in the foreground. The second and third Austrian Plenipotentiaries, Count Karolyi and Baron Haymerle, are seated to the right hand of Count Andrassy, between his standing figure and that of Lord Beaconsfield. It was only, we believe, at the opening or first meeting of the Congress that all the Plenipotentiaries wore uniforms or Court dresses. Prince Bismarck has quite recently, since his late severe illness, taken to wearing his full beard, and this makes him look much older than before.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

The brother-in-law of a peer, who was married not long ago, has just set up as a cab proprietor, and given a very high figure for his horses.

MR. GLADSTONE has definitely declined accepting the united invitation of the Liberal electors of the constituency to contest the Flintshire Boroughs.

A proposal is said to be on foot among the London Conservatives to entertain the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury to a banquet of extraordinary splendour after their return from the Congress.

IN the near future the bore, instead of carrying an autograph album, will have a phonograph concealed upon his person, which he will produce at the unhappy moment and request his victim to shoot a few words into it to remember him by.

THERE is a sensation rumour that at the conclusion of the Congress, all being well, Her Majesty will perhaps proceed to Berlin and join the three Emperors in mutual Imperial congratulations over the settlement of the Eastern Question, and the sealing of the peace of Europe.

IT seems incredible, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the officials connected with the Literary Congress in Paris have forwarded invitations through the post to "Monsieur William Makepeace Thackeray" and to "Monsieur Douglas Jerrold." They were not for an age, but for all ages.

COMMANDER V. L. Cameron, R.N., C.B., of African fame, is said to be contemplating another Eastern expedition. The line of route is stated to be from Iskenderun, at the north-east corner of the Mediterranean, and cross Northern Syria to Kurdistan, whence he will make his way through Mesopotamia, Persia, and Beloochistan to Kurrachee.

A new University Club, to be called the Junior Oxford and Cambridge, has been started. There was some talk of making it a semi-political institution, with a strong leaning to Liberalism, but the design has fallen through, possibly because the Liberal leaders do not see their way to giving countenance to a rival of the Devonshire and Reform.

THE Prince of Wales has ordered one of the Japanese rooms that are being imported into this country. Every piece of the structures

takes out and can be fitted together in a few hours, without nail, glue, or peg. The price, with all sorts of art decorations and fittings, is £230. It is said they are specimens of the unblemished work of a people with whom a good taste is traditional.

OVER 1,000 men are at work upon the New Law Courts, this number including 493 masons. Of these nearly half are German, and both English and Germans work harmoniously together. Additional painters were put to work on the eastern building this week, and it has so nearly approached completion, that its delivery next month is considered certain.

Two legal sinecurists have just died—Clerks of Records and Writs. Their duty was described by a witness before a Special Commission:—"The Record and Writ Clerk does nothing whatever; he sits in an inner room in the office, and takes a few affidavits occasionally; but a great part of his time is employed in reading the newspapers." For this trying work he had £1,200 a year.

IT is now definitely arranged that an army corps is to be formed at Aldershot at the end of this month, and that it is to go under canvas at Woolmer Forest and on Cobham common. The two divisions are to be placed under the command of Lord Napier of Magdala, who will direct their movements. It is intended to have a series of manoeuvres between the two divisions about the middle of July.

THE Home Hospitals Association has been established for the purpose of opening several small hospitals for the upper and middle classes, in which any one can obtain, on payment of a moderate charge, all the advantages of hospital treatment, in addition to the comforts of home. A donation of fifty guineas constitutes a life governor; and there are still nearly forty such governorships to be subscribed for in order to complete the first £10,000 of capital that is required.

SOME interesting work has been going on for the last few weeks in and around St. Paul's. On a recent occasion some workmen were digging a pit in the graveyard, when they came upon masonry, which has since proved to be part of the old St. Paul's. Mr. Penrose, the architect, choosing the spots by the aid of the plans of the old Cathedral, has brought to light considerable remains of the south cloister and the lower part of one of the buttresses of the chapter-house.

Two new kinds of domestic servants appear to have been invented. Amidst three columns of advertisements in a daily paper for these necessary evils, I find one for a "passage-maid" and another for a "vegetable-maid." We had scullery, kitchen, parlour, and house-maids before; according to this arrangement our household will now need a stair-case-maid, while in the culinary department the possession of a vegetable-maid will necessitate the addition of a meat-maid and a sweet-maid.

WHEN Sir Warwick Hele Tonkin died at Teignmouth, a few years ago, he bequeathed to his daughter a ring which was said to have been given by the Queen of Sheba to Solomon. The history of the ring is most curious, if true. According to tradition, it was taken from Jerusalem by Titus, and brought to Rome, where it fell into the hands of the Popes. Clement VIII. gave it to Wolsey, from whom it passed to the monks of the Abbey of Leicester, and from them into private hands at the dissolution of the monasteries, under Henry VIII.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

THE French Crown jewels are being exhibited in the International. M. Benjamin Raspail has brought in a bill for their sale by auction.

THERESA is about to be married. The fortunate Benedick is a M. Arthur Theobald Guillaumeau, a painter, who resides at Melleau, not far from Paris.

THE Persian Monarch sends telegrams in cipher every day from the Grand Hotel, for which the cost is generally nearly £90. It is not known for which paper he writes.

ONE of the most interesting sights in the Paris Exhibition is the wonderful collection of jewellery, arms, &c., brought home by the Prince of Wales on his return from the country of the rajahs, and now on view in the Indian section.

SEVENTY Norwegian students are about to pay Paris a visit, for the purpose of imitating the exploits of the Spanish *estudiantina*, which created such a sensation here some months ago. They will give a musical entertainment at the Trocadero.

THE avidity with which the Parisian populace volunteered into the Garde Mobile at the beginning of the war, has only been equalled by their subsequent eagerness to retrace their steps. They have been made the butt of many jokes. We subjoin the latest: A General inspecting his battalions asked a young Mobile whether he had any complaint to make. "Yes, general." "What is it?" "I am suffering from palpitation of the heart." "Good," was the reply, "it beats for its country."

PERHAPS there is not a visitor to the Exhibition but has experienced the feeling. "What a pity the grounds and structure of the Champ de Mars must be restored to their original state"—an arid, dusty waste, for a few squadrons of cavalry to trot over, and for squads of conscripts to practice the goose-step. It is next to certain the barbarism will not be accomplished. The military authorities will be provided with other parading-ground, and the four façades of glass structure will be retained; the internal galleries will be demolished, and the space converted into a public garden, with the pavilion of the Ville de Paris in the centre.

"How old are you?" a stranger asked a little fellow, who was selling newspapers at the corner of a Paris boulevard, carefully reckoning up his gains, and giving change with a practised hand. "Six," was the laconic reply. "And how long have you been carrying on this business?" With a roguish look and bending down to fold his newspapers on the pavement, as if he would show how easy it was for him to attend to two things at once, he answered "How long? Oh, ever since I was a child."

A joint roasted by the heat of the sun is one of the chief attractions of the grounds of the Paris Exhibition, where M. Mouchot, a Tours professor when the clouds permit, daily cooks a portion of meat by means of a strong reflector. On Saturday he succeeded in boiling sufficient water for three cups of coffee in three-quarters of an hour. In Algeria, where the sun naturally possesses greater power, Professor Mouchot has roasted quails in twenty minutes. What would he do in England in the merry and moist month of June?

The Abbé Liszt accompanied M. Ernest Renan, the author of the *Vie de Jesus*, to the house of M. Victor Hugo a day or two ago. The interview was extremely cordial, and the musical ecclesiastic declared that he agreed with Victor Hugo in many of his opinions on sacerdotalism. At the end of the conversation the poet presented the priest with a copy of his latest work, *Le Pape*. It is probable that this conversation, which the Abbé Liszt takes no pain to conceal, will cause a great deal of sensation at the Vatican, and it is not impossible that he will follow in the footsteps of Father Hyacinthe Loyson, the ex-Carmelite monk.

THE Spanish art department, which has been recently opened in the Champ de Mars, is simply a marvel. Its opening has been long delayed, but it was worth waiting for. First and most prominent in the list of the artists comes Fortuny, and his brother in fame, in early greatness, and in early death, the lamented Zamacois. The works of the first-named artist that are shown are very wonderful and are very numerous. Foremost among these are his *Choosing a Model*, a very feast of colour, a marvellous display of prismatic tints, like those on the wing of a dragon-fly, or the pearly lining of a shell; and a garden scene, ablaze with vivid hues. Here, too, are his far-famed *Fantaisie Arabe*, and other noted scenes of Oriental life. Here, by Zamacois, are the Court Favourite and Game of Chess, two celebrated works already known to the outside world by means of photographs, that glow like rubies amid the opals of Fortuny.

IT is many years since Paris has witnessed so gorgeous a pageant as was presented lately by the funeral of King George of Hanover. The streets were lined from an early hour with dense masses of people. The funeral procession reached the Lutheran Chapel, in the Rue Chateaufort, about two o'clock, the distance from the Rue Presbourg, near the Arc de Triomphe, being about two miles. Immediately behind the funeral car walked the Crown Prince of Hanover and the Prince of Wales, who were the chief mourners, followed by the Duke d'Aosta (ex-King of Spain), the Archduke Regnier, the Princess of Solms, the Duke d'Aumale, the Duke de Nemours, Marshal Canrobert, and a host of Ambassadors and Ministers. The church was crowded to suffocation, and in one of the galleries could be seen Madame MacMahon, the Princess Mathilde, and the Princess Metternich. The funeral oration was preached by Pastor Appia.

THE GLEANER.

BY the recent strike the Lancashire mill-owners saved over \$3,000,000 in wages.

STANLEY, it is reported, will again set out for Africa; this time under the auspices of the King of Belgium.

WHY, after all the fuss, there has been only one cubic mile of coal mined in England since the island was discovered. Just think of that.

A CORDON of police is placed round the Imperial printing office at Berlin to prevent any tampering with the printers engaged in preparing the official reports of the Congress proceedings.

THE Pope has been memorialized by nine Bishops of Venetia to order the preliminary step for the beatification of Pius IX., whom they regard as having been providentially raised up to encounter times of difficulty.

IT is stated that there are 8,000,000 pupils enrolled in the public schools of the United States. The average daily attendance is 4,500,000. The estimated population between six and sixteen years of age is 10,000,000.

MR. PITTMAN, who was the official phonographer at the great conspiracy trial, has given his views in regard to the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. He agrees with Mr. Ford that Mrs. Surratt was innocent.

OF every thousand men, twenty die annually. The population of a city or country is renewed once in thirty years. The number of old men who die in cold weather is to those who die in warm weather as seven to four.

IT is probable that the Emperor of Russia will come to Berlin to see his Imperial uncle, about whose health much anxiety is felt, and also to be able to give the necessary assent to measures which may be approved of by his Majesty's Plenipotentiaries.

THE notion that ice purifies itself by the process of freezing is not based upon trustworthy observation. On the contrary, it is utterly wrong in principle to take ice for consumption from any pond, the water of which is so foul as to be unfit for drinking purposes.

PROF. CHARLES F. RICHTER, inventor of the flying machine which is now attracting much attention, was born in Portland, Me., is thirty-four years old, now calls Bridgeport, Conn., his home, has taken out fifty-six patents, mostly for labour saving machinery, and has never been up in a balloon.

THE entire amount of gold in the world at present is estimated at \$7,000,000,000 in value in United States coinage. This immense sum is hardly comprehensible to the mind, but if it were put in a solid mass it would measure only seventeen feet high, twenty-eight feet wide and fifty-six feet long.

MR. SPURGEON on precocious moralists: "Young men nowadays, whose whiskers have scarcely grown, consider themselves the proper persons to decide questions regarding religious matters, and in proportion to their ignorance is their confidence and audacity in sneering at everything sacred."

THERE are few positions more enviable than that of the English Judge. A salary of \$25,000 a year, with a pension of \$15,000 on retirement, are pickings for which a French or a German Judge, who does much the same work for about \$2,500 or \$3,000 a year, must wish for with all the strength of his judicial mind.

AN extremely simple method of testing the genuineness of diamonds is given in a letter to the London *Times*: If the specimen is immersed in water, should it be a diamond it will sparkle with almost undiminished light and brilliancy of colour; but if it be spurious, whether paste or rock crystal, the "fire" of the jewel will be completely quenched.

PROF. RICHARD HESCHEL, the Viennese pathologist, says that while among some 2,000 or 2,500 Westphalian hams one is infected with trichinosis, of the American hams inspected in North Germany, according to an official report, one in from five to ten is condemned, and there is great probability that several epidemics have been caused by trichinosis from American hams.

A STRANGE jubilee is proposed to be celebrated in Italy during 1879. Next year 1,800 years will have elapsed since the two cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were destroyed by earthquakes and eruptions from Mount Vesuvius. It is now intended to celebrate the anniversary of that year of destruction, and the site of the celebration is to be at Pompeii itself, as being the better known of the two buried cities.

PRINCE BISMARCK is not an early riser, and is fond of sitting up late at night, chatting over a bottle of wine or a glass of beer. It is said that nearly all his diplomatic negotiations, beginning with General Govone's confidential overtures in 1866 for an alliance between Italy and Prussia, until the most recent *pourparlers* on the Eastern question, have been transacted by him in a convivial way in the nocturnal hours.

PUNCH: Enter young husband, who throws himself into a chair and exclaims: "What! toothache again, Maria! I do call this hard upon a fellow! Why, you had a toothache when I left this morning! And here have I been at Epsom all day, with the jolliest lot o' fellers ever got together in one drag, and won a pot o' money, and ha! no end of a jolly time, and I did think I should find something cheerful and jolly to greet a feller when I got home! And there you are—toothache again! I do call it hard upon a feller—precious hard."

NELSON'S WILL.—In an interesting collection of manuscripts sold by Messrs. Wilkinson and Sotheby was Nelson's codicil to his will, entirely in his own handwriting, in which he bequeaths to his "very dear friend Emma Hamilton" a gold box set with diamonds, "as a token of regard and respect for her very eminent virtues," and fifty guineas to Sir W. Hamilton. This was on one page folio, dated on board the *Vanguard*, off Mauritius, May 25, 1799, and witnessed by Captain Tronbridge and Captain Hardy. With this was sold a will, with two codicils, all in Nelson's handwriting, dated on board the *St. George*, March 5, 1801, and witnessed by Captain Hardy and Captain Theisger, and enclosed in an envelope with Nelson's seal and signature. The codicil, and the will with two codicils, had long been in the possession of Lady Hamilton, and came through her to the late owner, by whom they were now sold. The price obtained for these interesting relics sold in one lot, was £50.